

Weekly Parent/Guardian Newsletter

Week B

25 March 2022



It's Mothering Sunday this week!



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.

“The Kent and Medway Immunisation Team is running clinics during Easter holidays for any vaccinations your child may have missed - don't forget to do the [online consent form](#) if you haven't already. Here is the link for the clinic dates and times for you to book direct: [PathEKS Home \(healthit.org.uk\)](https://www.healthit.org.uk)

Visit www.kentcht.nhs.uk/imms 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.”

Water Bottles

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



Ukraine Appeal

As mentioned in last weeks newsletter, 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. We have been overwhelmed by the generosity of donations and please see the pictures below of collection so far. If you would like help our friends in Ukraine and support our appeal but are worried that you may be missed your chance, please don't! We are **still** collecting, and 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 child to come where possible.

Mrs Channing

School Run Safety - McCarthy Stone Site - Fairfield Road

It has been brought to our attention that some parents have been using the McCarthy Stone Site as a drop off point for students. Please be aware this is a functioning construction site and therefore extremely unsafe for children/young adults of any age to be left unsupervised for any amount of time. We hope to continue supporting the safety of all our students as much as possible and appreciate your support in this matter.

Food and Nutrition Ingredients

If your child is in receipt of Pupil Premium, we can supply the ingredients needed for practical lessons if this is a problem. **If you wish for this to be put in place, please email your child's food and nutrition teacher at least 48 hours before the lesson in which the ingredients are required.**

Safeguarding -Online Safety - Passwords

Many students and adults alike are still not secure enough with their online passwords. The following information from www.comparetech.com shows some very alarming statistics in relation to weak or poor passwords;

- At least 60% of people reuse passwords across multiple sites regularly.
- About 13% of people use the same password for all accounts and devices.
- About 80% of data breaches in 2019 were caused by password compromise.
- Although 91% of participants in a recent survey understand the risk of password reuse, 59% admitted to doing it anyway.
- In 2019, [42% of companies were breached by a bad password](#).
- 48% of workers use the same passwords in both their personal and work accounts.
- Compromised passwords are responsible for 81% of hacking-related breaches.
- The average person reuses each password 14 times.
- An estimated 49% of people only add a digit/change a character in their password when they're required to update it.
- Passwords were leaked in about 65% of data breaches in 2019.

Tips for password creating and management.

- Create a unique password with a mixture of uppercase and lowercase, numbers and special characters such as ***2Bor!2B_ThatizThe?**
- Don't reuse passwords. If you're using the same password across mail, shopping, banking and/or other websites and one of those experiences a hack or breach, you've now exposed all of your other services to the hacker.
- If you write your password down as cold storage, make sure it's either only written partially, in code or it is just a hint to the real password.
- Use a password manager. There are many apps that create and store very complex passwords for every site you visit. These are then kept securely, you only need to remember one password to log into the manager.
- Don't share your passwords. if you must share a password for some reason, change it as soon as possible after to something completely unique.

Below is a link to an excellent website that can tell you if your email has ever been involved in a data breach before. If an email account has been subjected to a breach, it is wise to look at the severity of the attack and possibly create a new clean account. <https://haveibeenpwned.com>

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

As previously notified DAY CHANGE to Tuesday 22nd March D10 at 15:30.

This is the last session on route planning and route card completion for the practice expedition 5th-7th May 2022

ALL students MUST be involved in the route planning as DOfE certification is awarded to a team.

Completed route cards and high-lighted routes on maps to be handed in by the leader for each group at our session on Wednesday 20th April at 15:30 and equipment for the expedition will be distributed and signed out at this session.

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

Our funds raised for Comic Relief!



OFFICIALLY FABULOUS

Thank you to everyone at

DANE COURT GRAMMAR SCHOOL

You raised an incredible

£874

for Red Nose Day 2022

Sir Lenny Henry
Sir Lenny Henry

The money you raised will help people across the UK and around the world live free from poverty, violence and discrimination.

RED NOSE DAY **FUNNY IS POWER**

 FR Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

Red Nose Day is an initiative of Comic Relief, assisting names of Charity Projects, registered charity in England & Wales (260606) and Scotland (SC039194) and company limited by guarantee registered in England & Wales (company number: 00448888) and limited liability company (company number: 00448888) and limited liability company (company number: 00448888). For more information visit: www.rednose.org.uk

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

IB Film Residential – Bewl Water

Thursday 16th March

We arrived at Bewl Water at around midday and immediately started location scouting for our horror films. With a huge reservoir surrounded by hundreds of acres of forest, it was perfect for shooting a horror. For the first few hours we did some team building activities, working together on communication skills while also touring around the area, finding more possibilities for places to film.

After dinner, we started shooting and soon it was pitch black. In the dark, the woods looked terrifying on camera, with lighting set ups casting shadows on the trees and putting spotlight on the actors. Some groups created sets in the spare bedrooms, moving furniture, changing the lighting with coloured filters and putting up posters and props. We filmed late into the night, some even staying up as late as 3am.

Friday 17th March

On Friday morning, some of us got up at 6am to continue their filming, going down to the reservoir to capture the morning fog. Filming then continued up until midday, everyone working hard to finish filming and get started reviewing footage and editing until we finally got back on the minibus to head back to school.

It was an amazing trip and we captured some great footage for our horror film projects.

Nancy E. – Year 12

Food department update.

We would like to congratulate our **year 11 Food preparation and Nutrition students** who have successfully completed their three hour practical exam this week with some outstanding outcomes. The students were calm, well organised and mature in their approach to the exam. We are very proud of the hard work they have put in.

Year 9 are busy preparing for their bistro events at the start of next term. You may have been invited in to attend, or perhaps your year 9 child has invited a teacher or two.

Here is the schedule of dates for your information.

Bistro food is served at 12.35 each day

Here is a sneaky peek at some of the delicious practice dishes so far.



Year 9 Bistro schedule

Mentor group	Teacher	Date
H	KL	26/04/22
B	JTB	27/4/22
S	ET	29/4/22
T	KL	4/5/22
N	NE	5/5/22
D	ET	21/4/22

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

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



Holiday Activities
and Food
Programme
Kent

Helping families to flourish



Fun & food in the school holidays

Families of children aged 4 to 16 years, who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals, can access these opportunities in the **Easter, Summer and Christmas holidays** for free.



Nutritious food and enriching activities

The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme in Kent provides healthy, nutritious food and exciting, enriching activities for children and young people during the school holidays.

Families of children aged 4 to 16 years, who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals, can access these opportunities in the Easter, Summer and Christmas holidays for free.

The HAF Programme aims to support the physical and mental health and wellbeing of children and young people in Kent, encouraging them to engage in interactive and fun activities and provide them with access to nutritious food.

This programme is funded by the Department for Education (DfE) to provide support for eligible families in Kent to access these holiday activities for free.



Find out more about the programme and see if you are eligible.

tinyurl.com/HAFKent

THE EDUCATION
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and Young People

Kent
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Council
kent.gov.uk

THE END

