

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to you regarding a growing national concern affecting schools and young people across the country: the increasing use of cannabis and THC vaping products amongst children and teenagers.

Schools nationally are reporting significant concerns linked to cannabis use, THC vapes, and other illegal substances being brought into educational settings. These substances present serious risks to young people's health, wellbeing, safety, behaviour, and long-term development. THC vapes in particular are often unregulated, highly potent, and can contain harmful synthetic substances. Their appearance can also make them difficult to identify.

As an academy, we have a clear duty of care to safeguard every student and maintain a safe, calm, and purposeful learning environment. We will always act decisively where student safety is at risk.

We therefore want to make our position absolutely clear:

- Any student found to be taking, using, in possession of, supplying, distributing, concealing, or involving other students in the handling of illegal substances or contraband will face serious sanctions, including the possibility of permanent exclusion from the academy.

This stance is fully aligned with national safeguarding expectations and Department for Education guidance, which makes clear that schools must take firm action to prevent drug misuse and protect the wider school community.

Our priority is, and always will be, the safety and wellbeing of all students and staff. We will continue to work closely with parents, external agencies, and the police where appropriate, to educate young people and respond robustly to any concerns involving illegal substances.

We ask all parents and carers to support us by:

- Speaking openly with your child about the dangers of drugs and THC vaping products.
- Monitoring items brought to and from school.

- Reporting any concerns or information that may help us keep students safe.

We remain committed to maintaining the highest standards of behaviour, safeguarding, and student welfare at Aspire Academy. Thank you for your continued support in helping us provide a safe environment in which all young people can learn and succeed.

Yours sincerely,

John Woods

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