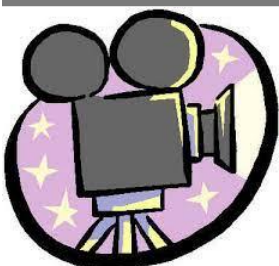


Weekly Parent/Guardian Newsletter

Week B

11 March 2022



Alfred Hitchcock Day on 12th March 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

Following the Prime Minister's announcement on Monday 21st February, the Department for Education has issued new advice for schools. The following information is taken directly from the DfE's communication to schools.

Asymptomatic testing

The Government removed the guidance for staff and students in secondary schools to undertake twice-weekly asymptomatic testing.

Self-isolation

On Thursday 24th February, the Government removed the legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive Covid-19 test. Adults and children who test positive will continue to be advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least 5 full days, and then continue to follow the guidance until they have received 2 negative test results on consecutive days.

Please click the link below for more guidance on what parents and carers need to know:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/step-4-update-what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges>

The school will no longer be providing LFD test kits, they can be obtained from the [gov.uk website](https://www.gov.uk).

If your child is experiencing [symptoms of coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#) they should not attend school. They should get a [PCR test](#) and self-isolate until they have the results. If the result is positive they should follow the guidance above. If the result is negative and they are well they should return to school.

Please also see the updated government guidance on [COVID-19: people with COVID-19 and their contacts](#).

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) experiences [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, your son/daughter should return to school if they are well enough. If the result is positive they will need to continue to self-isolate and follow [national guidelines](#).

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

Water Bottles

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



Ukraine Appeal

We have volunteered to be a collection point for donations in association with the KAH who is working with The British Red Cross, Invicta Rotary Club and KCC in response to the appalling and tragic situation in Ukraine. If you would like help our friends in Ukraine and support our appeal then there are a number of ways that you can get involved:

1. Donations of supplies: If you are able to donate any items on the list below, we would be very grateful indeed. We are not asking you necessarily to go out to purchase these items but would ask if you have any of these at home and they are in a good condition and can be spared then they would be gratefully received. Please bring any donations to the main office and, where possible, please package them in boxes and mark on the side what is inside, as this will aid the sorting and distribution process.
2. We need to raise money for fuel for the HGVs that will take these donations to Poland, A Go Fund me page has been set up and we are asking if you can share this far and wide especially with people that have businesses or if they are part of organisations that could support us. The Go Fund Me Page can be found [here](#)
3. We are also asking for volunteers to assist at the collection site which has been set up in Folkestone (Big Jigs in Folkestone- Unit B, Kingsmead, West, Park Farm Industrial Estate, Folkestone CT19 5EU.) If you can share this request across our community via social media sites that you are part of, we would be very grateful. Please can any potential volunteers please contact Dan File at [Elham Primary School](#)

Items for donation

- baby formula (especially hypoallergenic one - huge shortage)
- baby feeding bottles, sterilising equipment (nothing electric - different sockets)
- baby food
- nappies - any sizes
- painkiller medication, especially children's
- charging banks for mobile phones
- warm socks/gloves/warm hats
- camping mats
- sleeping bags
- protein/energy bars
- anti-flu medication (Lemsips etc)
- wound dressings
- first aid kits
- warm blankets
- thermal/base layers
- hot water bottles
- insulated flasks
- female sanitary products
- any clean soft toys/teddy bears
- a letter/card of hope and support from children and families.

Important dates for yr11

Please find below some of the key dates relating to Y11 final examinations. As you may know, the GCSE examinations are rather more staggered this year.

Monday 16th May: First GCSE examination. Students will remain in timetabled lessons until **Friday 27th May** (the final day of term 5). After half term (**Monday 6th June onwards**), students will come in only for exams, in school uniform.

Thursday 23rd June: final GCSE examination.

Monday 27th June: Y11 Celebration: red carpet and leavers' assembly.

Wednesday 29th June and Thursday 30th June - Dane Court sixth form induction.

Please be aware that Year 11 intervention for English continues right up until the start of GCSE season. Lots of students are already attending and benefitting from English intervention with Mrs Channing and Mrs Jolley. As the whole school calendar is very busy this term and next, we wanted to set out the concrete dates for intervention until

GCSE season:

Wednesday 09.03.2022

Tuesday 15.03.2022

Wednesday 23.03.2022

Wednesday 30.03.2022

Tuesday 19.04.2022

Tuesday 26.04.2022

Tuesday 03.05.2022

Tuesday 20.05.2022

Please do encourage your student to come where possible.

