



17<sup>th</sup> July 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians

With the end of term fast approaching, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the warm welcome I have received over the last few weeks. I have greatly enjoyed my first term here at Dane Court. It has been a real pleasure meeting the students, including those who will join us in Years 7 and 12 in September, staff, parents/carers and governors. As always, Term 6 has been a busy and enjoyable term. Here are just a few of the highlights.

## IB results

Last week our Year 13 students celebrated some stunning IB results. Once again the average points score for the IB Diploma (IBDP) exceeded 33 points. To put this in context, 33 points is equivalent to A and B grades at A level, and provides access to some of the best universities in the UK and across the world. As a consequence of this excellent performance, the vast majority of students have already secured their first choice university place or career-related placement. 100% of students following the IB Careers-related Programme (IBCP) passed the full programme and are now moving on to follow vocational or academic university courses or high level apprenticeships.

There were some terrific individual performances on both the IBDP and IBCP and, in the autumn, students will be taking up places at top universities, including Oxford, Durham and Edinburgh. We've put some further details of these fantastic results on the school website: <http://danecourt.kent.sch.uk/sixth-form-news/949-ib-results-2019>

We now look forward to the GCSE results for Year 11 students. Results will be issued on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> August, followed by Sixth Form enrolment on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> August.

## Bugsy Malone

The four-night run of 'Bugsy Malone' was a real triumph. The theatre was packed for each show and both casts gave wonderful performances. The stars of the stage were ably supported by the professional-standard musicians and an army of volunteers, including set artists, and the technical and front-of-house teams. The whole show was driven and directed brilliantly by Mr Stanley, Mrs Radley and Ms Fox.

## Sports Day

The legendary Dane Court Sports Day was a great success, with some superstar individual performances. Every single student was involved and I was struck by the enthusiasm of the competitors as well as the sporting and supportive atmosphere throughout the day.

## Cultural Week

As I write, students are enjoying a range of educational visits and enrichment activities as part of our Cultural Week. A team of brilliant Sixth Form students has played a leading role in the design of the week and students have been enjoying a range of activities based on literature, art, drama, music, film and sport from around the world. Meanwhile, our Year 12 students have been working on their Group 4 IB Science projects, this year on the theme of *Health*.

### Staffing update

This summer, we say goodbye to a number of members of staff who are sadly leaving Dane Court. Whilst it is always sad when teachers and members of the support team leave the school, they will be remembered with great fondness. Leaving us this summer for opportunities at other schools, promotion, re-location or retirement are:

- Mrs A Walsh – Mrs Walsh joined us in 1990 and was our Head of English for many years.
- Mr A Wood – Mr Wood has been an Assistant Headteacher, with responsibility for the curriculum and assessment, and taught in the Physics department since 2008.
- Mrs H Barker – Mrs Barker has worked with us for 10 years as a cover supervisor.
- Mrs N Sotiri – Mrs Sotiri has taught languages here since 2010.
- Mrs T Wood – Mrs Wood has co-led the Science department and been subject leader for Chemistry; she joined Dane Court in 2011.
- Mr T Blackman – Mr Blackman has taught History here since September 2018.
- Mrs S Stephens – Mrs Stephens has worked as a teaching assistant and cover supervisor since September 2018.

I would like to thank these valued colleagues for all their hard work and wish them the very best of luck in their new ventures.

We are pleased to announce that the following teachers have been promoted within the school and will take up their new leadership roles in September:

- Miss G Bolt – Head of PE
- Mrs E Channing – Head of Tallinn House
- Mr B Forward – Assistant Headteacher: Curriculum and Assessment
- Mrs A Haslam – Reading and Literacy Leader
- Mrs D Loveday – Rewards Leader
- Miss R Neve – Pupil Premium Strategy Leader
- Mr J Rye – Leader of CAS and Extended Essay
- Mr I Wallace – Assistant Headteacher: Behaviour and Attitudes
- Mr L Wheeler – Head of Sorrento House
- Mr A White – Head of Neuchatel House

In September, we will welcome several new teachers and members of the support team to the Dane Court family:

- Mr J Argyrides – PE
- Miss E Baylis – History
- Mr L Coles – PE Assistant
- Mrs P Del Rio Fernandez – Spanish Assistant
- Miss V Gadd – Teaching Assistant
- Mr M Green – Head of Chemistry
- Mr J Hatcher – Science
- Mr A Holden – PE Assistant
- Miss C Howard – French and Spanish
- Miss R Koster – English

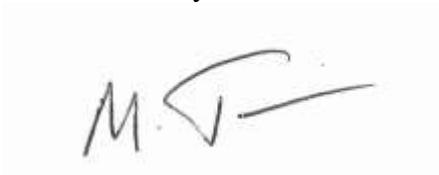
- Miss J McDowell – French Assistant
- Mrs K Naylor – Food Technology
- Mr O Morris – Cover Supervisor
- Mrs C Roe – Sixth Form Administrator

End of term arrangements

As the term draws to a close, I would like to remind you that on the last day of term – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July – school will end at 1:05pm.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your support during this academic year and I wish everyone a happy, restful and well-earned summer holiday. I look forward to welcoming students back to school on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Jones', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mr M Jones  
Head of School