



Dane Court Grammar School Newsletter



July 2016

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE IN A CARING AND SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT

THE HEADTEACHER WRITES...

Summer Mailing

Please see the school website for the annual summer mailing of information and guidance. Paper copies will not be posted out, but documents can be downloaded from the website at danecourt.kent.sch.uk/summer-mailing. The summer mailing will be available from Monday 8 August.

Out in the Field

This term, geography students have been out and about studying a range of topics in the field. Year 10 students travelled to the tertiary coast between Reculver and Herne Bay to investigate the various coastal management techniques for their GCSE coursework. For their IB internal assessment, year 12 geographers undertook a residential trip to Surrey in order to investigate the fluvial dynamics of the River Tillingbourne.

Some students were fortunate enough to experience the geography of another country. 22 students from year 11 took part in a residential trip to the country of Iceland. They were thoroughly immersed in the island's unique physical geography – a land of tectonic and glacial wonders. During the six-day trip students wiggled through lava tubes, walked down a mid-Atlantic ridge fissure and trekked around and behind a range of majestic waterfalls.

They hiked upon a glacier armed with crampons and axes, and marvelled at columnar basalt formations and black sand beaches. For some, the highlight was the journey to the top of a glacier in an ex-army rocket launcher; others enjoyed observing puffins loaded with fish, returning from the sea to their nests high in the cliffs. Everyone enjoyed a boat trip around the icebergs of a glacial lagoon and witnessed humpback whales breaching and fluking. After all that activity, we were ready to relax in the geo-thermal waters of the Blue Lagoon. It was an awe-inspiring trip which further enhanced the students' love of geography and many are keen to visit this fantastic country again.

Miss Morris

Music News

In September 2016 our Music Department will have an exciting programme of opportunities for many of our students to showcase their musical talents. We will have informal musical evenings, end-of-term school concerts, including a choral concert at St. Peter's Church, a 'Showcase Concert' at the Sarah Thorne Theatre and a Coastal Academies Trust (CAT) Schools musical collaboration at the Winter Gardens in Margate. Our choirs will go on concert tour in May 2017 to EuroDisney in Paris.



As the end of the summer term arrives, we celebrate one excellent set of results and look forward to another. Our year 13 students received their

International Baccalaureate results on 6 July. Many of them have already confirmed their offers of university places, apprenticeships and jobs. Their success is a tribute to their hard work, of course, and also to the strength of the partnership between parents, teachers and students. We are very proud of them all, and wish them well in the future. Year 11 students will receive their GCSE results on Thursday 25 August.

The term has ended with an extraordinary frenzy of creative activity. Activities Week culminated in modern mummies' plays, many with a biting political feel, musical performances, art installations and folk dance. Films were created and screened, ethical topics were hotly discussed, and a wide range of sports events took place. Many year 8 students spent the week in Germany. Year 12 students were involved in a science fair, environmental projects and in developing their understanding

of how we think and learn. All these diverse opportunities are possible only because of the wonderful creativity and generosity of our teachers and support staff. I hope that for you, for them, and for all our students, the summer will be a time of rest and relaxation.

House Report July 2016

As usual, the House Calendar has been packed full of exciting events and has continued to spark a real competitive spirit between both students and House Captains alike.

January saw the Wii competitions take place with Tallinn taking top position in Just Dance and Delphi driving to success in Mario Kart. Delphi and Tallinn also expressed their creative streak in the creative writing competition where they gained the top spots.

The Music Cup arrived in early March with a sharper focus on professional performance. Barcelona placed at the top closely followed by Sorrento with notable performances from Amy Allen, Esme Votta, Chloe Latter, Kaiya Valesco-Mills and Alice Whelan.

As the weather improved we moved on to the outdoor sporting events. Helsinki proved their strength in the Tug of War competition and Barcelona came out top in the Basketball Free Throws. Sorrento won the Penalty Shoot Out and Tallinn triumphed in Kickball and the Sport Relief Relay.

Last month there was an opportunity for all the star tennis players to display their talents with Neuchatel winning the singles and Sorrento gaining success in the doubles.

Sorrento also started and finished Sports day in a winning fashion with the best banners and the most winning performances throughout the day. Everyone should be extremely proud of their achievements; a wonderful day was had by all.

The new school year will see the return of the Spelling Bee, the Drama Cup and Black Bag Fashion as well as opportunities to show more sporting prowess in Netball, Five-a-side Football, Dodgeball and the Climbing Competition. To round off the House

Year the infamous Talent Show could be the deciding factor in determining the winner of this year's House Cup.

The House Captains would like to thank all the staff and parents for their continued support of our events and to all students for taking part. We are very much looking forward to next term to see which one of us will be able to hold the much coveted House Cup before handing over to the next generation!

