

October 2026

Dear Year 9 Parents and Carers,

Re: Year 9 Assembly: Vaping Awareness and School Safeguarding & Protective Measures

I am writing to inform you that yesterday we held an assembly for all Year 9 students focused on the risks and challenges surrounding vaping. As part of our commitment to student health, wellbeing and safety, the session aimed to provide clear, factual information about the health impacts of nicotine and vaping, and signposted students to information about support services and key adults in school.

While the majority of our students make positive and responsible choices every day, youth vaping remains a growing issue nationally. We believe that proactive education, paired with robust safeguarding measures, is essential to protect our young people.

To support our students, Queen Elizabeth's School implements a range of protective measures, including:

1. Drug and Health Education in Curriculum for Life / C4L

Through our Curriculum for Life (C4L) program, students receive age-appropriate, evidence-based substance and nicotine education. These lessons cover the physical and mental health risks associated with vaping, the mechanics of nicotine addiction, and practical strategies for dealing with peer pressure.

2. Visits from the K9 Prevention Unit

In alignment with standard preventative practices across local schools, we work alongside the K9 Prevention Unit. Periodic, unannounced visits from detection dogs serve as an effective deterrent and ensure our school grounds remain a safe, drug- and vape-free environment for all students.

3. Social Prescribers and Targeted Support

We recognise that some young people may require additional support regarding nicotine dependency, anxiety, or social pressures. We work closely with Social Prescribers and dedicated support staff who offer tailored guidance, confidential mentoring, and wellbeing resources to individual students. If you are concerned about nicotine or substances dependency in any child please email:

safeguarding@queenelizabeths.com

4. **Safeguarding Posters and Clear Reporting Channels**

Prominent safeguarding posters are displayed across the school campus. These posters clearly identify key staff members, including our Safeguarding Lead, and guide students on how and where they can safely report concerns or seek help for themselves or their peers. We also have 'student worry boxes' where they can post notes including worries or concerns (these are checked daily).

We strongly encourage you to talk with your child at home about today's assembly and the dangers of vaping. Working together in partnership between home and school is the most effective way to help our students make safe, informed choices.

Thank you for your continued support in keeping our school community safe and healthy.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom'.

Mr Thomas Neill
Headteacher
Queen Elizabeth's School