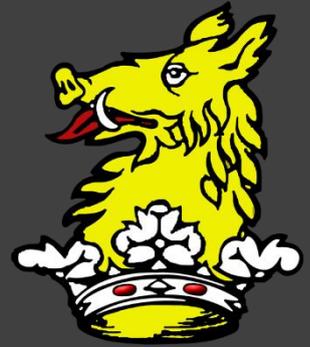




ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE IN A CARING AND SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT

# Dane Court Grammar School Newsletter



## March 2015

THE HEAD OF SCHOOL WRITES...

## New York

by Mr Wallace and Mrs Razzaq

At 4:00am the chill of the Broadstairs air was also filled with excitement and anticipation as we began the annual sixth form trip to New York. However the cold of Broadstairs was nothing compared to what we found on the other side of the pond through the frostbitten doors at Newark Airport, whilst the local news agencies handed out advice on how to avoid frostbite.

The first full day began with a trip to the top of the Rockefeller Center, with stunning views of the Manhattan skyline set against clear blue skies. A brisk walk through a snow covered Central Park followed, where students were able to ice skate – fun, but a few bumps and bruises – and warm up with a hot chocolate. Next stop, the natural history museum, before returning to Fifth Avenue for a spot of retail therapy and celebrity spotting: was that David Beckham with his children?



On Tuesday we walked across Manhattan to jump on a ferry tour of lower Manhattan: the snow and mini icebergs added a rather epic feel to the situation and students were able to get a close-up view of New York's iconic bridges as well as her most famous lady, the Statue of Liberty. A bus tour to lower Manhattan followed, visiting the Ground Zero memorial site and St Paul's church. This gave students a time for reflection on a significant event in modern history; the emotion of this moment was felt by all and students showed great understanding and empathy.



This was followed by a subway ride back to Times Square and dinner at Applebees. Before heading home there was still time to visit Grand Central Station, the famous New York Library and the biggest department store in the world, Macy's!

To read more

<http://danecourt.kent.sch.uk/parents8/news6/visits/688-new-york-2015>



Welcome to the first edition of our email newsletter. Staff and students at Dane Court Grammar School have been especially active over the last few

weeks, within lessons and in the wider world, and I hope that you will enjoy reading about their activities. The newsletter also gives us the opportunity to give important messages about dates and forthcoming events, helping us to improve our communication with parents, guardians and friends of the school. We want to include information about school clubs, sporting and cultural activities, so that there should be something of interest for everyone in the newsletter.

We hope to be able to send the newsletter to all parents and guardians, but this means that we need to be kept up to date with any changes in email addresses – please contact us via the school website or the main office to update your details.

Your feedback and comments are very welcome, especially about this first edition. Please contact us to let us know your views, including how we can improve future newsletters.

Andrew Fowler

## Iceland Adventure

by Tim Norman

A short extract from Tim Norman's Iceland Diary.

We made our first stop of the day at the earthquake centre, an emotional visit to experience what can happen when you live on plate boundaries: inside the centre was an earthquake simulator. Libbie, Niamh, Alice and Tim bravely went in first; well, what an experience! You stand in a narrow box in the pitch black. A growl starts to sound from the speakers and bright lights flicker, then a banging starts and the floor shakes. We were all screaming and shouting and falling over and all four of us gripped onto each other for dear life. As we staggered out we all suddenly felt very awake and the screaming continued with the next four going into the simulator.



We came to a church where we saw none other than the Prime Minister of Iceland, the real Prime Minister in his 'jeep' – his jeep, but our tour guide Betty would say 'jeep'! We were all amazed to see him so casually walking around with so little security.

As the Iceland Wanderer turned into a deserted dirt patch on the side of the road another 'jeep' met us; it felt as if we were being taken hostage up a mountain. We bundled in and bounced along up the rocky mountain. We were



all swaying about, the journey was hilarious and when we got to the top we were swept up by a snow blizzard that we had to battle through; as we

neared the top we could see the entrance of the lava tubes. It was amazing to be climbing through tubes where magma had flowed. The tubes were incredible, filled with icicles and pillars of ice.

The full account, with more pictures, can be found on the website:

<http://danecourt.kent.sch.uk/parents/8/news6/visits/692-iceland-adventure-2015>

## Food Technology Information

### Ingredients

We would like to thank parents very much for continued support in providing ingredients for practical lessons and for your generosity for our large events. Parents often express concern at being presented with a recipe the night before a practical lesson. Students will know what they have to cook a week in advance but often forget to hand the recipe sheet on. We think that you may like to know that we use Google drive to share project planners with all the students in KS3 and you are welcome to ask your child to share this information with you.



