
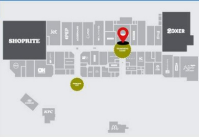


RIDGEWAY COLLEGE



JOIN US AT
OUR EXCLUSIVE EXHIBITION



ELIMMALL

APPLICATION FORMS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR THE ECD CENTRE PREPARATORY SCHOOL & RIDGEWAY COLLEGE

9 AM TO 11 AM
27 May 2023
Elim Mall



OPEN DAY & ENTRANCE TESTS
29 JULY 2023
8:00-12:00



Dear Parents

This is the final newsletter before exams begin on Monday and I trust that our children have been working steadily towards preparing for their examinations. I wish them all every success.

It has come to my attention that several of our children at Ridgeway have been or are currently involved in 'vaping', at home and at school. 'Vaping' and 'vaping devices' are classified in the same category as cigarettes according to our Code of Conduct. As a school, we deal with a child being caught 'vaping' or being in possession of a 'vaping device' in the same way we would for cigarettes – the sanction for this infringement is a one-week suspension.

I am including some notes for our parents on this topic for information purposes and to encourage conversation with your teenager on the dangers of 'vaping'.

Below is a collage of two articles sourced:

Vaping becomes popular on school grounds

The Western Cape Education Department (WCED) is concerned at the rise in the number of young children caught for possession of e-cigarettes. It is understood that children as young as 11-years-old are experimenting with vaping. The WCED said that in 2022, at least five children were caught red-handed with e-cigarettes on school grounds. But many more cases go unreported. The WCED spokesperson Bronagh Hammond said vaping was a new avenue and that the numbers had increased since last year.

A report by the World Health Organization (WHO) stated that e-cigarettes posed a health risk to both the user and non-user and was just as harmful for a child or adolescent's health and mental development as cigarettes. The WHO said e-cigarettes were known as electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS). The report added that the system heats a liquid to create aerosols that are inhaled by the user, and these so-called e-liquids contain nicotine but also typically contain additives, flavours and chemicals that can be toxic to people's health. The world body further stated that the consumption of nicotine in children and adolescents had deleterious impacts on brain development, leading to long-term consequences and potentially lead to learning and anxiety disorders. Accidental exposure of children to ENDS e-liquids pose serious risks as devices may leak, or children may swallow the poisonous e-liquid.

Professor Richard van Zyl-Smit from UCT's Lung Institute and consultant pulmonologist at Groote Schuur Hospital said e-cigarettes risked both the mental and lung development of a child. The two major concerns are the exposure of a growing lung to the component of e-cigarettes, even some of the flavourings have been shown to damage lungs, but what is probably more of a concern for many of us in this space, is that the nicotine content in e-cigarettes can be quite high. Young developing brains are particularly sensitive to nicotine, nicotine rewires your brain and there are long term mental health effects associated with nicotine exposure, particularly in an adolescent brain. Most of our concern is the adolescent brain being exposed to a high concentration of nicotine.

The use of any tobacco product, including e-cigarettes, is unsafe for young people.

Sources:

https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic_information/e-cigarettes/

[Quick-Facts-on-the-Risks-of-E-cigarettes-for-Kids-Teens-and-Young-Adults.html](#)

Vaping becomes popular on school grounds (iol.co.za)

I would encourage all parents to have a discussion with their child(ren) around this topic with specific reference to the dangers of vaping and the implications if caught at Ridgeway.

Exams begin next week

Our pupils will be writing their examinations in two sessions per day. When a child does not write an examination paper, they are permitted to go home. If they do not write on a particular day, we would expect them to be at home studying for the following examination(s).

Best of luck everyone...just give your very best.

"It is not what you do for your children, but what you have taught them to do for themselves, that will make them successful human beings" – Ann Landers

KIND REGARDS

Dr. G.W. Elliott

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Believe...

RIDGEWAY CALENDAR



Academics
Exam

The Exam starts on the 29th of May. The timetable has been sent on D6

Winter School (Grade 12)

Our annual Winter School for Grade 12 will run during the week

Mon 26 June – Fri 30 June.

The timetable has been sent on D6

Blood Drive

The SANBS collected 17 units of blood last week (this included 5 first-time donors

Thank you to all who gave of their life-saving blood