



ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE IN A CARING AND SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT

Dane Court Grammar School Newsletter



May 2015

THE HEAD OF SCHOOL WRITES...

Medieval Banquet

This was the twenty-first year of the medieval banquet, a hugely successful cross curricular project bringing together the Food Technology, History, Art, Music, and English departments.

All year seven students take on a medieval character for the event. In their Food Technology lessons they cook pottage and bread for the peasants and a range of authentic medieval recipes for the lords and ladies. The King (Mr Baker) addressed his subjects and spoke of his achievements in recent battles, the death of his mother and marriage to her Royal Highness Queen Lisa. Grace was then delivered in Latin by Father Stavri. Minstrels arrived shortly after and sang in the ceremonial boar's head to mark the start of the banquet.



The whole year group, having processed into the 'Banqueting Hall', was then entertained by court jester, jugglers, musicians, actors and singers. They also took part in activities such as apple

bobbing, skittles, calligraphy, mathematical games, spinning and weaving and were able to visit the apothecary to seek advice on their various 'ailments'.



One of this year's banquet activities was a demonstration of authentic medieval instruments beautifully played by none other than Maestro Fowler, Head of School. The mother of one peasant wrote to express her dismay at her son's behaviour because he had taken all her quarter nobles and half pennies leaving only enough money to buy maskin to eat that night. His punishment, at her request, was to go in the stocks for a well-deserved soaking. Two other miscreants were also thrown into the stocks by the sixth form bailiffs for various misdemeanours – they too suffered the wet sponge treatment.

Visit the gallery on our website:

<http://danecourt.kent.sch.uk/parents8/news6/events/709-medieval-banquet-2015>



Springtime push

Spring is a time for new life, new hopes... and a lot of hard work in schools! As the days lengthen and we all want

to spend more time out of doors, teachers and older students tend to see less of the daylight as coursework deadlines loom and final revision sessions are planned. Students in years 7 to 10 are also taking school examinations. For all our students, the ability to focus on their studies at this time will make a crucial difference to their chances of success.

The well-known 'marshmallow test' – where young children were given the choice between having one marshmallow now or waiting a few minutes and having two – proved to be a good predictor of children's future success. Children who were able to wait, although sometimes struggling hard to do so, tended to be happier in later life. This 'delayed gratification' – not doing what we would like just now, but being prepared to wait a little, thinking about the eventual reward – may help us all to get through the springtime exam push.

Andrew Fowler

Engineering Education Scheme

Five sixth form students from Dane Court Grammar School completed their submission for the Engineering Education Scheme last Friday. The scheme culminated in a celebration and assessment event held at the University of Kent, Canterbury.

The aim of the scheme is to provide students with an insight into the potential career opportunities available in the engineering industry. Teams work on a real time engineering project set by a local company then have six months to resolve the problem, create a solution, prepare a report and present their ideas to a panel of assessors. Dane Court has been generously supported by Instro Precision Ltd, Broadstairs (Instro), for a number of years by providing a wide variety of challenging tasks and this year was no exception.



The task this year was to create an environment to simulate a typical dust storm that equipment developed by Instro would be subject to in hostile working conditions. If the equipment passes these in-house test conditions then it would be sent for official certification with a high degree of certainty that it will pass.

The team developed a variety of solutions and, after some prototyping and discussion with the engineers at Instro, produced a successful outcome that they were able to successfully test to ensure it met industry standards.

Paul Dean, Head of Design Technology, said: 'This is an outstanding scheme that gives our students a unique opportunity to explore the opportunities presented by potential careers in engineering. This year's team produced an excellent solution to the problem and their presentation was well received by the panel of assessors. As a result the team are likely to receive a Gold CREST award

for their efforts. CREST is an industry award scheme that recognises creativity in engineering, science and technology.'

Student Emily Watkins described her experience: 'I learned a lot about teamwork as there were occasions where we did not agree on things so would have to talk problems through to arrive at the best possible solution. I also learnt a lot about engineering and what it would be like to have a job in the industry as you have to complete tasks within a deadline.'

Tom Jury, Engineering Manager at Instro and chair of the Kent Area of the Institute of Mechanical Engineers added 'Britain is currently lacking in good professional engineers, especially mechanical engineers. Schemes such as EES give huge benefits to the students in introducing them to engineering and also benefit the companies. It was a pleasure to work with the team from Dane Court. The students displayed some very good engineering knowledge and implemented a good solution that Instro hopes to adopt as part of their feasibility testing.'

