

March 2023

Dear families

Dangers of synthetic cannabinoids (Spice)

As you may be aware from the local news, there has been an incident in a school in the North Yorkshire 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.

'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. 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 Dixons Trinity, a presentation was delivered to all our students on the dangers of vaping. 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.

Thank you for your support with regards to this issue. Should you wish to discuss further, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours faithfully

Katie Welham
Vice Principal

