

Weekly Parent/Guardian Newsletter

Next week is Week B

12 December 2022



Next Week's School Events	
Date	Event
Monday 12 th December	Christmas Cake Competition & Yr12 HSC visit
Tuesday 13 th December	Christmas Concert & Yr11 trip: St Peter's Church
Wednesday 14 th December	School Christmas Lunch
Thursday 15 th December	-
Friday 16 th December	Last day of Term

Increase in scarlet fever

Please see guidance below from the UK Health Security Agency:

Dear Parent(s) / Carer(s),

We are writing to inform you of a recent [national/local] increase in notifications of scarlet fever to the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), above seasonal expected levels.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the signs, symptoms and the actions to be taken if you think that you or your child might have scarlet fever.

Signs and symptoms of scarlet fever

Scarlet fever is a common childhood infection caused by *Streptococcus pyogenes*, or group A Streptococcus (GAS). It is not usually serious, but should be treated with antibiotics to reduce the risk of complications (such as pneumonia) and spread to others. The early symptoms of scarlet fever include sore throat, headache, fever, nausea and vomiting. After 12 to 48 hours, the characteristic red, pinhead rash develops, typically first appearing on the chest and stomach, then rapidly spreading to other parts of the body, and giving the skin a sandpaper-like texture. The scarlet rash may be harder to spot on darker skin, although the 'sandpaper' feel should be present. Patients typically have flushed cheeks and be pale around the mouth. This may be accompanied by a bright red 'strawberry' tongue.

If you think you, or your child, might have scarlet fever:

- contact your GP or NHS 111 as soon as possible
- make sure that you or your child take(s) the full course of any antibiotics prescribed. Although you or your child will feel better soon after starting the course of antibiotics, you must complete the course to ensure that you do not carry the bacteria in your throat after you have recovered
- stay at home, away from nursery, school or work for at least 24 hours after starting the antibiotic treatment, to avoid spreading the infection

You can help stop the spread of infection through frequent hand washing and by not sharing eating utensils, clothes, bedding and towels. All contaminated tissues should be disposed of immediately.

Invasive Group A Strep (iGAS)

The same bacteria which cause scarlet fever can also cause a range of other types of infection such as skin infections (impetigo) and sore throat. In very rare cases, the bacteria can get into the bloodstream and cause an illness called invasive group A strep (iGAS). Whilst still very uncommon, there has been an increase in iGAS cases this year, particularly in children under 10 years old. It is very rare for children with scarlet fever to develop iGAS infection.

As a parent, you should trust your own judgement.

Contact NHS 111 or your GP if:

- your child is getting worse
- your child is feeding or eating much less than normal
- your child has had a dry nappy for 12 hours or more or shows other signs of dehydration
- your baby is under 3 months and has a temperature of 38C, or is older than 3 months and has a temperature of 39C or higher
- your baby feels hotter than usual when you touch their back or chest, or feels sweaty
- your child is very tired or irritable
- Call 999 or go to A&E if:
- your child is having difficulty breathing – you may notice grunting noises or their tummy sucking under their ribs
- there are pauses when your child breathes
- your child's skin, tongue or lips are blue
- your child is floppy and will not wake up or stay awake

Stop the spread

During periods of high incidence of scarlet fever, there may also be an increase in outbreaks in schools, nurseries and other childcare settings. Children and adults with suspected scarlet fever should stay off nursery / school / work until **24 hours** after the start of appropriate antibiotic treatment. Good hygiene practice such as hand washing remains the most important step in preventing and controlling spread of infection.

Resources

[NHS – Scarlet Fever](#)

[Scarlet fever: symptoms, diagnosis and treatment](#)

[Health protection in education and childcare settings](#)

[Hand hygiene resources for schools](#)

Last day of Term 2 - Friday 16th December

As is traditional on the last day of Term 2, students will be dismissed at 1:45pm. Buses will run at the usual time; students wishing to stay on at school until 3.20pm should report to the M Plaza at the end of assembly. If your child will need to stay after 1.45pm, please let us know in advance, by emailing admin@danecourt.kent.sch.uk.

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.

Access to the School Site

If you bring students to school by car, could we please remind you to drop them in a quiet side street away from the school site. **Please can we ask that parents do not use the school entrance or on the hazard lines either side of the entrance and exit to drop students at school**, as these are there to protect the students.

The gates are to improve security and ensure the safety of our school community. Parents are not 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. The automatic gates are just inside our main school gates which, like all the other school gates, are only opened via an intercom to the main school office during school hours.



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 4.20, 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.

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 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.

Items being brought into school during the day

We have seen a large increase in forgotten items being dropped to the office each day and the distribution of these items to students is becoming very difficult for office staff to manage. We understand that it can be distressing for your child

if they have forgotten something, so in order to avoid this, we would suggest that bags are packed (as much as possible) the evening before school. Also, a reminder that students should only use their mobile phone when permitted. If they need to ring parents in an emergency they should come to the office, their Year Leader or Deputy Year Leader. We also ask parents not to communicate with their child using their mobile phone during the day as they should not be using them whilst in school (with the exception of Year 11 in their plaza and 6th Form students.)

Many thanks for your support with this.

Year 11 Kent Choices

Since September, Year 11 students have been considering their IB options next year and crafting their Sixth Form applications. The deadline for Year 11 Kent Choices applications has now been extended to Friday 16th December to allow some students to make finishing touches in their Personal Development lessons next week. Please ignore the deadline given on Kent Choices (August 2023) as this applies to any external applicants.

