

Weekly Parent/Guardian Newsletter

Next week is Week B

11 November 2022



Monday 14th is



Odd Socks Day!



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 14 th November	2:1:2 timetable & Yr11 PPE's
Tuesday 15 th November	2:1:2 timetable & Yr11 PPE's
Wednesday 16 th November	2:2:1 timetable, Yr10 Information Evening, Wicked the Musical Trip
Thursday 17 th November	2:2:1 timetable
Friday 18 th November	2:2:1 timetable, Yr13 EE deadline

Late Arrival in School

Please be reminded that students are expected to arrive and be in class by 8.40am. If a student arrives late it is disruptive to the class and means that they miss the teacher's instructions and introduction to the lesson. It can also cause embarrassment for the student having to enter the classroom late. The school pedestrian gates open at 8.00am so students can arrive in time to get to their lockers etc before classes start at 8.40. Once the pedestrian gates are closed at 9am, any student arriving after this time will need to press the intercom buzzer, which is to the right of the gate, so that the office staff can let them through.

Frequent lateness can soon add up to a considerable amount of learning lost and can seriously disadvantage your child.

Minutes late per day during the school year	Equals days' worth of teaching lost in a year
5 Minutes	3.4 Days
10 Minutes	6.9 Days
15 Minutes	10.3 Days
20 Minutes	13.8 Days
30 Minutes	20.7 Days

Please help your child to be punctual. If you have any concerns, or would like to speak to someone regarding attendance, please contact Mrs Sayer, Attendance Officer on 01843 864941.

Anti-Bullying Week 2022: Reach Out

Next week is Anti-Bullying Week, with the theme of 'Reach Out'.

The week will kick off with **Odd Socks Day on Monday 14th November**, where all members of the school community are encouraged to wear odd socks to celebrate what makes us unique.

Assemblies – Members of the school’s Senior Leadership Team will deliver assemblies promoting Anti-Bullying Week and to highlight what we are doing to support students in the school.

We are using Anti-Bullying Week to launch our new Anti-Bullying strategy and this includes how we are asking students to report incidents (to improve communication and our response to incidents).

Incident Report Form - we are launching a new reporting form (Google form) for students to use. This is not just about reporting cases of bullying and we are encouraging students to use the new form to report any incident.

Mentoring - Anti-Bullying is already built into our mentoring curriculum across the school and we are encouraging regular conversations about bullying; its impact and how we can tackle it in school.

Student voice – We have a student council in each year group as well as a school council (representatives from each year group in the school). We are keen to promote student voice and these student bodies will be regularly invited to discuss Anti-Bullying and matters linked to ‘Behaviour & Attitudes’ during meetings.

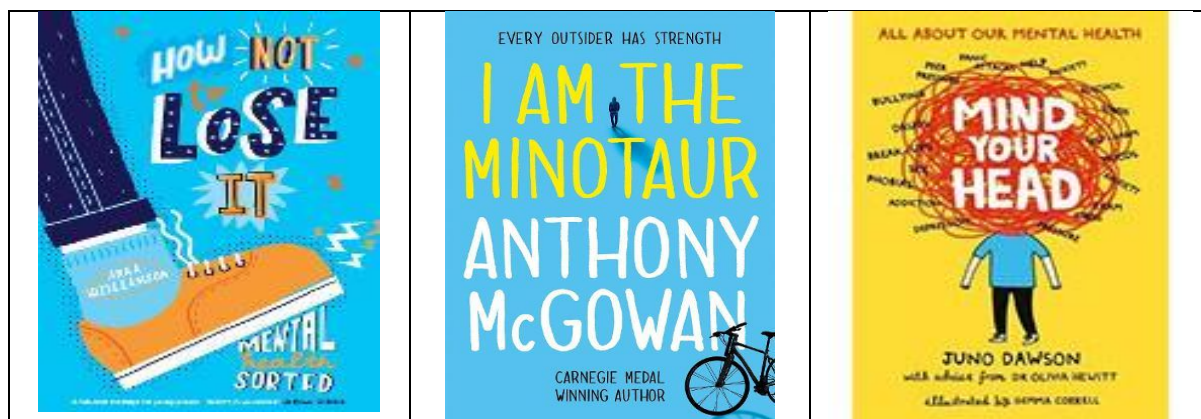
Resources – There are lots of excellent resources online to support students (and parents/carers) who have experienced any form of bullying or simply want some additional information:

<https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk>

<https://www.nationalbullyinghelpline.co.uk>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/bullying-and-cyberbullying/>

There are also several books in our school library which focus on aspects of bullying. We would encourage students to take a look (some examples below):



- How Not to Lose It - Mental Health Sorted: a practical and inspiring guide to sorting out issues before they take over your life from trained therapist and life coach Anna Williamson.
- I am the Minotaur by Anthony McGowan: an emotionally charged short story full of hope that tackles themes of poverty, neglect and bullying.
- Mind Your Head - all about our Mental Health: advice from Juno Dawson and Dr Olivia Hewitt in a clear and supportive guide.

