Please see the below messages from Coventry Police and share with staff, parents / carers and students as appropriate – the message has been sent to both primary and secondary schools, so approaches to sharing information will be different.

Further intelligence and guidance will follow, however it was felt the best thing was to get the message out as soon as possible. In the meantime, please contact Rachel Davenport if you have any questions in relation to the below ([rdavenport@lynghallschool.co.uk](mailto:rdavenport@lynghallschool.co.uk))

**Police Messages:**

**FOR STAFF:** Recently we have received a small number of reports of young people becoming unwell and collapsing after using illegal vapes/illegal e-liquids.

The vapes were reported to have contained THC (Tetrahydrocannabinol) and other substances.

These substances can cause side effects including becoming aggressive, foaming at the mouth, seizures and unconsciousness.

The Police and Trading Standards are working hard to address the supply of illegal vapes and e-liquids.

It is believed one of the pupils used one of these, which has led to them receiving hospital treatment.

There is a very small chance some vapes contain a synthetic opioid called Nitazines which can be absorbed through the skin. Please take caution when handling and staff are advised not handle them without gloves.

The police only require vapes to be retained as evidence when it is connected to a student becoming ill – all other vapes can be disposed of in the usual way.

Operation Potterwheel is the police operation that is looking into Illegal vapes in Coventry.

If you get any intelligence from students, such as where they are being sold, please complete an intelligence form with Operation Potterwheel included in the title.

It would be helpful if these could also be sent to [cv\_problemsolving@westmidlands.police.uk](mailto:cv_problemsolving@westmidlands.police.uk)

Further information on synthetic cannabinoids can be found here:  [www.talktofrank.com/drug/synthetic-cannabinoids](https://protect-eu.mimecast.com/s/uFQXCnZLYipvlB9F93CSE?domain=linkprotect.cudasvc.com)

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**FOR PARENTS:** The police have asked for schools to share messaging with parents, carers, and students, where appropriate, to ensure they are aware of the dangers of cannabis and illegal vapes – there is no formal police message to share at this time.

Please do not share the above intelligence or operational name, but it would be appropriate to say that illegal vapes containing THC, cannabis, and other substances are a national and local concern.

The vapes are resulting in some youths becoming aggressive, foaming at the mouth, having seizures and becoming unconscious.

If any youths have these symptoms then please call for an ambulance.

If anyone has any information regarding the sale of these vapes, please can the police be contacted in the usual manner (Live Chat or 101)

Extra information can be found on the TalktoFrank website and details of support services can be found on the Coventry City Council Website.

[https://www.talktofrank.com/news/cannabisvapes](https://protect-eu.mimecast.com/s/dwiaCoYMvHpElW2Fz0j4I?domain=linkprotect.cudasvc.com)

[Drugs and alcohol – Coventry City Council](https://protect-eu.mimecast.com/s/lQVPCpgNRCEmQ64SYP_sG?domain=linkprotect.cudasvc.com)