

Weekly Parent/Guardian Newsletter

Week A

14 January 2022



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

Updated guidance from the Department for Education

As before Christmas, face coverings should be worn by students, staff and visitors in communal areas and corridors. In addition, **it is now recommended that students wear face coverings in classrooms**. Face coverings are not required in PE lessons, or when students are outdoors.

The following detailed information is taken from the DfE's guidance to schools (full information for parents and carers is [here](#)). We would be very grateful if you would discuss these changes with your son/daughter.

Face coverings

Face coverings help protect the wearer and others against the spread of infection because they cover the nose and mouth, which are the main confirmed sources of transmission of COVID-19.

From 4 January 2022, we recommend that in those schools where pupils in year 7 and above are educated, face coverings should be worn in classrooms. This does not apply in situations where wearing a face covering would impact on the ability to take part in exercise or strenuous activity, for example in PE lessons. This is a temporary measure.

Where pupils and students in year 7 and above are educated, we also recommend that face coverings should be worn by pupils, students, staff and adult visitors when moving around the premises, outside of classrooms, such as in corridors and communal areas. This will also be a temporary measure. These pupils and students must also wear a face covering when travelling on public transport and should wear it on dedicated transport to and from school.

Face coverings do not need to be worn by students when outdoors.

Circumstances where people are not able to wear face coverings

There are some circumstances where people may not be able to wear a face covering. Some people are less able to wear face coverings, and the reasons for this may not be visible to others. In relation to education settings, this includes (but is not limited to):

- children under the age of 11 on 31 August 2021
- people who cannot put on, wear or remove a face covering because of a physical or mental illness or impairment, or disability
- people for whom putting on, wearing or removing a face covering will cause severe distress
- people speaking to or providing assistance to someone who relies on lip reading, clear sound or facial expressions to communicate
- avoiding the risk of harm or injury to yourself or others
- removing a face covering in order to take medication

Updated from Last week - Changes to the self-isolation period for individuals who test positive for Covid-19

From Monday 17 January, people who are self-isolating with COVID-19 will have the option to reduce their isolation period after 5 full days if they test negative with a lateral flow device (LFD) test on both day 5 and day 6 and they do not have a temperature. For example, if they test negative on the morning of day 5 and the morning of day 6, they can return to their education or childcare setting immediately on day 6.

The first test must be taken no earlier than day 5 of the self-isolation period, and the second must be taken the following day. All test results should be [reported to NHS Test and Trace](#).

If the result of either of their tests is positive, they should continue to self-isolate until they get negative results from two LFD tests on consecutive days or until they have completed 10 full days of self-isolation, whichever is earliest.

Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests or anyone who continues to have a temperature will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation.

Further [information on self-isolation for those with COVID-19](#) is available.

Daily testing for close contacts of Covid-19

People who are fully vaccinated, or children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months, identified as a close contact of someone with Covid-19, should take an LFD test every day for seven days and continue to attend school as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time.

Many thanks for your continued support with these measures.

Mr M Jones
Headteacher

COVID-19 Asymptomatic Home Testing Guidance

Thank you for your continued support with Covid-19 home testing. Students were issued with new home testing kits when they attended their on-site test last week. If your child did not receive a test kit please ask them to collect one from the school office.

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 \(www.gov.uk\)](#) 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.

Face Masks in School

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 must not 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.

Ms Rolls (Assistant Headteacher)

Social Media Usage

A number of schools across the country have reported problems with the creation of fake social media accounts in the name of staff members. Parents and students are reminded that members of staff should **never** contact students via social media, and any such accounts should be immediately reported to the school. We thank you for your support and vigilance.

Site security & arrival times for students this term

Please be aware that some new security measures are being introduced this term. Students should not be aiming to arrive before 08:00 as this is the earliest they should be on site.

The entrance by the main reception is for sixth form students only. Students in year 7-11 should use either the Delphi or Fairfield Road entrances. These entrances will close at 8.40am and all late students should then come through the main reception to be signed in.

