

Weekly Parent/Guardian Newsletter

Next week is Week A

10 February 2023

Next week is Half Term - Return



to school 20.2.23!!



Dear Parent/Guardian,

Please see relevant information listed below that may offer support for your family, some information is new, and some information has been held over from last week's newsletter.

Next Week's School Events	
Date	Event – Half Term
Monday 13 th February 2023	No School
Tuesday 14 th February 2023	No School
Wednesday 15 th February 2023	No School
Thursday 16 th February 2023	No School
Friday 17 th February 2023	No School

Student Safeguarding after 3.20pm

A reminder to parents regarding the safeguarding of their children if staying in school after 3.20pm.

- Students must not be unaccompanied in school, except in the Heart area
- Students must leave site by 4.20pm, unless in an extended lesson/club, attending a detention, or waiting for an event
- Staff accompany students to the exit when it is time to leave.

Many thanks for your support with this.

Bicycle Safety at School

Please be aware that the bicycle shed is NOT a safe place to leave a bike overnight. If students need to leave a bicycle overnight for whatever reason or even whilst at an after-school club, the bicycle needs to be put in the main bicycle shed when they first arrive at school to save wheeling it through the school. The bicycle cage at the front of the school is locked overnight, but please also ensure your child's bicycle has a lock and lights and that they use a bicycle helmet. We would also like to raise awareness for students cycling in the winter months in the dark having good reflective gear and lights on their bicycles to ensure they can be seen clearly by other road users.

SEN Message

If your child is a laptop user & borrows a chromebook/laptop from the SEN department. Please could you ask them to check their rooms, bags and lockers for any that they may have forgotten to return. We currently have at least 6 missing from the department and they are needed on a daily basis by other students.

Kind regards

Lucy Holmes- SENCO

Attendance - Absences

Regular school attendance is essential if students are to achieve their full potential. We believe that there is a direct link between attendance and performance and that regular school attendance is the key to enabling our students to maximise the educational opportunities available to them and become resilient, confident and competent adults. Children are required by law to attend school 190 days per year. The Government states that every pupil's attendance should be **at least** 95% and at here Dane Court, we strive for this to be even higher for our students. We understand that there are many reasons why students may miss school and we work hard with students and their families to find a variety of solutions to the problems of absenteeism.

If your child is ill, please contact the school each day that your child is absent, clearly stating the symptoms. Please note that being *late after registration* will also *lower* your child's attendance.

Whilst we appreciate medical appointments may arise, we suggest that whenever possible, these are arranged for out of school hours or at the very beginning/end of the school day, so that they have as little impact as possible on your child's school day. All appointments must be notified to the Attendance Officer in advance so that the information can be put on your child's register and relevant teachers/staff informed. Please provide evidence of appointments, by sending in a copy of the appointment letter/card for example.

If you are intending on keeping your child off school for any other reason (e.g. religious observance, external exams, funeral), please contact the Attendance Officer who will advise you on what evidence is needed to support your child's absence.

Attendance during one school year	Equals – days absent	Which is approximately weeks absent	Which means this number of lessons missed	Outcome
100%	0 days	0 weeks	0 lessons	Perfection best chances of success
98%	4 days	<1 week	20 lessons	Impressive best chances of success
95%	9 days	2 weeks	50 lessons	Nearly there
90%	19 days	4 weeks	100 lessons	Concerning poor attendance
85%	29 days	6 weeks	150 lessons	Concerning poor attendance
80%	38 days	8 weeks	200 lessons	Serious concern can affect life chances
75%	48 days	10 weeks	250 lessons	Serious concern can affect life chances
65% ↓	67+ days	13.5+ weeks	340+ lessons	Extreme concern most likely to affect life chances

There are 175 non-school days a year - all this time can be used for appointments (wherever possible), family days & holidays. If you have any concerns regarding your child's attendance, please contact Mrs Claire Sayer, Attendance Officer at csayer@danecourt.kent.sch.uk or on 01843 864941.

Community Lifesavers

Dear Year 7 parent and carers,

I am delighted to inform you that "Community Lifesavers" will be coming to Dane Court at the start of next term to deliver CPR & Defibrillator training to our current year 7 cohort in line with their PSHE curriculum. Students will be registered in their classes then brought down to the theatre for a 1 hour training session. This is a great opportunity for our students and I believe it will be an enriching experience for them.

The training will take place on Monday 20th & Tuesday 21st February.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Miss Holland, Head of PSHE.

Family Support Page

Youtube Restrictions

On many occasions we hear of concerns from parents about their ability to monitor or restrict what their children see on Youtube. I would like to draw your attention to the following link where the videos go through ways in which parents help ensure their children are safer on You Tube, this includes You Tube kids, and main You Tube.

I hope you find it helpful. <https://www.esafety-adviser.com/youtube-parental-restrictions/>

Please check if your child is eligible for free school meals.

