



23 February 2024

**Reading Girls' School**  
Principal: Marika Farrugia

Dear Parent/Carers

### **SAFEGUARDING ALERT**

We have been alerted by the police that on 29th January 2024 five young people aged 14-16 years were hospitalised with relatively serious health harms having used vapes which toxicology results have confirmed to contain Spice. Spice is a synthetic cannabinoid that causes symptoms such as an inability to move, dizziness, breathing difficulties, chest pain, heart palpitations, seizures, extreme anxiety, paranoia, suicidal thoughts and/or psychosis.

The police have also reported 2 young people who also experienced health harms having used vapes containing cannabis. At present we do not know how wide the issue of vapes containing illegal drugs is, and whether the young people involved planned to buy illegal drugs.

In the latest incident, the vape was a blue and purple coloured rechargeable metal vape device labelled 'Vapresso', which held blue liquid residues within a clear plastic chamber of a silver and black cartridge.

The police request that:

1. If you have any reports of similar incidents in your area, please reply to this email
2. You may wish to share this information with partners to warn them about the risks of potential contaminated vapes and the related health harms and elicit from partners if they have any further information on similar incidents.

At present the police do not have information on how these vapes were purchased but please be aware that there are many different outlets selling vapes in the Reading area and that vapes are completely unregulated.

Free high quality information on Spice Vapes is available from Drug Science <https://www.drugscience.org.uk/teaching-children-about-vaping/> and in addition to the free resources above, a free online parent, carer and teacher drug awareness session is available online each Wednesday at 730pm - 830pm. This is a recurring zoom meeting that any parent/carers can drop in to.

Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87069299511?pwd=cHdOM3JWZWUwZWlSMUxCbkIjQWdfQT09>  
Meeting ID: 870 6929 9511 Passcode: 283623

Yours sincerely

**M Farrugia**  
**Principal**