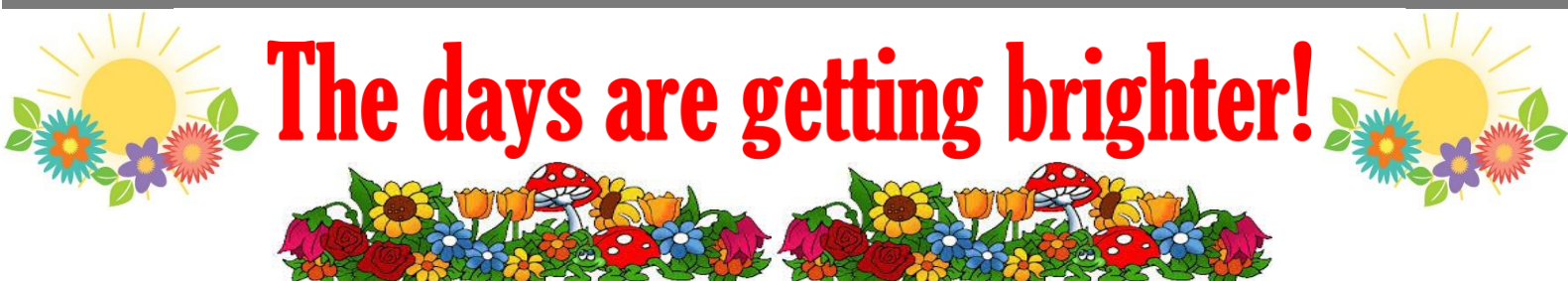


## Weekly Parent/Guardian Newsletter

Week B

4 February 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 to last until after half term. We only have enough test kits for use by students, you can access additional test kits for family members using [this link](#).

**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

## **Yr9 Information Evening**

We are looking forward to welcoming you to Dane Court on **Wednesday 9th February from 4.00pm**. The aim of the afternoon is to provide you and your child with extensive further information about the options process, as well as giving you a chance to meet the team supporting your child, and to learn more about the school vision and priorities more generally. Please see the email sent on the 2 February 2022 for more details.

## **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 19<sup>th</sup> July 2022.**

## **Next Duke of Edinburgh News**

First aid training Wednesday 9th February in D10 at 15.30

## **A cashless operating system at Dane Court**

Dane Court has operated a cashless payment system for quite a number of years now. This is for both payments for trips, classroom sales and items purchased from the canteen.

Whilst all payments for trips and classroom sales have been online only for a few years, we have continued to accept cash being brought into the school for canteen payments, where students put the money on the cash loader.

We would like to remind parents that Dane Court is a cashless school. If possible please ensure, that you use Wisepay to add money to your child's lunch account. If you need to use cash, you can do so using the cash loader, however, please be aware we do not hold cash in school to give change.

Cash will not be accepted at the tills.

## **National Citizenship Service (Years 11, 12 and 13)**

This unique programme that mixes experience, team building and social action, that teaches valuable life skills and provides lasting memories, is open for Summer 2022 bookings:

NCS has been delivering programmes to Young People in England since its pilot programme back in 2009. With the support of the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) it has since taken over half a million young people on the programme. In December 2019, NCS transitioned from a not-for-profit Community Interest Company to a Royal Charter body, achieving security as a national institution.

<https://wearencs.com/>

## **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

## **Parents Careers Survey**

To help inform our new school careers strategy please answer the questions in the attached form. **Parents Careers Survey - [here](#)**

Your feedback is gratefully received.

Mrs Linton

## **Yr8&9 HPV Vaccines this week**

The Kent Immunisation Team would like us to pass on their thanks and commendations to those in Yr8 & 9 for their excellent behaviour and polite manner during the vaccinations over the past two days. The team would like to thank the students for making their visit so pleasant.

## **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 poster below for further details including the Microsoft Teams link to access the workshop.



**KENT EDUCATIONAL  
PSYCHOLOGY SERVICE**

# **PARENT CONSULTATION LINE**

**Free 30 minute phone/video  
consultation with an Educational  
Psychologist for parents.**



The aim of this service is to provide advice and guidance to parents and carers to support children's wellbeing and learning.

Topics or areas that you may wish to discuss might include:

- Social and emotional issues
- Concerns about learning
- Family relationships
- Concerns about behaviour
- Daily routines including sleep

**kepscommunitysupport@kent.gov.uk**

If you would like to make use of this service please send a message to the email address above including the following information:

- your name;
- phone number;
- a convenient time to call (morning or afternoon)
- your child's education phase e.g. early years, primary school, secondary school;
- a brief description of what you wish to discuss.

We will do our best to respond within 10 working days but this may be subject to availability.



Kent Emotional Wellbeing Teams  
Medway Emotional Support Teams

# Online Parent Workshops

Aimed at parents of children in primary school and year 7

## Supporting Your Child with Worries & Fears

9:30-11 am Thursday 10th February

Are your child's worries and fears starting to impact their day to day life? Would you like to come and **meet with other parents and carers** and learn about ways to **support your children so they can manage their concerns and enjoy themselves more?**

You are invited to a workshop which focusses on **understanding what anxiety is, the symptoms** you may notice in your child and some **techniques to help manage this anxiety.**

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 can create an account for free. 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.







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](mailto:PIPA@warwick.ac.uk) or 02476574316/02476575078.

### **Second-hand uniform shop**

The first opening of the second-hand uniform shop this week was very successful. We will continue to run sessions on the first Tuesday of each month from 3pm-4pm. The next session will be **Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March**. It will be held in the main school entrance way. We have many items all in good clean condition.

There will also be a stall at the Year 9 Parents Information Evening on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> February. We will endeavour to open the shop at as many other events as possible when the school is open to parents.

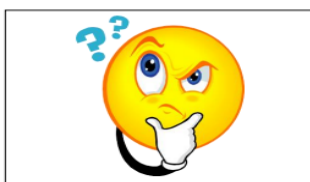
Many thanks  
Parents Association

## **DANE COURT PARENTS' ASSOCIATION**

Events 2022

### **Quiz Night**

Dane Court School Theatre  
Friday 11<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:gadd@danecourt.kent.sch.uk)) by 4pm on Wed 9<sup>th</sup> Mar

Charity number 1023394



### 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
<b>Monday</b>				
	Non contact boxing	After school	PE - studio	KS3
	Chatter	Lunchtime	Library	All
	Choir	After school	H7	All
<b>Tuesday</b>				
	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
<b>Wednesday</b>				
	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
<b>Thursday</b>				
	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
<b>Friday</b>				
	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

**THE END**

