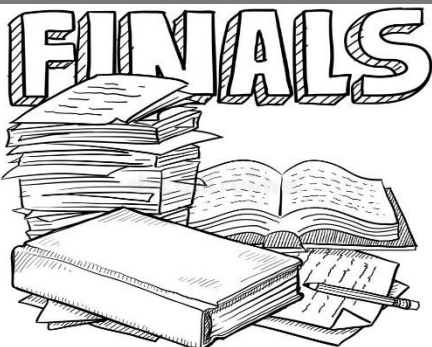


## Weekly Parent/Guardian Newsletter

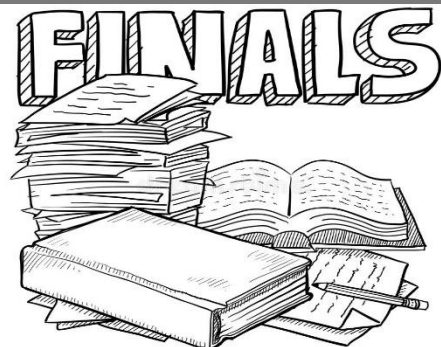
Next week is Week A

15<sup>th</sup> May 2023



# GCSEs Begin

# Next Week



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 – Week A 2-1-2 timetable

Date	Events
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> May 2023	GCSE Exam period Begins
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> May 2023	Year 7 Parents' Evening
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> May 2023	-
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> May 2023	-
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> May 2023	-

## School Terms and Holidays: 2023–2024

Dane Court Grammar School  
Term Dates 2023/24

Aug-23						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Sep-23						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Oct-23						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Nov-23						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Dec-23						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Jan-24						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Feb-24						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29			

Mar-24						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Apr-24						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

May-24						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Jun-24						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Jul-24						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Aug-24						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

- School Day
- School Holiday
- Bank Holiday
- Training Day

- Term 1    01/09/2023 - 20/10/2023
- Term 2    30/10/2023 - 15/12/2023
- Term 3    02/01/2024 - 09/02/2024
- Term 4    19/02/2024 - 28/03/2024
- Term 5    15/04/2024 - 24/05/2024
- Term 6    03/06/2024 - 23/07/2024

**1 training day to be added once confirmed.**

WEEKLY MENU					Dane Court Grammar School - Week 2				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday					
Beef Ragout Pasta Baked served with Garlic Slice	Hoi Sin Style Chicken served with Egg Fried Rice	Traditional Roast of the Day, Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Jerk Chicken Thigh served with Rice & Peas	Fish Shop Friday: Breaded Fish & Chips					
Creamy Tomato & Basil Penne Pasta served with Garlic Slice	Vegetarian Chow Mein Noodles	Root Vegetables & Cheddar Cheese Tart	Creole Mixed Bean & Butternut Squash served with Coriander Rice	Vegetarian Samosa served with Chips					
Seasonal Vegetables	Seasonal Vegetables	Seasonal Vegetables	Seasonal Vegetables	Garden Peas or Baked Beans					
Jacket Potato with a Selection of Hot & Cold Fillings	Jacket Potato with a Selection of Hot & Cold Fillings	Jacket Potato with a Selection of Hot & Cold Fillings	Jacket Potato with a Selection of Hot & Cold Fillings	Jacket Potato with a Selection of Hot & Cold Fillings					
Chocolate Brownie	Pineapple Upside Down Cake	Coconut & Jam Sponge Cake	Spiced Caribbean Sponge Cake	Iced Mixed Berries Sponge Cake					

## Chatter Newspaper Bake Sale

Chatter the school Newspaper would like to thank all student's, staff and parents for their support with the Bake Sale held on Tuesday which raised an amazing £64.35.

This is a fantastic amount to add to the fundraising held this year by the students at Dane Court. The final amount raised shall be published in the final edition of the newspaper for this school year- Chatter 26 which will be available in July.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Mrs Cronin & the Chatter team

## MIND at Dane Court Grammar School

I am pleased to be able to offer a face to face training session to our community in school to support understanding of everyday mental health for all and the challenges that are faced when supporting others.

