



# Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls

## Commitment to keeping our school community safe

Dear Parent/Carer(s),

We are updating you on our ongoing commitment to keep our school community as safe possible. We take the safety and wellbeing of all members of our school seriously and under constant review. A recent advance in this commitment has been to install a system of monitors that detect the presence of vaping.

There is a minimum age of sale for vaping products in the UK, it is illegal to sell nicotine vaping products to anyone under 18 or for adults to buy them on behalf of under-18s. Whilst this is the case, the rise in popularity of vaping amongst young people has been frequently reported in the media, alongside the potential harms that can arise from partaking in this activity. There are additional risks associated with some vapes on sale that do not meet UK safety regulations as they contain high levels of harmful substances.

We spend time discussing these issues in our Personal Development lessons to educate on this topical issue and have shared information through our weekly bulletin.

Our decision to install these vape detectors has been made to maintain the safe use of spaces around the school site. Students have reported seeing some individuals using vapes in school toilets. We are committed to supporting the good decisions of the vast majority of our students, taking steps to ensure that students feel that they can access these facilities without the concern of anti-social behaviour taking place.

We feel that taking proactive steps in response to a known issue amongst young people will prevent it from becoming a problem in our school. This preventative measure is to support and reassure students who are making choices that align with our school values. To reassure, other than reduce the possibility that they may witness vaping in school toilets, it will have no impact on their daily routines.

The installation of these devices is a positive step to promote the safety and wellbeing of our school community and an opportunity for families and School to continue to work together to help our young people make positive choices.

Kind Regards

N. Eaton

Mr N Eaton

Deputy Headteacher – Student and Staff Development

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