Mr Wakeley (Assistant Headteacher: Behaviour & Attitudes)

Bus Fare changes

Please click on [Here](#) to see more information about the possible Bus Fare changes taking place as of the 13th November 2022

Sixth Form Open Evening - Wednesday 23rd November 2022

Students and parents are invited to join us at our Sixth Form Open Evening in the Theatre on Wednesday 23rd November 2022. A short introductory talk will commence at 17.00 followed by breakout talks, including more information about the IB curriculum and the University/Apprenticeship pathways programme offered at Dane Court. This will be repeated at 18.00 for those unable to attend the first talks. The evening will provide parents and students with essential information about our world class IB curriculum offer, the excellent destinations secured by previous students and the wider support and extracurricular opportunities offered at Dane Court which have contributed to our 'Outstanding' status (OFSTED,2022).

The Head of School and senior staff will talk about the Sixth Form and answer any specific questions you may have. There will also be the opportunity to talk to staff who teach the I.B. subjects followed by a tour of the school as well as the opportunity to speak to representatives from a range of universities, including Cambridge, and Apprenticeship providers. This Sixth Form Open Evening is a vital part of the process of application for the Sixth Form and we hope all students will be able to attend with their parents.
Mr C Pleasant, Head of Sixth Form & IB coordinator

Emotional Wellbeing Teams in Schools (Kent & Medway)

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 your child's behaviour" and is on Tuesday 15th November 2022 at 5.30-7.30pm. Please note this is primarily aimed at younger adolescents (pre-teen).

Are you currently experiencing difficulties with your child at home? Would you like to come and meet with other parents and carers and learn about ways to enjoy your time more with your child? Our next workshop is about understanding and communicating with your child. It will help you consider factors which influence behaviour. We also discuss techniques that you can use at home for behaviours that you feel are difficult to manage. If you would like to join, please ctrl + click on the link: [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.

The Food Department

The food department now has a rather large collection of unnamed containers in our lost property (situated directly outside of the kitchen). If your child has misplaced a container recently, please urge them to come and have a look. If they're unable to locate their container they should then speak to a member of staff.

Many Thanks

Nicola Edmondson

Food Technician



Family Support Page

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.

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.

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 Rachel Richards to discuss: richards@danecourt.kent.sch.uk

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

Hardship Help guide

Please find below a link to a '[Hardship Help](#)' guide. This includes universal support available across England / Kent, as well as district-specific support.

Digital Theatre Plus

Dane Court has an annual subscription to a wonderful resource, Digital Theatre Plus. This can be accessed from this [LINK](#) or you can type in the URL www.edu.digitaltheatreplus.com. From here you will be asked for a username and a password. Please use the Key Stage 3 login which has restricted access to protect the students from adult content. The details are-

Username- danecourtk3

Password- evening@4800

There are numerous productions, interviews with prominent directors, actors and designers and many useful learning resources for students and teachers.

Our first recommendation is 'The Woodsman', a delightful prequel to the story of The Wizard of Oz. It is a production which utilises many dramatic techniques that your children are given the opportunity to explore in their drama lessons- lighting, puppetry, chorus, music and very limited dialogue.

We will endeavour to give you recommendations on a regular basis and hope that you are able to enjoy this amazing resource from the comfort of your own homes.

Mr.Stanley

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: Daffodil bulbs, tulip bulbs, trowels, watering cans, and 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

