

Weekly Parent/Guardian Newsletter

Week B

12 September 2022



Dear Parent/Guardian,

Firstly, we would like to welcome everyone back to another fun packed year at Dane Court Grammar School. There will be events and extra-curricular activities taking place through out the year to be enjoyed and participated in by all our students!

We would also like to welcome our new students across the years! With our three school values of being caring, open minded and principled, leading our teaching and education practises we will continue to support our students in their everyday lives and help them achieve their goals!

As always, please find below weekly information that will help keep you and your family up to date with events and changes at Dane Court Grammar School.

Access to the School Site from Start of Autumn Term

To improve security and ensure the safety of our school community we are changing the access to the school site. Parents will no longer be able to drive into school to pick up or drop off students (unless you need to do so in an emergency or have a site access card). If your child has a temporary disability such as a broken leg, you can of course use the intercom system to be given access to the site within office hours.

There is a set of automatic gates just inside our main school gates which, like all the other school gates, will only be opened via an intercom to the main school office during school hours.

If you bring students to school by car, please drop them in a quiet side street and do not park across the yellow hatching as this endangers students walking or cycling into school.

Thank you

Great start, year 7!

Congratulations to all our year 7 students who have made a confident and enthusiastic start to their time at Dane Court. Parents of year 7 students - Please note that, from Monday 12 September 2022, year 7 students will finish school at the standard time of 3:20pm. They can leave the site through either of the main gates, one in Broadstairs Road and one in Fairfield Road.

Pupil Premium message

If your child is in receipt of pupil premium (in year 7-11) and you have difficulty providing a laptop or chromebook, we may be able to support you. Please email me to discuss: richards@danecourt.kent.sch.uk

Kind regards,

Rachel Richards (Assistant Head)

Behaviour & Attitudes

We were delighted with the behaviour and general conduct of the students last week; there was a real sense of focus and engagement in lessons around the school, which was great to see.

One area we would like to continue to improve is uniform and we're asking for your ongoing support as parents/carers to ensure that your child is in the correct uniform for the school day.

As a school, we are continuing our work to ensure that the cost of uniform is reasonable and secures the best value for money (in line with DfE guidance). We are also looking at how we can better support families and with this in mind, we will continue to make sure that second-hand uniform is routinely available and that any additional support we're made aware of is advertised on our school website, within the 'Family Support' section. With regards to students' uniform, particular areas we'd like to address are jewellery and shoes:

Jewellery

One set of studs in ears (flat or rounded only). All other piercings **MUST** be clear studs. Any other jewellery to be discreet. In the event that a student has a visible body piercing which can't be removed, it must be covered with a suitable plaster.

Shoes

Trainers that are fabric or with noticeable logos are not acceptable.

The full uniform policy can be found on the school website.

Thank you in advance for your continued support.

Kind regards,

Mr Wakeley (Assistant Headteacher: Behaviour & Attitudes)

Bus route updates

As part of this review of the local bus network in the Thanet area, some services operated by Stagecoach on a commercial basis will be discontinued. This may affect students travelling to and from school. Where we've had to reduce services (as an absolute last resort), we have provided alternative suggestions outlined below:

Hartsdown Academy, King Etherlbert School

- The route **932** bus at 0825 from Margate to Minnis Bay will no longer operate. Please use the 0823 route 932 bus from Margate which has spare capacity.
- The 0801 route **932** bus from Dane Valley will also run along Maynard Avenue in order to serve Garlinge Primary School.
- The 1505 route **932** bus from Hartsdown Academy to Margate will no longer operate. Please use the route 32 service as an alternative.

Royal Harbour Academy (Newlands Lane), Dane Court Grammar School

- The 0728 route **933** bus from Cliftonville to Dane Court will no longer operate. Please use the Loop, 946 or 960 service instead.

Hartsdown Academy, King Etherlbert School, Dane Court Grammar School, St George's School

- The **943** bus will be rerouted to avoid reversing at St. Nicholas, The Oaks.

Royal Harbour Academy, St George's School

- The route **946** bus will be rerouted to serve St Lawrence, Newington Road, The Royal Harbour Academy, Dane Court and St George's School to replace part of route 933.

Dane Court Grammar School, St George's School

- The **948** bus at 0740 from Cliftonville will be renumbered route 960.
- The **949** bus at 0742 from St Peters Railway Bridge will be renumber route 960 and depart St. Peter's Railway Bridge at 0732, serving Kingsgate, Northdown Park, Cliftonville, Dane Valley, Laleham Corner, Margate, St George's School and Dane Court School.
- The **948** bus at 1535 from Dane Court will no longer operate. Instead, please use the 1535 route 960 bus that will be rerouted to St. Peters, Kingsgate, Northdown Park, Cliftonville (The Wheatsheaf), Dane Valley, Warwick Road and Margate.

Ramsgate schools – Chatham and Clarendon House Grammar Schools

- The **989** bus will no longer operate. Please use the Loop and 8/8A service instead. From the same date there will also be some changes affecting other routes and services in the area. These are outlined in detail on our webpage here> <https://www.stagecoachbus.com/promos-and-offers/south-east/service-changes-in-the-thanet-area>

Stagecoach will continue to operate the current timetables as normal on schooldays up to and including the last day of term (Friday 22 July).