**The training will be delivered by the mental health charity MIND at Dane Court Grammar School on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May from 4-5pm.**

This free one-hour course focuses on stress, self-care, and the ways in which we can support others – providing a dedicated space and time where people can build their knowledge and reflect on how the current climate may be having a detrimental impact on mental health.

Developed in partnership with the Kent & Medway ICS Suicide Prevention Programme Team, this session aims to help people better understand their own mental health and wellbeing, and then how to apply that improved knowledge to the steps they can take to support others.

As a part of this session we will also explore the support services available across Kent & Medway – enabling people to better understand the support which is available to them within the communities in which we work.

The Objectives of this training session are as follows:

- Recognise the impact that negative stressors such as debt can have on a person's mental health.
- Understand how to support your own mental health and wellbeing during the current financial crisis.
- Have the confidence to support someone else who may be struggling with poor mental health.
- Have a greater awareness of the range of services available in Kent & Medway that can support someone who is struggling with their mental health or experiencing financial difficulty.

There are a limited number of spaces available, so register your place using this link:

<https://forms.gle/zNY1GDoXuuWuRWzc8>

I look forward to seeing you there.

Lucy Holmes

## **Exam Anxiety Support**

The NHS Emotional Wellbeing Team are also pleased to be able to offer an online workshop for young people around managing stress and anxiety for exams and coursework.

This will be on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 5 – 6pm for years 10 & 11 students. Please

email [holmes@danecourt.kent.sch.uk](mailto:holmes@danecourt.kent.sch.uk) if you would like your child to attend. We will then register their interest and send them the link to join.

## **Exam Dates for yr11s**

Please see below confirmation of the final exam dates for year 11s this year.

**26<sup>th</sup> May:** Last day of formal lessons (students may choose to continue to attend school to revise and prepare after this date).

**21<sup>st</sup> June:** Is the date of the last scheduled exam. But all students need to remain available until the 28<sup>th</sup> June.

**28<sup>th</sup> June:** Is the contingency date that is allowed for in case exams are moved by exam board at late notice. This is an official date given by the exam board and therefore all year 11s need to remain available to sit any exam that may be moved to this period.

## **Year 11s - SAVE THE DATE - Sixth Form Induction Days**

We would like to invite you to our sixth form induction days on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of June. Students hoping to join us from other schools are also invited to join us during the afternoon of the 21<sup>st</sup> June to be welcomed by staff and students and to tour the school in preparation for the main induction event.

Details of the days will follow next term and will include opportunities for you to meet with staff, to experience taster lessons in the subjects you hope to study, to speak to Dane Court IB alumni about their courses and successful pathways, and to experience university life.

Please make every effort to ensure you attend all days as they will be an important platform for your successful transition into our sixth form. We very much look forward to welcoming you once again.

## **Anna Freud Schools and Colleges Early Support Service**

We have been made aware of a new webinar series being offered by the Anna Freud Schools and Colleges Early Support Service specially tailored for young people. These webinars provide useful advice for young people to support them in looking after their own mental health.

The topics have been chosen to reflect common difficulties young people may experience, including:

- How to manage exam stress
- How to manage low mood
- How to manage anxiety

These webinars are not live events, which means that the webinars can be viewed more than once, at any time, for up to 30 days after registration.

Please read the attached letter for further information and to access the links for registration.

Many thanks,

Lucy Holmes

Senco and Mental Health Lead

## **Parent Support Webinars**

Our NHS Emotional Wellbeing Team continue to support parents with their virtual webinars based on challenging issues parents may face. Below are the new workshop dates for Term 5 and 6. If you would like to attend a session, please email [holmes@danecourt.kent.sch.uk](mailto:holmes@danecourt.kent.sch.uk).

