

Weekly Parent/Guardian Newsletter

Week A

29 March 2021

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

Extra Curricular Instrumental Lessons reopening after Easter.

We are really pleased to be able to welcome back some of our instrumental teachers after Easter. That means students will be able to have instrumental lessons in school, should they wish.

Lessons work on a carousel and are usually between 20-30 minutes long and we offer many different options for your child to choose from.

If you are interested in finding out more, please email fox@danecourt.kent.sch.uk or your child can collect a form from the music office.

Learning a musical instrument is a fantastic opportunity for young people and we are happy to be starting instrumental lessons back in school, after the Easter Holidays.

We would like to remind you of what we have on offer here at Dane Court.

In order to keep everyone safe, we will be making sure the rooms are well ventilated between lessons and that the student to teacher space is 2metres in distance, as well as regular Covid testing twice a week.

Instruments you can learn:

Woodwind - flute, clarinet, saxophone, oboe,

Brass - trumpet/cornet, horn, trombone, tuba.

Strings - violin, viola, cello, double bass

Piano, Electric Keyboard

Modern- ukulele, guitar, bass guitar, drumkit, voice (classical or modern).

If you are interested in learning an instrument that isn't on the list, then please let us know.



Cost: Our visiting instrumental teachers will create a contract between your parents and themselves. All the teachers charge a slightly different hourly rate but as a rough guide you can expect to pay around £15 for a 30 minute one to one lesson. Kent Music rates (violin/ viola) are available on their website www.kent-music.com. Payment is due on the first lesson of each term and group lessons may be available on request. Financial support may be available if you are in receipt of PP funding, please speak with Miss Fox if you would like to know more. Kent Music also offer a bursary to help with lesson costs; <https://www.kent-music.com/financial-assistance/>.

Instrument hire: If you do not own the instrument that you wish to learn, then it is advisable to hire an instrument in the first year. You can hire an instrument from Kent Music or you can visit Crowthers in Canterbury, who run a 'hire to buy' scheme for woodwind and brass instruments. Other hire schemes are available online. Please speak to the instrumental teacher to get the best advice, prior to purchasing/ hiring an instrument.

Practice: Pupils who are learning an instrument are expected to practice regularly every week. 15 minutes practice every day would be great but a minimum of 3 times a week is advised. Little and often is more productive than one long practice session.

Lesson times: Music lessons run throughout the school day. Instrumental pupils are on a rota so that students do not miss the same lesson each week. Unfortunately we cannot offer a fixed time for lessons.

Cancelling lessons: You are required to give 6 weeks notice to cancel your lessons. This may vary if you have signed a contract with Kent Music or other agreement with the instrumental teacher.

Teaching periods: Instrumental teachers run a 3 term year – Autumn, Spring and Summer.



Year 12 Parents' Evening and Year 9 Parents' Evening

Many thanks to year 12 parents for taking part in our first remote Parents' evening. We would really appreciate your feedback on the process. Please [click this link](#) to complete an online questionnaire.

Rachel Rolls
Assistant Headteacher

Year 13 Leaving dates

Following confirmation from the CAT, the following leaving dates apply to Year 13:

- 11th May for DP students
- 11th June for CP/course students

Both dates are conditional on all work being completed and signed off by the Sixth Form Office. The period of time 26th April-11th May will consist of a timetable of talks and activities which students will choose from in order to learn beyond the curriculum and to prepare them for university and beyond.

Mr C. Pleasant,
Head of Sixth Form

Languages Career Focus: IT and Computing



Learn another language to secure a job with a global business.

Are you....

- a good problem-solver?
- a methodical thinker with a logical mind?
- patient and persevering?
- passionate about new technology and software?
- a great team player and also able to work independently?
- an excellent communicator?

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

THINK LANGUAGES:

"Having international experience is vital. When we are taking on people, we want someone with that experience, as they tend to be willing to be mobile within our global business. Microsoft does take on a lot of former Erasmus students because international experience really stands out on a CV. Someone who has done a languages degree or has it in their DNA is a good communicator and that's a vital part of working in this industry." - *Steve Beswick, Microsoft UK*

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Please let me know if your child is using up their personal data allowance to complete school work. I am able to assist with this and provide 30gb of data on a SIM card, for use with any network.

Rachel Rolls

Assistant Head Teacher for Raising Achievement

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

Dear Parents/Guardian

This is a gentle reminder for students to please look for any unreturned library books and book club books at home - these can be put in the returns box in the library during library lessons or handed in to your Head of Year, where they will be collected.