'So Get This Right'

by Mrs S Jellett, Literacy Coordinator

'So Get This Right' is an on-going literacy campaign which runs across all subjects and all year groups in Dane Court. Despite the high levels of intelligence and enthusiasm in our school, general literacy levels need addressing to enable our students to achieve the best grades, the best jobs and the best opportunities in life.



Every fortnight, a new 'focus' appears on the plasma screens and the school website and is also addressed in most lessons. We also have a house competition which invites students to spot spelling and grammar mistakes in the community and online. If a celebrity (not a friend!) makes a mistake on a blog, facebook or twitter, students can screenshot the error and email it to

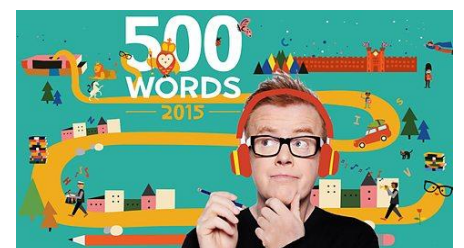
sogetthisright@gmail.com or tweet @SoGetThisRight. Similarly, mistakes on shop windows, menus, advertising boards etc. can be photographed and sent to the same addresses. Three times a year, we add up the entries and award points to the winning house and prizes to the 'top tweeters' in each house.

This term, Ashlee Lodge (7H) won the overall 'Top Tweeter' prize and was awarded a £10 voucher and an Easter egg. Please encourage your children to look out for the fortnightly focus, and to get involved in the competition next term.

'500 words'

Creative Writing Competition

We have some very talented writers in Dane Court and last term we encouraged students to enter the BBC Radio 2 '500 words' writing competition. There were some stunning entries and we decided to run our own in-house competition, to reward the students for their hard work. The winning entry was a short story called 'Cybertroll', written by Lauren Casey (7T); runner-up prizes were awarded to Zakiyah Sunder (7T) and Brook Pownceby (8H). With so much talent in the school, we have decided to make this a regular event. Details of the next competition, which will be open to years 7-10, will be announced soon.



On the last day of term, we had an email from the organisers of the official 500 words competition, informing us that Abigail Hollands (7H) is through to the next round. Abigail's story, 'Everything has changed', was one of 120,000 entries and has now been chosen, with just 3,800 others, to go to the Reading Agency for the second round of judging. We will find out in May if Abigail's story has made it onto the final shortlist. Good luck, Abigail, and thank you to everyone else who entered.

Rugby Sevens champions

On Wednesday 18 March Dane Court's Under-16s took part in the annual Kent Rugby Sevens tournament, hosted by Sutton Valence School.

After a nervous start the boys soon got into try-scoring mode, racking up 11 tries in the group stages.



By early afternoon they found themselves in the final against Harvey Grammar School. Saving their best rugby until the end, they pulled off an almost faultless performance and won 34-0. All the boys were superb throughout the day, with highlights coming from the determined George Dyerson, hardworking Joe Harmes and Dan Adams who was playing up a year. The squad members were J Harmes, C Knight, A Shrestha, D Adams, L Doyle, T Norman, J Barnett, G Dyerson, B Kandathy, M Dennis and J Robinson.

Table Tennis

Southern Tournament
By Mr Pugh

The glorious adventure ended on Saturday when the Dane Court Under 13 Girls Table Tennis team just missed out on winning a place in the National Finals. A 5:45 am start and a 360 mile round trip to the Southern Regional Tournament at Bournemouth saw Dane Court in a group of three schools with only the winner qualifying. After a long wait the first game against the Somerset champions Haygrove School from Bridgewater saw Dane Court come through with a 5-3 victory thanks to Catherine Banks and Tayla Bayley winning both their games with Annabel Cole securing the vital fifth point.

Then came the deciding game against the London champions St James' Catholic High School from Barnet, a really strong team with top two players. This unfortunately proved the difference, despite Catherine, the Dane Court number 1, giving both her highly

coached and talented opponents a really good run for their money. Annabel, Tayla and Katie Perkins all managed to pick up excellent wins to make the final match score 5-3 to St James' which, to be fair, was a true reflection of the high quality match between two really good teams.