Mrs Channing

Year 13 Parents:

We are now in crunchtime for year 13 students with pieces of coursework needing to be uploaded and submitted to the IB for assessment. Please can you encourage your son/daughter to ensure that they have checked what work they need to upload, that these pieces are completed, that they can log on to the IB upload portal, they know how to upload the work, and are underway in submitting these assessments?

It is Careers week in school this week.

Did you know that there are a huge number of varied careers in the food industry - many that we may not have even heard of before.

The website via the link below, is a fantastic resource for parents and students if you are interested to find out more about apprenticeships, degree courses and careers. There is a section for parents and another section for students. <https://tastycareers.org.uk/>

Ambitions to serve in the RAF

Last Friday, a group of students from KS4 and KS5 with ambitions to serve in the RAF, had the opportunity to meet with Typhoon pilot Wing Commander Paul Hanson. In the online meeting, students heard about Wing Commander Hanson's background as a Kent grammar school boy, how his career progressed to his current position as a Senior Officer at RAF Coningsby.

He gave the students excellent career advice and answered questions about his own experiences in the Forces. We are very grateful for the time that he gave up to meet with our students and he was very impressed with the insightful questions the students asked.

Safeguarding -Online Safety -10.3.22 - SNAPCHAT

The Snapchat app lets users send photos, short videos or messages to friends. The pictures and videos, known as 'Snaps' usually appear for a selected number of seconds before disappearing forever. In the UK Snapchat is one of the most popular choices of messaging between teenagers and young adults.

Is Snapchat Safe for children?

Snapchat has an age rating of 13, so If you child is younger than then then they should not be using the app.

Snaps capture a 'moment' as an image, these are not saved to the device's camera roll and disappear forever after a few seconds. If however a user tries to screenshot a snap that has been sent to them, snapchat will notify the sender to help safeguard them. Users have however found workarounds to this which means it is possible to secretly save snaps.

Snapchat is designed to share messages with friends, but there is still the danger that children may connect with people they don't know as it's easy to add users by searching for usernames or through links. It is always wise for younger users to only share content with their real friends and share things only they would be happy to share with their parents or carers.

As with most messaging apps, there are features to block or report users, which can be done as easily as clicking their names and pressing the block/report text.

There is one other dangerous feature on Snapchat called 'Snap maps.' This feature shares your physical location data with friends in real time and it is possible to pinpoint friends exact location on the map. If your child leaves the house to go to a shop or to the cinema, then other users could follow them in real life, tracking every step they make.

There are three settings for the 'snap map':-

Ghost mode - This does not share the users location, however you can still see everyone else on the map.

Friends - Shares the users location with their friends only

Select friends - Shares the user's location to selected friends only

Please note that once 'snap map' is set up, there is no setting to completely disable it.

As with all social communication apps, it is always wise to have a discussion with children and young adults about the risks related to the service, the possibility of cyberbullying and how to use the app safely.

SCHOOL DIRECT INFORMATION EVENING

Thinking of training to teach in primary or secondary school?

Find out about the School Direct programme with EKLA and how to apply.

Book your place on our online information evening:

Thursday 31st March - 6 to 7 pm

[BOOK NOW](#)

<https://www.ekla.org.uk/itt/school-direct>

Next Duke of Edinburgh News

Duke of Edinburgh Silver award training continues:

16th March

23rd March

DOE training doing Route Planning for our practice expedition D10 15.30-16.30

Comic Relief

On Friday 18th March the school will be supporting Comic Relief by having a non school uniform day.

We're joining people up and down the UK to show that smiles have the power to change lives.

All students who chose to not wear uniform are asked to make a donation to the charity by either bringing £1 into school and handing it to their mentor or by donating directly online using the link below

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/dane-court-grammar-school1>

Your donation will help tackle poverty, take action against violence and bring an end to discrimination in the UK and across the world.

Many thanks for your support in raising money for this amazing charity.

Support to explain the Invasion of Ukraine at home

I am sure many of you are trying to manage difficult questions at home about the current situation in the Ukraine.

