

Weekly Parent/Guardian Newsletter

Week A

28 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

From Thursday 27th January, face coverings are no longer recommended in communal areas for staff and students in year 7 and above.

Changes to the self-isolation period for individuals who test positive for Covid-19

People who are self-isolating with COVID-19 now 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.

COVID-19 Asymptomatic Home Testing Guidance

Thank you for your continued support with Covid-19 home testing. Students have been issued with new home testing kits today.

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.

Water Bottles

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



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

Year 8 & 9 HPV Vaccines

Please be aware that we have the School Immunisation Service visiting Dane Court Grammar School on the 3rd & 4th February 2022 to administer the HPV vaccine to years 8/9 students. Please note that if you haven't already given your consent via the online form you will have received an email reminder today.

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.**

Next Duke of Edinburgh News

DOE Silver Award training- Wednesday 2nd February in C plaza. Participants will need to have their meal plan completed and bring in some ingredients to cook in their groups.

Competitive Swimmer

Amber P. is currently competing in the Kent's Swimming Championships. Last weekend she achieved a silver in the 200 IM girls 16yr old category and went one better in the 200 Breaststroke, achieving gold and therefore county champion in this event. We congratulate her on this great achievement and we wish her every success in future competitions!"



Sports Report

"The start of 2022 has seen some very competitive sport being played by our students, bringing a lot of success across the board. The 1st XI Boys Football Team have reached the semi-final of the U19s Kent Cup after coming out on top in two very tight matches in the January period.

Our U16 girls and U15 boys fell just short of the chance to reach a final after narrow defeats in the Quarter final (U15 boys) and semi-final (U16 girls).

More success came in the Thanet Indoor Athletics Championships where our Year 7 and Year 8 Boys and Girls teams all came out victorious in a very competitive competition.

Our U15/16s boys side won the Thanet futsal tournament going unbeaten in their 6 games and the U13/14s side finished 3rd in their tournament.

We have also had some great individual success in Swimming, Cross Country and Table Tennis with some of our students competing at the highest level in the county."

Business GCSE

Business GCSE Revision/Catch Up Sessions will run every Wednesday 3.25 - 4.35 in B8, all year 11 Business Students are welcome.

Unwanted Musical Instruments

"The Music Department is an alternate universe where pupils are often unrecognisable from who they are outside of it. The shy become confident. The agitated become calm. The lonely become included. The quiet become heard. And the lost become found. Music reveals the real child." Vaughan Fleischfresser, 2022

At Dane Court we are passionate about supporting every student in their musical journey. In order to provide students with their first step on this journey we are asking if you have any old instruments at home that you no longer use or want. Maybe you have a clarinet tucked away in a cupboard or a trombone gathering dust in the loft. If you would like us to give your instrument a new lease of life then please get in touch on jcurran@danecourt.kent.sch.uk. We are looking for donations of orchestral instruments at this stage, including saxophones. We'd love to be able to offer more opportunities to more students and this begins with having instruments for them to use when they are starting out.

String Family



The Woodwind Family



THE BRASS FAMILY



Introducing the Emotional Wellbeing Practitioners to Dane Court Grammar School

Dane Court Grammar school welcomes the Emotional Wellbeing Team - Sarah Johnson and Emily Barker. They are Emotional Wellbeing Practitioners who will be working within our school, and are hoping to get to know you and your child over the coming weeks and months, offering support when needed and finding out your ideas about how we can all work together to support the emotional wellbeing and mental health of students at Dane Court Grammar School. Emily and Sarah told us this about their new role;

"Emotional Wellbeing Practitioners (EWPs) are part of a new government initiative that aims to promote good emotional wellbeing and mental health through supporting children and their families through prevention, early intervention and education. There are a number of different ways we may be able to support your child within school such as individual support, student groups and workshops. We support young people who are experiencing mild to moderate difficulties with worry, anxiety, low mood, phobias, or sleep difficulties. We also offer parent groups and workshops and support the school to develop a 'whole school approach' to emotional wellbeing and mental health.

We hope this information was useful, and we look forward to working with Dane Court Grammar School. If you would like further information about our service, please speak to the Mental Health Lead – Mrs Holmes or Mrs Ives

DANE COURT PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

Events 2022

Quiz Night

Dane Court School Theatre
Friday 11th March 2022



Tickets: Adults £7.00 Children £3.00

Doors open at 7pm quiz starts 7.30pm

(price includes ploughman's supper- bring your own drinks, glasses provided)

Teams up to 8 persons per table.

To book a table please contact Mrs Lois Gadd (Maths) (Tel (or text) 07968 687415 or Email gadd@danecourt.kent.sch.uk) by 4pm on Wed 9th Mar

Charity number 1023394



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

Free support to help parents return to work

If you are seeking to return to work after a career break this Technology Returners Programme could be a great opportunity for you. Follow the link for full details <https://inclusivity.co.uk/nomura/>

Inclusivity Partners are experienced in helping career-breakers successfully transition and return to their career and industry whether you have been away for 12 months or 12 years. They also fully understand the challenges parenthood brings when it comes to work and have been helping people, totally free to you, across the UK for over 6 years.

