

## Weekly Parent/Guardian Newsletter

Next week is Week B

19<sup>th</sup> May 2023



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 B 2-1-2 timetable	
Date	Events
Monday 22nd May 2023	Yr12 Geography Trip to Juniper Hall
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2023	Yr12 Geography Trip to Juniper Hall
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> May 2023	Yr10&12 Business Trip to Thorpe Park
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> May 2023	KS3 German Trip to British Film Institute
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> May 2023	Last Day of Term

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

We have recently had a number of reports from local residents regarding unsafe and illegal parking in nearby streets. We appreciate that parking around the school is limited but parking in an unsafe way can endanger the lives of our students and other pedestrians. We are committed to safeguarding our students and ask that you take notice of the following:





- Please do not park in the school entrance or exit or on the hazard lines either side of the entrance and exit gates.
- Please park considerately when dropping off or picking up your child. Please do not park on our neighbours driveways or over their drop curbs, even if this is only for a few minutes.
- Please do not attempt to access the school car park using the security gates unless you have a temporary car park access pass.
- Please try to drop off/pick up your child from one of the local quiet side streets.
- Unfortunately, we have had some reports from local residents of verbal abuse and aggressive behaviour from parents over parking issues.

Many thanks

## School Terms and Holidays: 2023–2024


### Dane Court Grammar School Term Dates 2023/24

Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23
M T W T F S S 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	M T W T F S S 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	M T W T F S S 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	M T W T F S S 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	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24
M T W T F S S 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	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	M T W T F S S 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	M T W T F S S 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	May-24	Jun-24	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	M T W T F S S 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	M T W T F S S 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	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 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.**

 <b>Dane Court Grammar School - Week 3</b>				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Traditional Spaghetti Bolognese served with Garlic Bread	Chicken Fajita served with Spanish Style Rice	Traditional Roast of the Day, Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Cajun Chicken Thigh served with Spicy Wedges	Fish Shop Friday: Breaded Fish & Chips
Vegetarian Lasagne served with Garlic Bread	Sweet Potato & Cheddar Cheese Quesadilla served with Spicy Wedges	Roasted Butternut Squash Quiche	Macaroni & Cheese with Chive	Vegetarian Spring Roll
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 Sponge with Chocolate Sauce	Gingerbread Traybake with Lemon Drizzle	Banana Cake with Cream Cheese Frost	Carrot Cake	Lemon Cheesecake Pot

## NHS Emotional Wellbeing Team Offer

Just a reminder that the Emotional Support/Wellbeing Team will be hosting an online parent workshop via Teams on an Understanding Your Child's Behaviour next week on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> May 5.30-7.30pm. Attached is the poster, which contains the Teams link to join. Please share this with parents from your school who may be interested in attending. (please include the flyer)

## **MIND at Dane Court Grammar School**

This is a final reminder of our offer of 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 23rd 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

## **Grease Tickets**

Tickets for Grease are now on sale at £6 each. Mr Stanley and Mrs Radley will be selling tickets Tues-Fri breaktime outside of drama (cash only).

The show dates are 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th of July curtains up at 7pm.

GREASE is the word (please spread it!)

## **Details for sports fixtures**

All sporting fixtures have a team sheet with details of the location of the fixture, arrive, leave and return timings and the team. These are all found on the fixture board in the PE building. We ask students to take a photo of this and to show home so parents/carers are aware.

Please do be aware that on away fixtures the return time may vary due to situations outside of our control such as traffic.

If a fixture is leaving before school hours please do not arrive any earlier than the time stated as there will be no one in school to let you in the gates until the time specified on the fixture sheet.

Please be aware that next week on Tuesday the cricket club is cancelled as we have staff department time, apologies for any inconvenience caused.

Kind regards

The PE Department

## **Unnamed containers**

The food department continues to have a rather large collection of unnamed containers in our lost property (situated directly outside of the kitchen). If your child has misplaced a container recently, please urge them to come and have a look. If they're unable to locate their container they should then speak to a member of staff. Any containers remaining by Friday 26th May 2023 will be consolidated into the food department in order to clear our lost property ahead of the new term.



## **Sports Notice**

Ismae A. in Year 8 had a great weekend competing in the Kent Championships U15s in Bromley. Saturday Ismae qualified in her heat for the final of the 200m. She got a personal best in the final & a bronze medal. On Sunday she competed in Long Jump, missing out on a bronze medal by only 1cm. During this weekend she also qualified in her heat for the Semi-final of the 100m, in her semi-final she got a personal best time and overall came 7th. This is such a positive start for her outdoor season and we want to wish her all the best in her future athletics.

