

Weekly Parent/Guardian Newsletter

Next week is Week B

27 February 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	Events, 2-1-2 timetable all week
Monday 27 th February 2023	Yr13 PPEs
Tuesday 28 th February 2023	Yr13 PPEs
Wednesday 1 st February 2023	Yr13 PP's
Thursday 2 nd February 2023	Yr13 PPEs & Strike Day
Friday 3 rd February 2023	Yr13 PPEs

Wisepay reminder

As it is the beginning of a new term may I please remind you to ensure your child's lunch money is topped up on Wisepay.

Thank you

Mrs Richards

Uniform

Please could you continue to support the school's uniform policy by ensuring your child has the correct school uniform. Expectations about a few key areas have been discussed with students this week, during assemblies.

Expectations:

1. Shirts tucked in, blazer and tie on (if normal collar = Dane Court school tie, full length. If open collar = **no** tie required)
2. Trainers that are fabric or with noticeable logos are not acceptable
3. One set of studs in ears (flat or rounded only). All other piercings must be clear studs
4. Skirts must **NOT be rolled**. They should be worn at an appropriate length

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.

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.

Attendance - Absences

Regular school attendance is essential if students are to achieve their full potential. We believe that there is a direct link between attendance and performance and that regular school attendance is the key to enabling our students to maximise the educational opportunities available to them and become resilient, confident and competent adults. Children are required by law to attend school 190 days per year. The Government states that every pupil's attendance should be **at least 95%** and at here Dane Court, we strive for this to be even higher for our students. We understand that there are many reasons why students may miss school and we work hard with students and their families to find a variety of solutions to the problems of absenteeism.

If your child is ill, please contact the school each day that your child is absent, clearly stating the symptoms. Please note that being *late after registration* will also *lower* your child's attendance.

Whilst we appreciate medical appointments may arise, we suggest that whenever possible, these are arranged for out of school hours or at the very beginning/end of the school day, so that they have as little impact as possible on your child's school day. All appointments must be notified to the Attendance Officer in advance so that the information can be put on your child's register and relevant teachers/staff informed. Please provide evidence of appointments, by sending in a copy of the appointment letter/card for example.

If you are intending on keeping your child off school for any other reason (e.g. religious observance, external exams, funeral), please contact the Attendance Officer who will advise you on what evidence is needed to support your child's absence.

Attendance during one school year	Equals – days absent	Which is approximately weeks absent	Which means this number of lessons missed	Outcome
100%	0 days	0 weeks	0 lessons	Perfection best chances of success
98%	4 days	<1 week	20 lessons	Impressive best chances of success
95%	9 days	2 weeks	50 lessons	Nearly there
90%	19 days	4 weeks	100 lessons	Concerning poor attendance
85%	29 days	6 weeks	150 lessons	Concerning poor attendance
80%	38 days	8 weeks	200 lessons	Serious concern can affect life chances
75%	48 days	10 weeks	250 lessons	Serious concern can affect life chances
65% ↓	67+ days	13.5+ weeks	340+ lessons	Extreme concern most likely to affect life chances

There are 175 non-school days a year - all this time can be used for appointments (wherever possible), family days & holidays. If you have any concerns regarding your child's attendance, please contact Mrs Claire Sayer, Attendance Officer at csayer@danecourt.kent.sch.uk or on 01843 864941.

Family Support Page

NHS Emotional Wellbeing Team - workshop

Just to remind you that next week, the NHS Emotional Wellbeing Team will be facilitating an online parent workshop on understanding resilience. This will take place on Monday 27th February 5.30-7.30pm. Just a reminder, these workshops are currently only for parents of children attending Dane Court.

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

See the full range of workshops available here: <https://danecourt.kent.sch.uk/parents8/news6/family-support>

Anna Freud are also offering another cycle of their training webinars for parents. Please access the details via our Family Support webpage - <https://danecourt.kent.sch.uk/parents8/news6/family-support/>.

Youtube Restrictions

On many occasions we hear of concerns from parents about their ability to monitor or restrict what their children see on Youtube. I would like to draw your attention to the following link where the videos go through ways in which parents help ensure their children are safer on You Tube, this includes You Tube kids, and main You Tube.

I hope you find it helpful. <https://www.esafety-adviser.com/youtube-parental-restrictions/>

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.

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.

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.

Thanet Adult Education - Family Courses

The next round of family courses in Autism awareness, supporting ADHD in the home, exploring behaviour strategies etc

<https://www.kentadulthoodeducation.co.uk/course-areas/family-courses/?pageNumber=1&pageSize=10&sortOrder=StartingSoonest&alreadyStarted=No&category=Family%20Courses>

WORLD BOOK DAY

On Friday 3rd March we will be holding a big book swap in the library - please bring in any books you would like to swap. There will be lots of books to choose from to take away on the day, even if you forget to bring any to swap!