Also, please do encourage all students to use the ebook platform whilst they do not all have access to the library. They will have been given their login details from Mentors. This will take you to our elibrary: <http://danecourt.eplatform.co/>

Thank you

Rebecca Finlay

Librarian

Dane Court Staff Team Challenge

The Dane Court staff virtual challenge only has 2 weeks left. The staff team have covered 4637 miles, and have 855 miles left to go. They visited Tallinn and very quickly reached their final house city of Helsinki. They are now well on their way home back to Dane Court and are somewhere in Sweden at the moment. They have raised £780 so far for the Pilgrims Hospice and it would be amazing to get to the £1000 target.

If you would like to donate, the fundraising link is:

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

Many thanks

The staff at Dane Court



We are pleased to announce that as a school we raised £861 for Red Nose Day. Thank you all so much for your kind donations, they are going to support a very worthy cause.



Online Safety advice - **VPNs**



What is a VPN?

VPN (short for Virtual Private Network) was originally developed by big companies to give their employees secure access to the company network while working remotely. Over the years, VPN technology has evolved and is now used for multiple purposes that differ from the original concept.

Student use

Students have been using VPNs more and more over the past few years and there are three reasons for this which all parents/carers should be aware of;

1 - Privacy - A VPN can hide a user's internet activity so they can browse the web with the comfort of knowing they are not being monitored or tracked by anyone.

2 - Location spoofing - This VPN feature tricks websites and services into believing you are from a different country. This then allows access to restricted content or content only available in another country.

3 - Bypassing server restrictions - Students can use VPNs to bypass any security measures in place on a network. For example, if you have restrictions on your home network for sites such as gambling, violence or age restriction, turning on a VPN will bypass all of this and allow instant access to these sites. Schools have blocked most VPN apps to restrict harmful sites as well as all social media connections - however, new VPN software pops up all the time and students are sometimes able to bypass school network security to access their Snapchat or Instagram accounts.

Most VPN apps will perform all three uses above with a single click of a button and it is almost impossible to stop a student from doing this.

If you are worried about your child or young person using a VPN, the only methods of protection available are to frequently check the apps installed on the device and remove any VPNs that have been installed.

Alternatively, Internet owners can restrict Internet access to the device when an adult is not around to monitor usage.

Mr S Lycett
Head of Computing

Home Testing Kits

If you have consented to your son/daughter taking part in the COVID-19 testing programme, they will now have been issued with 2 packs of COVID-19 home testing kits.

It is important to carry out home testing as up to 1 in 3 people who have COVID-19 have no symptoms and could be spreading it without knowing. Getting into a regular habit of testing twice a week will help stop the virus spreading, keeping your family and friends safer.

Please make sure your child tests themselves **twice a week 3-5 days apart, in the morning before school if possible and, if not, the evening before.** We would like students to have completed their first test before they come into school on Monday 22nd March.

Please [click here](#) for an instructional video showing the full process of home testing and result reporting.

Your child should also **continue testing twice a week, at home, throughout the Easter school holidays.**

We will be sending home extra kits for Easter holiday before term ends.

This does not replace testing for those with symptoms. If you have symptoms you must self-isolate immediately, book a PCR test and follow national guidelines.

Reporting results

You are required to report the results of the tests online, or by phone to NHS test and trace, **and** to the school every time your child takes a test, even if the result was negative or void. **You will need the barcode number on the test so remember to report the results before disposing of the test cartridge.**

Reporting the test online:

Once your child has completed the test it is very important that the results are reported online straight away, even if your child's result is negative or void. It's easy to do at www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result.

Results can also be reported via telephone by calling 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day, 7am to 11pm.

Reporting the test to the school:

It is important to keep a note of your child's results and share with school as well using this [online form](#).

There will also be a link to this form on the front page of the school website.

If your child tests positive please also email admin@danecourt.kent.sch.uk or phone the school as soon as possible to let us know.

Testing for parents, households and bubbles twice a week

A reminder that regular rapid testing is now also available for parents, their households and support or childcare bubbles. The government is encouraging all families to participate in twice weekly testing to help stop the spread.

Parents and other adults in the household can access tests by:

Ordering tests online

- www.gov.uk/order-school-household-tests
- Getting an assisted test at work, if it is available
- Attending a test site to get tested (where you will be able to see how to take the test) or pick up tests to do at home.

We continue to encourage everyone to take part in regular Covid-19 testing.

If you have any queries or you encounter any issues during the testing process please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you for all your support with the testing programme.

Mr M Jones
Headteacher

Paintings 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.



