

Weekly Parent/Guardian Newsletter

Week B

22 February 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian, welcome to this week's newsletter.

Consent for COVID-19 Testing

You should have received an email this week with updated information on the COVID-19 testing programme for students. The government have made it clear that mass testing of students and school staff will be an important feature of the re-opening of schools.

Up to one third of people who have coronavirus experience no symptoms. By testing we will help to stop the virus spread and help to keep our school open as safely as possible.

The testing is voluntary, but I would encourage everyone to participate.

Please complete the [consent form](#) if you are happy for your son/daughter to take part in the testing programme.

If you would prefer your son/daughter not to take part in the testing programme please let us know by emailing admin@danecourt.kent.sch.uk

Mr M Jones
Headteacher

Provision for Priority Students

A reminder for parents and carers that, as per government guidance, the school will not be open during half term and therefore the provision for priority students will not be available. The provision will, of course, be available again from W/B Monday 22/02/2021.

Safeguarding Information

If parents/carers have any safeguarding concerns:

- **Term time during normal school hours (8:30am - 3:30pm)**
Please contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead (Mr S Sunderland) and/or the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads (Mrs A Ives and Ms R Rolls). You can do this by calling the main school telephone number (01843 864941).
- **All other times (weekends, school holidays and any day between 3:30pm and 8:30am)**
Please contact Integrated Children's Services on 03000 411111 (office hours) or 03000 419191 (out of office hours).
- **If a child is in immediate danger**, you should call 999.

Please see the school website for further safeguarding information:

<http://danecourt.kent.sch.uk/>

Free school meal vouchers for half term will be delivered on 15 February 2021

Mrs A Syred, School Business Manager

Dane Court Staff Team Challenge

On 11th February, the staff at Dane Court began a team challenge of completing a virtual trip around Europe visiting a landmark in each of the school house locations. They have set a target of completing this route by 11th April.

The route is 5492 miles, starts and finishes at Dane Court via Neuchatel, Barcelona, Sorrento, Delphi, Tallinn and Helsinki.

Dane Court



461 miles to
Neuchatel



530 miles to
Barcelona



739 miles to
Sorrento



607 miles to
Delphi



1727 miles to
Tallinn



56 miles to
Helsinki



1372 miles back to
Dane Court



The staff will record any mileage completed during walks, runs, cycle rides and swims.

They wanted to improve their physical and mental wellbeing whilst bringing everyone together to reach a collective goal and also raise money for charity.

They have decided to raise money for the Pilgrims Hospice in East Kent.

If you would like to donate, the link to the justgiving page is below:

https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/dane-court-grammar-school?utm_source=whatsapp&utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=dane-court-grammar-school&utm_campaign=pfp-whatsapp&utm_term=e0326b6de07a428991b7ae9f7a1ae726

Food Preparation and Nutrition - KS3

In term 4, students in years 7 - 9 will be given the opportunity to use some or all of their Food Preparation and Nutrition lessons for practising their food preparation skills.

We will brief the students on this in their first Food lesson of the term and they will be expected to turn up for registration and input from their teachers at the start of every food lesson.

At least once in the term they will be asked to stay for a small group meeting to discuss their cooking progress with their teacher. We will be emphasising the importance of seeking permission from parents and carers and encouraging them to help with preparation of family meals. With your agreement / guidance we hope that students can either make use of lesson time or time in lieu for cooking/baking.

There will be an expectation that any practical work is recorded and uploaded to Google Classroom in a format of their choice.

Please do get in touch with your child's teacher if you'd like to know any more about the project next term. A bank of student friendly ideas will be shared along with some food related activities which do not involve cooking. We hope that the students will enjoy this practical activity and also gain some valuable culinary confidence as a result.

We have absolutely loved seeing the examples of home cooking that our students have shared with us this term. Your support and encouragement with this activity is always greatly appreciated.

Bon Appetit!

The Food Department.



Japanese Cooking Competition

The Japanese Cooking Competition for all students, teachers and staff has been launched during the lockdown.

The students can watch a video about the competition on Google Classroom.

Just cook Japanese food, take a photo and upload it on the Google Classroom with a brief description and comments on the dish.

There will be prizes, and the winners will be announced in Term 4. The participants can submit as many entries as they wish. The deadline is 7th March.

Hope it helps people to be off screen and enjoy learning something new.

The useful recipe websites are:

Japan Centre- Recipe: <https://www.japancentre.com/en/cookings>

Weeknight Meal Ideas: <https://www.justonecookbook.com/15-easy-japanese-recipes>

Enjoy cooking, and eating too, of course!