With the cost of living crisis creating increased challenges for our community, we ask all parents to check if their child is eligible to receive free school meals. Applying for free school meals if you are eligible will mean enhanced pupil premium funding for the school. This will not only allow us to pay for school trips, study materials and revision guides for your child, but will also allow increased funding for the quality of education at Dane Court as a whole. We would be very grateful for your help: please apply if you are eligible.

Who is eligible for free school meals?

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following. For full information, visit <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>.

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

I think my child is eligible for free school meals. What do I do now?

You should apply for free school meals via the Kent County Council website. Kent County Council will then inform the school to allow us to access the funding, so you don't have to do anything else.

The link is here: <https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/free-school-meals>

What if I am worried that my child will be embarrassed at school?

Please do not worry. Our systems are extremely discreet, and our electronic payment system in the school canteen means that it is impossible to tell who is receiving a free school meal. Many students receive free school meals at our school.

Free School Meals - how they work

Please be aware that if your child receives free school meals, this is how the system works on a daily basis

- Your child will receive £1.10 for breakfast; which they **must** use before period 1 at 8.40am, if the £1.10 is not used by 8.40am then it is withdrawn from the account. For students to take advantage of the breakfast free school meal they must be in school in time to use it before period 1.
- They will then receive £2.30 for lunch, which they can use from breaktime at 10.45am onwards until the end of lunch at 2.20pm. The best value meal available is the lunch time main meal which comes with and main course and pudding bought simultaneously.

Any unspent funds are **not** carried over from day to day, and a new amount is added each day. You can add cash to your child's account using Wisepay if you wish, for extra snacks. But please note that the money given for free school meals should be spent where possible on food and not drinks to get the best value for money.

Financial concerns

At Dane Court Grammar School, we are committed to ensuring that finances are not a barrier to accessing educational trips and essential equipment for lessons; therefore financial support may be available. If you have difficulty contributing to the cost of a trip or essential equipment, please contact the school office at admin@danecourt.kent.sch.uk or the Sixth Form office (abowen@danecourt.kent.sch.uk) to discuss anything.

PP funding for ingredients

Did you know that if your child is eligible for PP funding, we are able to help to provide ingredients for them to cook with. Please get in touch with Mrs Edmondson or Mrs Leese to make arrangements for this to happen if you will find supplying ingredients difficult.

leese@danecourt.kent.sch.uk

nedmondson@danecourt.kent.sch.uk

Hardship Help guide

Please find below a link to a '[Hardship Help](#)' guide. This includes universal support available across England/Kent, as well as district-specific support.

Thanet Adult Education - Family Courses

The next round of family courses in Autism awareness, supporting ADHD in the home, exploring behaviour strategies etc

<https://www.kentadulthoodeducation.co.uk/course-areas/family-courses/?pageNumber=1&pageSize=10&sortOrder=StartingSoonest&alreadyStarted=No&category=Family%20Courses>

Internet Safety

" Tuesday 7th February was safer internet day, where your child, in their mentoring time, would have completed some tasks to help them express and discuss their online usage, the pros and cons and their experiences. The aim is to help encourage young people to be open and talk about their experiences as the more open they feel they can be the better parents and staff can help keep them safe.

In light of this we are asking all parents this week to '**Making space for conversations about life online**' with their child. For guidance about this please refer to the website below: <https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2023>

The safeguarding team"

Food department news:

Three of the seven year 9 classes have now hosted their Bistros, here are some photos of the culinary delights enjoyed by the staff and parents that were invited. Well done to 9T, 9D and 9N2 for your teamwork, professionalism and organisation of the event.



Preparations are underway for the Medieval Banquet which year 7 will be taking part in on 27th March. This week we have been making pottage to be enjoyed by the peasants at our Medieval Banquet event. All year 7 students will take part in this event which will take place during the school day. Students will be required to bring in some costumes and props on the day - all of which can be made or adapted from everyday items- we will be sending out guidance on this soon. Here are some photos of the pottage preparation. Thank you to all of the families that have donated vegetables for pottage making.



Japanese Cooking Lessons (written by Libby)



In our IBCP Language Development class, we had a Japanese cooking lesson and made two different Japanese noodle dishes. The steps to both of the recipes were simple and easy to follow. We worked well together as a group to make chicken udon noodle soup which was my personal favourite and soba noodle. The soba noodles were noodles served with dipping sauce.

Fin and Amy said 'It was really enjoyable. The dishes tasted very nice and flavoursome and everyone ate lots of it. It gave us an interesting and fun insight on a common dish they eat in Japan'. Ms Myers commented 'It was great to see the students enjoyed cooking and tried the Japanese noodle dishes. Some students asked me to share the recipes as they wanted to make it again! I hope the lesson encouraged the students to be open minded to try something new from other countries. Well done, everyone.'

