



**Dane Court Grammar School  
Parent/Guardian Newsletter**



**04 December 2020**

**Week A**

Dear Parent/Guardian, please find below all the relevant events and notices for the upcoming week.

Over the past term we have been utilising google classroom for students' work, both for remote learning and when students are in school. This has been proving very effective. Parents should be alerted when work is set via email and can keep track of what work is being allocated. The live streamed lessons have been a success with students able to communicate via the chat facility (which allows us to monitor who is contributing and the students can see the names of who is talking), lessons to be recorded and then posted on the classroom for those not in school. We intend to continue our use of google classroom as a key delivery method for the foreseeable future.

Thank you to parents and students for their embracing of this process and the support you have given the school.

If you have any concerns regarding this please contact:

[sunderland@danecourt.kent.sch.uk](mailto:sunderland@danecourt.kent.sch.uk)

or [rolls@danecourt.kent.sch.uk](mailto:rolls@danecourt.kent.sch.uk)

Rachel Rolls

Rachel Rolls

Assistant Head Teacher for Raising Achievement

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

Dane Court Grammar School

**Language learning FAQ of the week.**

**My son/daughter says that she/he doesn't feel that she/he is any good at languages. Why should she/he continue?**

In today's world, learning a foreign language should be seen as an essential life skill, just like driving perhaps, or ICT skills. It is always something that you would want to write on your CV. It says something about the individual's outlook; that s/he is flexible, adaptable and open to new challenges.

There are two key things that make language learning essential rather than optional:

Firstly, 75% of the world's population speaks no English

Secondly, most young people who are non-native English speakers make sure they learn it. This means that English is no longer a significant advantage to any British person entering the job market. If all those competing for the better jobs in a country can speak English, then those with other languages will have the edge.

**The languages team.**

## **GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition year 11 students**

We have decided to postpone the NEA2 practical exam scheduled to take place on 8th December, mainly due to social distancing restrictions and periods of self isolation. We will inform you of the new date once it has been decided but this will be in the New Year. In the meantime please encourage your son/daughter to continue with the writing up of their technical skills, making a decision regarding their 2 final dishes and creating a time plan. The food teachers are available every lesson, either via a live link in Google Classroom, by email or in the classroom if students and staff are in school. Thank you for your continuing support.

## **Christmas Jumper Day**

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup> December.

## **Tuesday 8th December - Periods 1, 2 and 3: Year 12 IBCP Canterbury Christ Church University 'Vision' Event**

All Year 12 IBCP students will be attending talks from Canterbury Christ Church University, providing a taster of university life and study opportunities. There will be time for students to ask student ambassadors questions at the end of the morning.

Attendance is mandatory.

Any questions please contact Mrs Linton in the Sixth Form Office.

## **Self-isolation and COVID Test Results**

- If you are awaiting test results for your child or a member of your family, please let us know when you have received them so that we know when to expect your child back in school.
- If your child is currently isolating due to contact with a positive case please keep us informed if they become unwell or they will be having a test for Covid 19, even if you feel that they have not been in school during their infectious period.
- Finally, could we ask that if your child receives a positive test result, you avoid posting anything on social media until we have been able to establish the close contacts in school and informed parents.

## E-Safety - Games Consoles

With the recent release of the new gaming consoles combined with the imminence of Christmas, parents and children alike are likely to experience a new set of online opportunities with their devices.

This guide should help parents and carers use their children's new games console safely and responsibly.

### Console uses

The main use for a console is to play games, however they can also be used for the following;

- Talking online with friends in a party
- Talking to other players or strangers
- Streaming films, TV programmes, Youtube, Twitch, netflix or other services
- Streaming music
- Browsing the internet
- Sharing and editing in game footage

### Tips for Parents

1. If you are worried about what children could access on the device you could have it set up in a communal area such as a living room rather than their bedroom.
2. Use parental controls to restrict usage, purchases, and internet safety
3. Discuss children's attitudes online and how everything could be recorded by someone else. This could then be used as evidence for banning players from games and services.
4. Advise them to talk to you if something upsetting happens in a game or chat
5. Check the rating of games to make sure they are suitable for the audience. E.g. It would not be appropriate for a 16 year old to play a PEGI 16 rated game in front of a 5 year old sibling.

**Chatter is Dane Court's very own student newspaper. It is usually published at least 3 times a year.**

Chatter is designed and created by all students from Year 7 through to 6th Form with supervision & input from members of staff across the school.

**DCGS Chatter**  
15 January 2018

### Editorial Team of the Year!

Congratulations to our DCGS Chatter champions!

The DCGS Chatter team have won the award for Editorial Team of the Year at the **First News School Newspaper of the Year Awards 2018**.

DCGS Chatter, founded in January 2008, can only be found online on the Dane Court website, and has had over **12,000 downloads** to date. Content is produced by the Chatter editorial team, currently numbering 25, and it is this diverse group who produce the engaging content each term. The Chatter team was described as, "one very big, happy family", and it is their team spirit and passion to read from which has helped them win this national award.

First News is a national newspaper for children, which, since starting in 2006, has a readership of over 2 million online and in print.

We are all so very proud and would like to thank our sponsors, the Dane Court Parents' Association, for all their support.

**EDITORIAL TEAM OF THE YEAR DCGS CHATTER**

To Chatter: a BIG Cheerful Sparrows, "Thank you".

Dear DCGS Chatter at Dane Court Grammar School  
15 June 2019

Thank you so very much for your generous make and donation of £120.35 to The Cheerful Sparrows 'Thank You' Charity. Your medals will go towards helping those in Need who are in need, including children, families and those in The Cheerful Sparrows 'Words of the Queen' Hospital.

Best wishes  
Sara Williams  
Treasurer The Cheerful Sparrows 'Thank You' Charity

**Cheerful Sparrows**

Students can write about anything within reason, they can talk about what you have done in school, outside clubs you may be part of, hobbies or interests.

We are looking for new members to join the Chatter team, with fresh ideas and to help as little or as much as they can.

If your child is not confident in writing but perhaps they have an eye for detail, inspiring ideas or could be good at editing their contribution would also be invaluable. Perhaps they would like to do a joke or puzzle page? Maybe a quick tips article or reviews on places they have visited or similar.

What do our Chatter team say:

“We like having the social aspect of being part of a team.”

“Great for further development of my creative writing skills, punctuation & grammar practice but made fun.”

“The relaxed environment that has no limits or expectations of what you can do to be involved.”

“It’s a great feeling of achievement when seeing the final finished edition and being proud & able to say, I was part of that!’

If your child would like to get involved then please ask them to talk to their form mentor or head of year, where they will be able to get further details on how to join this fantastic team!

Many thanks Mrs Cronin & the Chatter team.