

Weekly Parent/Guardian Newsletter

Week A

7 October 2022



CHECK YOUR BIKE LIGHTS ARE WORKING!



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 10 rd October	-
Tuesday 11 th October	Yr13 Parents Evening
Wednesday 12 th October	Yr11 IB Parents Evening
Thursday 13 th October	-
Friday 14 th October	Yr10&11 trip to St Hughes, Oxford

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 complete the slip below and return it to school office by Friday 14 October. Alternatively, you can e-mail Mrs Ives at 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.

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 or the Sixth Form office (abowen@danecourt.kent.sch.uk) to discuss anything.

Access to the School Site from Wednesday 28th 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.

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)

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

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
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 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.

Calling all students who are interested in Maths!

AMSP's [online enrichment events](#) for students in Years 7-11 are back for the 2022/23 academic year! There are four events to choose from:

- *Space!* looks at some of the challenges faced in space travel and their ingenious solutions.
- *Which Career? - Meet people working in different roles* features three guests who'll talk about how they use maths in their careers.
- *Maths is everywhere* demonstrates how and why maths is used in so many other subjects.
- *The Connected World* introduces ideas to support investigating how the number of people that we know affects the number of steps needed to reach one another.

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

Scholastic Book Fair

Thank you to everyone who supported the Scholastic Book Fair - we made an amazing total of just over £600, which meant a wonderful £300 worth of free books for the library!

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

nedmondson@danecourt.kent.sch.uk

NHS Emotional Wellbeing Practitioner Team Workshops

NHS Foundation Trust 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 your child's behaviour" and is on Thursday 13th October 1-2.30pm. Please note this is primarily aimed at younger adolescents (pre-teen). Please see the separately attached poster for further details including the Microsoft Teams link to access the workshop.

Childline and the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF)

Childline and the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) have just released a new tool that allows children and young adults to report an inappropriate image or video of themselves that has been uploaded somewhere online. They may also report an image or video that they fear may be uploaded to the internet at some point in the future. The IWF will then take steps to remove the image from the Internet completely and assign a 'hash' to prevent the image being uploaded by anyone after.

The tool has been under trial for a year but is now available. We urge all parents to make their children aware of this new tool as it could really help a student who may make a mistake in the future.

The reporting tool can be found via the following link:

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/remove-nude-image-shared-online>



Nude image of you online?
We can help take it down.

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 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
Monday				
	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
Tuesday				
	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
Wednesday				
	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
Thursday				
	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
Friday				
	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 23rd November at the latest.

Many thanks, Lois Gadd – gadd@danecourt.kent.sch.uk

Duke of Edinburgh

There will be a meeting for parents of Year 12, Silver award participants and the students involved Monday 10th October in D plaza 6-7pm.

Bike Safety - Getting ready for winter

As the longer nights start drawing in, the colder weather reminds us it's time to prep for winter. On the best of days cycling on busy or rural roads is difficult, which is why we have pulled together our top tips to keep you safe this winter.

TIP NO.1 - Make sure you are seen AND heard

It's crucial to ensure you are fitted with appropriate **bike lights and reflectors** as well as a loud bike horn.

TIP NO.2 - Fix your bike so you don't have to hike!

Key areas to check are your chains and brakes. Checking for wear on your brakes means you know you can stop quickly and safely when necessary. Keeping chains oiled regularly means your gears will change smoothly and you can remain in control at all times.

TIP NO.3 - Get Low

Some cycling specialists suggest lowering your saddle in the winter months. By lowering your centre of gravity, your bike should become less wobbly; this means the risk of skidding or falling over is reduced. We suggest you lower your saddle so that your feet can sit flat and comfortably on the ground, for more stability in harsh weather conditions.

TIP NO.4 - There's no such thing as the wrong weather just the wrong clothing!

Your chest and back should be kept warm to prevent illness. A bike helmet is one of the most important pieces of cycle gear you can own, especially for children who are prone to more accidents in winter.

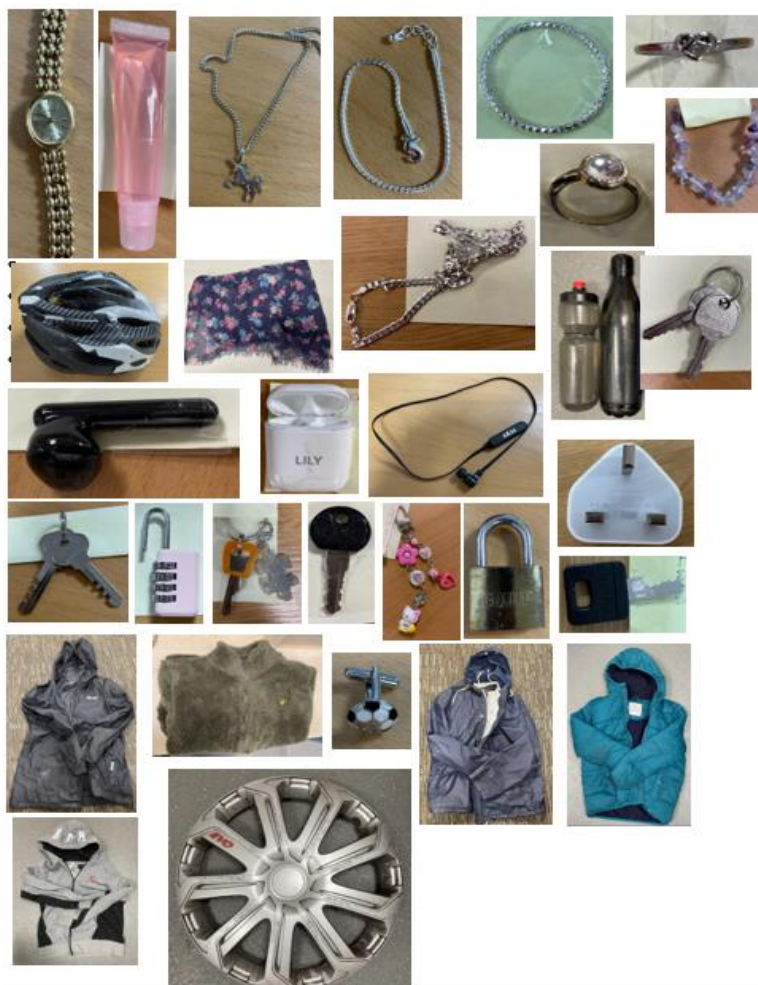
TIP No.5 - Ride with caution

Making sure you ride safely will protect both yourself and others on the road and there are specific steps you can take during winter to achieve this. You should also set out with plenty of extra time, this means you are able to cycle slower in difficult conditions and avoid accidents. As well as this, always bear in mind that breaking times are lengthened by wet weather conditions. You can brake slowly to avoid skidding. If you encounter any ice while cycling, stop pedalling and avoid braking, this will also reduce the risk of slipping or skidding.

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

