

I can't believe we are already at the end of September! The term has started very positively as we welcomed over 350 new learners into LDE UTC, LDEUT6Form and our Engineering Skills College.

In our Learning for Life sessions, learners in KS3 and 4 have been looking at Rail Safety. You can watch the information shared with them here [Telent – Learn Live \(learnliveuk.com\)](https://www.learnliveuk.com) and we will be sharing the Sixth Form version later on this term. In addition, we have had CGL come in and speak with our Year 9s about the dangers of vaping / smoking whilst the focus for Year 10, Year 11, 12 and 13 has been looking at the future. For Year 10, we have looked at how they approach study for GCSEs whilst for Year 11 it's all about the pathways open to them at 16. For our new cohort of Year 12s we have focused on making the most of the opportunities we give them through our partnerships with Access Aspirations and Future Leaders and for Year 13 the focus is very much on applying for universities and/or apprenticeships.

We are all aware that vaping has becoming a huge problem for under 18 year olds across the country and it is important that we educate our young people about the dangers. Below is some information from the NHS

- [Vaping is a way for adults to stop smoking](#) – not something for non-smokers, especially children and young people to try.
- Vaping is substantially less harmful than smoking but that does not mean it is harmless.
- Vaping exposes users to some toxins, and we do not yet know what the risks might be in the longer term.
- Most vapes contain nicotine, which is an addictive substance that can be hard to stop using once you have started.
- Nicotine is more risky for young people than for adults, as evidence suggests the developing brain is more sensitive to its addictive effects.
- In the UK, it is against the law to sell nicotine vaping products to under-18s or for adults to buy them on their behalf.
- Some disposable vapes on sale are illegal and do not meet UK safety regulations. They can contain high levels of harmful substances.

Change Grow Live not only provides schools/colleges in Newham with support for learners who are maybe addicted to drugs such as vapes, cigarettes, cannabis [Young People's Service - Newham | Change Grow Live](#) but they also support adults [Newham Rise drug and alcohol service hubs \(changegrowlive.org\)](#). Learners can find out more information here [Vapes | FRANK \(talktofrank.com\)](#) and can call this number if they are concerned that they have an addiction **0300 1236600**. If parents/carers are concerned that their child does have an addiction, please contact the relevant Head of Year who will be able to signpost you to the correct services.

Please note that any learner caught with a vape on their person whilst on the college premises, will be subject to a suspension and a referral will be made to relevant parties.