

As a parent with children at Dulwich College and Alleyns, I read your double page spread article in the Evening Standard with interest. The major thrust of it appears to somehow try and shift the blame for your son's drug-taking from him, from you his parents - to the school he has long since left.

Your son achieved some excellent results whilst at the college, his problems seem to have arisen once you had taken him out of the school and sent him to an (unspecified) 6th Form college. Surely the culture at this unnamed college and your action sending him there must have contributed significantly to his decline.

I am not naive enough to think that drug experimentation - including excessive alcohol consumption - does not take place at a large number of secondary schools. Unfortunately drugs are part of our culture, across all ages, wide income levels and diverse locations. I sincerely hope that my children do not make drug-taking part of their lifestyle choice, however, I gained nothing from your rather long article that gives me any ideas as to how I can help my sons avoid making this choice. You simply seem to lament you and your husbands own actions/inactions.

I believe that it is very naive to hope that simply moving a drug from one classification to another will have any affect on experimentation with, or consumption of, cannabis by older teenagers of any socio-economic group. Better parenting skills generally and information about drug taking (including alcohol - the drug statistically with the most devastating social consequences) that does not patronise today's sophisticated youth is a better place to start.