Evan Usher, Tallinn House Captain

Dane Court BIG choir

We have performed at St. Peter's Church, the Winter Gardens and the school with a varied and evolved repertoire of contemporary music. We enthusiastically continue to invite parents, teachers, staff, students (16+), and members of the wider community to join us in our new 'season' in September 2016. Please join us. We are a friendly, welcoming choir open to all who want to sing:

When: Mondays 6.00pm to 7.15pm

Where: Music room H7, Dane Court Grammar School

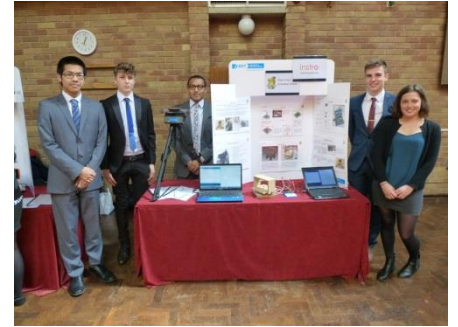
enquiries email:
pdunn@danecourt.kent.sch.uk

Engineering Education Scheme 2016

Two teams of Y12 students from Dane Court Grammar School participated in the Engineering Education Scheme culminating in a celebration and assessment event at the University of Kent last week. The Engineering Education Scheme provides talented Y12 students the chance to explore the opportunities presented by careers in engineering.

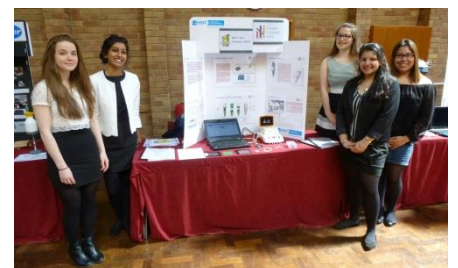
The scheme consists of a number of phases which include a company induction day, a scheme induction day, the project, a two day regional

workshop at Kent University and a celebration and assessment day. During these phases the team will learn about the task then develop a solution over a period of about six months. The project concludes with a technical report compiled by the team which they present to a panel of practising engineers.



This year one of our teams worked with Instro Precision Ltd, Broadstairs developing a cost effective training device to measure angles of azimuth and elevation. Our other team worked with Integrated Technology Ltd, Ashford developing a data logging device to measure the accuracy of the temperature of a dry heater block.

Both teams presented their work at a celebration and assessment day which showcased the work of fifteen other schools from across the county. The team representing Instro Precision Ltd was thrilled when they were presented with the Frank Manning Award for the best overall performance at the event. All Dane Court students were awarded Gold CREST certificates in recognition of their achievement. CREST is the British Science Association's flagship programme for young people. It is the only nationally recognised accreditation scheme for project work in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects.



Super Speedy Car Challenge 2016 at Kings School, Canterbury

Design Technology students have been taking part in the design and development of a radio controlled racing car that raced in a tournament at The King's School, Canterbury, on 4 July. The students participated in a round robin event with successful teams progressing to a knock out final to find an overall winner. The Dane Court Super Speedy Car was sponsored by a local company, Instro Precision Ltd, Broadstairs, in conjunction with the Institute of Engineering and Technology and the Institute of Mechanical Engineers; this is part of our programme to promote STEM activities within the school. Although the Dane Court car performed well it was no match for some of the veteran racers who have benefitted from being involved in the scheme for a number of years. The overall winner recorded a tournament speed record of 84mph achieved over the length of a tennis court.



One student commented, "The speedy car project was started quite early in the year not long after the Tim Peake interview at Wellesley House School. Designing the car was an amazing experience; we learnt how to use new software, how a moulding machine works and much more. We all had a great time and loved being able to competitively race our car against other school's creations. To put the icing on the cake, we were all rewarded with a McDonald's McFlurry for our hard work and efforts, none of which could have been done without the help of the sixth formers Arienne and Leonardo, and encouragement from Mr Dean."

VEX Robotic Challenge

The Design Technology department has had a busy term not only competing in the Super Speedy Car Challenge but with another team entered into the VEX Robotics Challenge.

This event involved the team building a robot that had to tackle a particular challenge set by the organisers VEX. This tournament took place at Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys, Canterbury, on 29 June. The team competed a tournament with partner robots and had to collect and then deliver foam balls to various targets to score points. Successful teams went on to a knock out event to find an overall winner. The team built a very effective robot that unfortunately suffered gear box problems in the early rounds. Through sheer determination the team rebuilt their robot and were able to see its true potential during the last two rounds, managing a high score in both. The Dane Court VEX Robot was sponsored by National Grid as part of a programme to promote STEM activity within the school curriculum. The team had an excellent day and would like to extend their thanks to VEX, Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys and National Grid for providing this outstanding opportunity.



Women in Engineering Day

23 June 2016 was National Women in Engineering Day – an international awareness campaign to involve more girls in engineering.

