HEADLINE MATHS

CAFFEINE CRACKDOWN

ENERGY DRINKS BAN FOR UNDER-16S

Ministers move to protect teen health

The UK government has confirmed plans to introduce a new law that would ban the sale of high-caffeine energy drinks to anyone under the age of 16. The decision follows years of debate around the effects of these drinks, which are often heavily marketed to teenagers. Popular brands such as Monster, Red Bull and Prime Energy contain high amounts of caffeine and sugar, sometimes almost twice the caffeine of a standard cup of coffee in just one 500ml can. For example, one can of Monster can contain 160mg of caffeine, compared to around 80mg in a small cup of coffee.

Supporters of the ban argue that excessive consumption of these drinks has been linked to poor sleep, reduced concentration in school, increased heart rate, and disruptive behaviour in class. Several studies have found that large numbers of UK teenagers regularly consume energy drinks — with some surveys suggesting that more than two-thirds of secondary school students have tried them, and around one in four 11–15 year-olds buy them at least once a week. Teachers' unions and health organisations have long campaigned for restrictions, warning that students often arrive at school tired, restless, or unable to focus after drinking multiple cans.

Retailer concerns

Not everyone is in agreement, however. Retailers and manufacturers have raised concerns about the practicalities of enforcing the rule, pointing out that staff will need to check ID in the same way they currently do for alcohol and cigarettes. Some argue that this could slow down service in busy shops or petrol stations. Others worry that young people may simply find ways to get around the ban, such as asking older friends or family to buy the drinks for them.

The UK would join several other countries, including Lithuania and Latvia, that already restrict the sale of energy drinks to children. Ministers insist the change is an important step in encouraging healthier lifestyles and protecting young people from the potential risks of high-caffeine products. Whether the law will have a real impact on teenage behaviour, or whether students will continue to find access to these drinks, remains to be seen — but the debate around energy drinks and their place in schools is unlikely to go away anytime soon.

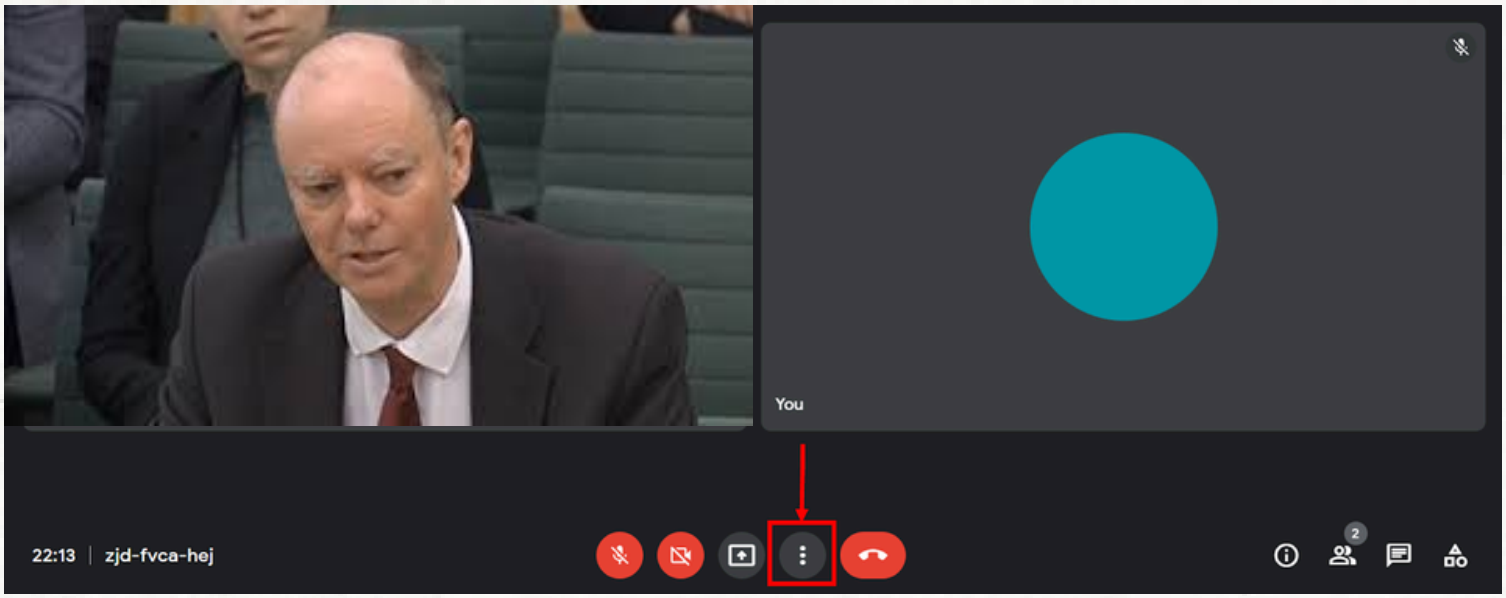
HEADLINE MATHS

Section 1 - Statistics & Data

A 500ml can of energy drink contains 160mg of caffeine. A small cup of coffee has 80mg How many cups of coffee is one can of energy drink equivalent to?	**If a teenager buys 3 cans per week at £1.50 each, how much do they spend in a month (4 weeks)?**
Research shows 1 in 4 (25%) of 11–15 year-olds buy an energy drink at least once a week. If a school has 640 students aged 11–15, how many are likely to be regular buyers?	**A teenager drinks 2 cans per day for a school week (5 days). How much caffeine do they consume in total that week?**
If the NHS recommends a maximum of 400mg of caffeine per day for adults, by what percentage does 2 cans of energy drink (320mg) make up of this adult daily limit?	**A supermarket sells a pack of 6 cans of energy drink for £8.40.** • **What is the price per can?** • **How much cheaper is this than buying 6 single cans at £1.50 each?**

HEADLINE MATHS

Section 2 - Practical Maths



Hello, and thank you for your help.
We're carrying out important research into how young people use energy drinks, and what they think about the government's new plan to ban sales to under-16s.

Your job is to design a short survey for schools. Please create five to ten clear questions that students aged 11 to 15 could answer easily.

Include a mixture of multiple-choice questions — for example, asking how often they drink energy drinks — and rating scale questions — such as how much they think energy drinks affect their sleep or concentration.

Remember: the questions must be fair, simple, and suitable for teenagers.

Thank you for your support with this important work."

HEADLINE MATHS

Write your survey questions here.

HEADLINE MATHS

Section 3 - Problem Solving

1. A shop sells 120 cans of energy drinks per day at £1.50 each. How much money does it make in a week (7 days)?

2. If the ban reduces sales by 40%, how many cans will the shop sell per day, and how much less money will it make in a week?

3. A supermarket sells energy drinks in multipacks of 4 cans for £5.

4. How much does one can cost in this deal?

5. A student buys 2 multipacks in a month. How much does this cost compared to buying single cans at £1.50?

6. A rival company launches a “healthy” energy drink with only 80mg caffeine per can. If a student switches from drinking 3 cans of regular energy drink (160mg each) to 3 cans of the new one, how much less caffeine do they consume per week?