Alcohol, Drugs and Substance Misuse Policy

a) The College recognises that the misuse of alcohol, drugs and other substances (including legal-highs) by its students is likely to have damaging consequences, including the risks of:

- Damaging the mental and physical health and wellbeing of the user
- Undermining the user’s ability to study and academic performance
- Involving both the user and others in situations where their safety and well-being may be compromised
- Increasing the likelihood of crime on campus and in the local area and of College students and others being the victims of such crime
- Jeopardising the College’s and the Student Union’s licenses to serve alcohol and provide entertainment
- Adversely affecting the College’s reputation

b) The College recognises activities to do with the misuse of drugs are frequently illegal and that the College can itself be in breach of the law as specified in the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 if it permits misuse of drugs to take place upon its premises. College notes that activities connected with the misuse of alcohol and other substance abuse can also involve legal consequences.

c) College prohibits the possession, use, or supply of illegal drugs on its premises by its students or others and confirms its resolve to take disciplinary action and to report matters to the Police when appropriate. College will also take action, including making reports to the Police and disciplinary action where appropriate, to address the use of illegal drugs by its students when involved in College-linked activities off College premises or when such behaviour may bring the College’s name into disrepute.

d) College prohibits the encouragement, overt or covert, of individuals to misuse or over-indulge in alcohol (for example through initiations or ‘pub crawls’) and confirms its resolve to take appropriate actions, including disciplinary actions where appropriate, when alcohol is misused on College premises or by students when involved in College-linked activities off College premises. Action may also be taken against those who encourage or pressurise others to misuse alcohol.

e) As part of the policy of promoting responsible alcohol use, College requests that students do not consume alcohol outside of the appropriately allocated areas. Appropriate areas include licensed bar areas and surrounding seating, dining halls and other area where alcohol is supplied for sale and consumption, students’ private residential accommodation and other areas that might be from time to time set aside for such consumption. Students should not take open containers of alcohol from permitted areas out onto campus. College reserves the right to ask students consuming alcohol in inappropriate areas to desist, particularly where this consumption might give rise to nuisance or disturbance and in addition if necessary to take possession or otherwise dispose of this alcohol.

f) College notes that students can on occasions tempted to misuse substances for a variety of reasons, including the gaining of unfair academic and sporting advantage, to harass others and to gain sexual, personal, or other advantage. College confirms its resolve to take action, including disciplinary actions where appropriate, when substances are misused in such a way on College premises or by students when involved in College-linked activities off College premises.

g) College recognises that illegal drug, alcohol and substance misuse is a complex area; that there can be welfare and educational issues underlying drug, alcohol and substance use and that the classifications of substances are subject to revision. College will take this into account when deciding on disciplinary action and will vary its actions in response to the severity and context of the offence.
h) Notwithstanding this, College reserves the right to consider all levels of sanction for students found to have been involved with the misuse of substances, including – if appropriate - a requirement to leave Hall and review of a student’s registration with the College.

i) College commits itself to also take proactive educational and pastoral steps to raise student awareness of the dangers of alcohol, drug and other substance misuse; to support where possible and reasonable with medical, counselling and other pastoral help those students who find themselves in difficulties because of habitual alcohol, drug and other substance use, assuming the offer of such support does not conflict with College’s legal responsibilities and College’s intent to avoid the negative effects outlined in the initial paragraph of this Regulation.

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