

Tobacco and Vapes Act 2026 - School/college bulletin briefing

This template text below has been drafted to share relevant information about the Tobacco and Vapes Act. It can be dropped into any relevant newsletter or bulletin. The last line may need to be changed to reflect the situation in your particular educational establishment.

Additional information on the Tobacco and Vapes Act can be found on the [London Tobacco Alliance](#) website and the [Action on Smoking and Health](#) (ASH) website.

Update on new rules on tobacco and vaping

From 1 January 2027, England will introduce new tobacco and vaping rules affecting young people, including a permanent age-of-sale ban for anyone born on or after 1 January 2009. The focus is on it being illegal for retailers to sell tobacco to anyone under the age of sale, but young people themselves will not be criminalised.

The Tobacco and Vapes Act brings in several changes designed to protect young people's health. From 29 October, shops must follow new rules: you must be 18 to buy no-nicotine vapes and nicotine pouches and any other novel (non-traditional) nicotine products, free vape giveaways are banned, and vape vending machines are removed from public places. Trading Standards will also have new powers to issue on-the-spot fines to shops that break the law.

These changes are part of a national plan to create a Smokefree Generation, reduce youth vaping, and make nicotine products less accessible and less appealing to under-18s. A national awareness campaign will launch later this year to explain the new rules to students, families, and the wider public.

For more information, visit your school's wellbeing page or speak to a member of staff.