Fairfield Road gates and Sports Hall gates will not be opened until 08:00 and will be locked at 15:45. After 16:30 when the main office closes, the main entrance/exit will be access controlled, staff supervising students after this time will need to let them out.

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

Message from Kent House Care Home

Kent House Care Home in Fairfield Road have asked if parents could please **not park** on the pavements and in the Cul-de-sac as it is impossible for emergency vehicles to get through to the care home.

Revised term dates for the Platinum Jubilee 2022

In acknowledgement of the additional Bank Holiday for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, the Summer term 2022 will end a day early. This means that the last day of Term 6 for students will now be Tuesday 19th July 2022.

Second-hand uniform shop

The Dane Court PA will be running a second-hand uniform shop on the first Tuesday of each month starting on Tuesday February 1st at 3 until 4 pm.

It will be held in the main school entrance way. We have many items all in good clean condition.

The PA will also endeavour to open the shop at as many other events as possible when the school is open to parents.

The first of these events is the year 8 information evening on January 19th so please look out for us there.

Many thanks

Parents Association

Schools Police Officer - survey

Dear families,

Please see the contact below from Kent Police.

We would be grateful if you could take part in the survey and encourage all members of the family to do so.

We don't yet have a school's police officer in place but are very excited that we will get one in the future.

Many thanks

Anita Ives

Pastoral support officer



"As you may be aware Kent Police have created a Schools Team. This will mean that when fully implemented every secondary, further and higher education provision will have their own Schools Police Officer. In order to understand how we can shape our role and our engagement with young people we have designed a survey that we would like children, teachers and parents to complete.

Could I please ask for your help with this and ask if you could please share with the children themselves and staff members."

I have attached a QR code or you can use this link:

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/SchoolsOfficers/>

Information from Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust (KCHFT) **regarding the Covid-19 and flu vaccinations**

Walk-in covid and children's flu vaccination slots this week

[Cathie Burton, Head of School Aged Immunisation Services talks about why it's easy to pop into our walk-in COVID-19 vaccination centres for children aged 12 to 15 this week](#)

Did your child miss their COVID-19 jab at school? Why not walk-in to one of our centres this week.

Perhaps they weren't in school that day, or they've since turned 12. Or maybe you and your child needed extra time to consider having the vaccine.

Whatever the reason, Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust's (KCHFT) team of expert vaccinators is here to help.

Please [click here](#) for a link to a video on vaccination

Accompanying your child to their vaccination appointment means you can support them every step of the way. And our expert team of clinicians will also put your mind at rest and do everything they can to make your child feel comfortable.

Click [here](#) to find your nearest vaccination centre.

For more information about the Covid vaccine for 12 to 15-year-olds, click [here](#) to visit the government website or watch the video above.

Official leaflets and guidance about the COVID-19 vaccine for young people can be found [here](#).

Your questions answered

When are children offered the COVID-19 vaccine?

Children can get a first dose of the vaccine from the day they turn 12.

Most children can get a second dose from 12 weeks after they had their first dose.

If your child has tested positive for COVID-19 and is not at high risk from COVID-19, they need to wait 12 weeks before they can have a COVID-19 vaccine.

This starts from the date of their positive PCR test.

How children can get the COVID-19 vaccine

Most children aged 12 to 15 can:

get the vaccine at school

book their vaccination appointments online for an appointment at a vaccination centre or pharmacy
find a walk-in vaccination site to get vaccinated without needing an appointment.

Getting the vaccine at school

Most children will be offered a first and second dose of the vaccine at school during school hours.
Second doses will be offered in schools from 10 January 2022. Children who have not yet had a vaccine can get their first dose during these vaccination sessions.

Our school immunisation teams will visit your child's school to give the vaccine.

As a parent or guardian you will get a letter or email with information about when the vaccine will be offered, and you'll be asked to give consent.

If your child misses their COVID-19 vaccination, for any reason, they will be offered it again at a later date.

If you have any questions, you can also phone, text or have a web chat with us!