Please see our Christmas Concert poster below



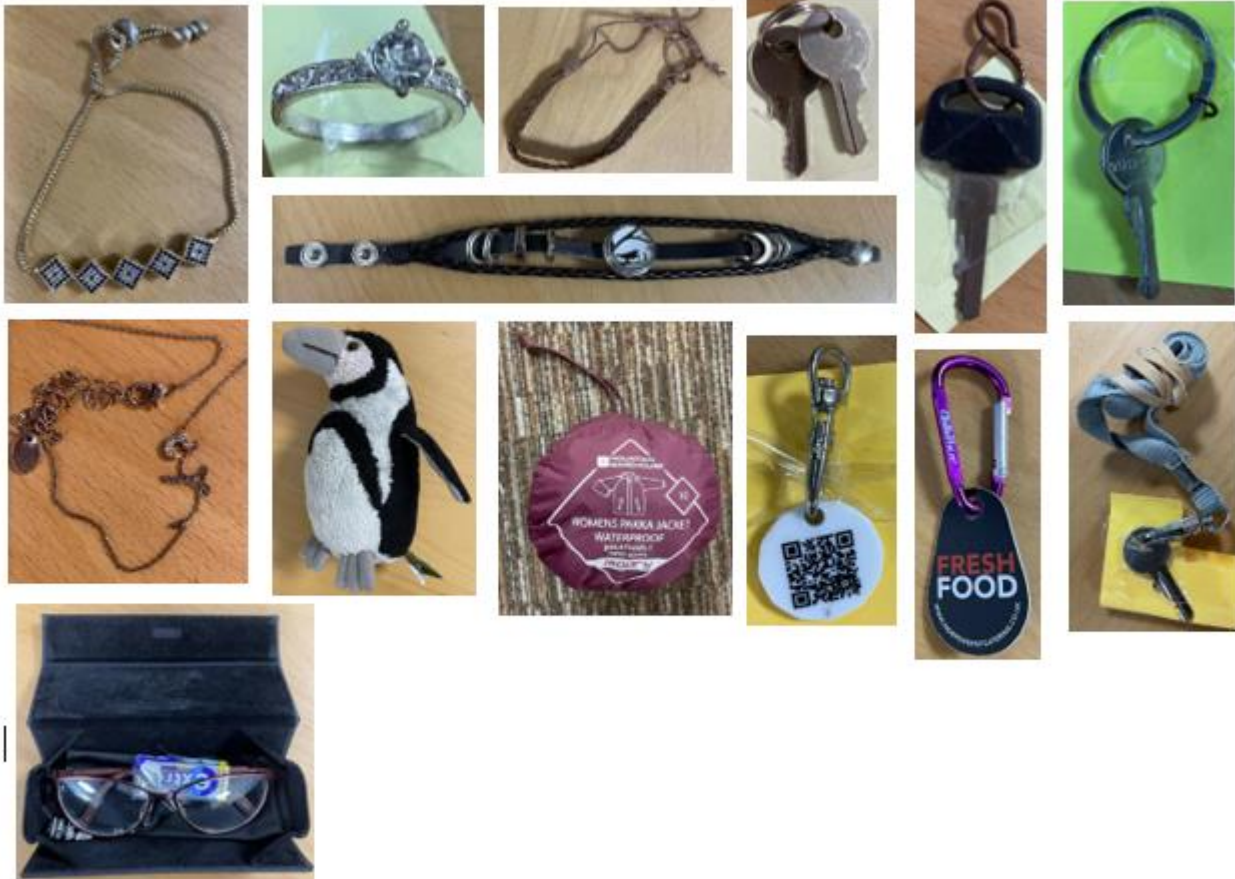
Extra Curricular Clubs

Day	Name of club	When	Where	Year group
Monday				
	Debating	after school	Library	all
	Football	3.30-4.25	Field/Hardcourt	All
	Netball	3.30-4.25	Hardcourt	All
	Table Tennis	3.30-4.25	Studio	KS3
	Chatter	1.45-2.15pm	Library	All
	Physics drop in	3.30 4pm	D12	All
	Choir	After school	H7	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 onwards	1.45 - 2.15	L4	All Years
Wednesday				
	Hockey	3.30pm - 4.25pm	Hard Court	All
	Board Game Club	lunchtime 1.40 - 2.15	M7	all
	Dance	3.45pm -4.25	Activity Studio	All KS
	Climbing	3.30-4.25	Climbing wall	Yr8 to 11
	From term 2 - DOfe			Yr 12
	Film club - week B	After school	M4	Yr12/13
	Violin Ensemble	3:30-4:30pm	H7	Violinists G4+
	Theatre Night	After school	Theatre	Yr13
Thursday				
	Manga Drawing	1:45 - 2:15	L8	All
	Girls Rugby Club	3.30-4.25	Field	All
	GCSE PE Coursework	3.30-4.25	B plaza	Yr11 only
	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				
	Car Care and Basic maintenance	3.25 - 4.20	B3	Yr12-13
	Board Game Club	lunchtime 1.40 - 2.15	M7	all
	Chatter	1.45-2.15pm	Library	All

Lost Property

We have a few unnamed items in our lost property already this term. They include jewellery, a small soft toy, a pair of glasses, keys and a rainmac. 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