## **Dear Year 11 Students**

You are invited to join us at Dane Court Grammar School for our Sixth Form Taster Events from Wednesday 21st to Friday 23rd June. The afternoon of Wednesday 21st June is for those of you who are new to Dane Court. The following two days are for all year 11 students, and we encourage you to attend both days.

We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday 21st (PM only) Thursday 22nd and Friday 23rd June 2023.

Best wishes,

## **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.

## **Parent Support Webinars**

Our NHS Emotional Wellbeing Team continue to support parents with their virtual webinars based on challenging issues parents may face. 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>

## **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.

## **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 a 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 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)

### **World Bee Day**

World Bee Day is celebrated on May 20 each year. The purpose of the international day is to acknowledge the role of bees and other pollinators for the ecosystem.

Every year on this day, the global public will focus on the importance of preserving honey bees and all other pollinators. People will be reminded of the significance of bees in providing for the needs of humanity.

Did you know:

1. Though bees have jointed legs, they do not possess anything like a kneecap, and therefore do not have knees.
2. Honey has antiseptic properties and was historically used as a dressing for wounds and a first aid treatment for burns and cuts.
3. The natural fruit sugars in honey – fructose and glucose – are quickly digested by the body. This is why sportsmen and athletes use honey to give them a natural energy boost.
4. The practice of beekeeping dates back at least 4,500 years.
5. Bees must gather nectar from two million flowers to make one pound of honey
6. One bee has to fly about 90,000 miles – three times around the globe – to make one pound of honey.
7. The average bee will make only 1/12th of a teaspoon of honey in its lifetime.
8. A honey bee visits 50 to 100 flowers during a collection trip.
9. A honey bee can fly for up to six miles, and as fast as 15 miles per hour.
10. Bees communicate by dancing.

### **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 (both school and non-school), jewellery, a scarf, hats/gloves, a maths set, glittery pencil case, Tesco fob card, coats, keys, a padlock, a hot water bottle, odd earbud headphones, a navy tie, football boots, water bottles 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





Dear Year 11 students,



You are invited to join us at Dane Court Grammar School for our Sixth Form Taster Event from Wednesday 21st to Friday 23rd June. The afternoon of Wednesday 21st June is for those of you who are new to Dane Court. The following two days are for all year 11 students, and we encourage you to attend both days.



### Wednesday 21st June, 1:30pm - 3:00pm

An afternoon dedicated to students not currently studying at Dane Court, this is your opportunity to familiarise yourselves with the school and meet with staff and students.

### Thursday 22nd June, 8:40am - 4:00pm

The morning will offer you an opportunity to find out about the **IB core** programmes, and hear about some excellent **apprenticeship opportunities**. You will also have the chance to meet former Dane Court students and discuss their experience of the IB.



In the afternoon, we will travel by coach to the **University of Kent** at Canterbury for a unique event, put together by specialist subject staff and ambassadors, just for you.

This will include a **social barbecue lunch**.

### Friday 23rd June, 8:40am - 3:20pm

The morning will be dedicated to furthering your understanding of the individual IB subjects. This will involve participation in **taster lessons** which focus on giving a true reflection of the teaching and learning within IBDP and CP subjects.

Light refreshments will be available at lunchtime, followed by an opportunity to explore our **extra-curricular offer** and to hear about our **aspirational destinations** programme

We wish you the very best of luck in your upcoming exams and look forward to seeing you in June. **Please complete the Google Form by Friday 19th May to confirm your attendance.**







Kent Emotional Wellbeing Teams  
Medway Emotional Support Teams

# Online Parent Workshops

Aimed at parents of children in primary school and year 7

## Understanding Your Child's Behaviour

Wednesday 24th May 5.30-7.30pm

Are you currently experiencing **difficulties with your child at home?** Would you like to come and **meet with other parents and carers** and learn about ways to **enjoy your time more with your child?**

You are invited to a **workshop about understanding and communicating with your child.** It will help you consider **factors which influence behaviour.** We also discuss **techniques that you can use at home** for behaviours that you feel are difficult to manage.

If you would like to join, please **ctrl + click the link below:**

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Our workshops are held on Microsoft Teams. You can create an account for free. You will need access to the internet. If you have any questions please speak to your child's school. Currently, this workshop is only available to parents/carers of children attending an EWT/EST school. Please speak to your child's school or check our website for our list of schools.

**We look forward to meeting you.**

