

## Weekly Parent/Guardian Newsletter

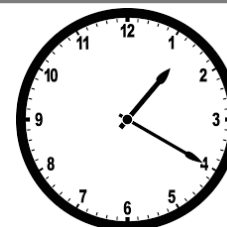
Week B

14 October 2022



# Early School Closure

## 18.10.22!



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 17 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 11&12 sport trip to Canterbury Christ Church
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> October	Early School Closure – 1.20pm
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> October	Yr6 Open Day and Evening
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	Drama/Music trip to Les Miserable
Friday 21 <sup>th</sup> October	

### Early Closure – Tuesday 18 October 2022

Our Year 6 Open Day this year is on Wednesday 19 October. As our preparations get under way, I am writing to let you know school will finish at 1.20pm on Tuesday 18 October to allow our teaching staff to prepare for the event. The timetable for the day will be altered so that students can have lunch before they leave school. Buses will run at their usual times. We will have limited provision in the school for students who are unable to go home early. If you would like your child to remain in school until 3.20pm, please e-mail Mrs Ives at [ives@danecourt.kent.sch.uk](mailto:ives@danecourt.kent.sch.uk). We hope the term is progressing well for your child. As ever, if you have any questions or concerns regarding their education do contact us here at school.

### Year 6 Open Day

As you may be aware, we are holding our annual Year 6 Open Day event on Wednesday 19th October 2022. So that we can prepare for the day, school will finish early (at 1.20 pm) on Tuesday 18th October. Please refer to Mr Jones' letter for more details. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our Sixth Form students for their guiding during the day and throughout the evening on 19th October, and their parents and carers for their support. I would also like to thank all the students who will be coming into school in the evening, to help out in different departments whilst the tours are taking place and extend my thanks also to their parents for supporting this important school event. As always, your help and commitment to the school is much appreciated.

### Half term dates

Just a note to confirm our half term dates begin on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2022 and students return to school on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022.

### Bicycle Safety at School

Please be aware that the Fairfield Road bicycle shed is **NOT a safe place to leave a bike overnight**. If students need to leave a bicycle overnight for whatever reason or even whilst at an after school club, the bicycle needs to be put in the main bicycle shed when they first arrive at school to save wheeling it through the school. The bicycle cage at the front of the school is locked overnight, but please also ensure your child's bicycle has a lock and that they use a bicycle helmet when cycling in and out of school. We would also like to raise awareness for students cycling in the winter months in the dark having good reflective gear and lights on their bicycles to ensure they can be seen clearly by other road users.

## **Year 11 IB Information:**

Many thanks for coming along to our information evening on Wednesday: it was wonderful to see so many parents there, and we hope that you found the evening useful and informative.

All presentations from the evening have been posted to students' form group Google Classrooms, so that you and they can review the information should you wish to. If you have any trouble accessing these Google Classrooms, please contact your child's form tutor, who will ensure that an updated invite is sent to you. We also encourage you to explore the dedicated sixth form website, which has further information about the content of our courses. This is the direct link to the sixth form website: <https://sites.google.com/danecourt.kent.sch.uk/year12admissions2021/home>

## **What happens next?**

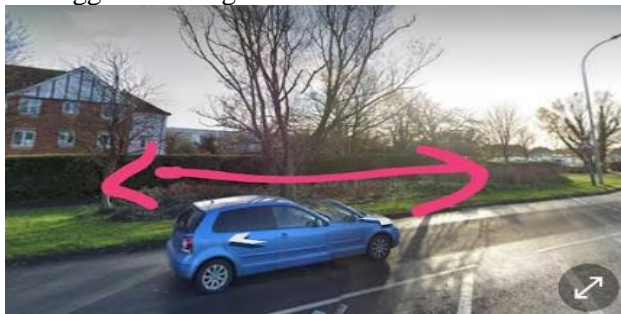
We very much hope to see you again for our open evening on 23rd November. This will be a chance to speak to teachers and students about the nature of individual courses. After this, students will complete and send their applications in their December Personal Development lessons in school. Following these applications, each student will have a one to one meeting with me or another senior member of staff, where we will discuss course choices, answer remaining questions, and provide additional careers' advice. These meetings will take place in January, and parents are very welcome to attend. If you have any queries before these meetings, please do get in touch.

### **Ben Forward**

Deputy Headteacher  
Dane Court Grammar School

## **Wasps outside ASDA**

We would like to draw your attention to a suspected wasp's nest outside ASDA near the pathway on the A256, on the right just before Wealdhurst Park. Please see the picture below to help show the area. The wasps are very aggravated and seem to be stinging passers by on a daily basis. If you need to pass through this immediate area, please do so quietly and calmly and try not to brush against the surrounding foliage. This should reduce your risk of being stung. Otherwise we suggest walking on the other side of the road.



## **Financial concerns**

At Dane Court Grammar School, we are committed to ensuring that finances are not a barrier to accessing educational trips and essential equipment for lessons; therefore financial support may be available. If you have difficulty contributing to the cost of a trip or essential equipment, please contact the school office at [admin@danecourt.kent.sch.uk](mailto:admin@danecourt.kent.sch.uk) or the Sixth Form office ([abowen@danecourt.kent.sch.uk](mailto:abowen@danecourt.kent.sch.uk)) to discuss anything.

## **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.

## **Medical or dental appointments**

Please see the excerpt below from the Attendance Policy regarding students leaving the school site for appointments during the school day.

