

## Weekly Parent/Guardian Newsletter

Week B

30 September 2022



Dear Parent/Guardian,

Please see relevant information listed below that may offer support for your family, some information is new and some information has been held over from last week's newsletter.

Next Week's School Events	
Date	Event
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October	Year 10 Prize Giving P5
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> October	-
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> October	-
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 12 visit to St Hugh's, Oxford University
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 8-13 school photos

### **Sporting Events at Dane Court**

As you know we are very proud of our sporting achievements and commitment to our extra curricular sports activities at DCGS.

It is with regret that we are not able to allow parents on site to watch matches, during school time and after school time. This is because we have a number of extra lessons after school and a large pupil presence on site until 4.30. Therefore, we have taken the decision that safeguarding our students has to take absolute precedence.

Thank you for your understanding,

SLT.

Rachel Richards

### **Access to the School Site from Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September**

To improve security and ensure the safety of our school community we have changed 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). This also applies to any after school event that your child may participate in, including after school clubs and detentions. 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

## School Photographs

The photographers will be in school on Friday 7 October to take individual portraits of the students in Years 8,9,10,11 and 13 and sibling groups. We have booked the services of “Tempest” and hope that you will be pleased with the quality of photographs you receive. This year, you will again have the option of ordering and paying for your chosen photographs online.

Thank you

## Train Strike Dates next week

There will be train strikes on possibly the **5<sup>th</sup> & 8th October 2022**. We are aware that students may have difficulty getting to school in the mornings if they travel by train. We suggest families try to make other arrangements for getting to school on these dates where possible.

National Rail say: *“The rail industry is working hard to minimise the effect that this will have on our services but it is inevitable that services will be cancelled or severely disrupted. It is likely that there will be a very limited service on these days with no services at all on some routes.”*

## Year 11 parents & carers,

I am writing to invite you to attend our International Baccalaureate Information Evening on Wednesday 12th October 2022 from 5pm - 6pm, with a talk commencing in the Theatre at 5pm. The evening will provide you with the opportunity to learn more about our IB programmes and the destinations these present to our students. There will also be the opportunity to ask any questions you may have, in a less formal setting than our open evening.

We are incredibly proud of our IB curriculum offer at Dane Court Sixth Form. In their recent inspection of our school, OFSTED rated this provision as ‘Outstanding’. The IB Diploma Programme and the IB Careers Related Programme ensured 80% of our Year 13 cohort of 2022 secured their university places, 35% of which were at Russell Group universities, and provided 10% of students (17) with the knowledge and skills necessary to earn an excellent range of degree-level and other apprenticeships in fields such as accountancy, engineering and journalism.

We are keen to ensure that these wonderful opportunities are also presented to your child through their IB study at Dane Court and so look forward to welcoming you into the school to learn how this is achieved.

Chris Pleasant (Head of Sixth Form)

## 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](mailto:richards@danecourt.kent.sch.uk)

Rachel Richards (Assistant Head)

## Lunchtime Student Fair

Year 9 students are organising a Fair at lunchtime on Friday 21 October to raise money for the Salvation Army. There will be a range of stalls and activities and we welcome any donations for the raffle. If you have any books, games, stationery, toiletries or anything else suitable please could you give this to your child to bring into school. There will be a collection box in the Sorrento Office. Donations by Wed 19 October please. Thank you in advance for your support. The Year 9 Mentor Team.

## Apprenticeships Parent Pack - September 2022

An apprenticeship is a paid job where the employee learns and gains valuable experiences. These parent packs written by the government keep parents and carers up to date with this very valuable and fast moving area of education and training. In September's edition is information about a new Level 7 Doctor's apprenticeship program, due to be launched in September 2023.

**What are apprenticeships? To find out more visit [Amazing Apprenticeships](#)**

Alongside on-the-job training, apprentices spend at least 20% of their working hours completing classroom-based learning with a college, university or training provider which leads to a nationally recognised qualification.

An apprenticeship includes:

- paid employment with holiday leave
- hands-on-experience in a sector/role of interest
- at least 20% off-the-job training
- formal assessment which leads to a nationally recognised qualification

**Mrs Linton**

## **Correct PE kit**

It has come to our attention that many students do not have the correct PE kit following the government guidelines that changed allowed plain versions of the same kit.

Leggings - must be plain black if not the Dane Court ones and have no stripes or big logos on them. Plain black must not be wet look leggings or leather look leggings, the only leggings we accept are sports ones.

-For all sports other than football and rugby, white sport socks should be worn. When participating in football and rugby long black socks should be worn.

-Black shorts cannot be tight fitting or hot pants or have stripes or big logos on them.