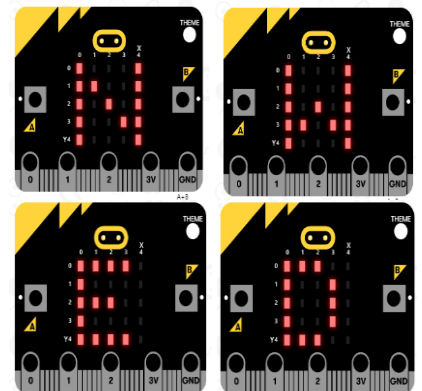
A group of girls from years 7 and 8 went to the event at Wellesley House where we met three female engineers, two chemical engineers and a civil engineer. Chemical engineering is producing anything involving chemicals: make-up and washing products, car



batteries, food and drink products. Civil engineering is anything to do with structures: bridges, roads, railways and bridges.

We then went to the radio room. We listened to a series of dots and dashes to try and decipher a message sent in morse code. The message was, 'morse code is fun to learn.' Next we listened and talked into a radio connected to several people in Atlanta, Georgia. The radio we were using was actually a short distance one connected to a nearby long distance one which could then be connected to the radios in America.

After that we learnt a bit about LEDs (light-emitting diodes) and we had to make a set of traffic lights using them. We used special conducting dough and crocodile clips and then put in the LEDs to complete the traffic light.



We then had a session on microbits. These are tiny computers that you can program from your pc and then transfer the code to the microbit. This is what ours would have looked like:

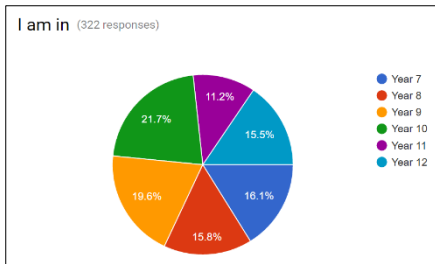
Our last activity was DT-based. We had a short amount of time to create a self-supporting bridge using only straws and sticky tape. The one that my team (KNLM) built could support only 30g, but still an achievement. Overall we had a great time. "Over and out."

Kirsten Hutchison 7S and Louise Carroll 7H

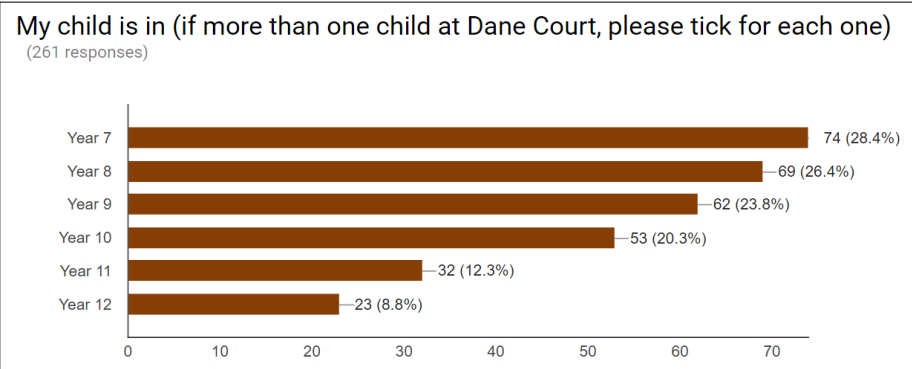
Homework

Thank you for taking the time to give us feedback about homework at Dane Court. In a little over a week, 584 responses were received, 55% from students and 45% from parents.

Students who responded were fairly evenly spread over the different year groups.



More parental responses were received from those whose children are in years 7 to 9.



The good news is that there is widespread agreement among students, parents and teachers about the value and purpose of homework. Although some students (and a few parents) thought that no homework should be set, a large majority felt that homework can and does fulfil a useful purpose and leads to more effective learning. There are some useful suggestions, however, and we intend to bring these into our new, improved homework policy.

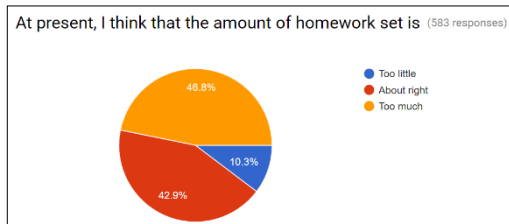
78% agreed or strongly agreed that homework should reinforce and consolidate learning that has taken place during the day's lessons. 58% agreed that homework should give opportunities for wider reading and research, although a further 17% were neutral in their views on this. 59% agreed or strongly agreed that homework should encourage the development of good work habits and discipline.