Musical Notes

Applications are now open for the Kent Music Summer School residential courses. These range from Musical Theatre to Jazz to Wind Band and Symphony Orchestra courses, purpose-built for able musicians attending Kent schools who would like to participate in music-making over the summer holidays. Courses take place in the beautiful grounds of Benenden School and financial assistance is available.

Take a look at the range of opportunities available here: <https://www.kent-music.com/kent-music-summer-school/>

U16 Girls Football Kent Cup Final.

On Friday 3rd February our U16 girls took on St Gregorys from Tunbridge Wells in the Final of the Kent Cup. This resulted in Dane Court winning the Kent Cup Final 8-3, for the first time since 1999. We are so proud of the hard work, camaraderie and persistence the girls have put in over the last 3 terms to achieve this. The girls worked so hard to keep possession of the ball and score at every opportunity, even winning a free kick to score the last goal of the game. We wish the girls every success in their football pathways and hope the year 10's carry on this great work. A special thank you to all the parents of our players, for all your support with bringing the girls to and from matches, supporting from the sidelines and picking them up from training to help make this all possible.

Thank you again.

Miss Metcalfe and the PE department.

Board game donations

We are looking for board game donations for our Board Game Club that runs in school on Wednesday and Friday lunchtimes in M7. If anyone is having a clear out after Christmas and finds any old board games they would like to donate, we would be very grateful.

The Schoolwear Centre

We are running a free draw for the next 4 months. To win a £50 School Uniform Voucher each month. There will be a winner each month in February & March & April & May. To Enter Email, us at marketing@schoolshop.uk.net with your name and the school/s your family attend. Only one entry per email address. All entries will go into the draw each month. It's FREE to enter.

Ian Margetson

Company Chairman

[The Schoolwear Centre @ Margate Ltd](#)

56 Addington Street,

Margate

CT9 1QS

01843 293555

2nd hand uniform shop

The 2nd Hand Uniform Shop will be open from 3.15 to 4.15 the first Tuesday of each month. If you require any 2nd hand uniform but can't get into school please email any requirements to admin@danecourt.kent.school.uk and we will do our best to sort suitable items which can be picked up by the student from the main school office. If you have any spare coat hangers or school ties we would be very grateful of any donations. The School Wear Centre in Margate also sells 2nd hand uniform for a small charge to cover laundry costs.

Clubs at Dane Court

Day	Name of club	When	Where	Year group
Monday				
	Chatter	1.45-2.15pm	Library	All
	Physics drop in	3.30 4pm	D12	All
	Choir	After school	H7	All
	Debating Club	3.30-4:30	Library	All
Tuesday				
	Yoga Club	3.30-4.30	Studio	yr12-13
	Netball	3.30-4:30	Field	all
	Ukele Club	lunchtime	H7	All
	Art club	3:20 - 4:30	ART	Yr7-9
	Trampolining	3.30-4.25	sports hall	KS4&5
	Junior Book Club - week B	1.45 - 2.15	Library	Yr7 & 8
	Orchestra	3.30-4.30	H7	all years
	Japanese Culture Club	1.45 - 2.15	L4	All Years
Wednesday				
	Languages Film Club	1:45-2:15	L11	All
	Badminton Club	3.30 - 4.25	Sports hall	KS3
	Board Game Club	lunchtime 1.40 - 2.15	M7	all
	Dance	3.45pm -4.25pm	Activity Studio	All KS
	Film club - week B	After school	M4	yr12/13
Thursday				

	Boys Rugby	3.30pm - 4.25pm	Field	Boys
	Drama & shakespeare	Thursday 3.30-4.30	H1	7-10
	Climbing	3:30pm-4:30pm	Climbing Wall	Y8,9,10,11
	Chess Club	3.30 - 4.30pm	D2	All
	History Club	1.45 - 2.20	B plaza	Yr7, 8, 9
	GCSE coursework	3.30-4.30	B plaza	yr11 only
Friday				
	Car Care and Basic maintenance	3.25 - 4.20	B3	Yr12-13
	Basket Ball Club	Lunchtime 1.45-2.15	PE	all years
	Board Game Club	lunchtime 1.40 - 2.15	M7	all
	Chatter	1.45-2.15pm	Library	All years

DANE COURT PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

Events 2023

Quiz Night

Dane Court School Theatre
Friday 24th March 2023



Tickets: Adults £7.00 Children £3.00

Doors open at 7pm quiz starts 7.30pm

(price includes ploughman's supper - bring your own drinks, glasses provided)

Teams up to 8 persons per table.

To book a table please contact Mrs Lois Gadd (Maths) (Tel (or text) 07968 687145 or Email gadd@danecourt.kent.sch.uk) by 4pm on Wed 22nd Mar

Charity number 1023394



