



NEGLECT NOT THE GIFT THAT IS IN THEE

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Dear Parents and Carers,

You may recall that we wrote to you in December 2024 to raise concerns about students bringing vapes into school and to outline the actions we were taking at that time. While incidents have become less frequent since then, worrying new national evidence has emerged about the dangers associated with vaping, particularly for young people.

Recent reports from *Sky News* and the *BBC* have revealed that some vapes confiscated in schools have been found to contain synthetic drugs such as “spice” and other highly dangerous chemicals. A study by the University of Bath found that **up to one in four vapes confiscated in schools contained illegal substances**, and that these are often marketed to teenagers through social media. These findings are extremely concerning for all schools, including ours.

At Walthamstow School for Girls, the safety and wellbeing of our students remains our highest priority. As you know, vapes are a banned item under our *Positive Behaviour for Learning Policy*, and any student found in possession of or using one on site receives a sanction. In the light of these new national developments, we are **reviewing our approach to vaping and will be applying sanctions more rigorously**, in line with our duty to safeguard all members of the school community.

We continue to monitor and supervise areas where vaping could take place, including through the use of vape alarms, and we have strengthened our checks and confiscation procedures. However, we also rely on our partnership with parents to help reinforce this message at home.

We ask that all parents and carers:

- Talk to your child about the serious risks of vaping, including the possibility that some products now contain harmful or illegal substances;
- Check bags and belongings regularly and be alert to any signs that your child may have access to or be using a vape;
- Encourage your child to speak to a trusted adult at school if they are ever offered a vape or are worried about a friend who is vaping; and
- Contact us if you would like support or guidance in discussing this issue with your child.



By continuing to work together, we can help our students to make informed, safe choices and maintain a healthy environment for everyone.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in grey ink, appearing to read 'N. O'Brien'.

Nick O'Brien
Deputy Headteacher
Walthamstow School for Girls