



Dane Court Grammar School Parent/Guardian Newsletter



Week beginning 30 November 2020

Week A

E-Safety - Live video conferencing

As with any other form of online socialising, the behaviour of the users play a big part in how safe live video calls are. Cyberbullying, giving away personal information, inappropriate images or messages and peer pressure are universal issues that can pose a risk on any service.

Talk to your child about their internet use and take an interest in why and how they are going to use Video conferencing apps such as Discord, Google Meet, instagram live or Zoom. You could create some rules to help set out boundaries and expectations, but also give them the confidence to talk to you about any issue they come across online, so that you can help.

Top tips for Carers and Parents

1. If students are using apps like Zoom, Discord, facebook live, instagram live or google meet outside of educational purposes, discuss who they will chat with and who can join the chat. Are there people that you do not want them to talk to? For example, are friends of friends allowed? Set out your expectations before they use it.
2. Discuss when, where, and for how long they will use the app. Agree together on an acceptable time limit and place that they can use it. You could also ask that they use it in a shared family space, or in their bedroom with the door open. Try to come to a compromise and remember that young people want their privacy too.
3. Set some ground rules about behaviour. Different topics of conversation or images appropriate for different groups, i.e. family, close friends and other acquaintances. Talk together about what things are appropriate before any calls. You may want to discuss using a virtual background if they don't want to show where they are.
4. Remind your child to speak with you if anything happens that upsets them, and that they can end or leave a call if they are uncomfortable with it.

If anything worrying or upsetting happens to your child online, Please report it to the CEOP website - <https://www.ceop.police.uk/ceop-reporting>

Christmas Jumper Day

Friday 11th December is Christmas Jumper Day in aid of Save the Children. Normal school uniform must be worn but we invite students to wear a Christmas Jumper and donate £1 to Save the Children. Obviously, students may already have a Christmas jumper that they can wear but, alternatively, they may wish to decorate an ordinary jumper to make it look 'Christmassy'.

Please be aware that, due to the current situation, we are not collecting money in school. Instead, please click the link below to donate £1 directly to Save the Children.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/cjd200024977>

We look forward to seeing all the wonderful Christmas creations on 11th December.

December school break – providing food for children who receive benefits-related free school meals

Kent County Council is pleased to announce that they will be funding FSM vouchers over the December Christmas break to all families in receipt of benefits-related free school meals.

The easiest way of achieving universal coverage, is for the schools to issue these vouchers in the same way that they have for students who have been absent from school. Dane Court will therefore issue £30 worth of vouchers per student to all eligible families on 21st December 2020.

Scholastic Book Fair

We are postponing the Scholastic book fair and will reschedule it in the new year. Any vouchers already bought can be used then.

Young Writers competition

Please see the link for the Young Writers competition Miss Holland (Teacher of English) thought it would be a good opportunity for students to get creative considering everything with covid! This is a poetry competition and the deadline is the 18th December.

<https://www.youngwriters.co.uk/competitions>

Flu Vaccination for Year 7 Pupils Thursday 3 December

The school nursing team will be in school this Thursday 3 December to administer the nasal flu vaccination to year 7 pupils. They are aware that a lot of the year 7 pupils are isolating at present and will be unable to attend. The nursing team will arrange another date as soon as possible for the pupils that will miss the vaccine on Thursday.

Self-isolating/absent Students

Teachers will be aiming to replicate the school day while your child is not attending school (unless the member of staff is unwell). Work will be delivered through a range of mediums which could be a series of google slides with detailed resources and activities, a live streamed lesson, or pre-recorded lessons. Recordings of the lesson will usually be posted subsequently. This will all be delivered through google classroom. Please contact the Year Leader or me if you have any queries or questions regarding this:

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Rachel Rolls

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