

## Weekly Parent/Guardian Newsletter

Week A

15 March 2021

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

Please may I remind you that unless you have a pass you should not be driving onto the school site to collect your child in the afternoon. Our priority is the safety of our students and this is made especially difficult with the volume of traffic that is appearing.

Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

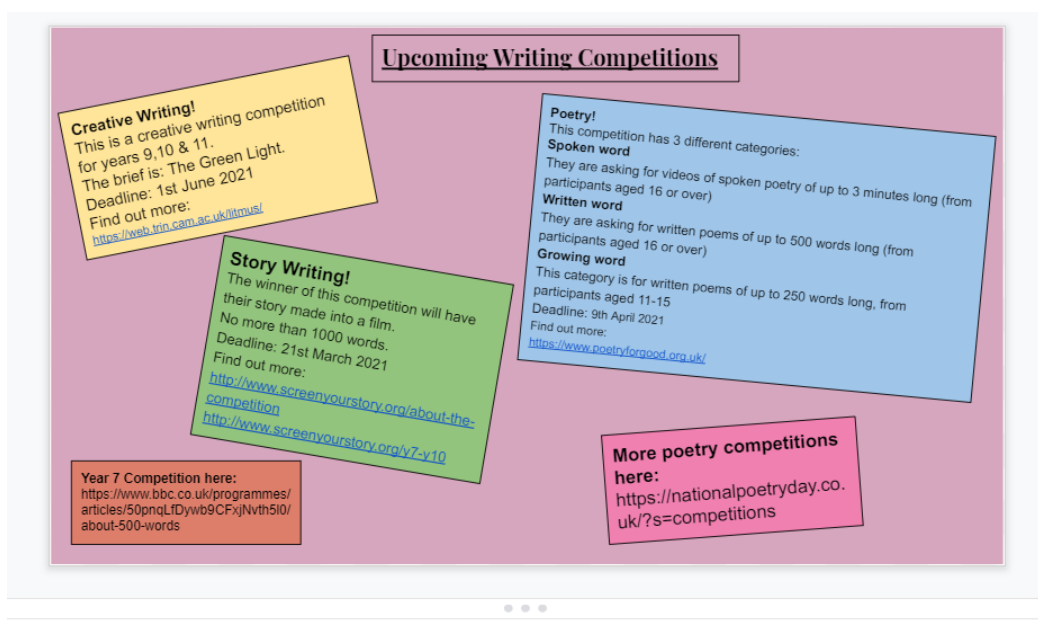
Dear Year 11 Parent/Guardian,

By now your son/daughter should have made their Kent Choices applications. I am attaching a letter from the Education People (KCC) which may clarify any questions you have about the options available and stages of the process.

<https://www.kentprospectus.co.uk/media/1381/2021-03-parentandcarerletter-final-website-version-2.pdf>

### Upcoming Writing Competitions

There are lots of exciting creative writing competitions coming up. This "poster" has been added to your child's google classroom. It has more details about the competitions and how to enter.



**Upcoming Writing Competitions**

- Creative Writing!**  
This is a creative writing competition for years 9, 10 & 11.  
The brief is: The Green Light.  
Deadline: 1st June 2021  
Find out more:  
<https://web.trp.com.ac.uk/itrus/>
- Story Writing!**  
The winner of this competition will have their story made into a film.  
No more than 1000 words.  
Deadline: 21st March 2021  
Find out more:  
<http://www.screenyourstory.org/about-the-competition>  
<http://www.screenyourstory.org/y7-y10>
- Poetry!**  
This competition has 3 different categories:  
**Spoken word**  
They are asking for videos of spoken poetry of up to 3 minutes long (from participants aged 16 or over)  
**Written word**  
They are asking for written poems of up to 500 words long (from participants aged 16 or over)  
**Growing word**  
This category is for written poems of up to 250 words long, from participants aged 11-15  
Deadline: 9th April 2021  
Find out more:  
<https://www.poetryforgood.org.uk/>
- Year 7 Competition here:**  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/50pnqLTDywb9CFxjNvth510/about-500-words>
- More poetry competitions here:**  
<https://nationalpoetryday.co.uk/?s=competitions>

## **Languages Career Focus: Business and Retail**

**Learn another language to have an international career.**

*Are you....*

- a trend spotter?
- able to meet a deadline?
- innovative and driven to succeed?
- someone who can work in a team and on their own?

*Do you have....*

- a brain for business?
- an eye for what's selling well?
- good computer skills?

*...then this **COULD BE YOU!***

### **THINK LANGUAGES:**

"My international experience gave me an international edge. Business is based on relationships between individuals and speaking even a few words of someone else's language helps to build strong relationships. I have had better jobs, more interesting assignments and earned more money due to being able to speak languages." - *Alison Pearce, Senior Lecturer at Newcastle Business School*

# RED NOSE DAY

## Red Nose Day Fri 19th March 2021

Due to current covid restrictions, as a school we are unable to do our usual bake sales and fun events for Red Nose Day, so this year we will have a non uniform day on Friday 19th March and the expectation is all students will pay £1 for this. Students can either bring £1 into school or you can donate online using the following link:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/dane-court-grammar-school-rednoseday21>

Please note if students have PE on that Friday they must still bring in PE kit or change of clothing for health and safety considerations.

The money raised by Red Nose Day will support people in the UK and around the world, and help tackle homelessness, abuse and mental health stigma.



## Dane Court Staff Team Challenge

The Dane Court staff virtual challenge for the Pilgrims Hospice in East Kent has hit the 4 week mark with 4 weeks remaining.

They have done over 3346 miles so far and are somewhere in the Ukraine, roughly half way between Delphi and Tallinn.

The staff are enormously proud of what they are achieving, with only 2146 miles left of this mammoth challenge.

Many thanks                      The Dane Court well-being committee



## Online Safety advice - **Instagram**



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/wp-content>



### **A painting from year 7 Lockdown Gallery**

The students have been looking at the work of the Impressionists, Post impressionists and their influence on David Hockney landscapes. They have looked at the use of realistic and abstract colours and mark-making, the emotional content of the work and have produced a response using whatever materials they have available.

Work is anonymous in case some people do not want to be identified.

