

KH/RP/TM/AquariusAssemblies

11th March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Aquarius Assemblies 12th March



Barr Beacon School

www.barrbeaconschool.co.uk

I am writing to inform you that on 12th March, pupils in Years 9 and 10 will attend an assembly delivered by Aquarius, a specialist organisation that works with schools and communities to educate young people about drugs, alcohol and mental health. The session focused on the risks associated with cannabis use and the serious dangers of synthetic cannabinoids, commonly known as *Spice*. This forms part of our Personal Development programme and is included to ensure that pupils are informed and can make safe and sensible choices as young adults.

You may be aware that Spice is a synthetic drug designed to mimic the effects of cannabis but is often far stronger and far more unpredictable. It can cause serious health problems including confusion, anxiety, breathing difficulties, vomiting and, in some cases, loss of consciousness. Because these substances are manufactured illegally, their strength and ingredients vary greatly, which significantly increases the risks to those who use them.

The assembly highlights the increasing concern around vaping. While many vapes contain nicotine, some devices can be used to inhale substances such as cannabis oils or synthetic cannabinoids. This can expose young people to harmful and unknown substances, and it is important that pupils understand the risks associated with both vaping and drug misuse.

Whilst we are confident that our pupils make safe and sensible choices, vaping makes it easier to accidentally smoke Spice (due to mislabelling and refillable bottles). Vapes should not be being used by pupils at all however, parents and carers may wish to look out for changes in behaviour such as unusual tiredness, confusion, sudden mood changes, secrecy around vaping devices, unfamiliar smells on clothing, or unexplained possession of vape pens or cartridges. Open conversations with young people about the risks of vaping and drugs can be extremely helpful in supporting them to make safe choices.

If you would like further information or support, the following organisations provide helpful advice for parents and carers:

- Aquarius – <https://aquarius.org.uk>
- Talk to Frank – <https://www.talktofrank.com>
- WithYou – <https://www.wearewithyou.org.uk>
- NHS information about synthetic cannabinoids (Spice) – <https://www.nhsinform.scot/healthy-living/drugs-and-drug-use/common-drugs/synthetic-cannabinoids-spice/>
- The Mix (information for young people about Spice) – <https://www.themix.org.uk/explore-our-topics/drink-and-drugs/spice/>

At Barr Beacon School, the safety and wellbeing of our pupils remains our highest priority. We will continue to work with specialist organisations to ensure students receive clear, factual education about the risks associated with drugs and vaping.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us keep our young people safe. Please contact us via postbox@barrbeaconschool.co.uk if you have any questions.



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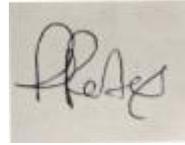
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Yours sincerely,



Mrs K Hibbs
Headteacher



Miss R Porter
Assistant Headteacher



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