0300 123 5205



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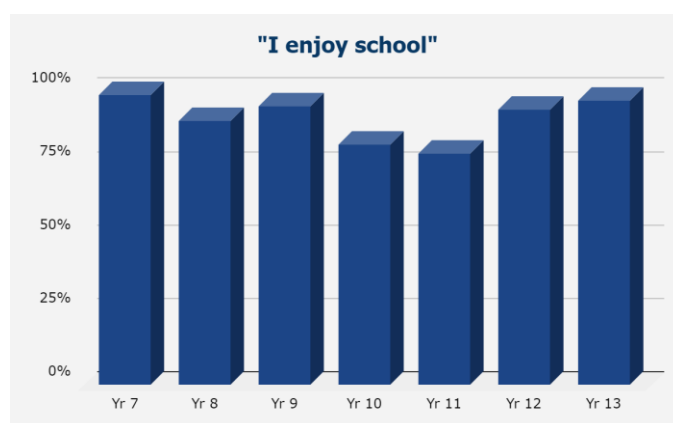


www.kentcht.nhs.uk/imms

Results of recent student surveys

Last term, we surveyed all students to get a feel for what it's like to be studying at Dane Court. We asked about our school values and teaching strategies, as well as perceptions of behaviour, bullying, wellbeing, extra-curricular opportunities and the impact of PSHE.

Over 400 students responded (just over $\frac{1}{3}$ of the student body). Across all year groups, an average of **91% of students say they enjoy school** (with 99% of students in year 7 claiming they enjoy it at least some of the time).



Our school values encourage everyone in the community to be **caring, open-minded and principled**, and this is reflected in the survey results: 95% of students in years 7-9, and 82% of students in years 10-13 agree the school encourages them to respect people from other backgrounds and treat everyone equally. A high proportion of students perceive the behaviour of other students as good, and the majority of those who are aware of bullying agree that it is dealt with quickly.

This year, we have introduced three evidence-informed **teaching strategies**, to ensure high quality talk, regular retrieval and opportunities for silent, independent practice in all lessons. Students in all year groups recognise the benefits of these strategies - for example, 76% of Yr 7 students feel more confident taking part in discussion using the 'Think Pair Share' strategy. 93% of all students agree they feel more confident tackling new tasks when teachers model perfect answers - something we will continue to do in all subjects.

Our **PSHE/SRE** programme has been developed this year and already it is having an impact, particularly in the younger years: 73% of year 7 and 8 students feel these lessons give them confidence when dealing with health and wellbeing issues.

The events of the past two years have made **extra-curricular provision** difficult, but one of our aims this year is to revive previous opportunities and add to our extra-curricular offer. It is hugely encouraging to see that 54% of students are now taking part in a range of activities outside the classroom; Year 12 is the most active year group, with 71% taking part in clubs and groups.

We asked students what the **best things about being in Dane Court** are, and received a range of responses. Here is a snapshot:

Year 7: 'It's fun and educational at the same time and the teachers are always nice and helpful.'

Year 8: 'Being accepted for who I am by other pupils.'

Year 9: 'Having fun, making memories, learning new things.'

Year 10: 'Wide range of opportunities given, mainly academically, and the attitude of teachers towards learning.'

Year 11: 'Being able to learn in a comfortable and safe environment.'

Year 12: 'The IB is a much better choice than any other offered nearby.'

Year 13: 'Dane Court feels like a community and I will be sad to leave.'

We also asked **what we could do better**, and many students responded 'nothing!' Some students requested more support with mental health, so we have recruited three new members of staff as Welfare Mentors and trained a group of Year 13 students as Mental Health Ambassadors. Over the coming weeks, we will work with year leads and mentors to address any other concerns or suggestions raised in the surveys.

We would like to thank all students who took part in the survey - it is hugely valuable being able to see our school through the eyes of the students. We will run a follow-up survey in April, so please encourage your children to take part.

Mr M Jones
Headteacher

The Emotional Wellbeing Team

The Emotional Wellbeing Team are a new NHS service working in partnership with schools to support the mental health of our young people. Our two team members will be in touch soon to introduce themselves, however in the meantime, their service has a range of workshops that may be of interest to parents, as advertised on the poster below.