Here are some resources to help adults support children with the issues surrounding the Russian invasion of Ukraine that you might find useful.

How to talk to your teenager about the invasion of Ukraine (BBC Bitesize/Anna Freud Centre)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zbrdjsg>

How To Talk To Your Child About The War In Ukraine (YoungMinds)

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/blog/top-tips-for-talking-to-your-young-person-about-the-events-in-ukraine/>

Worrying about Russia and Ukraine (Childline)

<https://www.childline.org.uk/get-involved/articles/worrying-about-russia-ukraine/>

Best wishes

Anita Ives

A note from PE

Please ensure all students have their PE kit for lessons next Friday, even though it will be a non-uniform day, PE lessons will continue as usual.

Term 4 School Clubs

Day	Name of club	When	Where	Year group
Monday				
	Table Tennis	After school	PE - studio	KS3
	Chatter	Lunchtime	Library	All
	Choir	After school	H7	All
Tuesday				
	Junior Book Club	Lunchtime	Library	Yr 7&8
	Trampolining	After school	PE- sports hall	KS3 + GCSE
	Rugby M/F	After school	PE- field	KS3
	Art club	3:20 - 4:30	ART	All years
	Calm club	Lunchtime		all years (INVITE ONLY)
	Orchestra	3.30-4.30	H7	all years
	Jazz Band	4.30-5	H7	all years
	Debating club week A	3:30-4:30	Library	all years
Wednesday				
	Basketball	After school	PE-sports hall	KS4 + KS5
	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
	Senior Book Club	Lunchtime	Library	Yr9 upwards
	Film Club (Wk A)	After school	M4	12/13
	Manga Club	13.45-14.15	L8	All years
	Debating club (week B)	3:30-4:30	Library	
Friday				
	Dungeons & Dragons	3.20-4.20	Library	All years
	Chatter	Lunchtime	Library	7-13
	Yoga	after school	PE studio	KS5

Car Boot Fairs!

The Dane Court Grammar School Parents' Association are pleased to announce the dates of our popular boot fairs for this year! There's no need for stallholders to book, just turn up at 6:00am. £8 for cars and £10 for vans. The boot fairs are open to the general public at 6:30am and refreshments are available.

If any parent would like to help on gate duty at any one of these events please contact Gloria Riley at riley@danecourt.kent.sch.uk

This year's events are as follows:

Saturday 14 May 2022

Saturday 11 June 2022

Saturday 9 July 2022

No August Boot Fair

Saturday 10 September 2022

Look forward to seeing some of you there!

The Parents' Association

Second-hand Uniform Shop

We run sessions on the first Tuesday of each month from 3pm-4pm in the school entrance area. We will endeavour to open the shop at as many events as possible when the school is open to parents but unfortunately it won't be available at yr11 parents evening.

Many thanks

Parents Association

Alfred Hitchcock Day

Born in London at the dawn of the 20th century, Alfred Hitchcock grew up in an austere Catholic family, with a childhood he later described as lonely and sheltered.

Hitchcock first got into the British film industry as a title card designer for silent films, later becoming an assistant director. He directed his first feature in 1925, and never looked back. By 1939, he relocated to Hollywood and worked on one of his best-loved movies, "Rebecca." He continued to churn out hits like "The Birds" and "Psycho", scandalizing and tantalizing audiences worldwide.

Over his 60-plus-year career, Hitchcock directed more than 50 films, some of which no longer exist. From "Rebecca" onward, the director also made brief cameos in all 39 of his remaining films. Between 1955 and 1965, he hosted and produced "Alfred Hitchcock Presents", a mystery anthology series. The show's credits open with an illustration of his famously rotund silhouette, drawn by the director himself, and presents a new thriller or mystery story each episode.

Hitchcock remained active throughout his life. In 1960, he was inducted into the Hollywood Walk of Fame with two stars, for TV and film. He is widely recognized as the most influential director of all time. He was knighted in 1979, shortly before his death in his sleep in his Los Angeles home.

Since Hitchcock was born in August, the origins of March 12 as National Alfred Hitchcock Day remain a mystery — a fitting tribute for the Master of Suspense himself.

Lost Property this week

We have a few unnamed items in our lost property already this term. They include coats, an odd trainer, a jumper, a PE kit, a pencil case, Tupperware, water bottle, a badge, a keyring, scarf and 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

