

Weekly Parent/Guardian Newsletter

Next week is Week A

13 January 2023



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 16 th January 2023	2-1-2 timetable
Tuesday 17 th January 2023	Year 9 Parents Evening
Wednesday 18 th January 2023	-
Thursday 19 th January 2023	-
Friday 20 th January 2023	-

Safeguarding update:

In our recent school safeguarding questionnaire 79% of pupils strongly agreed and agreed that they felt safe online which is encouraging and over 90% of students said they know how to stay safe online. Nevertheless as a partnership we still need to monitor our young people's internet and social media use, as like all schools we are still seeing evidence of the injurious nature of some content, conduct online, contact with some individuals and the commercial and contractual exploitation of young people.

Starting point is for parents to be aware of age guidance for social media apps.

13+		16+	
 Facebook	 Snapchat	 WhatsApp	
 Instagram	 Twitter	17+	
 TikTok	 Kik	 Sarahah	18+
 YouNow	 Yubo	 YOLO	 MeetMe
 House Party	 Monkey		 LiveMe

Advice from the UK Health Security Agency

As pupils and students return to school following the Christmas break, UKHSA is reminding people that winter illnesses continue to circulate at high levels.

Following simple steps can help protect children, minimise the spread of illness in education and childcare settings and protect wider communities.

Flu and coronavirus (COVID-19) are currently circulating at high levels and are likely to continue to increase in coming weeks. High numbers of scarlet fever, which is caused by group A streptococcus, also continue to be reported.

Professor Susan Hopkins, Chief Medical Adviser at the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), said:

“It’s important to minimise the spread of infection in schools and other education and childcare settings as much as possible. If your child is unwell and has a fever, they should stay home from school or nursery until they feel better and the fever has resolved.

Helping children to learn about the importance of good hand hygiene is also key, so practice regular handwashing at home with soap and warm water. Catching coughs and sneezes in tissues then binning them is another simple way to help stop illness from spreading.

Adults should also try to stay home when unwell and if you do have to go out, wear a face covering. When unwell don’t visit healthcare settings or visit vulnerable people unless urgent.

Remember that flu vaccination is still available for all eligible groups and is the best protection against the virus. We have seen good uptake in older age groups but vaccination among young children remains low. Flu can be very unpleasant and in some cases can lead to more serious illness. Getting your child vaccinated protects them and others they come into contact with, and it’s still not too late.”

Eligible children include:

- those aged 2 and 3 on 31 August 2022
- all primary school-aged children
- some secondary school-aged children

You can get more information [getting your child vaccinated against flu](#) on NHS.UK.

Kent School Health: New contact details (East)

The Kent school Health team would like to share with you the details of our **new phone number** which is now live, you can use this number to contact **Kent School Health** through our Central Admin Team. The number is: **0300 123 5205**, just choose option 2.

Please be reassured that the referral system remains unchanged for Kent School Health, so all referrals can be made here: [School Health \(Kent\) | Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust \(kentcht.nhs.uk\)](#)

Kindest regards

Kent School Health Team

Message from English for yr11

Over the next two weeks, your child will be informed of their Speaking and Listening Grade for their spoken language assessment in English. This grade does not contribute or affect their GCSE Language or Literature final grade. If you would like to appeal this on the grounds of an incorrect application of the marks scheme, then you have until Friday 27th January to get in touch with me - I'll be happy to answer any questions or queries that you might have about this.

Kindest regards,

Liz Channing (Head of English)

KS3 & 4 PSHE/SRE Curriculum Term 3

Our PSHE curriculum follows the DfE guidance and uses information from the PSHE Association as well as other affiliated sources. Please feel free to contact me, Miss Holland Head of PSHE, if you have any queries or questions.

Year 7

- Understand how I manage influences on my relationships
- Understand how respect impacts on relationships
- Understand that the choices I make affect my relationships, health and future
- Understand how to be healthy
- Understand what can make a relationship healthy or unhealthy
- Understand the range of changes which are preparing me for adulthood

Year 8

- About period and menstrual cycle, including products and attitudes.
- The characteristics of mental and emotional health and strategies for managing these and the link between language and mental health stigma and develop strategies to challenge stigma and misconceptions associated with help-seeking and mental health concerns
- Strategies to understand and build resilience
- The causes and triggers for unhealthy coping strategies, such as self-harm and eating disorders, and the need to seek help for themselves or others as soon as possible
- A range of healthy coping strategies and ways to promote wellbeing and boost mood.
- The impact that media and social media can have on how people think about themselves and express themselves, including regarding body image, physical and mental health

