



May 2023

Dear parent/carer,

New Entrants' Evening - Thursday 29th June 2023

Welcome to Dane Court Grammar School. We are extremely pleased that your child will be joining us in September, and we hope that you will enjoy being part of our school community.

I am writing to invite you and your child to our New Entrants' Evening which will take place on **Thursday 29th June at 5.30pm**. This is an important opportunity for parents and students to meet key members of staff.

On arrival (car parking will be available on the school site), parents will be directed to the school's Theatre, where I will speak to you about the life of the school and introduce key members of staff. Meanwhile, your child and their peers will meet Mr Buttery, Year Leader. The students will spend time with their new mentor group, and take a short tour of the school site. It would be a good idea for students to bring the booklet they received during our visit to their school.

After the talk in the Theatre there will be time to view and discuss displays of school uniform with suppliers, speak to bus company representatives and purchase a House T-shirt for your child (these will cost £3.50, **payable in cash only** and students will need to wear them on transition day). You will be told your child's mentor group and house by email in advance of New Entrants' Evening. There will also be a second-hand uniform shop run by the Parents Association where various items, in good clean condition, will be available to purchase by cash or cheque.

We have a strong Parents' Association at Dane Court, which runs events and raises significant funds each year to support the school. Representatives will be based in the reception area on New Entrants' Evening where they will be very happy to welcome you as new members. You are invited to make a voluntary one-off £10 donation to the Association, although all parents are considered members, regardless of contribution. You are warmly invited to become actively involved in Parents' Association events; there are usually ten events each year, and parent volunteers typically help out for an hour or two at one or more events, as they wish.

Please also note that our Transition Day is Thursday 6th July this year. Your child will spend the whole day with us, forming new friendships and working on some enjoyable projects. More details about the Transition Day will be emailed to parents in due course.

I look forward to meeting you on 29th June.

Yours sincerely

Mr M Jones
Headteacher



May 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Key Stage 3 Languages

We are very much looking forward to welcoming your child to Dane Court in September, and we hope that they are looking forward to next year.

I am writing to give some information about our languages curriculum in Key Stage 3. As you know, Dane Court is a school which prides itself on its international outlook, and we therefore offer French, German and Spanish as part of our Year 7 curriculum, with each individual student studying two of these three languages throughout Key Stage 3.

Your child may already have some skills in one of these languages from primary school, but it will be an equally exciting challenge to study a language from scratch, as that would ensure that all children are starting from the same point. Our language department is going from strength to strength, and this will ensure an excellent educational experience in any of these subjects. If your child would be happy studying any combination of these languages, you do not need to do anything. If you have a strong preference for *one* of these languages, you are welcome to complete [this google form](#) no later than **Friday 2nd June at 5pm** to express your preference for one language, with brief accompanying details, and we will do our best to accommodate.

We look forward to meeting you and your child soon.

Kind regards

Ben Forward
Deputy Headteacher



May 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian,

All branded Physical Education kit is available from the [Schoolwear Centre](#) and [Ambition Sport](#). They are the only suppliers of branded items of the main Dane Court PE clothing your child will need for their PE lessons. The clothing supplied has been chosen for its suitability of materials and durability.

Please see details of the PE kit students will need below. If you would prefer not to buy the branded PE kit you can purchase plain versions of the items, please see details below. Please ensure any plain items purchased are sportswear.

Yours sincerely,

Miss G Bolt
Head of PE Department



Dane Court Grammar School

PE Clothing

All students must have all the items listed below. Branded items can be purchased from [Ambition Sport](#) or [The Schoolwear Centre](#).

<p>Dane Court Multisports top and/or Dane Court Hoody</p> <p>Or plain black hooded jumper or rugby shirt</p> <p>Optional: Dane Court Logos can be added for an additional cost</p>	
<p>Dane Court Black/Yellow Polo Shirt or T-shirt (all years)</p> <p>Or plain black polo shirt/t shirt</p> <p>Optional: Dane Court Logos can be added for an additional cost</p>	
<p>Black Shorts or Black Skort</p> <p>(Skort is optional)</p> <p>Optional: Dane Court Logos can be added for an additional cost</p>	

<p>*Black Football Socks (only a small logo permitted on them, no stripes)</p>	
<p>*White Sports Socks</p>	
<p>**Shin Pads</p>	
<p>**Trainers (not plimsolls, must support the ankle)</p>	
<p>**Football Boots (moulds tend to get most use)</p> <p>We recommend buying these at the time you know your child is doing football rather than in advance.</p>	

*** These items can be purchased from Ambition Sport, The Schoolwear Centre or another retailer**

****These items cannot be supplied by Ambition Sport or The Schoolwear Centre**

**Optional items listed below:
Branded items can**

**Dane Court Tracksuit
Bottoms or you can buy your
own plain Black Tracksuit
Bottoms (if buying your own only a
small logo is permitted on them no
stripes or other artwork)**



**Dane Court Leggings or you
can buy your own plain
Black Sports Leggings (if
buying your own only a small logo is
permitted on them no stripes or other
artwork or see through areas)
(Please ensure leggings are specific
sports ones and not a see through
material when you move/bend as these
will not be permitted)**




