Quarrydale Academy
Head Teacher Mr T Paling

Stoneyford Road
Sutton-in-Ashfield
Nottinghamshire
NG17 2DU

qs@quarrydale.notts.sch.uk
Tel: 01623 554178
Web: www.quarrydale.co.uk

30th October 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Vaping in School
Routine Screening, Expectations and Support

We are writing to inform you of our continued concerns regarding pupils bringing vapes and vape liquid into school. We are committed to ensuring that Quarrydale Academy remains a safe, healthy and supportive environment in which all pupils can learn without disruption.

Following the half-term break, we will be introducing routine screening using hand-held metal detector wands as part of our ongoing work to prevent prohibited items from being brought onto the school site. We would also like to clarify the legal position regarding vaping and explain the support available to pupils who may be finding it difficult to stop.

The law and school expectations

Vaping products are age-restricted, and parents and pupils need to understand the legal position.

Under the Tobacco and Vapes Act 2026:

- Section 10: It is an offence to sell vaping or nicotine products to anyone under the age of 18.
- Section 11: It is an offence for an adult aged 18 or over to buy, or attempt to buy, vaping or nicotine products on behalf of someone under 18.

These provisions apply to vaping products, including those that do not contain nicotine, from 29th October 2026 where not already in force. You can read the legislation here: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2026/18/contents

Regardless of the legal position on possession, vapes are prohibited on the school site. Pupils must not bring vapes into school, use them during the school day or supply them to other pupils. This includes disposable and reusable devices.

Introduction of routine screening after half term

After the half-term break, routine screening will take place using a hand-held metal detector wand to help identify prohibited or potentially dangerous items being brought onto the school site.

This is a non-invasive screening process. The wand is passed over the outside of a pupil's clothing to identify items that may be concealed on their person. It does not involve physically searching the pupil's body.

Screening will be conducted calmly and respectfully, with due regard for pupils' dignity and in accordance with the school's procedures.

If screening identifies a concern, staff will follow the school's established procedures to determine the appropriate next steps. Any further search, where necessary, will be undertaken only in accordance with the school's searching policy and applicable Department for Education guidance.

Confiscation and consequences

Any prohibited item identified will be dealt with in accordance with the school's behaviour policies. Items will be confiscated disposed of safely and appropriately. Vapes will not be returned to pupils or parents but will be disposed of.

Where a pupil is found with a vape, the incident will be recorded and addressed in line with the school's behaviour policy.

Repeated incidents will be treated seriously. Where a pupil continues to bring vapes into school, further consequences may be applied in line with the behaviour policy. Where appropriate, the school will also liaise with the School Early Intervention Officer (SEIO) to address ongoing concerns and consider any additional intervention that may be required.

Our intention is to ensure that expectations are clear, consistently applied and understood by all pupils.

Support for pupils who may be dependent on vaping

Whilst we must maintain clear boundaries, we recognise that some young people may have developed a dependence on nicotine and may find stopping difficult. Nicotine is addictive, and young people can experience cravings, irritability, low mood and difficulty concentrating when they try to stop.

We do not want pupils or families to feel that they have to manage this alone. Where there are concerns that a pupil may be experiencing nicotine dependence, we can explore appropriate support and referrals to relevant services.

If you are worried that your child is vaping regularly, is struggling to stop or may be experiencing withdrawal symptoms, please contact the school. We can discuss the concerns with you, consider appropriate support and help signpost or refer to relevant services where available and appropriate.

The following resources may also be helpful: ·

- NHS – https://www.nhs.uk/better-health/quit-smoking/help-others-quit/young-people-and-vaping/
- FRANK – https://www.talktofrank.com/drug/vapes
- NHS – https://www.nhs.uk/better-health/quit-smoking/ready-to-quit-smoking/vaping-to-quit-smoking/how-to-quit-vaping/
- NHS – https://www.nhs.uk/mental-health/children-and-young-adults/mental-health-support/how-to-get-support/where-to-get-support/

Working together

We ask parents and carers to reinforce the school's expectations and speak with their child about the health risks associated with vaping, the importance of making safe choices and the consequences of bringing prohibited items into school.

Our approach is both **firm on expectations and supportive of pupils who need help.** We want to prevent vaping in school, protect the wellbeing of our pupils and ensure that any young person who is struggling with nicotine dependence has the opportunity to access appropriate support.

If you have concerns about your child or would like advice about the support available, please contact the school. We welcome early conversations with families and will work with you wherever possible to help your child make positive changes.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation in keeping Quarrydale Academy safe.

Yours sincerely,

Senior Leadership Team
Quarrydale Academy