

Weekly Parent/Guardian Newsletter

Week A

21 October 2022



Have a spooktastic half term!

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 31 st October	-
Tuesday 1 st November	-
Wednesday 2 nd November	-
Thursday 3 rd November	-
Friday 4 th November	-



Half term dates

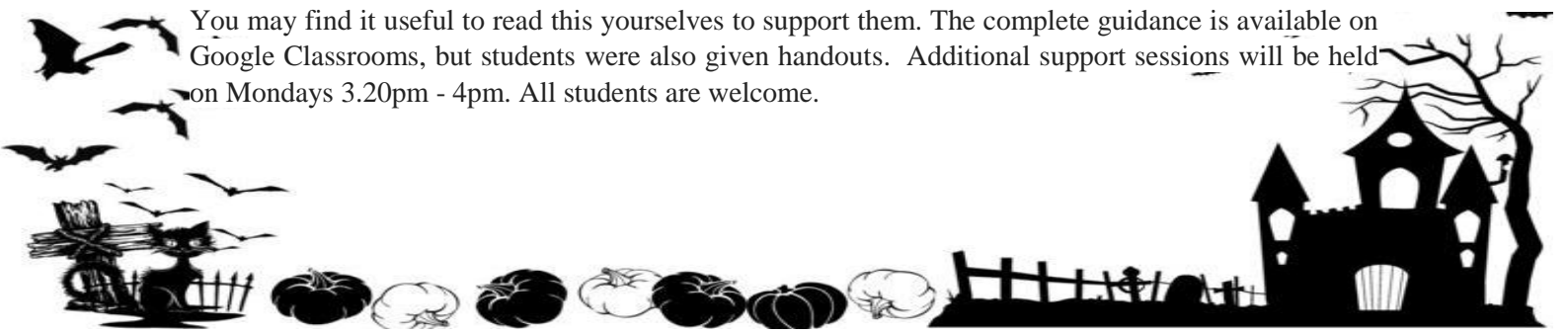
Just a note to confirm our half term dates begin on Monday 24th October 2022 and students return to school on Monday 31st October 2022 at 8.40am.

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 Business GCSE

Students have been provided with guidance to help them to revise for their PPE (mock) in November. You may find it useful to read this yourselves to support them. The complete guidance is available on Google Classrooms, but students were also given handouts. Additional support sessions will be held on Mondays 3.20pm - 4pm. All students are welcome.



Open Day event

On Wednesday we held our annual Open Day event when we welcome Year 6 pupils and their families to the school. Firstly, I would like to thank all our students and staff for their hard work and effort which made it a truly fantastic event. In particular, a special mention has to go to all the students who came back in the evening to welcome our visitors to the school, help in departments, play in the orchestra, deliver speeches, act as tour guides... the list goes on. I would also like to thank our parents and carers who gave permission for their children to come back in the evening and who gave up their precious time to drop them off and collect them again at the end - your support is greatly appreciated. I wish you all a lovely half-term break.

Safeguarding Concern

We have been made aware by another local school that a number of students have started accessing an online site called 'Omegle'. This is a free online chat website that uses the tagline of 'chat with random strangers online - it's fun'. This is a major safeguarding concern due to the harmful content that students can be exposed to. Please can we ask that you monitor your child's internet and app usage to ensure they are safe online. Our school this week has also been holding online safety assemblies emphasising to students how to protect themselves online.

The link below gives more detail of what you need to be aware of as parents. Can I please encourage you to talk to your children about the dangers of sites like this.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/news-blogs/what-is-omegle-what-parents-need-to-know/>

Many thanks

Miss Bolt

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

Duke Of Edinburgh news

We are delighted and overwhelmed with the enormous interest in the Silver Duke Of Edinburgh award. 37 students have been enrolled and the application process has closed. We wish all 37 students the best as they begin their Volunteering, Physical and Skills sections as well as their weekly training for the award.

Mrs Whelan and the DOfE team.



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.

Year 7 PE expectations

I hope your child has had a positive start to their first term at Dane Court. I wanted to make you aware that PE has been lenient with year 7 and their PE kit for this first term, which they were aware of, just to allow them to adjust to a new, bigger school. As of next term year 7 now join the rest of the school in relation to our PE kit sanction policy. All students have been told about this but just so you are aware:

-No kit or 2+ items missing in one go = 20 min after school detention of which you will be notified via email.

-1 item of PE kit missing but can still fully participate = logged on PE system however if this happens on two occasions then it goes to a 20 min after school detention.

PE kit should be:

- Yellow polo top
- Black hoodie or rugby top
- Black sports leggings/tracksuit bottoms/shorts or skort
- White sport socks (for all activities other than football and rugby)
- Black football socks (only for football or rugby lessons)

We will be outside for many lessons next term. If you know your child gets cold they have the following options:

- Plain black underlayer to be worn under their yellow polo top and black hoodie
- Black sports leggings/thermals to be worn under black tracksuit bottoms.

If your child has football or rugby next term we highly recommend that football boots are purchased to help prevent them slipping on the grass however this is down to parents/carers discretion.

Miss Bolt and the PE team

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)

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.

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



Kent and Medway Medical School

Many congratulations to our Year 9, 10 & 11 students who were invited to attend the first in-person session for future doctors at the Kent and Medway Medical School, last Saturday. Students enjoyed visiting the simulation suite at the new Verena Holmes building at Canterbury Christ Church University as well as attending undergraduate style lectures and seminars. We wish our students every success as they consider pursuing future careers in medicine. -Miss Koster

Iceland Trip 2023 for students in years 10 and 12 who have secured a place

There is an Iceland information meeting on the evening of Tuesday 1st November for the Geography students currently in years 10 and 12 who have paid for the 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. Please note, only those who have secured a place on this trip are invited to the evening.

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.

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.

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



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
	Japanese Culture Club, 1.11.22 onwards	1.45 – 2.15	L4	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
	Car Care and Basic maintenance	3.25 - 4.20	B3	Yr12-13

THE END

