



26<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you are aware, we work closely with the Police to ensure that our pupils and members of the community are safe. The Police have recently shared information about some concerning incidents that have happened to young people within the local area.

The first involved a 16-year-old who smoked a joint, believing it to be cannabis, prior to school and immediately fell ill. This resulted in them requiring hospital treatment. The 'cannabis' was from a packet branded 'Zombie Madness' and depicts a gorilla (see image). It is believed that the cannabis may be mixed with amphetamine, causing an adverse reaction.



The second incident involved two 15-year-old pupils who were admitted to hospital with breathing difficulties and loss of consciousness after inhaling from a vape which contained THC (the active ingredient of cannabis). The vape had been purchased from an unknown girl via Snapchat. There have since been a further number of cases of young people being hospitalised after vaping from these 'spiked' vapes in the local area. This has been reported by BBC news.

Thirdly a recent seizure of cannabis edibles from a school in Blackpool showed them to be packaged just like sweets and clearly aimed at young people (please see images below). These packets are not easily spotted amongst legitimate sweet packages, so is something for all parents to be vigilant about.



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Lancashire Police have also released a statement regarding these concerns:

<https://www.lancashire.police.uk/news/2024/january/vape-warning-after-teenagers-taken-ill/>

At school, we will continue to be vigilant in ensuring that vapes and substances are not taken within the school setting, and raise awareness of the dangers associated with smoking, vaping and substance abuse. We will deliver a series of assemblies, in conjunction with the Police over the coming week to highlight these dangers that are occurring locally. However, we need your support too. Please could you speak to your child about the dangers that these substances can bring, particularly when the substance being inhaled or consumed is not always what it is being sold as.

If you or your child has any information that could help the Police with their enquiries, please report to Lancashire Police on 101.

If you have any concerns about your child and possible substance misuse, in the first instance, please reach out to their Year Leader at school for support.

Otherwise, please contact specialist support charity [We are With You | Twitter, Instagram, Facebook | Linktree](#) via their website or on 0808 164 0074.

Yours sincerely



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