If you'd like to take part in any of the planned workshops, please email holmes@danecourt.kent.sch.uk. All sessions are remote and would involve you joining the session by clicking a meeting link which I will send to you.

Please see the poster on the page below.

Thank you
Mrs L Holmes



Kent Emotional Wellbeing Teams
Medway Emotional Support Teams

Online Parent Workshops

Aimed at parents of children in primary school and year 7

Understanding ADHD in Children 12:30-2pm
Monday 17th January

Understanding Autism in Children 9:30-11am
Thursday 27th January

Understanding Your Child's Behaviour 12:30-2pm
Wednesday 2nd February

Supporting Your Child with Worries & Fears 9:30-11pm
Thursday 10th February

2022

January

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

2022

February

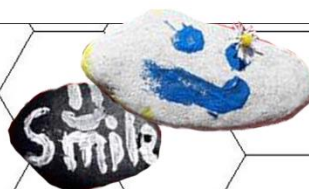
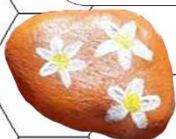
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
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7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28				

Our online workshops offer information around key topics to help understand what is going on for your child and strategies to support them, based on the latest evidence and practice.

If you would like to join, please raise your interest with your child's school so that they can send you the link. If you have any questions please speak to your child's school.

Our workshops are held on Microsoft Teams. You do not need an account to join. You will need access to the internet.

We look forward to meeting you.



www.nelft.nhs.uk

Food Preparation and Nutrition

In Food this term KS3 students will be learning about: Food choice and sensory analysis (year 7), the science of sauce making (year 8) and recipe engineering for special dietary requirements (year 9).

In KS4 - Year 10 and 11 will be lucky enough to have a demonstration from a local fish restaurant and the opportunity to prepare a fish for cooking in their lesson.

We will also be running a year 11 exam preparation session after school on Mondays - parents have been emailed with further details.

Students will always be notified the lesson before a practical of any ingredients needed as well as on Google Classroom where the recipe itself can be found. It is really important that they always bring in a container to bring their cooked food home in. We also welcome donations of old ice cream tubs and tupperware for use when students forget.

Did you know - there are many many diverse careers involved with food - This week we have been learning about careers involving product development and sensory analysis - some examples are below:

Did you know....

You can make a career out of testing food samples!

New Product development manager

You'll be involved in all aspects of bringing a new product to market - from the initial concept right through to product launch.

As well as new products, you'll also have responsibility for improving existing ones and will lead a team of technologists and chefs who will help you get the job done.

A company development chef

Specialises in the development of new food products. This normally happens by testing different recipes for products that maintain their flavour, appearance and texture after they've been processed, sold by the retailer and then reheated by the customer.

Sensory analyst

This role involves using a number of different senses to give feedback on new products.

Sensory testing for industry is conducted in a scientific manner. Samples are labelled anonymously and precautions are taken to ensure a fair test is conducted.

Term 3 Extra Curricular:

Mondays: Non Contact Boxing Club (KS3 only)

Tuesdays: Trampolining Club (KS4 and GCSE only)

Wednesdays: Rugby Club (Years 7 and 8) and Dance Club (All Years)

Thursdays: Climbing Club (All Years)

Fridays: Yoga Club (6th Form only)

Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award Training

Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award training starts Wednesday 19th January in D10 15.30-16.30. Attendance is mandatory for all relevant candidates. If you are ill or isolating, please email Mrs Whelan in advance.

We have a few unnamed items in our lost property already this term. They include a coat, PE hoodies, hats, a blazer, empty Tupperware, keyring, water bottle, keys and a gold coloured ring. Please remember to name any items your child brings into school to help us quickly return any lost items. Photos of the easily identified items are set out below. If you recognise any of them or think that the items of unnamed uniform may belong to your child, please do contact the office on 01843 864941 to arrange collection as soon as possible.

Many thanks, Office Team



THE END