

## Weekly Parent/Guardian Newsletter

Week A

11 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.**



### Visit from the Kent Immunisation Team for Covid Booster

“The Kent and Medway Immunisation Team is coming to school after half term on the **24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> February 2022** to give COVID-19 vaccinations – don't forget to do the [online consent form](#) if you haven't already.

Visit [www.kentcht.nhs.uk/imm](https://www.kentcht.nhs.uk/imm) for more information. You can also phone the team 0300 123 5205, text 07401320923 or use their [web chat](#) if you have any questions about your child's immunisations.”

### 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.

## **Next Duke of Edinburgh News**

Silver Award Duke of Edinburgh training

<b>Wednesday 23rd Feb</b>	- Map Reading 1, grid refs, symbols, scales in D10
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## **A cashless operating system at Dane Court**

Dane Court has operated a cashless payment system for 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/>

## **Year 9 curriculum evening**

Many thanks to all those that attended our Year 9 curriculum evening. It was wonderful to see so many parents in school at an exciting time for Year 9 in their educational journey. A reminder that full details of the options process and subject-information can now be found on the front page of our website. Please click the banner at the top of the screen. Full information on the various Dane Court Pathways will be added to the website very soon.

Mr Forward

## **Re: PSHE/RSE**

We have received many positive comments about our newly designed curriculum (in line with the DfE statutory guidance), from the parents' information evenings and also from students themselves. May I remind you that the curriculum is available on our school website.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the [non-statutory/non-science] components of sex education within RSE up to and until 3 terms before the child turns 16. After this point, if the child wishes to receive sex education rather than being withdrawn, the school will arrange this. Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing using the form found in Appendix 3 of this policy and addressed to the headteacher.

Kind regards,

Ms Rolls

## **Parents Careers Survey**

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

Your feedback is gratefully received.

Mrs Linton

## 8D Got Moving!

As part of the mentor curriculum this term, Year 8 were tasked with doing mini 'CAS' projects. After discussion 8D decided to try and increase the physical activity they each did over this term as feeling better physically and mentally they were more likely to cope with everyday challenges, and be nicer people who were more likely to show principled, caring and open minded characteristics!

The students have done a variety of things such as, learning a new skate-boarding trick, walking the family dog every day, dance classes, taekwondo, cycle rides, taking part in team games and doing the 'couch to 5K' programme. One group of boys decided to organise a charity football match for Year 8 students which happened after school last Tuesday. Those that took part really enjoyed the event, despite a couple of injuries and raised £70 for Cancer Research UK - a fantastic achievement.

Thank you to all those year 8 pupils who agreed to play, Mr Coyne and Mr Argyrides who helped with organisation and managed the teams; to Mr Dominguez who refereed and the parents, who actually paid to stand in the cold and watch!

Mrs Gallantree (8D Form Mentor)

## Something Fishy

We were extremely fortunate to have a visit from local fish restaurant Kebbells this week. Head chef Holly and Owner Sarah demonstrated gutting, filleting and cooking seabream to year 10, 11 and 12 food students.

If your child took part in the workshop, they should have collected a recipe card which has a 20% discount code at the bottom.

If you would like to make the most of this offer and your child took part in the workshop (valid until 6th February), students should visit the food department to collect their recipe card. The event was a huge success. Many students could not wait to try what they had cooked and ate it straight away.

Here is a copy of the recipe we used and some photos of the workshop in action.



## Young Cooks Cookery Competition

Young people are annually invited to take part in the south east's **Young Cooks cookery competition with the winners receiving a share of £500!**

The idea is to encourage all young people to roll up their sleeves, get stuck in and discover how much fun cooking can be – while learning vital life skills along the way!

The Young Cooks judges love to see local produce being used, so thought should be given to this. Finalists will be chosen based on their entries and those who make the shortlist will be invited to an exciting final.

**Closing date for entries: 18 April 2022.**

**Find out more about this competition here: <https://www.kmcharityteam.co.uk/schools/youngcooks/>**

## 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.



## Online Safety

Online Safety Day was on 8<sup>th</sup> February, but the links below contain some helpful information that might be of interest.

[Online safety information for parents & carers](#)

[Online safety tips for parents of 11-13-year olds](#)

[Online safety tips for parents of teenagers 14+ year olds](#)

Many thanks, Gemma Bolt

## 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 separately attached poster for further details including the Microsoft Teams link to access the workshop.

## U19s Boys Football Team

On Wednesday afternoon the U19s Boys football team travelled to Howard School in Gillingham to play the semi-final of the Kent Cup. After a very tricky first half the boys battled through to get in at half time 0-0. An early penalty awarded to Dane Court in the second half saw us go 1-0 up and the boys started to believe it was possible.

However, a very strong Howard side came fighting back and reached level with half an hour still to play. With 10 minutes left on the clock, a fast counter attack with swift movement from our forward line enabled us to score the winning goal!