Dane Court Grammar School
Uniform – 2023-24 Years 7-11

Blazer	Black with Dane Court school badge	No other garments acceptable
Trousers/Skirt	Plain, black, full-length, straight leg trousers Black watch tartan kilt	Trousers must be straight legged. No extreme styles, and they should not resemble jeans (back pockets) Denim and corduroy are not acceptable; neither are skin-tight trousers or leggings. Skirt must be worn at a moderate and acceptable length.
Shirt	Plain white with a normal collar or open collar	Shirts must be plain white, with no patterns or styling. No sports shirts. No t-shirt or jumper should be visible under the shirt.
Tie	If normal collar: Dane Court school tie, full length. If open collar: no tie required	
Jumper	Black Dane Court sweatshirt Plain black jumper or cardigan	Jumpers or sweatshirts with logos other than the Dane Court logo are not acceptable.
Socks/Tights	White, black, or grey socks Plain black tights	No other colours or patterned socks are acceptable
Shoes	Plain, black, low heel and polishable	Trainers that are fabric or with noticeable logos are not acceptable. Shoes must be black and polishable. Health and safety: No high heels should be worn. Shoes should give sufficient support and protection to growing feet, therefore, canvas shoes and backless shoes are not acceptable. Boots are not acceptable.
Outdoor Garment	Plain style	Jackets not to be worn instead of blazers.
Jewellery	One set of studs in ears (flat or rounded only). All other piercings MUST be clear studs. Any other jewellery to be discreet.	Hoops or any other non-stud earrings are not acceptable. No visible body piercing, including nose studs, which are NOT clear studs. In the event that a student has a visible body piercing which can't be removed, it must be covered with a suitable plaster until the item can be removed.
Hair	Natural colours and moderate hair styles	No extreme hair styles.
Make-up	Must be discreet	
Nails	Coloured nail polish can be worn Nails must be cut short	
Religious clothing E.g. hijab, kippah, turban	Black or dark blue	



May 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Dane Court Grammar School uses an online payment system called WisePay. This system is our preferred method for payments. We hope that you will find it useful and convenient to use. You are now able to download the free WisePay app, which will streamline the process for you. We will send you the organisation code along with your username and password during the summer holidays.

You will be able to use it to pay for school trips and to top up your child(ren)'s school meal account in order to purchase from the school cafeteria. There is a cost to the school per transaction so we would ask that when you top up your school meal account you do so in as large an amount as you can.

For all **trips** you will see how much the trip costs and if this is a large amount you may, if you prefer, pay in smaller instalments. The dates for these instalments will usually be set by the trip organiser in line with when the school has to make payments. Just simply overwrite in the amount box with the figure that you are paying. You will then be able to see a history of what you have paid and what you still owe.

Please note that you will only see trips that your child is eligible to take part in. We are hoping that in this way you will be kept informed of events without having to rely on letters home.

If you go to the **Food and Drink Payments** section you will see how much is on the student's account. You will also be able to see a purchase history as well as a history of what has been credited to the account. If your child contacts you to say that they don't have enough credit on their account, you will be able to top up online and the account will usually be credited within 30 minutes. If you are worried that your child may spend too much at any one time you can set a spending limit by writing to the school office specifying the limit that you would like and this can set this up for you.

You can also view the three weekly menus on the WisePay app.

We hope that you will find WisePay a convenient and safe way to send money into school.

Yours sincerely,

Mr M Jones
Headteacher



May 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians

RE: Pupil Premium

I would like to draw your attention to the available benefits of Free School Meals. A number of our students already enjoy Free School Meals each day. Your child may also qualify if you receive one or more of the following:

- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit.

By registering for Free School Meals, if eligible, you will give your child the option to take up a healthy school meal and at the same time help our school to support them in their learning. The Government provides this additional funding to support students from lower income families and we use this money to directly support our students. In addition to a healthy meal, we may be able to offer financial support for various activities and resources including revision materials. A Free School Meals allowance of £1.10 is also available (in addition to the dinner allowance) which can be used to purchase breakfast items before school starts between 8.15am and 8.35am.

It is, however, only made available to schools if children are registered for Free School Meals by their parent(s)/carer(s). Eligibility alone does not attract this funding to support students. If you think your daughter/son may be eligible for Free School Meals, please visit [this link](#) to register.

Children who are entitled to receive [free school meals](#), can also get free school transport to the nearest grammar school if:

- they have met the [admissions criteria](#) of the school
- they have been offered a place at the school
- it's the nearest grammar school to their home
- the distance from their home and the school is between 2 and 15 miles.

If you think your child is eligible and you have not already applied for this, further details and application forms can be found [here](#).

If you have any queries about this or would like to discuss further, please contact us at the school.

Yours faithfully

Mr M Jones
Headteacher



Free school meals

Your child might be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Universal Credit - your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit.



Some schools in Kent manage their own Free Schools Meals application process. For more information, go to:

kent.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals

