



14<sup>th</sup> June 2024

Dear Parent Carers,

**Weekly Update: 14/06/24**

I hope this update finds you well. The main focus of this week's update is a letter about vaping signed by all of the secondary school Headteachers around Derby in partnership with the health services. You may remember that a similar letter was shared with you last year, but we want to continue to highlight health concerns and the law around vaping to keep you informed.

**Spring Lakes**

Students and staff are looking forward to their day at Spring Lakes on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June. We are continuing preparations in school to make this a great day – let's hope the weather is on board with our plans!

To help us get the most out of our day, here is some further information about Spring Lakes.

Students can bring snacks – although not too many sweets, and no products containing nuts. Please provide your young person with a drink. Students do not require any money, although they can bring a maximum of £5 for the shop.

Students are not permitted to bring any electronic devices, they must leave them at home or school.

Students will leave school after registration and then travel to Spring Lakes either on a coach or school minibus. After arriving, students will take part in an activity in the morning – the aqua park, pedalos, group stand-up paddle boarding or beach activities.

Students should wear appropriate clothing for their activities and spending the day outside, following the information below. Additionally, please provide your child with a spare warm top. If the weather is warm, please provide them with a hat and sun cream.

**Aqua Park and Stand-up Paddle Boarding** – Students will be supervised by staff from Spring Lakes and St Martins at both the Aqua Park, and on the group paddle boards. Students will be provided with a wet suit. Students should wear comfortable clothing that they can change out of, and bring a swim suit to wear under the wet suit and a towel. As well as their wet suit, students will wear a buoyancy aid.

Sabrina Hobbs **Executive Headteacher**

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**Pedalos** – Students will be grouped together with their peers and staff where appropriate. Additionally members of staff will be around the lake on kayaks to supervise. Students should wear comfortable clothing which will dry quickly in case of getting splashed. Students will wear a buoyancy aid.

**Beach** – Students will be with their pastoral teams and familiar staff. Students can wear comfortable clothes for the beach and bring suitable swimwear and a towel. When on the beach, students will be able to take part in activities and paddle in the water. Students can also use the designated beach swim area if wearing a buoyancy aid. Staff from St Martins and Spring Lakes will be supervising the swim area.

Staff will be on hand throughout the day to support students with wet suits and buoyancy aids.

After students have taken part in activities, they will have lunch together and then get ready to go back to school in time for usual transport home.

School reserves the right to take students who require additional support back to school as we dynamically risk assess throughout the day. We thank you for your support in the run-up to the day, and on Tuesday.

Those students staying in school will take part in activities with staff.

Please speak with the pastoral team if you have any further questions.

### **Holiday Dates Consultation**

Derby City Council are consulting parent carers about the term dates for 2025-2027. Please visit <https://letstalk.derby.gov.uk/term-dates-2025-to-2027> to take part and share your views. This consultation is open until 23<sup>rd</sup> June.

Wishing you a great weekend ahead, and fingers crossed for Tuesday's weather!

Best wishes,

**Sabrina Hobbs**  
**Executive Headteacher**

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Dear Parents/Carers,

As you may have read in the news, there continues to be a significant concern about the number of young people using vapes or e-cigarettes. As schools in Derby, we also share these concerns, particularly about the health implications of vaping at this age.

As we did last year, Derby secondary schools are working together to highlight these concerns with our students and their families/carers. This letter is designed to provide you with some key information about the health concerns and the law around vaping.

### **Health Risks**

Vaping is not risk free, and NICE (the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence) recommends that vaping should be discouraged in children and young people and people who have never smoked. This is because:

- a child's brain is still developing, scientific studies show that it isn't safe for them to use any tobacco product that contains nicotine, including vapes
- Taking nicotine from a vape is still risky even though it isn't from a cigarette.
- Some vape batteries have even exploded and caused serious harm to people.
- Some vapes are known to contain illegal drugs such as Cannabis, THC, NPS (new psychoactive substances) and spice. These have been known to cause young people to suddenly collapse and need urgent hospital attention.

### **Vaping and the law**

In the UK it is illegal to sell nicotine vaping products to under 18s or for adults to buy them on their behalf. Any retailers selling vapes illegally should be reported to Trading Standards. The recent government consultation has recommended that the following aspects of vaping are written into law:

- restrict vape flavours
- restrict how vapes are displayed in stores
- restrict packaging and product presentation for vapes

The UK Government thinks there is a strong case to take action to reduce the affordability of vapes and is continuing to consider options, including a new duty, to achieve this.