We will communicate this news through our website and social media, but any assistance you can provide in pushing the message to students and parents who may be affected will be a great help.

With many thanks

Matthew Maytum

Communications Manager

Stagecoach South East

KS3 & 4 PSHE/SRE Curriculum Term 1

Our PSHE curriculum follows the DfE guidance and uses information from the PSHE Association as well as other affiliated sources. Please feel free to contact me, Miss Holland Head of PSHE, if you have any queries or questions.

Year 7

Introduction to the new NCFE Qualification.

LO1 Understand how I manage influences on my relationships

LO2 Understand how respect impacts on relationships

LO3 Understand that the choices I make affect my relationships, health and future

LO4 Understand how to be healthy

LO5 Understand what can make a relationship healthy or unhealthy

LO6 Understand the range of changes which are preparing me for adulthood

Year 8

Medicinal and recreational drugs

How to use over the counter and prescription medications safely

How to assess the risks of alcohol, tobacco, nicotine and e-cigarettes

How to manage influences in relation to substance use

The over-consumption of energy drinks

The relationship between habit and dependence

How to recognise and promote positive social norms and attitudes

Year 9

How to distinguish between healthy and unhealthy friendships

How to assess risk and manage online influences

About 'groupthink' and how it affects behaviour

How to recognise passive, aggressive and assertive behaviour, and How to communicate assertively

To manage risk in relation to gangs

About the legal and physical risks of carrying a knife

About positive social norms in relation to drug and alcohol use

About legal and health risks in relation to drug and alcohol use, including addiction and dependence

Year 10

How to manage challenges during adolescence

How to reframe negative thinking

Strategies to promote mental health and emotional wellbeing

About the signs of emotional or mental ill-health

How to access support and treatment

About the portrayal of mental health in the media

How to challenge stigma, stereotypes and misinformation

Year 11

Preparing for applications
Identifying personal skills
SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities & threat) analysis
Writing personal statement
Preparing for interviews- school & employment

Emotional Wellbeing Practitioners at Dane Court Grammar School

Dane Court Grammar school welcomes the Emotional Wellbeing Team back for another year - Sarah Johnson and Emily Barker are Emotional Wellbeing Practitioners who work within our school, and are hoping to get to know you and your child over the coming weeks and months, offering support when needed and finding out your ideas about how we can all work together to support the emotional wellbeing and mental health of students at Dane Court Grammar School. Emotional Wellbeing Practitioners (EWPs) are part of a new government initiative that aims to promote good emotional wellbeing and mental health through supporting children and their families through prevention, early intervention and education. There are a number of different ways we may be able to support your child within school such as individual targeted support, student groups and workshops. We support young people who are experiencing mild to moderate difficulties with worry, anxiety, low mood, phobias, or sleep difficulties. We also offer parent groups and online workshops, and support the school to develop a 'whole school approach' to emotional wellbeing and mental health. We hope this information was useful, and we look forward to working with Dane Court Grammar School. If you would like further information about our service, please speak to the Mental Health Lead – Mrs Holmes or Mrs Ives.

NHS Emotional Wellbeing Practitioner Team Workshops

Please see the latest offer for parents for workshops offered through the NHS Emotional Wellbeing Practitioner Team. Please let me know on holmes@danecourt.kent.sch.uk if you would like to attend a workshop and I will send you the relevant link.

In addition, don't forget that our school website is a good source of initial support should you have any worries or concerns about your child's wellbeing or mental health and you would like some guidance.

<https://danecourt.kent.sch.uk/parents8/wellbeing-and-mental-health>

Young Writers Competition

Here is a chance to enter a Young Writers Competition and have your work published in a real book:

<https://www.youngwriters.co.uk/competitions/all-ages/showcase-22?view=ind>

Winning entries win £100 and a trophy!

Good luck, Mrs Finlay

2nd hand uniform shop

The 2nd hand uniform shop will be open on the first Tuesday of the month 3pm till 4pm in the main school entrance. There will also be a rail of uniform at the boot fair on September 10th.

If you are able to help out at our 2nd hand uniform shop on the first Tuesday of the month 3pm till 4pm, then please email the school business manager -Anne Syred syred@danecourt.kent.sch.uk. You don't need to commit to every month - any help would be appreciated.

Thank you

Career Guides

Free careers guides from www.successatschool.org

Register for your free guides to university, apprenticeships and careers in STEM [here](#).

English National Swimmer!

During the first week of August, Ivy H. swam at the English National Championships held at Ponds Forge Sheffield. She swam in the 14 Year Old 400m Individual Medley and won, so she is now the English Champion. She adds this title to the others that she currently holds, which are the Kent County Champion and South East Regional Champion for the 200m Butterfly.



Lost Property

We have a few unnamed items in our lost property already this term. They include a couple of blazers, jewellery, a pencil case, keys and an empty AirPods case. Please remember to name any items your child brings into school to help us quickly return any lost items. Photos of the easily identified items are set out below. If you or your child recognise any of them, or think that the items of unnamed uniform may belong to your child, please do contact the office on 01843 864941 to arrange collection as soon as possible.

Many thanks, Office Team



THE END

