Student Sanctions for Severe Breaches of the Student Code of Conduct

Happy, healthy, safe students is Somerville Secondary College's highest priority and as such, it is important to have clear and transparent information regarding the implementation of the student code of conduct in line with keeping students safe.

1. SMOKING/VAPING (and students in the presence of smokers/vapers)

As well as the known effects of smoking, health experts are reporting serious increase in young people with lung damage who vape, including some deaths. Vaping puts nicotine into the body.

Nicotine is highly addictive and can:

- Slow brain development in teens and affect memory, concentration, learning, self-control, attention, and mood.
- Increase the risk of other types of addiction later in life.
- Irritate the lungs.
- Cause serious lung damage and even death.

At Somerville Secondary College, students who are reported as smoking/vaping or are making a conscious decision to be **in the company** of smokers/students vaping during school hours, to and from school, or at any school event, will have the following consequences:

- Completion of an education activity on the health risks of smoking, and
- Suspension
    - First offence..... 1 day
    - Second offence..... 2 days
    - Third offence ..... 4 days
    - Fourth offence..... 8 days

- Students found in possession of large amounts of cigarettes or vaping will receive more substantial sanctions.
- Please note that a total of 15 days suspension may result in expulsion.

Please note that all toilets and change rooms have been fitted with sensors that activate an alarm to notify staff.

2. DRUGS and ALCOHOL

Somerville Secondary College:

- Has a zero tolerance for the possession of, or consumption of alcohol or drugs at school or at any school event and does not permit student possession, consumption or selling of alcohol on school premises or at camps and excursions.
- Will take appropriate action **including contacting police,** if a student is found in possession of, selling, or under the influence of illegal drugs on school premises or at camps and excursions.

- Manages and reports any alcohol and other drug related incidents in accordance with the Department of Education Reporting and Managing School Incidents (including emergencies) Policy.
- **Will impose significant sanctions which may result in the student being removed from the college, but will make every effort to retain students in the education system.**
- Provides students with education on alcohol and other drug/s through harm minimisation approach through the Victorian Curriculum.
- Takes a whole-of-school approach to involve students, parents, carers and the wider school community in drug-related curriculum and wellbeing issues including discussions in relation to confidentiality.
- Ensures that students have access to immediate and ongoing support for any substance use issues.

3. SEARCH AND SEIZE

The Principal, Assistant Principals and authorised teachers have the authority to ban, search for and seize certain harmful items under the Education and training Reform Act 2006 (VIC) (The Act) and the Education and Training Reform (School Safety) Regulations 2011 (VIC).

Under the Act, a **harmful item,** for the purpose of the banning, searching and seizing powers, is:

- Any item(s) that the Principal has declared as a harmful item and banned using their powers under the Act.
- Any item that is a prohibited or harmful item (outlined in legislation covering smoking, vaping alcohol, drugs, weapons or potential weapons).
- Any item that the Principal, Assistant Principal or authorised teacher reasonably suspects is being used or is likely to be used in a threatening, violent or harmful manner.

Search for and seizing harmful items

As outline above, a Principal, Assistant Principal or authorised teacher can ask students to relinquish initially or then search bags or lockers and seize any item that they reasonably suspect is being used, or is likely to be used, irrespective of whether it has first been declared as harmful and banned.

The Principal, Assistant Principal or authorised teacher may ask students to hand over a banned non harmful item until the end of the school day as appropriate.