

Weekly Parent/Guardian Newsletter

Week B

10 December 2021



Dear Parent/Guardian,

Welcome to this week's newsletter. Some important information is repeated for your convenience, but there is also new content to be read.

New Government Guidance from the Department for Education about the government's response to the emergence of the Omicron variant of COVID-19

Face coverings

Face coverings should be worn in communal areas of schools by staff, visitors and all secondary school students, unless they are exempt.

Secondary school students should continue to wear face coverings on public transport, unless they are exempt.

Please ensure that, where possible, your son/daughter brings a face covering to school each day.

Testing

Please continue to test twice weekly, ideally on a Sunday evening (or Monday morning) and again on Wednesday or Thursday.

Isolation

The current guidance on contact tracing and isolation remains in place. In addition, any suspected or confirmed close contacts of the Omicron variant will be asked to isolate for 10 days regardless of vaccination status or age. You will be contacted directly by NHS Test & Trace and told to isolate.

Vaccination

All eligible students aged 12 and over are encouraged to take up the offer of the vaccine.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Mr M Jones
Headteacher

COVID-19 Asymptomatic Home Testing Guidance

Thank you for your continued support with Covid-19 home testing. Students have been issued with sufficient test kits to last them until the end of term.

Wherever possible, your child should continue testing and reporting results twice a week at home.

Reporting results

Recording all test results helps scientists stay ahead of the virus by spotting new outbreaks quickly and advising how to respond.

Reporting results is easy.

Go to: [Report a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test result - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/report-a-covid-19-rapid-lateral-flow-test-result) Or call: 119 free from a mobile or landline. Lines are open every day, 7am to 11pm. Support is offered in 200 languages as well as British Sign Language and Live Video Assistance.

All results should be reported, even if your child's result is negative or void. To help in communicating the importance of testing and reporting, the government has produced a blog on [why reporting your test result is as important as taking a test](#)

You should also keep a note of the test ID and share your child's results with school using [this link](#)

Universal Testing

The government is encouraging all adults to participate in twice weekly testing to help stop the spread of coronavirus. You can order tests through the [Order coronavirus \(COVID-19\) rapid lateral flow tests](#) service.

Up to one in three people who have COVID-19 have no symptoms and could be spreading it without knowing. Maintaining a regular habit of testing twice a week, 3-4 days apart, will help stop the virus spreading and keep schools and colleges open to students and staff.

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 they 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 they 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.

Please also see attached the Covid-19 Vaccination Parent Information Pack from Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust. This has information and links regarding the Covid-19 vaccine.

Water Bottles

Please ensure your son/daughter brings a refillable water bottle to school every day.

Friday 17th December:

Please see the arrangements for the last day of term below:

- Periods 1 & 2: lessons as normal for all students
- 10:45am: End of term for Sixth Form students
- Period 3: Mentor time
- 12:05pm to 1pm: Lunch
- 1:05pm: Assembly
- 1:40pm: End of term for all students*

* 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 son/daughter will need to stay after 1.40pm, please let Mrs Ives or Mrs Rattenbury know in advance, by email ives@danecourt.kent.sch.uk or rattenbury@danecourt.kent.sch.uk

Face Masks in School

Thank you to those (non exempt) students who, in accordance with Government guidelines, have been wearing masks in indoor communal areas within Dane Court.

Please remember:

Anyone wearing reusable face coverings will be expected to bring a plastic bag to keep these in when not in use. Disposable face coverings will be disposed of in a bin when finished with and should not be reused.

Everyone will be asked to wash their hands before and after putting on or removing a face covering.

Everyone will be made aware that they mustn't touch the front of the covering during use or removal.

A supply of spare face coverings will be kept for anyone who arrives without one or has a covering that's unsafe to wear, but these are for emergency provision only. Ideally students should bring their own mask.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Rachel Rolls (Assistant Headteacher)

Does your child bring in a laptop from home to use in school?

If so, please note that as of January, students are not permitted to use their own devices in lessons. We will provide them with a school chrome book each day. This will need to be collected from the Learning Support/SEN office before 8.40, at break or lunchtime, and returned at the end of the day. Students will be able to access their school Google accounts as usual. This new measure is to ensure online safety for students in school. Please email holmes@danecourt.kent.sch.uk if you have any questions.

Site security & arrival time for students next term

Please be aware that some new security measures are being introduced in the New Year. This means that students arriving before 08:00 will need to arrive at the main entrance as the other gates will not be open. Students should not be aiming to arrive before 08:00 as this is the earliest they should be on site.

Similarly, gates will be locked at 15:45 and students will need to exit the site via the main entrance if they are on site after this time. Students should leave the site by 16:30 at the absolute latest unless they are being supervised by a teacher. The bell will sound at 16:20 to remind students they should be leaving.

Many thanks for your support on this matter.

