

18<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

Thank you for all the support you have given us this term. Once again it has been a testing term with the challenges of Covid, a leaking roof and now Storm Eunice. However as restrictions are relaxing we have been able to safely organise some fantastic events and speakers for students alongside our daily lessons. This week alone, students have met Preet Chandi who completed a solo expedition across Antarctica to the South Pole and also have had a chance to question a high court judge.

### **Covid Update**

Currently we plan to start Term 4 as we are finishing Term 3. Students will not need to wear face coverings in lessons or in the corridors. Staff and students are allowed to wear a face covering if they wish and we have a number who are choosing to. Staff and students are still being asked to test twice weekly. If your child requires more tests, please ask them to go to Student Services at reception. Currently anyone testing positive on an LFD has to isolate for at least 5 days until they return two negative tests 24 hours apart on Day 5 onwards. If this guidance from the government changes, we will inform parents immediately.

### **Attendance**

We know that students achieve and make more progress in school if they attend more regularly. This week students with 100% attendance for Term 3 will be receiving gold certificates. If you feel your child requires more support to attend school daily, please let your child's tutor know and we can then look into what we can do. We have a number of Family Support Workers who are ready to help.

If your child is ill, please phone the absence line on 0117 9542822 as soon as possible that day.

### **Vaping**

The City Academy, like many other schools, has seen a recent increase in incidents involving students vaping. This letter is to inform you of the issue, signpost you to support if you feel this may be affecting your child, and alert you to our policies and the possible consequences if your child engages in vaping on school property. We take this issue very seriously due to the impact this can have on your child's health, and we ask for your support in doing the same.

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## Grit, Honesty and Team Spirit

PRINCIPAL: MR BEN TUCKER | CEO: MR STEVE TAYLOR | THE CITY ACADEMY, RUSSELL TOWN AVENUE, REDFIELD, BS5 9JH  
TEL: 0117 9413800 | EMAIL: CABINFO@CLF.uk | WWW.CITYACADEMY.BRISTOL.SCH.UK

Vaping is the act of inhaling a vapour produced by an electronic vaporizer or e-cigarette. This vapour can contain substances which are harmful and substances which are addictive, such as nicotine. The vapour can come in many different flavours and is likely to smell sweet or fruity. These vapes come in a variety of different shapes; many look similar to a thick pen. This makes it easy for students to hide them from view. The picture below shows what these may look like.



It is illegal to buy these products until you are 18. We have had reports that students are using the internet to purchase their vapes and that older friends are assisting with purchasing them in local shops.

Nicotine can harm adolescent brain development and is an addictive substance. An addiction to nicotine will make it more difficult for students to concentrate on their learning and impact on their education.

As an Academy, we will:

- Educate all students on the dangers of vaping as part of our PSHE curriculum;
- Educate all students on the dangers of vaping as part of our assembly programme;
- Inform parents if their child is involved in a vaping incident;
- Use government guidance on searching and confiscation to inform any searching of students for vapes. This may include asking students to remove religious head wear, although this would be carried out in a sensitive manner;
- Follow our suspension policy where we deem a student to be placing themselves or others at risk.

I thank you in advance for you discussing this issue with your child and for your ongoing support in dealing with this issue. If your child has any concerns these should be reported to their Head of Year.

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## Lost Property

We have seen a big increase in the amount of lost property at school. I know that many parents are used to labelling their children's uniform, coats and PE in primary school, and I am asking that you continue to do this in secondary school as it is just as important with over 1000 students in school, and the changes of classrooms etc during the school day. If items are labelled, we are then able to return lost items back to your child.

## East Bristol Liveable Neighbourhood

Bristol City Council is engaging with communities across east Bristol on its first liveable neighbourhood pilot project. Liveable neighbourhoods are areas of a city that aim to have a better balance between how streets are used for transport and people.

The pilot area is in Barton Hill and parts of Redfield and St George. From more places to play to safer streets to cycle on, the council is keen to hear ideas from children, parents, carers and teachers. At this early stage, views are being sought on what you like or do not like about your area, and what would make it better.

Have your say at [www.bristol.gov.uk/eastbristolliveableneighbourhood](http://www.bristol.gov.uk/eastbristolliveableneighbourhood) where you will also find an interactive map that you can add comments and see what people have already said. The deadline to take part is 13<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

Once again, thank you for all your support. I hope that you all manage to have some relaxing time together as a family over half term and we look forward to the return of students on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February.

Best wishes

Ben Tucker  
Principal, City Academy

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