### Plastic Tubs

Students often forget to take their plastic food containers home and over the course of the year we manage to collect large quantities of little tubs. If you notice that your stock of food containers has dwindled, please ask your child to come to Food Technology to retrieve them.

## Mediaeval Banquet – Year 7



The mediaeval banquet, which involves all Year 7 students, takes place during the afternoon of Wednesday 18 March. Your child should have given you a letter which explains the event. They will need a costume if they are a 'peasant'. We provide costumes for Barons, Ladies and Knights. If you have any difficulty providing a costume we do have a limited supply of suitable material and Mrs Leese will be running workshops at lunchtime to help students make their own garments. We will be requesting apple juice for the peasants to drink if you are able to supply some.



## Maths Revision Class

Every Tuesday from 3:30 to 4:30pm there is an opportunity for all year 11 students who already have a C grade in Maths from the *Applications of Mathematics* GCSE to do extra revision for the *Methods in Mathematics* GCSE. This class will be with Mr Ballard, Head of Mathematics.

	Dates for your Diary
9-18 March	Year 13 IB Art Exhibition at the Pie Factory Margate
25 March	Year 10 Parents' Evening
1 April	End of Spring Term
20 April	Start of Summer Term

## Triumph at Kent Schools Games

At the Kent Schools Games Finals which have been running over the past few weeks Dane Court Grammar School have had conspicuous success representing the Thanet District. At the indoor rowing the year seven girls won gold and the year eight boys claimed bronze medals and in handball the year ten boys also took first place to bring home gold.



The most hotly contested competition proved to be the Indoor Athletics where all county districts ran, threw and jumped with incredible enthusiasm and much skill. The Dane Court year seven boys took third position in their first attempt at the finals but the year eight boys claimed a magnificent team victory to repeat their winning success of last year.

For more photos click on the link below.

<http://danecourt.kent.sch.uk/parents8/news6/latest-news/684-triumph-at-kent-schools-games>

### WISEPAY

Please note that all trip information is available via your Wisepay account (this includes details of payments made to date, trip letters which can be downloaded, and of course, the facility to pay for trips by credit/debit card). Please contact the school, if you would like your log-on details emailed to you.

## Caucasian Chalk Circle

by Joseph Wyatt, 10S



On Friday 27 February year 10 Drama and Arts Award students went to see a performance of *Caucasian Chalk Circle* by Bertolt Brecht, presented by the wonderful cast of The Unicorn Theatre. The day started earlier than most students would have liked: having to be at school before 8 o'clock wasn't everybody's cup of tea. We arrived in London with time to give everyone a chance to enjoy views of the Shard, the River Thames and London Bridge. The theatre itself was modern and very quirky, which wasn't what we were expecting. We sat down round the stage and could see all the back stage areas, racks of costume changes and props suspended from the roof.

The play was set in the past, with themes of justice and fairness, but it was brought up to date by the use of modern clothes and the way that the actors 'broke down the fourth wall', speaking directly to the audience. There were only a few actors, and some of them had to play many different parts, using minimal costume changes and simple scenery to suggest different characters and different locations. Live music and sound effects added to the atmosphere. After the first half we were all very hungry; fortunately during the interval the theatre company allowed us to eat our lunch. The second half of the play became more and more moving leaving most people in tears at the end. After a long but enjoyable day everyone was ready to go home, leaving London in the rear view mirror and a smile on everyone's faces.

## Road Safety Team



After two years of campaigning The Dane Court Road Safety Team have been awarded a £4000 grant to spend on ways to improve road safety for our students. In addition, Year 11 students Katie Hatt, Ben Marshall, Tim Norman and Gowri Satish along with Jennifer Powers in year nine have also been successful in joining with a small number of other schools in the area to fight for the construction of a zebra crossing on a very busy part of Broadstairs Road.

We are proud to announce that the grant of £4000 (after much deliberation) has been spent on safety equipment lockers which have been installed in the bicycle sheds and electronic signs which will help to control traffic at the entrance and on the driveways of our school.

### TRIP INFORMATION

#### from the Finance Office

This is a reminder to parents that there are various payment deadlines for trips coming up.

Trip	Balance due
Year 7 Andalucia	04.05.15
Year 8 Rhineland Tour £280 (if £50 deposit paid)	23.03.15
Year 12 Higher Education Convention	27.03.05
Year 12 Juniper Hall Geography	01.05.15
Year 12 Stratford – English Residential	20.03.15
Zambia 2016 (payments should be about £1200)	
Le Chateau du Broutel	Overdue