

THE NORTON KNATCHBULL SCHOOL



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RMH/mh/EcigarettesKKS

Dear Parents/carers

It has recently become apparent that we have a growing number of students experimenting with electronic cigarettes. Unfortunately this includes younger students and students who have never smoked in the past. It appears that there is a range of products on the market. Some of them state that they have no nicotine or tar content and are just flavoured water vapour. Other products are cigarette substitute/smoking cessation devices with a nicotine content. Although all of these devices are said to be not as harmful as tobacco smoking, they have not been around long enough for long term health problems to be fully investigated and even the no-nicotine versions involve the breathing in of flavouring chemicals. We are concerned that the use of these 'cigarette replacement' products could lead young people to become interested in the versions with a nicotine content and they may then also move on to cigarette smoking. The government has recently announced that they will be legislating to make them illegal for under 18s. The brand that seems to have been most popular with the younger students is 'Shisha Pen'. Indeed, Shisha Pen's own website recommends that their products are not suitable for under people under the age of 18. **Please be aware that all of these devices are banned from the school site.**

Please could you have a discussion with your son/daughter about this issue.

Yours sincerely

Mr R Hoyte
Assistant Headteacher, Pastoral Welfare