-Black hooded jumpers cannot be cropped, they must be full length.

-If there are any new piercing students must come in with a note stating when the jewellery can be removed and they must bring their own tape to cover it up.

Many thanks for your support with this

Miss Bolt

## **From the Food department:**

### **A BUSY START TO TERM**

It's been a busy start to term in the Food department with year 13 conducting their IA investigations for IB Food science and technology. Some of these experiments will be recreated at our sixth form open evening on 23rd November - please pop along to find out more about our IB food course then. Meanwhile year 11 have commenced their NEA investigations into the functional and chemical properties of ingredients in sauces, choux pastry and pasta, and year 10 have been practicing with a mock NEA on enzymic browning.

In KS3 - these pictures show year 8 students working collaboratively to cook and taste potatoes cooked in four different ways as a part of their learning about cooking methods and methods of heat transfer.



## **SPARE FOOD CONTAINERS - A PLEA**

A plea from the food department - we are now out of spare containers to lend to students to take home the food they have made at school. We ask that when your child is cooking that they also bring in a suitable container to take their food home in. Also - if you have any spare old tubs that we could make use of these are always very welcome. Suitable containers can be - old ice cream tubs, tupperware, takeaway boxes, foil trays, large yogurt tubs etc. We'd like to thank parents for your ongoing support - it really does make a difference!

### **PP FUNDING FOR INGREDIENTS**

Lastly - did you know that if your child is eligible for PP funding, we are able to help to provide ingredients for them to cook with. Please get in touch with Mrs Edmondson or Mrs Leese to make arrangements for this to happen if you will find supplying ingredients difficult.

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

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

## NHS Emotional Wellbeing Practitioner Team Workshops

We are inviting all parents to join online workshops that are being run by our team over the next few months. These workshops offer information around key topics to help understand what is going on for your child, and strategies to support them. We know that it has been an especially difficult over the past couple of years, and we want to ensure that parents feel equipped to support their child. These workshops run monthly on rotation and cover: Understanding ADHD, Understanding Autism, understanding your child's behaviour, and supporting your child with worries and fears.

The next workshop covers the topic of "Understanding Autism" and is on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2022 at 6-7.30pm. Please see the attached poster for further details including the Microsoft Teams link to access the workshop.

**Please be aware the link in the poster is inactive, so to join the workshop please mentioned in the poster please [click here](#) + ctrl**

## Pastoral Care Message

Please be aware there is a supply of free sanitary products in the Pastoral Support Office if any young person should need them.

## Scholastic Book Fair

We will be running a Scholastic Book Fair in the library from Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September to Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October. There will be a fantastic selection of contemporary YA books, posters and stationery to choose from. And there will be a chance to win £5 vouchers with every purchase! The fair will be open at break and lunchtimes and during year 7-9 library lessons. Please bring in cash to spend at the fair, but if you would prefer to buy gift vouchers in advance the link is here:

<https://shop.scholastic.co.uk/book-fair-gift-vouchers>

Our school account number is: **17302894**

Please make sure that you print off the book fair vouchers and bring them to the fair. The more books sold the more free books we will be able to get for the library. Many thanks for your support.

## 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. 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](mailto:syred@danecourt.kent.sch.uk). You don't need to commit to every month - any help would be appreciated.

Thank you



**NELFT NHS**  
NHS Foundation Trust

**Online Parent Workshops**

Aimed at parents of children in primary school and year 7

**Understanding Autism in Children**  
6-7.30pm Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October

Do you have **questions about Autism?** Maybe your child has **received a diagnosis**. Would you like to come and **meet with other parents and carers** and learn about ways to **support your child?**

You are invited to a **workshop about understanding symptoms of Autism**. We also discuss **helpful strategies that you can use at home** to help support your child.

If you would like to join, please **ctrl + click the link below:**  
[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Our workshops are held on Microsoft Teams. You can create an account for free. You will need access to the internet. If you have any questions please speak to your child's school.

We look forward to meeting you.

[www.nelft.nhs.uk](http://www.nelft.nhs.uk)