Year 9

- About different types of families and parenting, including single parents, same sex parents, blended families, adoption and fostering
- About positive relationships in the home and ways to reduce homelessness amongst young people
- About conflict and its causes in different contexts, e.g. with family and friends
- Conflict resolution strategies
- Your individual and key rights as a young person.
- How to manage relationship and family changes, including relationship breakdown, separation and divorce
- How to access support services

Year 10

- How to manage peer influence in increasingly independent scenarios, in relation to substances, gangs and crime
- About the media's impact on perceptions of gang culture
- About positive and negative role models
- How to evaluate the influence of role models and become a positive role model for peers
- How drugs and alcohol affect decision making
- About the impact of drugs and alcohol on individuals, personal safety, families and wider communities
- How to keep self and others safe in situations that involve substance use
- Exit strategies for pressurised or dangerous situations
- How to seek help for substance use and addiction

Year 11

- About different types of families and changing family structures
- How to evaluate readiness for parenthood and positive parenting qualities
- About fertility, including how it varies and changes
- About menstruation, pregnancy, birth and miscarriage
- About unplanned pregnancy options, including abortion
- About adoption and fostering
- How to manage change, loss, grief and bereavement
- About 'honour based' violence and forced marriage and how to safely access support

Attendance Update

Our [Attendance Policy](#) includes information regarding the issuing of Penalty Notices for unauthorised leave. Since COVID-19 we have seen a sharp increase in the number of requests for family holidays during term time, resulting in unauthorised absence for students. Students returning from a leave of absence during term time are unprepared for the lessons which build on the teaching they have missed. Teachers then have to help individual students to catch up on missed work. This poses a potential risk of the underachievement of other students in the class.

In relevant cases, we will implement paragraph 6.2 of our Attendance Policy (to request the local authority to issue a penalty notice). We will not authorise any absence requests for holidays during school term time unless we consider there to be exceptional circumstances.

All absence requests, except medical and dental appointments, must be requested **at least 10 school days (2 weeks) in advance** using the online [Leave Request Form](#). Parents will be notified in advance, by letter from the Headteacher, whether this absence will be authorised.

In cases of unauthorised absence, we can submit a request for parents to be given a penalty notice fine for the absence of their child from school. A letter from the Headteacher will be sent to both parents if a request has been submitted to

the Local Authority. If issued with a penalty notice, **each parent** must pay £60 within 21 days or £120 within 28 days for **each child**. The payment must be made directly to the Local Authority.

The decision whether or not to issue a penalty notice ultimately rests with the Headteacher, following the Local Authority's code of conduct for issuing penalty notices. This may take into account:

- A number of unauthorised absences occurring within a rolling academic year.
- One-off instances of irregular attendance, such as holidays taken in term time without permission.
- Where an excluded pupil is found in a public place during school hours without a justifiable reason.

If the payment has not been made after 28 days, the Local Authority can decide whether to prosecute the parent or withdraw the notice.

Consistent attendance is a key factor in a student's achievement and we are committed to ensuring that all of our students achieve their full potential. I hope you will support our efforts to raise attendance and attainment at our school.

Student Safeguarding after 3.20pm

A reminder to parents regarding the safeguarding of their children if staying in school after 3.20pm.

- Students must not be unaccompanied in school, except in the Heart area
- Students must leave site by 4.20pm, unless in an extended lesson/club, attending a detention, or waiting for an event
- Staff accompany students to the exit when it is time to leave.

Many thanks for your support with this.

Year 11 Business GCSE

A really good and often fun way to help your child revise for the Business GCSE is to watch The Apprentice on BBC Iplayer together and discuss the rights and (more often) wrongs of the decisions made by the contestants and Alan Sugar's reasonings. The new series has just started. How about a family vote on who will win and why?

There are also a number of other TV shows of interest such as 'Inside the Factory'. Behind the Scenes Marks and Spencer's and 'Aldi's Next Thing' and loads more on Channel 5. I would encourage you to watch these together too if you can. The Apprentice is probably most accessible though.

Revision sessions continue after school Mondays 3.30pm. All welcome.

Miss Diffley

Modern Languages Theatre Performances

On Monday 16th January we are delighted to be hosting the first of three theatre performances from the Onatti Theatre Group for some of our year 9 and year 8 Spanish students. The play will bring to life students' language learning and offer them the opportunity to practise the language in a fun and engaging way.