Mr Pleasant, Head of Sixth Form

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.



Christmas lunch

Tickets for Christmas lunch are now available to purchase from the kitchen for £2.60. FSM students will also need to ask for a ticket but they won't be charged. **All Christmas lunches must be booked in advance.**

Christmas lunch will be available on 14th December so there will be limited snacks available from the coffee shop and the outside pod will be closed due to the kitchen focusing on serving the Christmas meal. Please see the poster beneath for the menu.



**Celebrate
The Festive
Season**

HARRISON
food with thought

**CHRISTMAS DINNER
WEDNESDAY 14TH DECEMBER
2022**

Roast Turkey with Pigs in Blankets, Sage and Onion Stuffing, Cranberry Sauce and Gravy.

Homity Pie.
(Potato, Leeks, Soft Cheese / Spinach Potato pie & Cheddar Cheese)

Roast Potatoes
Peas, Carrots and Brussels Sprouts

Traditional Christmas Pudding / Mince pie.
Custard
Chocolate Ganache Slice.
Shortbread and Satsuma

STUDENT'S £2.60p (TICKETS ONLY)
Please buy your ticket by Friday 9th December 2022

YEAR 8 CHRISTMAS CAKE COMPETITION - 12th December

Year 8 students are very excited and working very hard on their Christmas cake decorations

The timings for the final competition day are as follows;

- 8.00 - 8.40 am - students should drop off their cake in a named container to C4
- During the day the cakes will be marked and finalists will be decided. The finalists will then be voted on by staff and students to decide the winners.
- If year 8 parents would like to come and see the exhibition of cakes in our winter wonderland you are very welcome to visit from 2.45pm until 3.10pm
- Students should collect their cake and container at the end of the day.

We would like to thank all year 8 parents for your support in this project.

If you have any spare cake tins, or chocolate boxes at home that can be donated for other students, these would be gratefully received.

From the Food department.



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

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

Tuesday 6th December

Discussion Board
Coping with Grief during the festive period

Wednesday 14th December

Live Forum
Top Tips- For budgeting this season
7.30pm - 9pm

Wednesday 28th December

Live Forum
Social Takeover- End of Year Party
7.30pm - 9pm

Tuesday 13th December

Discussion Board
Coping with eating difficulties during the festive period

Monday 19th December

Live Forum
Let's Talk: Loneliness
7.30pm - 9pm

Friday 30th December

Discussion Board
End of year reflections

Manage your energy bills and your carbon footprint.

Sustainable Warmth is a new Government grant scheme designed to fund energy-efficiency upgrades and **YOU** could be eligible.

- Designed to support households most likely to be impacted by rising fuel bills.
- Energy-saving tech and upgrades installed by TrustMark-approved installers.
- Creating warmer, healthier homes.
- Helping to cut carbon emissions.
- Funding available for homes on and off the gas grid.

Want to find out if you're eligible for a **Sustainable Warmth Grant**? Use the details below to find out more.

Visit: www.eonenergy.com/green-homes-grant
or Call Eon on: 0333 202 4859



#MANAGEYOURENERGYBILLS



Young! COOKS!

Your invitation to be a Young Cook



Young people are invited to take part in the south east's Young Cooks cookery competition with the winners receiving a share of £500!

Roll up your sleeves, get stuck in and discover how much fun cooking can be - while learning vital life skills along the way!

Closing date for entries: 31st January 2023



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 <http://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- danecourtks3

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.

PE Kit

We have recently introduced a new, more modern and better value PE t-shirt and outer layer which are available now (see images below). The T-shirt is available in a round neck or polo version and all items can be purchased plain or with an additional logo for a £2 charge. We hope that this will provide some more affordable options for parents. All PE kit items can be purchased from either the [Schoolwear Centre](#) in Margate or from [Ambition Sport](#) online.



Polo Shirt



Round Neck T-shirt



Outer layer

Although these items are available to buy now it is not necessary for parents to replace old versions until they naturally need to be replaced.

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.

The PE department would like to share this past week's results and clubs

Clubs:

Monday - Netball club for all years

- Table tennis club for KS3

Tuesday - Yoga club for sixth form

Wednesday - Badminton club for KS3 and GCSE

- Dance for all years

Fixtures and results:

- On Monday our year 11 netball team took on King Ethelbert unfortunately narrowly losing.

- On Tuesday our year 8/9 girls futsal team competed in the local tournament finishing in 1st place.

- Our year 8/9 boys futsal team had their local tournament at Ursuline also taking 1st place.

- Wednesday meant it was the year 10/11s turn with the girls team taking 2nd place.

- Our 10/11 boys team finished 2nd in their group in a very competitive tournament.

- Wednesday also meant that the and this time it was against Queen unfortunately finished 4-1 to QE.



senior boys had another fixture Elizabeth school which

With the week coming to an end we look forward to the u16 girls quarter final on Friday 9th December and a busy final week of term next week.

Thank you
Dane Court PE Department

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.

Please see our Christmas Concert poster below

Christmas Concert Tuesday 13 December 5.45pm.

Our Christmas concert will take place in the Theatre at 5.45pm and it would be lovely to see you there!

We will have performances from Choir, Orchestra, Ukulele group, Violin Ensemble and the Jazzers may make an appearance too! Tickets can be purchased from Wisepay and letters for performers can be picked up from Miss Fox in H7.

Please click this link to the letter

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1KJ0hMcgEL7YKJBouRmtqq4DGE8_OvAJWe8RUxSvzLkk/edit

We look forward to seeing you there!



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

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.

