



## Filey School

17<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Dear Parent / Carer

### **Dangers of synthetic cannabinoids (Spice)**

As you may be aware from the local news, there has been an incident in a school in the Scarborough Borough area whereby a 15-year-old student collapsed after taking an unidentified substance. Fortunately, the young person is on the road to recovery following a stay in hospital.

It has since been determined that this young person had inhaled 'Spice' (also known as 'Mamba') in a vape, which may have been provided by peers. Arrests have been made in connection with the supply.

'Spice' is a nickname for a substance containing one or more synthetic cannabinoids. These are lab-made drugs, originally designed to mimic the effects of cannabis. However, they are very harmful and unpredictable. They may be powdered chemicals, dissolved and sprayed onto paper or dried plant material.

There is no safe way of taking 'Spice' and the side effects and health risks associated with it are many and varied, including breathing difficulties, chest pain, palpitations, seizures, extreme anxiety, paranoia, psychosis, suicidal thoughts, gastrointestinal issues and even acute kidney problems.

To reflect the dangers of this and similar drugs, UK Law was amended in 2016 to include 'Spice' and other psychoactive substances in the Misuse of Drugs Act (1971).

Last week at Filey School, a presentation was delivered to all our students on the dangers of vaping. This week, we will also share with our students information on the dangers of taking or vaping Spice. As parents and carers, we would also ask that you are vigilant at home and in the local community and would be grateful if you could reinforce these key messages with your child or children.

Finally, I would like to remind all parents and carers that vaping is strictly prohibited at Filey School and any student caught vaping or in possession of vaping equipment will face sanctions and any items will be confiscated.

Thank you for your support with regards to this issue. Should you wish to discuss further, please do not hesitate to contact us on the school number or by email at [A.Pickering@fi.coastandvale.academy](mailto:A.Pickering@fi.coastandvale.academy) or [J.Emmerson@fi.coastandvale.academy](mailto:J.Emmerson@fi.coastandvale.academy)

Yours sincerely

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