To assist in enforcement, the UK Government will introduce new fixed penalty notices (fines) of £100 for breaches of age of sale and free distribution legislation for tobacco and all types of vapes.

You can read the full details of this consultation and its recommendations here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/creating-a-smokefree-generation-and-tackling-youth-vaping>

### **School Policy**

Education is one of the most effective ways of preventing drug and alcohol misuse and the degree of associated harm.

In Derby secondary schools we are committed to providing a quality health education curriculum. As part of this, students receive quality drug education that includes drugs, alcohol, volatile substances and vaping. This aims to:

- Provide opportunities for pupils to develop their knowledge and understanding, skills and attitudes about vaping.
- Provide accurate information about vaping.
- Increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse.
- Widen understanding about related health and social issues.

At each school, vaping incidents will be managed individually and responded to proportionately. The school will need to consider a range of responses and follow their own disciplinary procedures (as outlined in the schools' behaviour policy). Sanctions will be issued for students who:

- Are in possession of vapes/vaping materials
- Have used vapes on school grounds
- Are selling vapes to other students

The school sanctions may include some of the following:

- Confiscation and informing parent/carer
- Brief intervention to support health behaviour changes
- Behaviour/pastoral support
- Counselling
- Suspension

Each school will apply their own behaviour policy to each individual situation.

### **Awareness Week**

Derby secondary schools are working together to continue to raise awareness of the concerns around vaping. We are planning our second awareness week on the week commencing 17<sup>th</sup> June. During this week we will be delivering assemblies, lessons and sharing awareness raising material with students and families across the city. We are working with the Derby City Public Health team on this important topic too.

### **Further Information for Parents/Carers:**

Please do take time to talk to your child/children about vaping. We have provided an information leaflet for you that may help with this conversation.

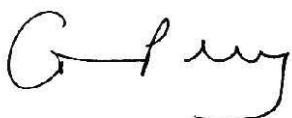
If there are vaping products in your house, please store them securely away from children/young people.

If you think a retailer has sold these products to your child then please report this to Trading Standards via the link below:

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/get-more-help/report-to-trading-standards/>

We hope that this information is useful for you to understand the risks for young people in vaping. We appreciate your support with working together to tackle this issue and support all of our young people in Derby City.

Sincerely,



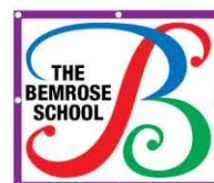
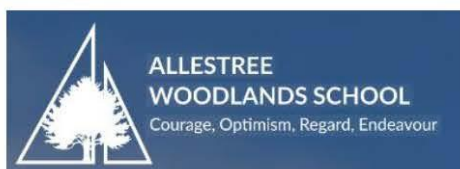
Gemma Penny  
Headteacher  
Allestree Woodlands School



Gemma Tyers  
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Alvaston Moor Academy



Neil Wilkinson  
Executive Headteacher  
The Bemrose School





Phil Smith  
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Adrian Harding  
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City of Derby Academy



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Derby Cathedral School



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Derby Moor Academy



Mark Hatton  
Headteacher  
Derby Pride Academy



Ian Armstrong  
Headteacher  
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St Clare's School  
Where we reach our goals!



Scott McGregor  
Headteacher  
West Park School



Michelle Robinson  
Public Health Manager  
Children and Young People's

Mental Health and Wellbeing  
Derby City Council



Derby City Council



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## **Term Dates for Academic Year 2023/2024**

### **Summer Term**

School Breaks up for Half Term - Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May  
School Starts Back – Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June  
INSET Day – Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July  
School Breaks up for Summer – Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July

## **Term Dates for Academic Year 2024/2025**

### **Autumn Term 2024**

INSET Day – Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September  
School Starts for the new Academic Year – Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September  
School Breaks up for Half Term – Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October  
INSET Day – Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November  
School Starts Back – Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November  
School Breaks up for Christmas – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December

### **Spring Term 2025**

School Starts Back – Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025  
School Breaks up for Half Term – Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February  
INSET Day – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February  
School Starts Back – Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February  
School Breaks up for Easter – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April

### **Summer Term 2025**

Bank Holiday – Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April  
INSET Day – Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April  
School Starts Back – Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April  
Bank Holiday – Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May  
School Breaks up for Half Term – Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May  
School Starts Back – Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June  
School Breaks up for Summer – Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July  
INSET Day – Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> July

St Martins follows Derby City Council's term dates. Dates for next year can be found on their website – please follow the link for these - <https://derby.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools-and-colleges/term-holiday-dates/#>

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