

Dane Court Grammar School

Newsletter 17.11.23



See the [school website](#) for the [full calendar](#) and [term dates](#)

Do you want to keep up to date with events at Dane Court?

Follow us on social media for all the latest news, events, trips, achievements and more!

We have a Twitter page - @Dane_Court_GS and we are also on Instagram - @dane_court - and Facebook, as Dane Court Grammar School.



New Articles

- Online Safety
- Piano Competition
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- Year 8 Christmas/seasonal cake competition
- Music Club & Piano Competition
- Pearson House Car Park



Last day of Term 2 - Friday 15th December

On the last day of Term 2, students will be dismissed at 1:45pm. Buses will run at the usual time; students wishing to stay on at school until 3.20pm should report to the Pastoral Office at the end of assembly. If your child needs to stay after 1.45pm, please let Mrs Ives or Neame know in advance, by email ives@danecourt.kent.sch.uk or tneame@danecourt.kent.sch.uk

Online Safety Advice:

Instagram is the most used social media app for young people, unlike other social networking sites Instagram's main focus is pictures, live streaming and short videos. Users can post content on their profile, which stays there indefinitely, or they can post to their stories, which last for 24 hours. You can follow friends, family, celebrities and businesses on Instagram. Instagram has a minimum age requirement of 13 years old, anyone under this age should not have an Instagram account.

What are the risks with young people using Instagram?

If used correctly, Instagram is a great way for young people to communicate with friends and family. However, like most other social media sites, there are safety concerns with young people using Instagram, which is greatly amplified if their usage is unmonitored by parents or carers. Firstly there is always the possibility of cyberbullying between peers, this is a constant issue that schools, parents and young children have to deal with everyday. The best way to overcome this is to monitor a young person while using the app to see what messages are being sent and received.

Inappropriate pictures, videos and grooming by strangers are also an issue with Instagram, it is therefore advisable to change the account settings to private and only add real friends. This way they will not be searchable by other people and their accounts will be private and secure. The final issue of Instagram is addiction, and chasing "likes." Instagram is created to be addictive, some students spend hours and hours each day on the app. This can lead to an unhealthy social media addiction which can be very hard to overcome. To combat addiction Instagram have included a feature which shows you how much time you have spent on the app. You can also set a reminder to notify you when you have reached a certain time limit. Unfortunately this is just a reminder and there is no way to lock the usage of the app after a certain amount of time.

For more information on online safety, please read this month's edition of DITTO, courtesy of [esafety-adviser.com](https://www.esafety-adviser.com) <https://www.esafety-adviser.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/DITTO-Ed-24-March-2021.pdf>

KMGSA piano competition - DCGS finalists

23rd November, 5pm in H7 - Congratulations to all auditionees, the standard was incredibly high. Grade 8+, Mikey C, Oliver J, Gregor H. Grade 5-7, D'Angelo L, Zebedee Y, Oscar W. Grade 2-4, Cecilia C, Noah B, Zoe J, Gabriella M. Duets - Caitlin S, and Logan C, Oliver J, and Zebedee Y. Good luck to all our finalists!

FSM Christmas Lunch - 13.12.23

Any student entitled to a FSM will also need to get a ticket from Harrison Catering if they want the Christmas dinner. Their FSM allowance will cover the cost of the meal. This needs to be booked by 8th December. There will also be an alternative meal selection for students not wanting the Christmas Lunch.

Online Parent Workshop

Our Emotional Wellbeing/Support Team will be running an online parent workshop - Body & Mind: Supporting the Wellbeing of Children - on Wednesday 15th November 5-6pm. Please see the attached poster, which includes the Teams link and joining information

Sixth Form Open Evening

Students and parents are invited to join us at our Sixth Form Open Evening in the Theatre on 22nd November 2023. An introductory talk will commence at 5pm followed by curriculum breakout sessions focusing on the IB Diploma and IB Careers-related Programme. The evening will also feature information on our University and Apprenticeship Pathways Programme, in addition to the opportunity to speak to representatives from a range of universities and apprenticeship providers. These sessions will be repeated at 6pm. The evening will give the opportunity to talk to teachers about individual IB subjects, and a tour of the school which will include our brand new Sixth Form Centre. The evening will provide parents and students with essential information about our world-class IB curriculum offer, the destinations secured by previous students, and individual support and aspirational extracurricular opportunities which have contributed to our 'Outstanding' status (OFSTED, 2022).

The PE department would like to share this past week's results.