This and all other support available for parents is listed on our school website, within the Family Support page <https://danecourt.kent.sch.uk/parents8/news6/family-support>

## **Picking up and dropping off by car**

When coming to drop off or pick up your child please use a nearby side street, and **please do not block the school access or exit; or park on the pavement or white line hazard lines directly outside the school**. Parking in any of these areas endangers the lives of our students and other pedestrians. We are dedicated to safeguarding our students and ask that you offer your support in this matter.

### **PE reminder:**

Please can you ensure if your child has a piercing that cannot be removed, they must come into PE with their own medical tape to cover them and a note from parent/carer advising the school as to when they can be removed. We recommend any new piercings wait until the beginning of the summer holidays please. Any injured students must have a note from parents/carers to email the school to inform so we are aware. If an injury requires more than one week of not participating in PE, we do need a note/evidence from a medical professional please. Students must still bring in and change into PE kit unless their injury makes it too painful or impossible to do.  
Many thanks for your cooperation.

### **School absence procedure**

It is important to remind you that if your child is going to be absent from school, you must call the absence line, 01843 864941, option 1, or email: [csayer@danecourt.kent.sch.uk](mailto:csayer@danecourt.kent.sch.uk) as soon as possible, or at the very latest by 10am. Unless **pre-arranged** you are required to do this **every day your child is absent**. From a safeguarding perspective, your cooperation with this is essential and appreciated.

### **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, 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.

## **Family Support**

### **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](mailto:admin@danecourt.kent.sch.uk) or the Sixth Form office ([abowen@danecourt.kent.sch.uk](mailto:abowen@danecourt.kent.sch.uk)) to discuss anything.

### **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.

### **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](mailto:leese@danecourt.kent.sch.uk)

[nedmondson@danecourt.kent.sch.uk](mailto: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.

### **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](mailto: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.

### **Our boot fairs this year are as follows:**

Saturday 13th May

Saturday 10th June

Saturday 15th July

Saturday 9th September

6am stallholders - 6:30am public - No need to book, just turn up! More details at [danecourt.kent.sch.uk/boot](http://danecourt.kent.sch.uk/boot)

### Clubs Table for this term.

Day	Name of club	When	Where	Year group
<b>Monday</b>				
	Chatter	Lunchtime	Library	All
	Physics drop in	3.30 - 4pm	D12	All
	Choir	After school	H7	All
	Debating Club	3.30-4:30pm	Library	All
<b>Tuesday</b>				
	Cricket Club	3.30-4:30pm	Field	all
	Ukele Club	Lunchtime	H7	All
	Art club	3:20 - 4:30pm	ART	Yr7-9
	Junior Book Club - week B	Lunchtime	Library	Yr7 & 8
	Orchestra	3.30-4.30pm	H7	all years
	Japanese Culture Club	Lunchtime	L4	All Years
<b>Wednesday</b>				
	Languages Film Club	Lunchtime	L11	yr8+
	Board Game Club	Lunchtime	M7	all
	Rounders Club	3.45 -4.25pm	Field	All
	Film club - week B	After school	M4	yr12/13
<b>Thursday</b>				
	Grease rehearsals	3.30pm-4.30pm	H1	Cast members
	Climbing	3:30pm-4:30pm	Climbing Wall	Y8,9,10,11
<b>Friday</b>				
	Board Game Club	Lunchtime	M7	all
	Chatter	Lunchtime	Library	All years

## Lost Property

We have a number of items in our lost property this term. They include unnamed uniform & PE clothing, jewellery, a scarf, hats/gloves, a maths set, Tesco fob card, coats, keys, a hot water bottle, an odd earbud headphone, a navy tie, football boots, a water bottle and a tote bag. Please remember to name any items your child brings into school to help us quickly return any lost items. Photos of the easily identified items are set out below. If you or your child recognise any of them, or think that the items of unnamed uniform may belong to your child, please do contact the office on 01843 864941 to arrange collection as soon as possible.

Many thanks, Office Team



**THE END**