Next week's performance - 'Mi personalidad' is a funny play about a teenager trying to find his identity and the challenges of making friends. The play will take place during period 4 and will be shown to 9B, D, H, N2, S and 8B and 8N.

Later in the term we have a French play for the year 7 French groups and in March, a German play for the remaining mentor groups in years 7-9 so that all students in Key Stage 3 will have had the opportunity to see one play in one of the languages they are studying.

We hope the students enjoy this exciting opportunity!

The Languages Department

Bicycle Safety at School

Please be aware that the 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 lights and that they use a bicycle helmet. 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.

Free School Meals - how they work

Please be aware that if your child receives free school meals, this is how the system works on a daily basis

- Your child will receive £1.10 for breakfast; which they **must** use before period 1 at 8.40am, if the £1.10 is not used by 8.40am then it is withdrawn from the account. For students to take advantage of the breakfast free school meal they must be in school in time to use it before period 1.

- They will then receive £2.30 for lunch, which they can use from breaktime at 10.45am onwards until the end of lunch at 2.20pm. The best value meal available is the lunch time main meal which comes with and main course and pudding bought simultaneously.

Any unspent funds are **not** carried over from day to day, and a new amount is added each day. You can add cash to your child's account using Wisepay if you wish, for extra snacks. But please note that the money given for free school meals should be spent where possible on food and not drinks to get the best value for money.

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.

PP funding for ingredients

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.

Kooth

Please see below some resources for you to access for support over the festive period. Kooth's mission is to provide free, safe and anonymous support to young people and their families via their online mental wellbeing community. Further information can be found at www.kooth.com.



kooth

What's on Kooth in December

<p>Tuesday 6th December</p> <p>Discussion Board Coping with Grief during the festive period</p>	<p>Tuesday 13th December</p> <p>Discussion Board Coping with eating difficulties during the festive period</p>
<p>Wednesday 14th December</p> <p>Live Forum Top Tips- For budgeting this season 7.30pm - 9pm</p>	<p>Monday 19th December</p> <p>Live Forum Let's Talk: Loneliness 7.30pm - 9pm</p>
<p>Wednesday 28th December</p> <p>Live Forum Social Takeover- End of Year Party 7.30pm - 9pm</p>	<p>Friday 30th December</p> <p>Discussion Board End of year reflections</p>



Cost of Living Support Sessions at Priory Children's Centre

- Are you worried about the increasing cost of living and want to know what support is available?
- Need help liaising with the housing team?

Plus support if you are looking for training or employment, struggling with childcare and work or need some help with budgeting!

Wednesdays
Priory Children's Centre,
Ramsgate, CT11 9SQ
9:00 - 12:00

To book an appointment please email
thanetccevents@kent.gov.uk



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Cost of Living Support Sessions at Six Bells Children's Centre

- Are you worried about the increasing cost of living and want to know what support is available?
- Need help liaising with the housing team?

Plus support if you are looking for training or employment, struggling with childcare and work or need some help with budgeting!

Mondays
Six Bells Children's Centres
201 Highstreet, CT9 1WH
13:00 - 16:00

To book an appointment please email
thanetccevents@kent.gov.uk or
Anita.taylor@dwp.gov.uk or
Philip.raeburn@dwp.gov.uk





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Online Parent Workshops

Aimed at parents of children in primary school and year 7


Understanding Autism in Children	02/02/23 5.30-7.30pm
Supporting Your Child with Worries & Fears	07/02/23 10-12pm
Understanding Resilience in Children	27/02/23 5.30-7.30pm
Understanding Your Child's Behaviour	15/03/23 10-12pm
Understanding Sleep and Autism	22/03/23 12.30-2.30pm
Understanding ADHD in Children	30/03/23 5.30-7.30pm

Our online workshops offer information around key topics to help understand what is going on for your child and strategies to support them, based on the latest evidence and practice.

If you would like to join, please raise your interest with your child's school so that they can send you the link. If you have any questions please speak to your child's school.

Our workshops are held on Microsoft Teams. You do not need an account to join. You will need access to the internet.

We look forward to meeting you.



Macmillan Coffee Morning 2nd February 2023

We have just registered our Macmillan Coffee Morning for students and staff which will take place on Thursday February 2nd. The event is being organised by students and will involve a giant bake sale at breaktime and lunchtime; the heart being turned into a cafe at break time with staff serving coffee and cake to students and a green and white themed non-uniform day. More details will follow in the new year.