M Myers

Ellis Dockerty deservedly wins the Thanet District Try Angle Award for Courage!

Ellis became ill during Term 2 of 2019 while he was in Year 8, and over the Christmas break, he was diagnosed with Osteosarcoma, a rare form of bone cancer. He began a course of intensive tests and investigations then moved onto gruelling chemotherapy sessions which started early in January 2020. Surgery was also performed on his knee, amazingly whilst the nation was gripped by the pandemic in March and terrifying enough without the concurrent cancer treatment.

Post-surgery, Ellis was standing after just one day, walking upstairs by day four and at ten weeks after his operation, Ellis was back to normal mobility, even riding his bike; he excelled in both courage and determination to fight to regain his strength head-on.

However, by late June, Ellis was plagued with setbacks. Unfortunately, one of the chemotherapy drugs had damaged his heart, then Ellis contracted Covid 19 and Sepsis in July, but he faced it as he had all his other health problems – without fear and with tenacity.

The expected time for his treatment was initially 6 months, but it was not until September 2020 that Ellis was through his rigorous ordeal. He returned to school with a smile, demonstrating his trademark brand of quiet determination when immersing himself back into school life. He does not complain, he is happy and focused in school and is a model student in every way.

We are so pleased that he has come through his illness and are thrilled to have him back with us in school and congratulations on the award.



SEN Department

If you were sent an Individual Healthcare Plan through the post and/or a Pupil Profile document, please could you read the document through carefully, amend if necessary and return using the postage paid envelope as soon as possible. Please help us to update our records so we have the correct information in school.

Colour filter for screens

This website is offering a free colour filter for computer screens which could be useful to some staff or students: You can change the colour of the filter and it's opacity which could be useful for anyone struggling with the glare of constant screen use..

<https://www.aurelitec.com/colorveil/windows/>

We are pleased to announce a new **student wellbeing and mental health** support page on our website which can be found here:

<http://danecourt.kent.sch.uk/parents8/wellbeing-and-mental-health>.

This page is designed for both students and parents and provides lots of advice and sources of support.

Many thanks, Mrs L Holmes – SEN

eLibrary

Reading helps build empathy, improve memory and vocabulary, and is a wonderful form of escapism.

We understand that it is difficult to access a library of books right now. so we are doing a trial of **Wheeler's**

ePlatform for eBooks and audio books.

Please encourage your children to take a look at it:

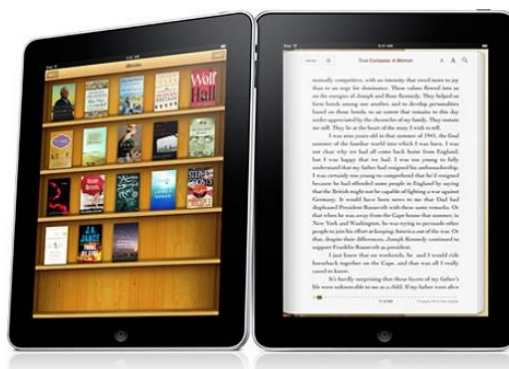
The eLibrary can be found here:

<https://danecourt.eplatform.co/>

username: your child's form name, for example 7T

password: library1

The trial will be until the end of February



Message for yr 11 students (science):

Over half term please revise the topics for the assessment that you have been given by your subject teachers. The 'shortcut' will help you to do this.

Your paper assessment in each of chem/phys/biol (on the topics on the lists provided) will be hopefully before Easter-this depends upon when you are back. We don't want to give you a test in the first week back.

You are to be given an assessment in w/b 1st March so that your teachers can see how your revision is going. This will be an online assessment. Hopefully by then we will know what the government's plans are....!

Mr J Butt, Head of Science Faculty

Online Safety advice - **Safer Internet Day (SID)**



Over the years, Safer Internet Day has become a key event in the online safety calendar. Starting as a relatively small initiative of the EU SafeBorders project in 2004. With the current digital age Safer Internet Day has grown real momentum since it started and is now celebrated in around 170 countries worldwide.

From cyberbullying to social networking, each year Safer Internet Day aims to raise awareness of current online concerns and emerging issues. With a theme this year of "Together for a better internet", the day called upon to make the internet a safer and better place for all, and especially for children and young people.

If you missed the event this year, the date for next year's event is 8th February 2022.

For more information and some brilliant resources, please click on the following links:

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/2021>

<https://www.saferinternetday.org/home>

Mr S Lycett, Teacher in charge of Computing

*We wish you all a good half term.
Thank you*