For all students at Dane Court, your world book day token can be found here:

https://worldbookclone.wenginepowered.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/WBD23-digital-1-book-token_UK_secondary.pdf

To use your book token show the digital book token on your mobile phone/tablet at the checkout to exchange the book token for a free World Book Day £1 book, or to get £1 off a full price book or audiobook costing £2.99/ or more. The digital book tokens are 'single-use only' and should only be used once by each student. If you would like a printed version of the book token please ask the librarian, Mrs Finlay.

Scholastic Book Fair

From 24th to 31st March we will be running a Scholastic Book Fair in the library at break and lunchtime. Students can use their World Book Day tokens during the fair to pay towards any of the books. There will be lots of contemporary books to choose from and many that are under £5. Every student who buys something will have a chance to win £5 to spend at the fair too!

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 or school ties 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.

British Physics Olympiad - Year 11 Online Challenge

Students in Year 11 sat a national competition to test students' knowledge and understanding of basic physics principles. In total 5653 students took part across 179 schools. Congratulations should be given to all students but particularly the following who achieved a Gold Award which placed them in the top 17% of students.

- Edward D.
- Neeraj R.
- Hanro D.
- Charlie B.
- Jacob P.
- Frank B.
- Gregor H
- Izzy T.
- Aarav S.
- Milo A.

British Physics Olympiad - Year 12 Online Challenge

Students in Year 12 sat a national competition to test students' knowledge and understanding of basic physics principles. In total 5585 students took part across 290 schools. Congratulations should be given to all students but particularly Hitesh P. who achieved a Gold Award which placed him in the top 17% of students.

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

Clubs:

Tuesday - Trampolining club for KS3 and GCSE

Wednesday - Boys rugby club for all years

Thursday - Climbing club for years 8,9,10 and 11

Fixtures and results:

- On Wednesday this week our year 10 boys rugby team travelled to Dover Grammar competing well throughout, providing a tricky game for both sides unfortunately ending in a Dane Court defeat.
- On Thursday we look forward to our year 9 netball team taking on St Lawrence.

We look forward to next week with more clubs and rugby fixtures including a rugby 7's tournament for our year 9 boys.

Dane Court PE department

Music Extra-Curricular Clubs timetable - Spring 2023

Tuesday and Thursday afternoon rehearsals are subject to cancellation depending on parents evenings, staff meetings and continuing professional development. Please see the Instrumental also attached to the newsletter for more details regarding learning to play an instrument.

Day	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunch	Grease band rehearsals H7 Jazz Band H7	Grease leads singing rehearsals H7 Ukulele Club H8	Y11 individual composition H8 Y7 Band H7	Y11 individual composition H8	Grease band rehearsals H7
After School	Junior Choir H7 Y11 intervention H8	Orchestra H7 Grease rehearsals Theatre/Drama/H7	String group H7 Y11 intervention H8	Grease rehearsals Theatre/Drama/H7	

Clubs at Dane Court

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
Tuesday				
	Yoga Club	3.30-4.30	Studio	yr12-13
	Calm Club	Lunchtime	SEN student room	All, but by invite only
	Ukulele 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	KS3&GCSE
	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
	Board Game Club	lunchtime 1.40 - 2.15	M7	all
	Dance	3.45pm - 4.25pm	Activity Studio	All KS
	Duke Of Edinburgh training (every Wednesday except for training change first week term 4 to Friday 24 Feb due to clashes)	3.30-4.30pm	D plaza	yr 12
	MFL Film Club	lunchtime	L11	all years
	Boys Rugby	3.30-4.25	Field	all yrs
Thursday				
	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
	GCSE PE intervention	3.30-4.30	b plaza	year 11
Friday				
	Car Care & Basic maintenance	3.25 - 4.20	B3	Yr12-13
	Basket Ball Club	Lunchtime 1.40-2.15	PE	all years
	Board Game Club	lunchtime 1.40 - 2.15	M7	all
	Chatter	1.45-2.15pm	Library	All years

Our boot fairs this year are as follows:

Saturday 13th May

Saturday 10th June

Saturday 15th July

Saturday 9th September

6am stallholders - 6:30am public - No need to book, just turn up! More details at danecourt.kent.sch.uk/boot

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

Lost Property

We already have a number of items in our lost property so far this term. They include PE shorts, a ring, keys, a scarf, glasses and pencil case. 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