SOCIAL MEDIA TAGS FYI

Twitter: [@Inclusivityjobs](https://twitter.com/Inclusivityjobs)

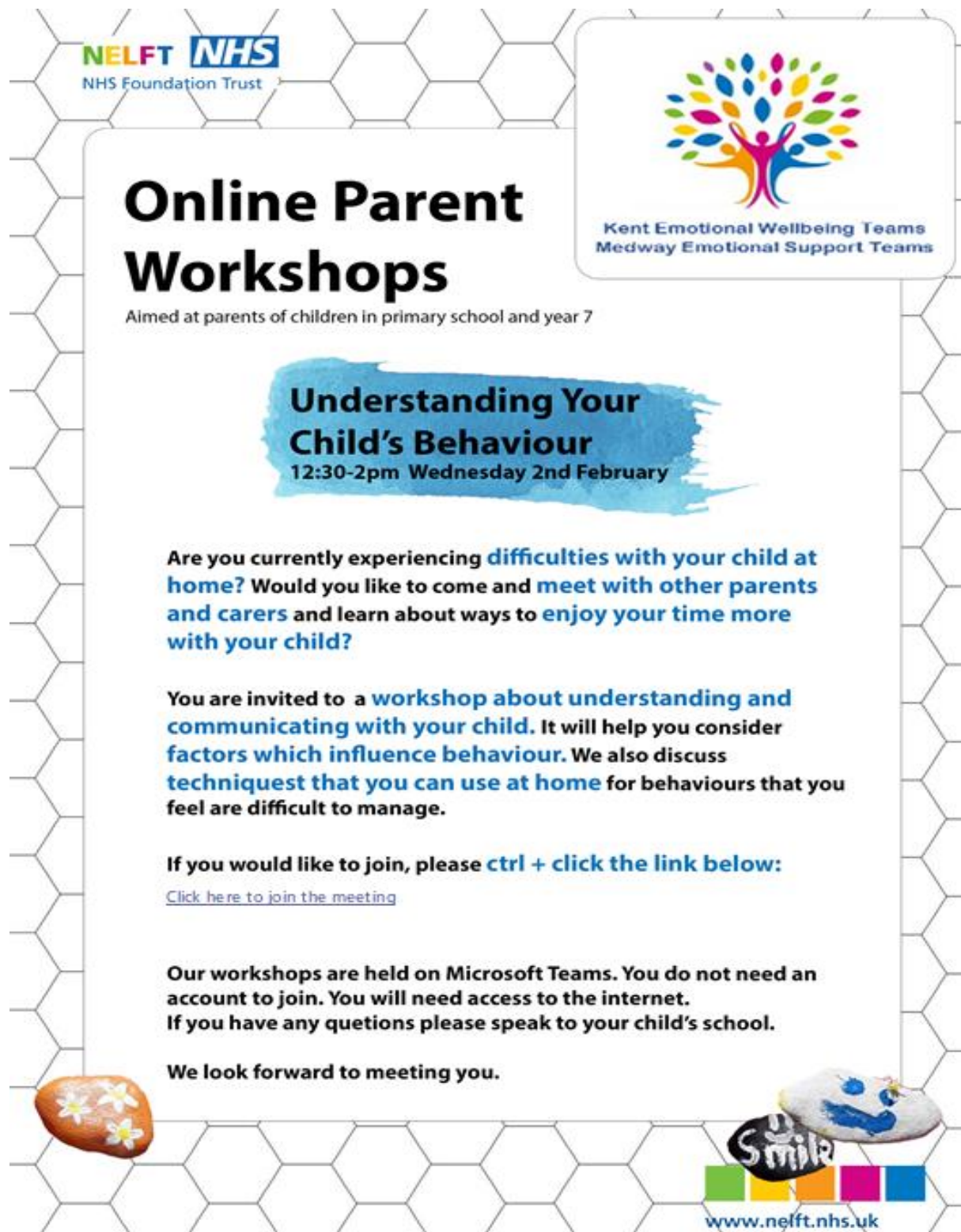
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/InclusivityPartners>

Instagram: [@inclusivity_partners](https://www.instagram.com/inclusivity_partners)


Emotional Wellbeing Team Kent wide Workshops

We are inviting all parents to join online workshops that are being run by our team over the next few months. These workshops offer information around key topics to help understand what is going on for your child, and strategies to support them. We know that it has been an especially difficult year, and we want to ensure that parents feel equipped to support their child. These workshops run monthly on rotation and cover: Understanding ADHD, Understanding Autism, Understanding your child's behaviour, and support your child with worries and fears.

The first workshop covers the topic of "understanding your child's behaviour" and is on Wednesday 2nd February 2022 from 12.30-2pm. Please see the attached poster for further details including the Microsoft Teams link to access the workshop.