Perhaps surprisingly, around a third (34%) agreed with the rather controversial suggestion that homework should be thought of as a way of occupying children purposefully in the evenings. Whilst we would agree that homework should certainly be purposeful, there is clearly no shortage of constructive occupations for children after school and at home! Only around a third of respondents (35%) thought that homework should look ahead, i.e. help prepare for learning that is to come.

Reflecting on the current homework regime, 43% of respondents felt that there was about the right amount of homework, but 47% thought there was too much at present. A few thought that there was too little homework! There was widespread support for homework tasks that take up to an hour in total each evening, and little

support for much beyond this.

Looking at the nature of homework tasks, there was general approval for shorter tasks, such as answering short questions, online quizzes, or research tasks, especially when directed by the teacher and using the internet. Some parents asked for more direction to be given for internet-based research. One reminded us that approaching the internet can be a bit like going into an enormous library where books are piled up randomly: guidance is needed in order to find worthwhile answers to



research questions. Our new librarian, Mrs Barnett, agrees strongly, and is committed to help students and teachers find high-quality information

more efficiently. Some students gave examples of productive and efficient homework tasks, such as short questions that reinforce the learning done in class.

When asked how homework set at present reflects these methods, 75% agreed that some or most of it appears to lead to better learning.

There were many requests not to set homework that is due in the following day. It is clear that this causes stress to students and their families, especially where children have busy and fulfilling home lives and are involved in extra-curricular clubs and sports.

We have learned a great deal from your responses to our homework survey. We have revised our homework policy for the next academic year:

- We intend to reduce slightly the quantity and frequency of homework set
- We will endeavour to set only homework that is meaningful and which consolidates and extends learning
- Homework will not be expected to be handed in the day after it is set.

New homework timetables will be published at the start of next term.

Year 7 Activities Week

For activities week we made lots of food, however before we did this we had to learn the language so that we could communicate better and sell the food we had made.

Here is one of the types of food we made for the Spanish café it is called a tortilla. We also observed making



French, German and other Spanish foods. Once we learnt how to make the food, we prepared it the day before



serving. We worked in groups of 3-4 and we made 5 different types of foods for each café.

We practiced the language for 2 days (Monday and Tuesday); learning how to take orders, serve food and tell people how much things cost. Then on Wednesday we actually sold the food we made in our French, German and Spanish cafés and we made a small profit to go towards the school.

Activities week was really fun and many people enjoyed creating the food, learning languages and serving the food in our cafes. We hope the new Year 7s will enjoy Activities Week as much as we did!

Luke Mackenzie, Anya Stevens and Jacob Read 7S



French school visit – Le Collège Marguerite Duras

On 22 June 2016, 8B and 8N were graced with a visit from their French pen pals. Le Collège Marguerite Duras is located in Montélimar in the south of France. We spent the morning giving them tours around the school and



getting to know each other. The pupils talked to each other in various languages and we learned rules and customs from each other's schools such as if their teacher is ill, they do not have a lesson. Also, they are not allowed to be seen or heard using their phones on school grounds, regardless of the times. In the afternoon we played fun games with the help of the PE and language teachers and then played kickball rounders. After school, some of us joined the French pen pals on a trip to Broadstairs beach. We had

a lot of fun running in the sea and playing ball games. One of the French teachers bought us all an ice cream! Sadly we all had to leave but I hope to keep in touch with my pen pal via email as do many others.

Elizabeth Barker-Martin 8B



Business of Enterprise Finalists

Year 10 students scratched their heads, polished their entrepreneurial skills and donned their smartest business-wear as they competed in the rounds of the Business of Enterprise competition. The early rounds were run in school time, witnessing a high standard of ideas and communication. Local businessmen and women judged the in-school final, coordinated by Anne McNulty of the East Kent Business Partnership. Two teams, Salutem and Scansmart, went through to the London final, where their ideas, proto-types and presentations were commended by the national judges. Our thanks to Mr Towe for his inspirational coaching and adept administration.

Please note



is unavailable between
26 July to 31 August 2016.

innovate.

The facts about food waste
DID YOU KNOW...

- Almost 80% of the total amount of food thrown away in the UK comes from our homes. We throw away 7 million tonnes of food and drink from our homes every year in the UK, and more than half of this is food and drink we could have eaten.
- Wasting this food costs the average household £420 a year, rising to £700 for a family with children, the equivalent of around £60 a month.
- The foods we waste the most are fresh vegetables and salad, drink, fresh fruit, and bakery items, such as bread and cakes.

The solution.....
SCANSMART

SCANSMART is an app that has been designed to alert you when your food is expiring.

Data is automatically uploaded to the consumer's secure portal when completing their weekly shop/delivery.

The consumer is notified by an alert when a product is near its use-by date.

When a product has been used it is automatically re-added to their supermarket shopping trolley.

RESULT: £470.00 saving per annum!

Stay Smart.
SCANSMART
Stay in date
with **innovate.**