The boys and coaching staff celebrated with great emotion and managed to see the game out until the final whistle. We are ever so pleased for the boys and we look forward to the final ahead!

## The Kent Road Safety Tour will be talking to KS3 during the first week of March



# DEADLY DISTRACTION

## ROAD SAFETY T.I.E. FOR Y7, 8 & 9 STUDENTS



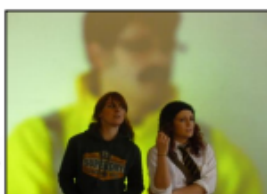
### THE PROJECT:

We are proud to announce that we have been commissioned by the Kent Reconnect programme, in conjunction with Kent County Council Road Safety Team, to deliver an online session for years 7, 8 and 9.

This project is **free to your school**, and consists of a **20-minute video**, followed by a **30-minute live workshop facilitation** to your students by one of our highly trained actors, via your preferred video calling software (Zoom or Microsoft Teams, etc).

This highly engaging event promotes key road safety messages and will:

- Raise awareness of the danger of roadside distractions from music, phones and friends.
- Help students to identify and cope with peer influence and peer pressure.
- Promote safe, responsible and positive behaviour.
- Improve the confidence of students as independent travellers.



### HOW IT WORKS:

To book your place, please complete and return the booking form to [ollie@theriotact.co.uk](mailto:ollie@theriotact.co.uk).

On the booking form, you will be required to highlight your preferred video calling software (Zoom / Teams, etc), as well as who will create the meeting and send out the invitation link (either the school or The Riot Act).

On the day of the booking, all participants must load into the meeting a minimum of 5 minutes before delivery starts.

Following this, a facilitator will introduce the session, before directing students to watch the 20-minute video (which will have been sent to you via an additional email following your booking).

Afterwards, students will then be taken through the 30-minute interactive workshop and will be encouraged to participate at certain points in the discussion.

**More details, including the Terms and Conditions, can be found on the second page of the booking form.**

### WHAT SCHOOLS SAY:

*"The most impactful short presentation I have seen; excellent question and answer session. Thought-provoking and well planned & executed."*

*"A brilliant performance. Excellent and engaged all pupils immediately. The best drama group we ever had in!"*

*"So much respect for how much passion you guys show. Great to hear the message coming from an energetic & lively young company."*

*"Excellent performance. Students and staff loved the humour, music, energy and powerful message. This has improved the road safety awareness of 315 young people, well done. Please can we have you back again next year."*

### FOR MORE INFO CONTACT:

Ollie Robinson  
E: [Ollie@theriotact.co.uk](mailto:Ollie@theriotact.co.uk)  
T: 01484 602060  
M: 07766 661920

## **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.

We have many items all in good clean condition. There will also be a stall at the Year 10 Parents Information Evening on **Wednesday 3rd March**. We will endeavour to open the shop at as many other events as possible when the school is open to parents.

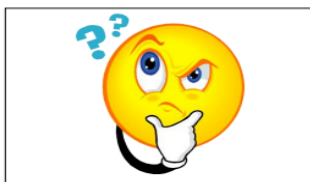
Many thanks  
Parents Association

## **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



## **World Book Day**

For world book day this year we will be hosting a 'Mystery Book Swap'. If you have a book, fiction or non-fiction, that you no longer want or read or need and think might be enjoyed by others, please bring it in to school and hand it to Miss Jessiman or the English office by **Friday 25th February**.

### **How it will work:**

We will collect your wonderful donations and wrap each book up like a parcel. Your wrapped book will then be given a label identifying its genre, age rating and one line 'hook'. On world book day itself, these will all be available in the library - so students can come along and pick a book without judging the cover!

Thank you,

## **Staff Vacancies**

We currently have four vacancies being advertised. Please click below for further details:

[Food and Nutrition Technician](#)

[Exam Invigilator](#)

[Cover Supervisor](#)

[Teacher of Computer Science](#)

Many thanks, Mrs Hobbs

### 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>				
	Junior Book Club	Lunchtime	Library	Yr7&8
	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	Yr7 & 8
	Dance	After school	PE-Studio	All KS
	from 19/01 DofE			Yr12
	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
	Senior Book Club	Lunchtime	Library	Yr9 upwards
	Film Club (Wk A)	After school	M4	12/13
<b>Friday</b>				
	Dungeons & Dragons	3.20-4.20	Library	All years
	Chatter	Lunchtime	Library	7-13

## COMMUNITY CLOTHES BANK

# WINTER POP UP EVENTS - MENS, KIDS & WOMENS CLOTHES AND SHOES

Are you struggling to afford coats, pjs, shoes  
and more this winter?  
We're here to support you with free clothes  
available at our events below

10AM -1PM

Thursday 13th January

Thursday 10th February

Thursday 17th March

**all in the main hall at Union Church,  
Union Crescent, Margate,  
Kent CT9 1NR**

**Do please contact us with any questions.  
Find us on facebook and IG - Community Clothes Bank**

**THE END**