Ryan Bowen

Site Manager

Kent Youth County Council:

Sophia Peal and Abbie Latymer were elected as members of the Kent Youth County Council. They both campaigned hard and were well deserving of the result. This election was held across schools in Thanet, not just Dane Court, making it an even more impressive achievement. We're really proud to have such good representation from Year 10 and know they'll be excellent ambassadors for the school and their peers.

Well done.

Football:

Both boys and girls Year 10 football teams are into the Kent Cup quarter finals - the next round to be played early in the New Year. Well done to both teams and we'll be looking forward to supporting them in their next matches.

Charity:

Amelia F. kindly offered to run a British Legion stall for the Poppy drive this year - we really appreciate her willingness to give up her time and promote such a fantastic cause. Amelia's effort helped raise over £90 from the school and contributed to a total in Thanet of well over £10,000. It's great to see members of our community being so committed and principled.

Well done.

Mr Wheeler - Year Lead - Year 10.

Languages - cause for applause!

This week's linguastars, as nominated by their teachers are as follows. These students should see their teachers for merits! Well done!

Year 7 Spanish: Zara A (fabulous consistency in getting good grades in assessments), Zachary O-G (fabulous consistency in getting good grades in assessments), Poppy W (Outstanding attitude for learning and classwork), Robyn M (Excellent participation in class, pushing herself to make improvements and showing passion for the language).

Year 9 Spanish: Cameron M (excellent effort in class all term) , Gabriel H-B (excellent effort in class all term), Michaela M (outstanding assessment)

Year 7 French: Zarena R (top score in listening assessment)

Year 8 French: Rex B (top score in grammar assessment)

CHRISTMAS CAKE COMPETITION

We would like to praise every year 8 student who brought in a Christmas cake on Monday for their hard work, resilience and creativity. We are so proud of them - it takes a lot to get to a finished cake stage.

Every student in the school has the opportunity to vote by clicking [here](#) for their top three Christmas cakes from the selected finalists. Or they can check their Google classroom for a link to the voting form and the gallery of 22 finalists. Votes close after school on Wednesday 22nd December.



Fitness Studio Facilities

Dane Court's excellent fitness studio facilities are now home to a new weekly Modern Martial Arts Fitness class, focusing on fitness, self-defence and flexibility - hosted by a local instructor. Classes run every Tuesday evening, 7pm-8.30pm. Free parking onsite. First lesson free. Beginners welcome. For further information see the Thanet Aikikai Aikido facebook page, or email Thanetaikido@gmail.com.

Some extra curricular clubs information!

The **Manga (Drawing) Club** is run by some Year 12 students in M2 between 13:45 and 14:15 every Thursday. Everyone is welcome.

The **Homework club** runs every week, on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday lunchtimes. All year groups are welcome to come along to N8 at 1.40pm, and a group of sixth formers are on hand to offer help and advice.

The **Modern Martial Arts Fitness class**, hosted by a local instructor on Tuesday evenings, **won't** be running now until after Christmas. Watch this space for more details in the new year.

For further information, email Thanetaikido@gmail.com.

Ebook Platform

Over the festive period please encourage all students to use the ebook platform whilst they do not have access to the library. There is a lot of contemporary fiction to choose from as well as a Wellness Collection. They will have been given their login details from Mentors. This will take you to our elibrary: <http://danecourt.eplatform.co/>

Also, this is a gentle reminder for students to please look for any unreturned library books at home.

Many thanks, Mrs Finlay



Handmade Christmas Gifts

Christmas has come to Dane Court! Students are welcome to come and buy some festive crafts from our table in reception.
Handmade by students and the Art department!
Prices from £1 - £3
Raising money for a new pottery wheel!
Lunchtime

Come get jolly!

Wednesday 15th December



**THANET WANDERERS
RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB**

SCHOOLS HUB

OPEN TO ALL ABILITIES

**STARTS WEDS
3RD NOVEMBER**



OPEN TO ALL YEARS

7/8/9



**QUALITY
COACHING**

EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 4.00PM TO 5.30PM AT
ST PETER'S RECREATION GROUND, CALLIS COURT ROAD, BROADSTAIRS, KENT CT10 3AE.

FREE FOOD AND DRINKS AVAILABLE FROM 5.30 TO 6.00PM
FOR MORE INFORMATION TALK TO YOUR PE TEACHER

Lost property this week

We have various items, including non-uniform hoodies & coats, a tie, tote bag, a blazer with empty airpod case in pocket, various gloves, facemask, an Apple type watch, an umbrella, football, water bottles, a box of guitar effectors, keys, jewellery, a pencil tin, and an odd size 11 Nike shoe/trainer that have been handed in to the office. Please remember to name any items your child brings into school to help us quickly return any lost items. If you recognise any of them, please do contact the office on 01843 864941 to arrange collection as soon as possible. All items apart from the smaller items (glasses, watches, keys & jewellery – will remain in the office for viewing) will be on display in school for the last week of term – please encourage your child to have a look.

Many thanks, Office Team