## Extra Curricular Clubs

Day	Name of club	When	Where	Year group
<b>Monday</b>				
	Football	After school	Field/Hardcourt	All
	Chatter	1.45-2.15pm	Library	All
	Physics drop in	3.30 4pm	D12	All
	Choir	After school	H7	All
<b>Tuesday</b>				
	Yoga Club	3.30-4.30	Studio	Yr12-13
	Ukulele Club	lunchtime	H7	All
	Art club	3:20 - 4:30	ART	Yr7-9
	Junior Book Club - week B	1.45 - 2.15	Library	Yr7 & 8
	Orchestra not starting till 4.10.22	3.30-4.30	H7	All
<b>Wednesday</b>				
	Hockey	3.30pm - 4.25pm	Hard Court	All
	Dance	3.45pm -4.25	Activity Studio	All KS
	From term 2 - DofE			Yr12
	Film club - week B	After school	M4	Yr12/13
	Theatre Night	After school	Theatre	Yr13
<b>Thursday</b>				
	Manga Drawing	1:45 - 2:15	L8	All
	Drama & Shakespeare	Thursday 3.30-4.30	H1	7-10
	Chess Club	3.30 - 4.30pm	D2	All
	Dungeons & Dragons	3.20 - 4.20	Library	All
<b>Friday</b>				
	Chatter	1.45-2.15pm	Library	All

## Parent's Association Quiz Night

The next PA Quiz Night is being held in the Theatre on Friday 25th November with doors opening at 7pm for a 7.30pm start. Tickets are £7 for an adult and £3 per child, this includes a ploughman's supper but you will need to bring your own drinks (glasses will be provided). You can have a team of up to eight people on a table. To book please contact Lois Gadd by 4pm on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November at the latest.

Many thanks, Lois Gadd – [gadd@danecourt.kent.sch.uk](mailto:gadd@danecourt.kent.sch.uk)

## National Poetry Day

On Thursday 6th October it is National Poetry Day, and we are holding a poetry competition for the forthcoming Chatter edition. The theme is 'current affairs', and the closing date is Monday 17th October. Here is a chance to be published in Chatter and the winner will receive a £15 Amazon voucher!

Please send your entries to [finlay@danecourt.kent.sch.uk](mailto:finlay@danecourt.kent.sch.uk) or [rcronin@danecourt.kent.sch.uk](mailto:rcronin@danecourt.kent.sch.uk)

## DOfE Silver award

**Thursday 6th October at 3.30-4.00pm D10**-introduction to DOfE Silver award-If your Year 12 child wants to do Silver DOfE award, they MUST attend this session-There will be an alternative session on Friday 7th October at 3.30pm in D10 for those who are unable to attend due to the Oxford University trip on Thursday.

Mrs Anne Marie Whelan DOfE manager and coordinator

## Musical Messages

Congratulations to Irene D. (year 8) for getting into the prestigious National Youth Orchestra! This is an incredible achievement at such a young age and we wish her the best of luck!

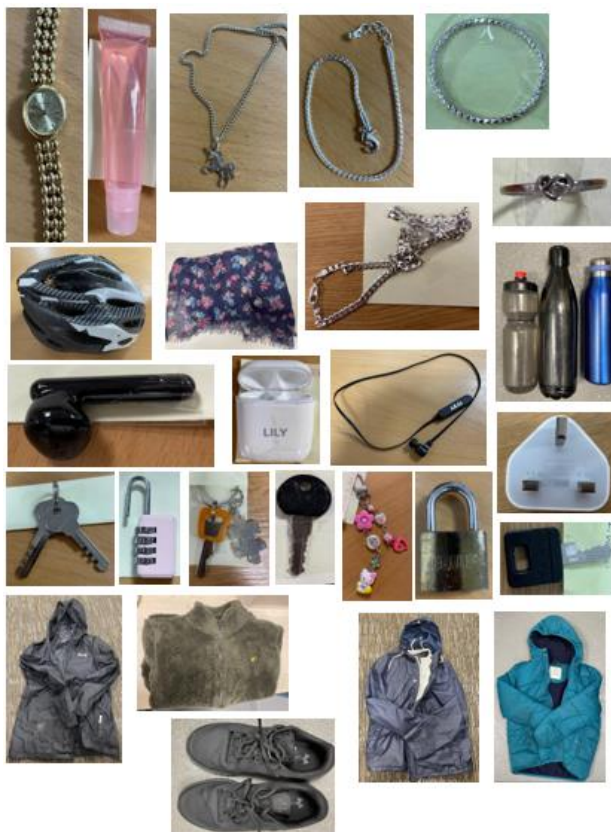
A few events to be aware of:

- Orchestra starts on Tuesday 4 October after school 3:30-4:30pm
- Ukulele club is on Tuesday lunchtimes in H8- everyone welcome (we have ukes to borrow)
- Choir is on Mondays 3:30-4:30pm - everyone welcome
- Violin Ensemble Wednesdays 3:30-4:30pm - invite only

## Lost Property

We have a few unnamed items in our lost property already this term. They include a couple of blazers, PE kit, shoes, jewellery, keys/keyrings/padlocks, water bottles, coats, a scarf, a cycle helmet, headphones, plug 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 by you or your child as soon as possible.

Many thanks, Office Team



**THE END**