Missing registration for a medical or dental appointment is counted as an authorised absence; advance notice is required for authorising these absences. Details should be written in a letter/email or by phone call for the attention of the attendance officer. However, we encourage parents to make medical and dental appointments out of school hours where possible. Where this is not possible, the pupil should be out of school for the minimum amount of time necessary. The discretion of the attendance officer and Year Leader will be used in individual circumstances. Where it is necessary for the student to leave school during the day, if they are in KS3 they will need to be collected from Reception by a parent or nominated adult with confirmation from parent. KS3 students will not be allowed to leave the school site on their own. Students in KS4 should be collected by a parent or nominated adult where possible. However, in exceptional circumstances students will be allowed to leave the school site unaccompanied with written confirmation from parents and a follow up call from the attendance officer.

## **Year 13 Extended Essay**

Year 13 DP students should now be redrafting their Extended Essays. The deadline for submission of the completed essay is 14th November, i.e. they only have one month to respond to their feedback and rewrite their essay. Please reinforce to them the need to stick to deadlines so that they complete the work and can then focus on other elements of their course. Likewise, please reiterate that the points they get for the DP Core (EE and ToK combined) can be the difference between getting their university place or not, so it is really important that they try to get their essay to be as good as possible. The EE should be a document which is seen as the pinnacle of their IBDP education and be something that they are truly proud of.

EE Coordinator

## **Please check if your child is eligible for free school meals.**

With the cost of living crisis creating increased challenges for our community, we ask all parents to check if their child is eligible to receive free school meals. Applying for free school meals if you are eligible will mean enhanced pupil premium funding for the school. This will not only allow us to pay for school trips, study materials and revision guides for your child, but will also allow increased funding for the quality of education at Dane Court as a whole. We would be very grateful for your help: please apply if you are eligible.

### **Who is eligible for free school meals?**

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following. For full information, visit <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>.

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

### **I think my child is eligible for free school meals. What do I do now?**

You should apply for free school meals via the Kent County Council website. Kent County Council will then inform the school to allow us to access the funding, so you don't have to do anything else.

The link is here: <https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/free-school-meals>

### **What if I am worried that my child will be embarrassed at school?**

Please do not worry. Our systems are extremely discreet, and our electronic payment system in the school canteen means that it is impossible to tell who is receiving a free school meal. Many students receive free school meals at our school.

## **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.

## **Dane Courts School Newspaper team are raising funds for 4 charities this year...**

1. Thanet Animal Group
2. Romanian International Children's Federation
3. Oasis Thanet
4. Kent Green Action

Any money raised will be split between the four charities at the end of the school year. Their fundraiser this term is a 'Guess the number of sweets in the jars' Halloween themed competition. Entry is 30p a guess or 50p for 2 guesses. There are 2 jars filled with delicious sweets to win. Students can enter in the library at lunchtimes up until Thursday 20th October and the winners shall be given their prizes on Friday 21st October during mentoring.

## **Dane Court rewilding project**

We are launching our student-led greener school project this year. We have secured a donation from the Woodland Trust of 140 native trees arriving in March 2023 and we are hoping to receive a donation from the Broadstairs Town Council of some bird boxes and wild-flower seeds. To get the project going we are looking for donations of the following:

1. Daffodil bulbs
2. Tulip bulbs
3. Trowels
4. Watering cans
5. Gardening gloves

If anyone has anything they could donate could you please send it in with your child and ask them to bring it to Miss Aherne in the N plaza. We will share updates with you on all that we are doing throughout the year.

## **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!

## **Duke Of Edinburgh Silver award Year 12 students**

Training session 2-Setting up an edofe account-one session only-Thursdays 20th October D plaza 3.30-5.00pm

## **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)

## **Iceland Trip 2023**

There is an Iceland information meeting on the evening of Tuesday 1st November for the Geography students going on this trip - students and their parents/guardians are invited. It will be in the school theatre at 6pm and will be a chance to get an insight into the amazing adventure and what you will need to ensure a safe and enjoyable excursion. It will last for approximately 40 mins.

## **2nd hand uniform shop**

The 2nd Hand Uniform Shop will be open from 3.15 to 4.15 the first Tuesday of each month. If you require any 2nd hand uniform but can't get into school please email any requirements to [admin@danecourt.kent.school.uk](mailto:admin@danecourt.kent.school.uk) and we will do our best to sort suitable items which can be picked up by the student from the main school office. The School Wear Centre in Margate also sells 2nd hand uniform for a small charge to cover laundry costs.

### 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
	Debating club	After School	Library	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
	Japanese Club, 1.11.22 onwards	1.45 – 2.15	L4	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)

THANET WANDERERS RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB

# WANDERERS SCHOOLS & COMMUNITY HUB

EVERY TUES STARTING 1ST NOV

THE SCHOOLS HUB

OPEN TO ALL YEAR 7/8/9 BOYS AND GIRLS

4.00-5.30PM TRAINING FOLLOWED BY FREE FOOD & DRINKS

SCAN TO REGISTER



For further information email [community@thanetwanderers.co.uk](mailto:community@thanetwanderers.co.uk) or call 07540 838196.

THANET WANDERERS RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB

# SCHOOLS HUB

OPEN TO ALL ABILITIES

STARTS TUES 1ST NOVEMBER

SCAN TO REGISTER



THE SCHOOLS HUB

OPEN TO ALL YEARS 7/8/9

QUALITY COACHING

EVERY TUESDAY AT 4.00PM TO 5.30PM AT ST PETER'S RECREATION GROUND, CALLIS COURT ROAD, BROADSTAIRS, KENT CT10 3AE.

FREE FOOD AND DRINKS AVAILABLE FROM 5.30 TO 6.00PM FOR MORE INFORMATION TALK TO YOUR PE TEACHER



## Lost Property

We have a few unnamed items in our lost property already this term. They include blazers, PE kit, jewellery, keys/keyrings/padlocks, water bottles, coats, a scarf, a cycle helmet, headphones, plug, a hub cap 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**

