Dear Parents and Carers,                                                                July 2023

I am writing to you to raise awareness of an issue that can affect young people in every part of modern Britain. Alcohol and recreational drug use can cause significant problems for young people and have far reaching consequences for their adult lives. Students who misuse alcohol or drugs of any kind, including so called 'legal highs', run the risk of significantly damaging their health and harming their chances of gaining a good education.

In Stockport we believe that it is the duty of secondary schools to work with parents in educating young people as to the dangers of substance abuse, to assist them in making healthy lifestyle choices and to offer support where young people encounter difficulties as a result of these choices. Schools aim to work closely with parents, agencies and the police to ensure that students are fully informed of the issues around substance use. All secondary schools tackle the issues of drug and alcohol use through an educational programme and offer support for parents with up to date information about drugs and drug use.

If any young person in school is thought to be vulnerable or known to be using substances they will be offered support from agencies such as MOSAIC (Stockport Young Peoples Drug and Alcohol Service). MOSAIC also offer support for parents who may be concerned about their child's substance use.

All Stockport Headteachers are very clear there is no place for drug or alcohol use in a school setting. As laid out in individual schools' Drug and Alcohol policies any student found in possession of drugs or alcohol or engaged in supplying drugs or alcohol will be punished severely and may face permanent exclusion from their school.

Both I and the Headteachers of secondary schools across Stockport are committed to enabling all students to study in a school environment entirely free of recreational drugs and the misuse of alcohol.

Yours faithfully,

J Barker
Headteacher
Marple Hall School