



Hillcrest School

A Specialist Maths & Computing College
and Sixth Form Centre



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Dear community member,

We are contacting you with regards to a recent change in the law surrounding controlled drugs, which we are seeking to raise awareness of among communities within the West Midlands.

The government has now changed the classification of synthetic cannabinoids, making them illegal under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. Such substances are very commonly available and are known to many as Spice or Mamba and are incorrectly assumed to be a 'legal high'. They generally mimic the effects of cannabis.

The change in the law means that it is now illegal to possess these substances, meaning anyone who is found to have it in their possession is likely to face arrest.

We are very aware of the addictive nature of these substances and the serious harm they can do, therefore we are keen to make people aware that by buying or obtaining such drugs they are now committing a criminal offence. We will, initially, seek to find help and support to those who need it, as we are mindful that many people may unwittingly be breaking the law because they simply don't know that what they are using is now a controlled, illegal substance.

With this in mind we are asking for your help in passing this information on as far and wide as you possibly can so we can arm people with knowledge. We are duty bound to intervene and seize these drugs and prosecute those knowingly flouting the law. However we also want the community to be as informed about this as possible and that is why we need your help in raising awareness of this change in legislation.

Those involved in the production and supply of these drugs should not expect the same level of support – such offences will be dealt with robustly as we seek to shut down manufacture and supply chains across the region. For the facts on drugs and new psychoactive substances visit the www.talktofrank.com website.

Please share this message with any of your contacts and, as ever, thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

JA Davies (Ms)
Headteacher

'Staff are very caring and students appreciate the support that they receive.'

'The school's 'getting it right' policy is instrumental in managing the positive behaviour seen across school.'

(Ofsted 2013)

