

15 October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

We are writing to express our **serious concern** about a noticeable increase in vaping among Year 9 students. This behaviour is unacceptable and poses a direct risk to student health and wellbeing.

Vapes are strictly prohibited on school premises and are classified as **contraband items**. Possession, use, or being in the company of others who are using vapes will result in a **three-day suspension**. This sanction reflects the seriousness of the issue and our commitment to maintaining a safe and healthy environment for all students.

In addition, please be aware that the **school reserves the right to search students** if there is reasonable suspicion. This includes situations where students are:

- Congregating in toilets
- Not attending lessons
- Arriving late to school
- Seen in groups behaving in a way that raises concern

Searches may include **bags, blazers, and personal belongings**. These measures are in place to protect the safety and integrity of our school environment.

We ask for your active support; please:

- Check bags and bedrooms regularly
- Speak with your young person clearly about the dangers and consequences of vaping and risky behaviour
- Reinforce the importance of making responsible choices

We also want to alert you to some concerns regarding student safety in the local area. While **Redhill is a safe and welcoming town when visited with purpose** - such as meeting friends to go to The Light or shopping - students who begin to regularly “hang out” without clear plans may become vulnerable and at risk of being noticed by individuals who do not have their best interests at heart.

We strongly advise families to:

- Know **where your young person is, who they are meeting, and what time they are expected home**
- Set clear expectations for contact if they are delayed



- Talk to your young person about **who they spend time with**, including which schools their friends attend
- Be alert if they start mentioning people whose names or schools they do not know
- Take action if your young person suddenly has **extra money or new items** they cannot account for

If you notice any of these signs or have concerns, please contact us immediately. We are here to support you and your young person.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping us maintain a safe and respectful school community.

Best wishes

Mrs C Williams (Assistant Headteacher) and **Mrs R Miller** (Head of Year 9)