As there were four Regional Finals on the same day, coming runners-up in the Southern Tournament puts the Dane Court team in the top ten U13 girls' teams in the whole country. This is a phenomenal achievement considering that none of the four girls had played much Table Tennis before the start of this school year and that so many other schools have access to better facilities and coaching.

A fantastic effort: well done girls!

Ski Trip to Italy

Driving through the Mont Blanc Mountain tunnel, everyone on the coach gave a small cheer as we officially crossed from France to Italy, the tunnel opening onto the Aosta valley where we were greeted with 24°C heat and beautiful sunshine at the bottom of the mountain.

After accomplishing the heavy-duty task of getting the 'magic 29' fully fitted in ski boots, skis, helmets and ski poles, a fantastic effort was seen from everyone on the first day's skiing. Taking the gondola twenty minutes up the steep mountain to the snowy resort of Pila, we proceeded to throw ourselves gallantly into the fray – a few sore behinds and knees, but a willing attitude despite initial injuries! By day three the 'magic 29' had got the hang of it (as had the staff), mastering the red runs and (a bit optimistically) tackling the odd black run too.

Evening activities kept everyone busy, from ice skating, hiking and disco dancing, where even the 6th formers gave in and joined in on the dance floor. The brave (and crazy) joined Miss Miller

on her 6am run, catching the sunrise in the quiet valleys before breakfast. The holiday's most strenuous activity however, had to be the evening rounds of Articulate, a game not taken lightly by the competitive Miss Brears, although questions such as "Who's Jane Fonda" from the year 8s kept us all entertained.



The mountains were fantastic, with blue skies every day and temperatures perfect for an après-ski ice-cream. The ski instructors really got the best from everybody, commenting on how much the Dane Court group had progressed in just a week and this was reflected in the awards evening, the groups presented with certificates and badges for their achievements.

In such a mixed group, from year 8s up to 6th formers, it was impressive how much care the students took of each other on the mountain, skiing being a sport that takes a fair bit of courage as well as skill.

Main things we learnt: we *don't* wear jeans under our salopettes, we *do* wear ski socks even if we think they are ugly. And if you forget your helmet or your goggles it's a 40 minute round trip down and back up the mountain to get them...

Trip	Due Overdue
Year 12 Stratford (final payment)	31.03.2015
Year 7 Andalucia	04.05.2015
Year 7 Sandwich	22.05.2015
Madrid (£110 instalments)	01.05.2015 01.06.2015
Year 12 Juniper Hall (final payment)	01.06.2015
Year 7 Gurdwara Temple	10.06.2015
Year 9 Kent Mountain Centre (£100 instalment)	29.06.2015
Zambia 2016 (payment totaling £1400)	30.06.2015
All information for trips (including any outstanding balances) is available on your WisePay account. If you need your login details, please contact the Finance Office or email malins@danecourt.kent.sch.uk	

Trips Information BBC School Report

Our Day as News Reporters 2015

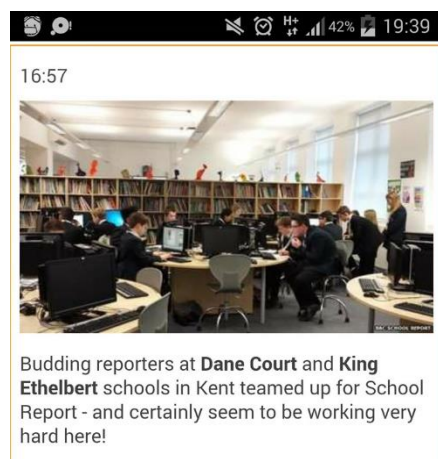
Dane Court students joined forces with King Ethelbert school students for BBC News School Report.



They worked hard to meet the deadline and see their presentations go live at 1600 GMT on News Day, Thursday 19 March 2015.

'Today we spent the day producing a news report. First, we looked through the newspapers and chose the story we wanted to feature. After being split into broadcasters and writers, we set off to gather our information, facts and statistics. We got into pairs with a pupil from the opposite school and started to research our two stories. We then started to compose a written news report featuring our chosen topics. Once our reports and scripts were completed the broadcasting team prepared to film. After a few rehearsals, we went live at two o'clock. The broadcast was successful and we really enjoyed our day being reporters because we learnt new skills and made new friends!'

