

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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21st January 2022

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Staff

Weekly Bulletin #17

Vaping and Banned Items in School

We are unfortunately still having to spend time confiscating vapes and sanctioning a small number of students for bringing vapes on site.

Vaping is the act of inhaling a vapour produced by an electronic vaporiser or e-cigarette. The vapour can contain nicotine and other substances which is concerning. Some common styles we see look like a thick pen, a stylus for an iPad, a flash drive, or a small flask with a round chimney coming off the top. The devices are very small and can easily be hidden on a person or blend in with normal backpack items.

Like cigarettes, shops cannot sell vaping items to people under the age of 18. However, students report that they purchase the devices online or buy from older siblings, friends, or unfortunately even parents.

There are ways you can help protect your children. These include:

- Talking to your child about why smoking/vaping are harmful for them. It is never too late to have the conversation.
- Learning about the different types of e-cigarettes available and the risks associated with using these products. There are lots of websites online including <https://teen.smokefree.gov/quit-vaping> and <https://childmind.org/article/teen-vaping-what-you-need-to-know/>
- Reporting those who are selling cigarettes and e-cigarettes to minors by contacting the police.

COVID-19 Restrictions and our Health and Safety

This week has seen the end of compulsory face-coverings in class, although we still expect the use of face-coverings in communal areas. From Thursday 27th this expectation, to wear face coverings in communal areas, will also come to an end. Both will now be a matter of personal choice.

We will continue to maintain other areas of our current health and safety practice including the insistence on good hygiene, such as the regular washing of hands and use of hand sanitiser. We will also continue with our measures aimed at increasing personal space. These include our staggered breaks, arrival and departure staggering, queueing systems for the canteen, and direction on how to move around the school between lessons. Toilets will remain for the use of individual Year groups; this also helps our students to feel safe and secure. In addition, we continue to see good ventilation as a priority, and count ourselves lucky to have classrooms where this is easily possible across our school. There is also regular enhanced cleaning throughout the day and in preparation for the following school day.

As a school, and as a community, we remain committed to the full protection of our staff and students. Testing must continue twice per week, and anyone testing positive is still expected to isolate.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, we as a school are aware some of our community, whether staff, students, parents, or others will feel unsettled by these changes. If you are concerned about any member of our community's wellbeing in relation to these measures please contact either the appropriate Progress Leader or Matthew Bawden via bawden@queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk

Rewards

We have an exciting half-term of rewards ahead, with some lucky Golden Ticket winners attending a workshop with The ClayRooms next week!

A huge well done to Oscar from 7S2, Francesca from 8C1, Hannah from 9B1, Jamie from 10B2 and Scarlett from 11C2 for being the highest merit achievers in their year.

Last 16 for U14 Girls Football

What a performance from the U14 girls (right) in the 5th Round of the National Cup. They beat a very strong & physical Wath Academy 4-1. They are now in the last 16 out of 400 schools in the country. Scorers Phoebe, Freya, Mollie & Lucy B. POM Evie. Next game away in Manchester next week.



As well as the start of a new co-curricular PE programme, we have been busy with fixtures since we returned to school in January:



Two U13 girls football teams (left) had a trip to

Repton Preparatory School and, despite losing both games, played well. For some of the girls, it was their first competitive match, and their commitment, attitude and effort were incredible throughout.



The Year 9 boys (left) won a really tight fought County Cup basketball game against St Thomas More, so progress to the next round.



Year 10 footballers (right) have had their County Cup quarter-final game against Kirk Hallam school. They played really well, but lost 2-0.

Safer Internet Day and Sexual Abuse and Sexual Violence Awareness Week

We will be marking this event with a combined awareness day on Tuesday 8th February 2022. Students will have a 'drop down morning' where they will not attend normal lessons. Our plan is to have a virtual assembly from the police about digital safety with a focus on Sexual Abuse and Sexual Violence. Mr Illsley, our CEOP and E-Safety Ambassador, will then lead some activities with our students. The police are aware of our age range of students. Please use this opportunity to have a discussion with your children about the use of their phone or computer if they have one. You can find more support on our website at <https://www.queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk/useful-links/safeguarding-sign-post/#1585664351013-400291b5-7edc>

Finally

Following delays due to Covid, our building work has finally started and the expansion of our site is due to be completed later this year (November/December 2022), more details can be found here

<https://www.queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk/expansion-plans/>

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Garrity', written in a cursive style.

Mr S Garrity
Headteacher