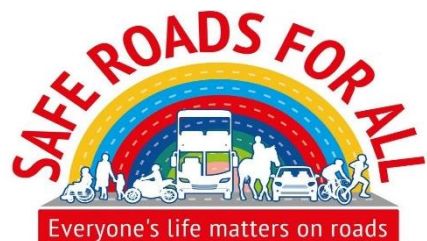


Weekly Parent/Guardian Newsletter

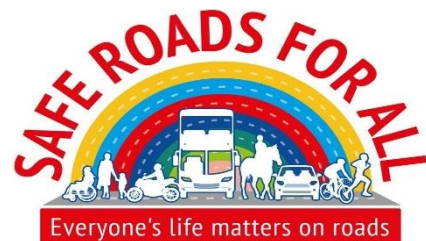
Next week is Week B

25 November 2022



ROAD SAFETY WEEK 

It's Road Safety Week!



ROAD SAFETY WEEK 

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 28 th November	
Tuesday 29 th November	
Wednesday 30 th December	Dover Western Docks Revival trip - KS3
Thursday 1 st December	
Friday 2 nd December	

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.

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

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.

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.

Year 9 - For Me Or Not For Me, Thursday 1st December

Year 9 students will experience 4 workshops in a variety of sectors during this exciting carousel careers event.

Students have had an introduction during mentoring on Friday 25th November, and chosen 3 workshops, with a 4th 'wildcard' being added so that students experience something they wouldn't normally choose.

We know students will learn a lot from the experience and we hope you will enjoy hearing about it at home.

Mrs Linton

Careers Leader

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.

Online Safety advice - TikTok Trends

TikTok trends have been a national problem over the past few years with some very dangerous challenges being shared. We advise all parents and carers to talk to their children about TikTok trends and other viral challenges they find online. A lot of these challenges are dangerous and can cause serious harm. If a video looks illegal, dangerous or harmful to others, children should be advised to not take part in the challenge or share the videos with friends, which further exacerbates the problem.

Many thanks

The Safeguarding Team

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.

External Football club guidance

[This link](#) is full of useful advice and guidance on safeguarding awareness around football clubs external to school and has been developed by the FA.

Careers at Morgan Stanley

Morgan Stanley is an American multinational investment management and financial services company. Morgan Stanley, offer a range of Apprenticeship opportunities aimed at school leavers. Apprenticeships offer an alternative route by providing the opportunity to study towards a qualification, whilst gaining practical industry experience and earning a salary. Join them at their [Apprenticeship Insight Events](#) to learn more about what Programmes they offer across their London and Glasgow offices and what it's really like to be an Apprentice at Morgan Stanley.

Webinars include:

- [MEET OUR APPRENTICES](#)
- [GLASGOW: INSIGHTS INTO TECHNOLOGY, OPERATIONS, FINANCE](#)
- [LONDON: INSIGHT INTO TECHNOLOGY](#)
- [CV & INTERVIEW SKILLS WORKSHOP](#)

If you or your child would like to find out any more information about apprenticeships please contact Mrs Linton.

The '[Parent Perspective](#)' podcast recorded by Amazing Apprenticeships is a good place to start.

Creative Sale at lunchtime

Chatter - the school newspaper, are holding a creative sale taking place at lunchtimes on Monday 28th November in the Heart & the 2nd December outside the library. Lots of lovely gifts will be on sale, students are welcome to come along and start your festive shopping early. Amazing products on offer start at just 20p!!!!

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- [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

Boxercise Class – Wednesdays 5.15-6.16pm

Every Wednesday in term time, 5.15-6.15pm, Jade Bailey (who is qualified gym and fitness instructor and runs a dance club for our students) runs a Boxercise class in our Studio. It is open to the general public including parents at a weekly charge of £4. The school gates will be open from 5.05-5.20pm for you to be able to use the staff car park to attend the class. There is no need to book, so if you fancy getting out the frustrations of the day whilst getting fit at the same time, come along with a bottle of water, a mat (yoga mat or similar) and join us each week.

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.

Christmas Jumper Day

It's Christmas Jumper Day on Thursday 8th December, raising money for Save The Children. We want to see as many of you as possible wearing your festive gear on the 8th. The students will be expected in school uniform with their Christmas jumper being worn instead of a blazer. If they are not wearing a Christmas jumper, they should be in normal school uniform.

If you wish to make a donation the link to our Just Giving page is:

<https://christmas.savethechildren.org.uk/fundraising/dane-court-christmas-jumper-day>

Many thanks

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!



PE are sharing this week's results

Fixtures and results:

- On Tuesday our u14 girls badminton team travelled over to Ursuline for a local tournament which resulted in a fantastic victory overall.
 - Our u16 girls badminton team also competed and once again came 1st place completing a double Dane Court victory.
 - On Thursday it was the boys turn to compete in the badminton competition in a highly competitive event with the u14s finishing in 4th place.
 - Our u16s boys also competed putting up a great fight and finishing in 5th place.
- We of course look forward to another busy week of events including boys and girls futsal tournaments.

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 quite a collection of unnamed items in our lost property so far this term. They include unnamed uniform and PE items, various shoes/trainers, jewellery, an oyster card, an asthma pump, belt, a small soft toy, a pair of glasses, keys, coats, gloves, water bottles, a football, a pencil case, a padlock, odd earbud headphones and rainmacs. 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