By Amika (Dane Court Grammar School) and Lani (King Ethelbert School)



See the news reports and more pictures on our website:

[http://danecourt.kent.sch.uk/parents8/](http://danecourt.kent.sch.uk/parents8/news6/latest-news/686-bbc-school-report-2015)

[news6/latest-news/686-bbc-school-report-2015](http://danecourt.kent.sch.uk/parents8/news6/latest-news/686-bbc-school-report-2015)

Boot Fairs

Our hard-working parents association includes a dedicated boot fair team. They arrange regular Saturday events throughout the warmer months. The remaining dates for this year are: 9 May, 13 June, 11 July, 12 September and 10 October.

Stalls holders do not need to book – just turn up on the day – £7 or a car or £10 for a van. Each fair opens to the general public from 7:30am and refreshments are available throughout.

The Dane Court Grammar School Parents Association's monthly boot fairs take place typically on the second Saturday of each month between April and October at the school from 7:30am.

Railway Swing Band



The Railway Swing Band and Dane Court Jazz Band performed together recently and the event was a resounding success. Both bands thrilled the audience with the variety of their music and entertaining swing and jazz styles. The director of the Railway Swing Band, Dave White, teaches percussion at Dane Court and has raised the standard of the school jazz band this year.

Two of Dane Court's talented students, Chloe Gaddes and Reuben-James Gilbert, are already regular members of the Railway Swing Band and have performed many times with them. We look forward to the Railway Swing Band performing again next year at the school.

Visit the gallery on our website: <http://danecourt.kent.sch.uk/parents8/news6/events/696-railway-swing-band>

E-Safety

We encourage students to make use of their digital devices to support their learning. However, there are occasions when they can be used inappropriately and there have been incidents of cyberbullying that have been brought to our attention.

The minimum age to open an account on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest, Tumblr, Kik, and Snapchat is 13. For Vine, Tinder and Yik Yak it's 17. YouTube requires account holders to be 18, although a 13 year-old can sign up with a parent's permission. But according to The Social Age Study by knowthenet.org.uk, approximately 59% of children have already used a social network by the time they are 10.

As a school we have a duty to safeguard our students and while we cannot police their social networking we can try to encourage responsible use. Support from parents and guardians is essential to our success in keeping our students safe, and we know it can sometimes seem an uphill task to keep up with the expansion of social networking. The following are very useful sites for everyone who has the interests of young peoples' online safety at heart, and we would encourage you to take some time to explore them:

- thinkuknow.co.uk
- ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/
- [support.twitter.com/.../tips-for-parents](https://support.twitter.com/articles/25173-tips-for-parents)
- internetmatters.org/online-reputation
- parentsprotect.co.uk



THANET FARMERS' MARKET

DANE COURT GRAMMAR SCHOOL
Broadstairs Rd, Broadstairs CT10 2RT

Join us for a Spring Bank Holiday
market on

Sunday 24th May

9:30 - 13:00

Free Parking

Includes locally produced game, bread, cake, cookies, fudge, beer, apple juice, cider, curries, pies, fruit and vegetables, jam, chutneys, and much, much more....

Locally produced food, drink & craft
Market Café

info@thanetfarmersmarket.co.uk
www.kfma.org.uk/thanet

Red Nose Day

Dane Court students and staff raised £1249.72 for this year's Comic Relief campaign on Friday 13 March.

Highlights were the draw of the "Things That Money Can't Buy" raffle and the annual inter-house fancy dress catwalk competition.

Results of the competition were:

- First – Barcelona
- Second – Tallinn
- Third – Sorrento
- Fourth – Neuchatel
- Fifth – Helsinki
- Sixth - Delphi

Some of the amazing costumes can be seen here and you can find more on our website:

<http://danecourt.kent.sch.uk/house/house-use-news/701-picture-story-red-nose-day-2015>



Year 13 Leavers Fancy Dress

With a traditional fancy dress finale our year 13 students completed their time at Dane Court today.

Arriving just before morning break allowed the rest of the school to gather around and marvel at the fantastic costumes.

The year 13s followed the show with a farewell assembly where they were joined by their mentors for fond reminiscing.

See more pictures on our website:

<http://danecourt.kent.sch.uk/parents8/news6/latest-news/715-year-13-leavers-fancy-dress-finale>