We are asking students and parents for donations to sell on the day, these can be shop bought or homemade. If you would like to donate to our Macmillan fundraising page, then the link can be found [here](#).

Dane Court digital library

A reminder that we have a digital library for all the students to use at danecourt.eplatform.co - the students will have been given their login details from their mentors. There is a huge collection of books to choose from, as well as an extensive wellbeing collection. Some of the latest additions to the eplatform include The Midnight Gang by David Walliams, Klara and the Sun by Kazuo Ishiguro, Nothing More to Tell by Karen McManus, The Self-Esteem Workbook for Teens and The Penelopiad by Margaret Atwood.

Food Tech department - Unclaimed containers

The food department continues to have 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. Any containers remaining by Thursday 12th January will be consolidated into the food department in order to clear our lost property ahead of the new term.



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. If you have any spare coat hangers we would be very grateful of any donations. The School Wear Centre in Margate also sells 2nd hand uniform for a small charge to cover laundry costs.

What is The Big Birdwatch?

The Big Birdwatch is back for 2023. Join thousands of others to find out which birds visit your grounds or gardens. Together, let's make it count!

The Big Birdwatch is a simple bird survey for people to take part in and enjoy together. This activity is about counting the number of birds in your grounds or garden. It only takes an hour. The results also contribute to the Big Garden Birdwatch – the world's largest wildlife survey. Have a look online to find out more.

DANE COURT PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

Events 2023

Quiz Night

Dane Court School Theatre
 Friday 24th March 2023



Tickets: Adults £7.00 Children £3.00

Doors open at 7pm quiz starts 7.30pm

(price includes ploughman's supper - bring your own drinks, glasses provided)

Teams up to 8 persons per table.

To book a table please contact Mrs Lois Gadd (Maths) (Tel (or text) 07968 687145 or Email gadd@danecourt.kent.sch.uk) by 4pm on Wed 22nd Mar

Charity number 1023394



Day	Name of club	When	Where	Year group
Monday				
	Chatter	1.45-2.15pm	Library	All
	Physics drop in	3.30 4pm	D12	All
	Choir	After school	H7	All
	Debating Club	3.30-4:30	Library	All
	Table Tennis	3.30-4.30pm	Studio	KS3
Tuesday				
	Yoga Club	3.30-4.30	Studio	yr12-13
	Netball	3.30-4:30	Field	all
	Ukele Club	lunchtime	H7	All
	Art club	3:20 - 4:30	ART	Yr7-9
	Hockey	lunchtime	Hard Court	all
	Trampolining	3.30-4.25	sports hall	KS4&5
	Junior Book Club - week B	1.45 - 2.15	Library	Yr7 & 8
	Orchestra	3.30-4.30	H7	all years
	Japanese Culture Club	1.45 - 2.15	L4	All Years
Wednesday				
	Languages Film Club	1:45-2:15	L11	All
	Badminton Club	3.30 - 4.25	Sports hall	KS3
	Board Game Club	lunchtime 1.40 - 2.15	M7	all

	Dance	3.45pm -4.25pm	Activity Studio	All KS
	Film club - week B	After school	M4	yr12/13
	Theatre Night - Wk A	After school	Theatre	Yr13
Thursday				
	Manga Drawing	1:45 - 2:15	L8	all years
	Boys Rugby	3.30pm - 4.25pm	Field	Boys
	Drama & shakespeare	Thursday 3.30-4.30	H1	7-10
	Climbing	3:30pm-4:30pm	Climbing Wall	Y8,9,10,11
	Chess Club	3.30 - 4.30pm	D2	All
	Dungeons & Dragons	3.20 - 4.20	Library	All
	History Club	1.45 - 2.20	B plaza	Yr7, 8, 9
	GCSE coursework	3.30-4.30	B plaza	yr11 only
Friday				
	Car Care and Basic maintenance	3.25 - 4.20	B3	Yr12-13
	Basket Ball Club	Lunchtime 1.45-2.15	PE	all years
	Board Game Club	lunchtime 1.40 - 2.15	M7	all
	Chatter	1.45-2.15pm	Library	All years

Lost Property

We already have a number of items in our lost property so far this term. They include unnamed uniform, pencil cases, coats, hats, a water bottle, a key and a ring. 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