- On Monday our u18 girls football team returned to action against Marsh Academy, last year's winners, and despite being 1-0 down the girls fought back well and managed to score a late winner to take the 3 points and continue their 100% win record.
 - On Tuesday our year 8/9 girls team hosted Sir Roger Manwoods in the last 16 of the Kent Cup. After a fantastic performance the girls came away with a 3-1 win and look forward to a quarter final tie in the coming weeks.
 - On Wednesday it was our sixth form boys' turn in the Kent Cup. The boys welcomed Hayes School and with brilliant performances throughout the team they got their first win of the season and progress to the next round.
 - On Thursday our year 10 boys team hosted Harvey Grammar and unfortunately fell to a 5-0 defeat.
 - Our year 7 girls also travelled to Thanet Wanderers to get involved in their rugby development day, with Chatham House and Ursuline, which they hugely enjoyed despite the downpour of rain.
- We look forward to the week ahead which involves badminton tournaments for both our Girls and Boys teams in KS3 and KS4.
- Dane Court PE Department

Is My Child Too Ill For School?

With winter fast approaching, it can be tricky deciding whether or not to keep your child off school when they're unwell. Please see the government guidelines for schools about managing specific infectious diseases for advice on when children should be kept off school and when they shouldn't. If you feel that your child is not well enough to come to school, it is important to phone the school on the first day and all following days of absence. Let us know that your child won't be in and give the reason for the absence. Here is some advice for common winter illnesses:-

Coughs and colds

It's fine to send your child to school with a minor cough or common cold. But if they have a fever, keep them off school until their temperature returns to normal. Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues and to wash their hands regularly.

High temperature

If your child has a high temperature, keep them off school until it returns to normal.

Cold sores

There's no need to keep your child off school if they have a cold sore. Encourage them not to touch the blister or kiss anyone while they have the cold sore, or to share things like cups, bottles and towels.

Conjunctivitis

You don't need to keep your child away from school if they have conjunctivitis. Do get advice from your pharmacist. Encourage your child not to rub their eyes and to wash their hands regularly.

COVID-19

If your child has mild symptoms, such as a runny nose, sore throat, or slight cough, and feels well enough, they can go to school. Your child should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people if they have symptoms of COVID-19 and they either:

- have a high temperature
- do not feel well enough to go to school or do their normal activities

What to do if your child has tested positive

Your child is no longer required to do a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test if they have symptoms. But if your child has tested positive for COVID-19, they should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 3 days after the day they took the test.

Ear infection

If your child has an ear infection and a high temperature or severe earache, keep them off school until they're feeling better or their high temperature goes away.

For further advice see the [full NHS guidance](#)

Year 8 Christmas/seasonal cake competition

The final for the year 8 Christmas/seasonal cake competition will take place on Thursday 14th December this year. Students should bring in their finished cake by 8.30am on Thursday 14th December (they can bring it in before this date also if they wish). The cake should be in a large named container - ideally with their form on it as well. We would like to warmly invite year 8 parents into school from 2.40 - 3.10pm to come and have a look at our exhibition of Christmas / Seasonal cakes in our winter wonderland (C4). Cakes can be collected at the end of the day (3.20pm) from C4. They must be taken home by the end of term (15th December) to be enjoyed by families and friends over the Christmas break. We look forward to seeing you!

The Food department

Current Staff Vacancies

Please see the links below for more information on some exciting job opportunities here at Dane Court.

[Temporary English Teacher](#)



Pearson House Car Park

We have been made aware that some parents may be using the car park of Pearson House on Fairfield Road at the end of the school day to pick up their children. We would please ask that you do not use their private car park, as it causes difficulty for their elderly residents and their visitors. We politely ask you to park in the nearby residential side streets and wait for your child to walk to you. Please be considerate of our local residents' driveway access and don't block any access routes.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

We have a small selection of items in our lost property already this term. As well as unnamed items of school uniform, the items we have include an asthma pump, a pencil case, jewellery, water bottles, two odd black ear bud headphones, coats, a hat, gloves and some trainers in a Tesco carrier 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



LOST IT?
FIND IT!



Kent Emotional Wellbeing Teams
Medway Emotional Support Teams

Online Workshops

These workshops are aimed at supporting parents/carers of young people in secondary school.

Body and Mind: Supporting the Wellbeing of Children
Wednesday 15th November 5-6pm

Body and Mind: Raising Awareness of Eating Disorders
Wednesday 22nd November 5-6pm

We have joined with Creative Education to develop and offer two workshops for parents around supporting your child's wellbeing and raising awareness of Eating Disorders.

We will be offering 2 online workshops covering the following topics:

- Raising awareness about how we can support young people
- Sharing guidance on social media
- Providing an opportunity to talk about self-care
- Sharing strategies to help you talk about mental health to young people
- Raising awareness of eating disorders and disordered eating

You will get the most from the workshops if you are able to attend both, but you can join either session.

If you would like to join, please ctrl + click the link below or by entering the Meeting ID and Passcode within Teams:

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 315 040 643 637

Passcode: gABgVU

You do not need an account to join. You will need access to the internet. If you have any questions, please speak with your school.

We look forward to meeting you!

