



9th June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

At AHS, the health, wellbeing, and safety of our students are our absolute priorities. We are committed not only to academic excellence but to maintaining a secure, supportive environment where young people can thrive.

As part of our ongoing, proactive commitment to safeguarding, we continuously review our school environments to ensure they remain safe, healthy, and entirely vape- and drug-free. To support our existing robust education and PSHE curriculum, we are introducing periodic, unannounced visits from a professional passive detection dog team.

I want to be entirely clear: this is a preventative, proactive measure. We are fortunate to have wonderful students at AHS. However, we live in a wider world where youth vaping is a well-documented national challenge, and it would be complacent to wait for a problem to arise before taking action.

Our primary goal is deterrence. Crucially, we want to give our students a strong 'social out' - a concrete, face-saving reason to say no to peer pressure outside of school because they know a detection dog could be present at any time.

How the visits work: The dogs used are professional, passive detection dogs. They are trained simply to scan the air in communal areas and around bags without making any direct contact with students. These visits are handled with the utmost sensitivity and care by professional handlers, ensuring minimal disruption to the school day. If your child has any specific allergies or severe phobias regarding dogs, please contact me directly at hqueralt@ahs.bucks.sch.uk so we can make the appropriate arrangements.

For transparency, these visits align with Section 7.6 of our Behaviour Policy regarding maintaining a safe site. Should a dog indicate a presence, authorised staff will conduct a supportive and respectful check, in line with our standard procedures, and parents will always be informed.

We trust that you will welcome this proactive step. By putting a robust deterrent in place, we are helping our students make the right choices and navigate modern social pressures safely.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support in keeping our school community safe.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Harriet Queralt

Deputy Head (Pastoral) & Designated Safeguarding Lead