

Weekly Parent/Guardian Newsletter

Week A

30 April 2021



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

COVID-19 Testing Guidance

I would like to clarify the guidance for COVID-19 testing. Please see details below:

Asymptomatic COVID-19 Testing

- Students with consent should be testing using the home LFD test kits twice a week (on a Sunday and a Wednesday evening/Thursday morning) and reporting the results to both the NHS and using this link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScnLADOTdwsBFduISz-5VNDqMQNQoDyZ1tHggMQJZ2DcMts-g/viewform?usp=sf_link

- Students in years 7-10 have now been supplied with enough tests to last until half term. Years 11-13 have been given 6 tests and will be given a further set of 7 during the week beginning 10th May.
- Home tests supplied by the school should only be used by the student. 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. Additional LFD test kits can be ordered using this link

Symptomatic COVID-19 Testing

- Home testing using the LFD tests **does not replace testing for those with symptoms.**
- If your son/daughter (or anyone in your household) experience symptoms of COVID-19 your household must self-isolate immediately, book a PCR test and follow national guidelines. You will need to inform the school if this is the case.
- Once you have the result of the test please inform us as soon as possible. If the result is negative you can then stop self-isolating and your son/daughter can return to school if they are well enough. If the result is positive your household will need to continue to self-isolate for 10 days from the onset of symptoms and follow national guidelines.

If you have any queries regarding testing please contact Carolyn Hobbs, Office Manager.

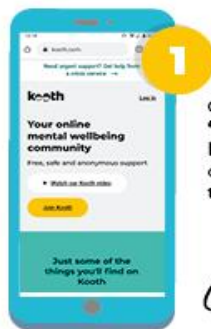
Dear Parents,

I have attached a flier from **KOOTH**, the free online counselling and emotional wellbeing support service for young people for your information.

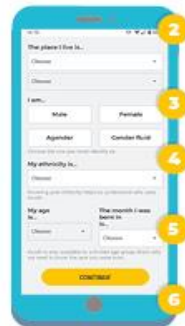
Many students have found the content and counselling available from them useful.

Also a reminder that school website has links to a number of supportive tools for wellbeing and mental health <http://danecourt.kent.sch.uk/parents8/wellbeing-and-mental-health>

Anita Ives
Pastoral Support Officer



Click on the **'Join Kooth'** button located in the centre of the home page of the Kooth website



Choose from the drop down box the **location** you are in
Click on the **gender** you identify with
Choose from the drop down box the **ethnicity** that best fits you
Add your **age** and the **month you were born**
Click **'continue'**

How to sign up to Kooth.

Kooth is a **FREE**, anonymous, confidential, safe, online Wellbeing service, offering professional support, information, and forums for children and young people.

Access 365 days a year to counsellors who are available from:
12 noon-10pm Monday- Friday
6pm-10pm Saturday and Sunday

Log on through **mobile**, **laptop** and **tablet**.

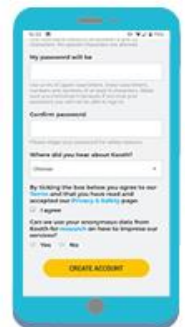
Now that you are in you can click on the icons at the top of the page to choose from the articles, topic page, forums, or choose to talk to a counsellor by clicking the speech marks next to the turquoise circle.

To talk to a counsellor click on: **"Chat now button"**

To write a message to the team, click on: **"message the team"**



Create an **anonymous username** (not your real name) and **secure password**
Choose from the drop down box to explain where you found out about **Kooth**



Click on the **'create account'** button to complete your registration

www.kooth.com

Online Safety advice - Thinkuknow



This week I would like to share with you an excellent online resource for internet safety called 'Thinkuknow'. The website is split into age appropriate areas for children from ages 4 to 14+ as well as a dedicated section for parents. Thinkuknow contains a wide range of online resources, useful videos, facts and information that targets specific key stage groups. It is really useful for students to visit this site at least once a year to refresh their awareness of online safety.

Please follow the link below to access the website.

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk>



Duke of Edinburgh Award

Yr 12 DofE practice expedition this bank holiday weekend. Hopefully the weather will be kind and the students will not get too lost!

Sport and you!

Sport is good for you because it distracts your mind from **worries** and **stresses** as well as releasing endorphins which make you feel better about yourself and give you a **positive mindset**. Sport can also help you reach your fitness goals and maintain a healthy weight.