NELFT NHS
NHS Foundation Trust



Kent Emotional Wellbeing Teams
Medway Emotional Support Teams

Online Parent Workshops

Aimed at parents of children in primary school and year 7

Understanding Your Child's Behaviour

12:30-2pm Wednesday 2nd February


Are you currently experiencing **difficulties with your child at home?** Would you like to come and **meet with other parents and carers** and learn about ways to **enjoy your time more with your child?**

You are invited to a **workshop about understanding and communicating with your child.** It will help you consider **factors which influence behaviour.** We also discuss **techniques that you can use at home** for behaviours that you feel are difficult to manage.

If you would like to join, please **ctrl + click the link below:**
[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Our workshops are held on Microsoft Teams. You do not need an account to join. You will need access to the internet.
If you have any questions please speak to your child's school.

We look forward to meeting you.



Smile
www.nelft.nhs.uk

PIPA

An online **P**arenting **I**ntervention to **P**revent
affective disorders in high-risk **A**dolescents:
The PIPA Trial

Mental health during childhood and adolescence is very important. Difficulties like anxiety and depression can start when people are young, and it is important for young people and their families to understand these difficulties and get support when needed.

The PIPA Trial is exploring the effectiveness of an online resource for parents/carers to help reduce depression and anxiety in young people. The trial is being coordinated by the University of Warwick and involves families of young people aged 11-15 years from schools in the UK.

The trial is free and conducted completely online. Eligible parents/carers and young people will be asked to complete some questionnaires. Parents/carers will then receive access to some online parenting resources: either the standard educational package of factsheets or the personalised program with up to nine modules. Parents/carers and young people will also be asked to complete some follow-up questionnaires.

Please look out for the letter about how to sign up which also contains some information sheets with more details. If you have any questions, please speak to Mrs A Ives or contact the PIPA trial team at PIPA@warwick.ac.uk or 02476574316/02476575078.



The Big Garden Birdwatch Weekend

Big Garden Birdwatch falls on the last weekend of January every year. Do you know that it has been more than 110 years since the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds R.S.P.B. was created. Big Garden Birdwatch was a project initiated in the United Kingdom that aimed to raise awareness about the protection of endangered species, especially certain birds. Often, these species are driven out of their natural habitat due to interference from humans. Big Garden Birdwatch is a wildlife survey organized to motivate you to take steps for the protection of these species and their habitat by counting and keeping track of birds in your garden. To get involved, choose a place, either in your garden or your local park, and observe that spot for an hour for the next few consecutive days. Count how many birds land there (not the ones that fly by) and note down which bird species visited that spot the most. You can register with the organizers of Big Garden Birdwatch, register yourself along with your children for Big Garden Birdwatch on the R.S.P.B. website. The R.S.P.B will send you a free kit that will help you participate in the drive without any roadblocks.



Term 3 Extra-Curricular Activities

I am attaching the list of clubs running for this term and this will be updated termly. There are a wide range of exciting and engaging activities happening and I am sure that your child will be able to identify something of interest to them. These clubs are free of charge.

Kind regards

Rachel Rolls

Assistant Head Teacher

Day	Name of club	When	Where	Year group
Monday				
	Non contact boxing	After school	PE - studio	KS3
	Chatter	Lunchtime	Library	All
	Choir	After school	H7	All
Tuesday				
	Trampolining	After school	PE- sports hall	KS4 + GCSE
	Craft club	3:20 - 4:30	ART	KS3
	Calm club	Lunchtime		all years (INVITE ONLY)
	Orchestra	3.30-4.30	H7	all years
	Jazz Band	4.30-5	H7	all years
Wednesday				
	Rugby M/F	After school	PE- sports hall	7 & 8
	Dance	After school	PE-Studio	All KS
	from 19/01 DOfE			yr 12
	Mindset	Lunchtime		all years (INVITE ONLY)
	Beginner Steel Band	3.30-4.15	H7	All
	Advanced Steel Band	4.15-5	H7	All
	Mathsbombe	After school	S plaza	Year 10 and 11 INVITE ONLY - Starts on 26th Jan
Thursday				
	Climbing	After school	PE- climbing wall	All years (if they did the introduction in the last 2 terms)
	Yoga	Friday 3.30	PE - studio	6th form
	Drama	Thursday 3.30-4.30	H1	7-10
	Film Club (Wk A)	After school	M4	12/13
Friday				
	Junior Book Club	Lunchtime	Library	Yr 7&8
	Senior Book Club	Lunchtime	Library	Yr9 upwards
	Dungeons & Dragons	3.20-4.20	Library	All years
	Chatter	Lunchtime	Library	7-13

This Week's Lost Property

We have a few unnamed items in our lost property already this term. They include coats, PE hoodies, hats, a blazer, empty Tupperware, water bottles, glasses, keys and various items of jewellery. 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

