

# Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College

Stakes Hill Road  
Waterlooville  
Hampshire  
PO7 7BW

☎ 023 9225 9214

☎ 023 9223 0317

🌐 [www.oaklandscatholicschool.org](http://www.oaklandscatholicschool.org)

✉ [oaklands@oaklandscatholicschool.org](mailto:oaklands@oaklandscatholicschool.org)



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**Headteacher:** Matthew Quinn B.Ed (Hons), M.A., NPQH

Our ref: MQ/SM

27 September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Schools across the country are reporting an increase in the amount of young people vaping. At Oaklands, we have been working to educate the students about the risks and impact of vaping on their health.

It does not help that vapes seem to be marketed at the teenage generation with a range of flavours that appeal to their tastes. Vaping is still relatively new and more and more studies are coming out that are showing how harmful they can be.

Action on Smoking and Health (ASH) has recently produced a resource for schools and parents on youth vaping, this can be found via this link [ASH resources for local authorities, schools and parents on youth vaping - ASH](#).

Alarming, the statistics are showing that young people aged 11-17 who have tried vaping or are current users is on the increase. It also highlights that attitudes to vaping are changing, with young people now admitting they are addicted.

Some of the vapes on the market contain nicotine and become addictive. Whilst many smokers have used vapes or e-cigarettes to help them to quit smoking, it is not recommended that anyone take up vaping as they still come with a health warning.

Vapes are advertised using social media; TikTok in particular. It is important that you are monitoring your child's social media and having open conversations with them about what they are seeing online as well as talking to them about peer pressure and vaping.

At Oaklands, we do not allow any smoking paraphernalia (this includes vapes and e-cigarettes) on the school site. We also do not expect students to be using any of these products in the wider community whilst wearing our school uniform. If a child is caught in or out of school using a vape they can expect a robust sanction to be put in place by the school.

We want to ensure that parents and carers are working with the school to try and stop our young people from experimenting with a substance that is harmful to their health. Please take the time to read the information provided and talk to your child about the content.

If you have any concerns or wish to pass information to the school about this matter, please contact your child's Tutor or Head of Year in the first instance.

Thank you in advance for your support and cooperation in the matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Quinn', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Mr M Quinn  
**Headteacher**