Extra Curricular clubs for term 5 will be:

Year 7 - Monday 3.30-4.30 - athletics and rounders
Year 8 - Tuesday 3.30-4.30 - athletics and rounders
Year 9 - Wednesday 3.30-4.30 - athletics and rounders
Year 10 - Thursday 3.30-4.30 - athletics and rounders



Students just need to turn up on their correct day, change on their normal peg and complete the register. No need to sign up prior to the club.

How to revise for a language assessment

With assessment season fast approaching, here are some useful hints on how to help and encourage your child to revise for French, German and Spanish.

Flashcards

Create flashcards with vocabulary in English on one side and foreign language on the other. You can colour code them for different topics and quiz yourself or ask others to test you.

You can even buy ready-made post-its, called FlashSticks.

Watch this clip to find out how to use flashcards effectively: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C20EvKtdJwQ&feature=youtu.be>

You can use flashcards on Quizlet to practise: create your own or use the links to the shared with you on Google Classroom.

Transform it

Create mind maps on key vocabulary, topics or structures. Include colour-coding and pictures to help it stick.

Create flow diagrams to remember how tenses are formed.

Revise key verb formation using graphic organisers.

Deliberate practice

Make time to practise your vocabulary and grammar every day! Little and often is the key.

Focus on areas you need to improve - not the stuff you are already good at.

Use a free text to speech app to listen to your vocab/sentences and improve your pronunciation.

Interleaving

Don't try to revise everything all in one go! Revision should be spaced out over the days and weeks before the assessment. You could create a revision plan to ensure you cover all the topics. Make sure you allow time to go over topics more than once.

You could use your flashcards, mini mindmaps, quizlet, memrise, activelearn, the language gym, languagesonline, BBC bitesize.....ask your teacher if you are unsure of passwords.

Viel Glück! Bonne Chance! Buena suerte!

Attachments area

Preview YouTube video How to study flashcards using the Leitner system



Year 11 Leavers' Hoodies

Dear parents/guardians,
Year 11 Leavers' Hoodies/jumpers are now available to order via the link below:

<https://www.leavershoodies.com/shop/dane-court-grammar-school-leavers-2021>

There are a range of styles and colours. The cut off for orders is Thursday 6th May. If your son/daughter would like one, please order via the link. A huge thank you to Sophia Baker and Erin Price (both 11B) for working hard behind the scenes to organise it!

Kind regards,
Mr Wheeler



Good Luck Girls!

Four of our students from years 8 and 9 are entering the "Big Dance Off" competition where they must complete a virtual dance around 2 and a half minutes long, which will then be sent off to be judged. Previously these students have done very well in this competition, so we hope for this again this time. Best of luck to these girls!

Polite reminder from PE.

Just a polite reminder to parents/guardians, that it is PE policy that students, (even if they have a note excusing them from PE), must still bring in PE kit, as if it is raining and we are outside they will need warm non wet clothes to change back into so they do not get ill and equally on a hot sunny day we don't want them to be too hot when outside, and then be in the same clothes for the rest of the day.

There are exceptions only when it is too painful or completely impossible to change.

Thank you for your support
Gemma bolt Head of PE.

A competition for the book worms among you!

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I wanted to share another exciting writing competition with The Lewis Carol Society (something very close to my heart). To enter, students need to write a "missing" chapter from Alice in Wonderland or Through the Looking Glass. They can include the same characters or make new ones up or both! Entries must be between 500-2000 words and the final submission date is 3rd July.

<https://www.sla.org.uk/article/hannah-groves/lewis-carroll-writing-competition-now-open/2247>

<https://lewiscarrollsociety.org.uk/writing-competition/>

Thank you,

Leah Holland
Teacher of English





Free school meals

Your child might be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Universal Credit - your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)
- 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.

Some schools in Kent manage their own Free Schools Meals application process. For more information, go to:

kent.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals



Musical Matters!

The music department are delighted to be able to deliver an extra curricular ensemble this term in the year 7 bubble. The pupils are learning to play the steel pan on Wednesdays after school. They have varied previous musical experience but all have made a great start at learning to play this new instrument. There are still a couple of spaces so please contact Miss Curran on jcurran@danecourt.kent.sch.uk if you are interested in joining.

Miss Curran

Music Teacher



