



Friday 11th December 2020

Dear parents & carers

Thank you

I must begin this end of term letter by saying that the students have been fantastic since the return to school in September. They have behaved exceptionally well, worked hard in lessons and fully engaged with their remote learning when required. We have been hugely impressed with their positive and mature attitude during these challenging times. We are very proud of them.

In addition, their teachers have worked extremely hard to manage face-to-face teaching and remote learning (often both at the same time!). Education has changed so rapidly in 2020. Walking around the school, it is quite something to see the blend of in-school lessons, live remote lessons and pre-recorded lessons. Throughout this challenging time, our teachers have been positive, adaptable and innovative.

Thank you for your support this term. I am aware that this has been a challenging and anxious term for parents and carers. Throughout, you have supported us so well by informing us about the onset of symptoms or positive tests in your family. You have also supported us with self-isolation and online learning when necessary.

Final week of term

This week, the Department for Education and Kent County Council wrote to all schools to make it clear that they must remain open in the last week of term and we fully support this approach.

Dane Court will remain open for the last week of term, including Friday 18th December, as planned. As is traditional on the last day of Term 2, students will be dismissed at 1:40pm. Buses will run at the usual time; students wishing to stay on at school until 3.20pm should report to the Pastoral Office after the remote assembly. If your child will need to stay after 1.40pm, please would you let Mrs Ives know in advance, by email (ives@danecourt.kent.sch.uk) or by phone via the school office.

Contact tracing

Throughout the term we have responded to positive tests with very careful contact tracing to identify close and proximity contacts of those who have tested positive. This approach follows guidance from the Department for Education and Public Health England.

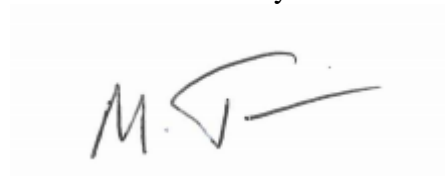
The DfE and PHE have made it clear that school leaders must continue to track and trace for six days after Friday 18th December, for any member of our school community who tests positive, having developed symptoms within 48 hours of attending school. This means that it continues to be important that you **report to us immediately if your son/daughter develops symptoms over the weekend of 19th – 20th December and subsequently tests positive.** This public health guidance means that we will 'track & trace' until Christmas Eve. If your son/daughter is identified as a close or proximity contact, we will inform you that he/she will have to self-isolate for 14 days from last contact with the individual who has tested positive. Where a student tests positive for coronavirus, having developed symptoms more than 48

hours since being in school, the school should not be contacted. Students should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.

And finally...

It is an understatement to say that 2020 has been a challenging and terrible year. I think we will all be delighted to leave it behind. However, this year has also brought out the best in our school community. The leadership team and directors of the Coastal Academies Trust, the Dane Court governing body and our parents/carers have all provided the students and staff with brilliant support and encouragement throughout the year. This support has been particularly important during the last month when we have faced severe staff shortages, many cover lessons and disrupted routines. Thank you, and on behalf of the whole staff team, I wish you all a safe and happy Christmas holiday. Take care and we look forward to welcoming students back to school on **Tuesday 5th January 2021**.

Wish best wishes to you all.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Jones', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mr M Jones
Headteacher