

22nd September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,



Behaviour & Attitudes Update

I am incredibly proud of the attitudes and uniform standards that students have demonstrated in the first few weeks back to school. It is pleasing to see all students wearing their uniform with pride; and working on their understanding of our new values of **Respect; Aspiration; Independence; Success & Engagement**. We are looking forward to rewarding those students who consistently *live our values; follow our routines; and keep each other safe* at the end of this half term.

Vaping

The Bridge Academy, like many other schools, has seen a recent spike in incidents involving student vaping. As a Leadership Team, we have become increasingly concerned with the number of students using these devices. We are also concerned by the prevalence of new, and more discreet vapes, many of which contain illegal substances including cannabis; THC oils, and other hallucinogenic contents, or are disguised as every-day items.

We have recently updated our Behaviour & Attitudes Policy, to make it explicitly clear that any items that are illegal, or include tobacco / nicotine, are dangerous and not permitted on the school site. The purpose of this letter is to inform you about some additional steps we are taking to reduce the use and abuse of vapes / e-cigarettes in and around our school premises:

- Upon entry to the school site, students are expected to have already disposed of any items that do not adhere to our Behaviour & Attitudes Policy. Where a student presents any items at the locker room that contravene our policy, which includes vapes or vaping paraphernalia, will be confiscated and disposed of.
- Where a student has concealed any banned items, including vapes; refused to hand them in; used them on school property; or shared them with peers in school, they will be sanctioned in line with our policy on **Red-Line Behaviour**.

Students who do not adhere to our Behaviour & Attitudes Policy may be subject to a fixed term suspension, and we will require your attendance as a parent or guardian to a reintegration meeting following this.

We take this issue very seriously due to the negative health effects vaping can have on children and often find that parents are not aware of the risks. We have uploaded a guidance sheet for you as parents and guardians, about talking to your child about vaping.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Elliot Payne
Assistant Headteacher
Senior Leader for Behaviour & Safeguarding