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Dear Parents/Carers,

Along with many other secondary schools in Scotland we have noticed an increase in the number of young people experimenting with vaping. Regrettably, this is sometimes taking place on school premises and, as I am sure you will agree, it is a behaviour we do not wish to see at Irvine Royal Academy.

The reality is that most young people think that vaping is safe and acceptable, and they do not understand that most of these products contain nicotine. While current evidence shows that vapes are less harmful than smoking tobacco, they are not harm-free and we do not know what damage they could cause to human health in the long-term.

Furthermore, the law in Scotland makes it illegal for anyone under 18 to buy e-cigarettes or vapes, also known as tobacco and nicotine vapour products (NVPs). It also means anyone buying NVPs for those underage will also be breaking the law.

In school, we will be providing lessons and support in PSHE from our Campus Officer.

The following points will be included in our assemblies this week:

- Vaping is strictly forbidden on school premises – inside and outside;
- Vapes are a type of nicotine vapour product (NVP) and it is illegal for retailers to sell vapes to under 18s;
- Any pupil found in possession of a vape or cigarettes in school will face consequences:
- Vape / cigarettes will be confiscated and given to parent/carer
- Parents/carers will be contacted and invited in to school for a discussion with HT/DHT

Please take time to discuss this issue at home. While there may be issues you disagree with, please help us to make Irvine Royal Academy a smoke/vape free environment – at the very least, this is an important lesson which needs to be learned before going into most workplaces.

Yours faithfully,

Lizzie Sloan

Head Teacher