

Weekly Parent/Guardian Newsletter

Next week is Week A

31 March 2023



Have a Happy

Easter Holiday



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 – Week A

Date	Events
Monday 17 th April 2023	All years return to school – Yr12 exams begin
Tuesday 18 th April 2023	Yr12 IA Day
Wednesday 19 th April 2023	Yr12 IA Day
Thursday 20 th April 2023	-
Friday 21 st April 2023	-

Instagram False Account Threat

Please be aware that some young people are being targeted on Instagram by an unknown account, threatening to send explicit images of them to their contacts. The unknown account holder is demanding payment to avoid this happening. Please have a conversation with your children ensuring that they are safe online and reminding them that the childline report/remove tool is at their disposal.

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/report-remove/>

Wishing you a safe and restful Easter,

Rachel Richards

Exam Dates

Please see below confirmation of the final exam dates for year 11s this year.

26th May: Last day of formal lessons (students may choose to continue to attend school to revise and prepare after this date).

21st June: Is the date of the last scheduled exam. But all students need to remain available until the 28th June.

28th June: Is the contingency date that is allowed for in case exams are moved by exam board at late notice. This is an official date given by the exam board and therefore all year 11s need to remain available to sit any exam that may be moved to this period.

Year 13

A reminder that the 25th April is the last day they are expected to attend lessons. Students can still come in to study before and during the exam sessions if they wish; a minority of students may be required to attend school again after the IB exams to complete their coursework in their vocational subject and will be made aware of this requirement.

Mr Pleasant

Year 11s - SAVE THE DATE - Sixth Form Induction Days

We would like to invite you to our sixth form induction days on the 22nd and 23rd of June. Students hoping to join us from other schools are also invited to join us during the afternoon of the 21st June to be welcomed by staff and students and to tour the school in preparation for the main induction event.

Details of the days will follow next term and will include opportunities for you to meet with staff, to experience taster lessons in the subjects you hope to study, to speak to Dane Court IB alumni about their courses and successful pathways, and to experience university life.

Please make every effort to ensure you attend all days as they will be an important platform for your successful transition into our sixth form. We very much look forward to welcoming you once again.

Chris Pleasant

PE Spectator Policy Update:

Please find below the updated policy for parents and or carers wishing to watch a sporting fixture.

This will come into effect after the Easter holidays:

PARKING:

Spectators must park outside of the school grounds.

If you are disabled please contact reception in advance and they will let you into the school grounds to park.

Sporting Fixtures Spectator Procedures at DCGS

OUTDOOR AFTER SCHOOL FIXTURES

- All parents and/or carers wishing to watch an after school outdoor fixture must ensure they **sign in** at the Dane Court main school reception and wear their sign-in badge at all times, so it is visible to staff and students.
- Parents/carers **MUST** arrive between 3.00 and 3.20 to sign in at the main school reception and wait in the reception area.
- Promptly at 3.30 the PE assistant will be over to escort parents to the fixture site (and pick up a register of who has signed in and take that to the teacher on the fixture) which is where parents must stay until the fixture is finished.
- Parents/Carers will enter the school site with the PE assistant through the side gate by the sports building.
- No dogs or any other animals are allowed within the school grounds at any of our fixtures. Unless they are a support/guidance dog.
- No photographs or filming is permitted.
- Parents/carers are then only permitted to be where the fixture is held and not to wander around any other part of the school or its grounds. Unfortunately, there are no toilet facilities for spectators whilst a fixture is going on.
- The teacher on the fixture will escort parents off site, collect badges and **sign spectators out** on the paper register brought over in the beginning.
- Please be aware that unfortunately due to spectators needing to be escorted to the fixture if anyone is later than 3.30 you will not be able to gain entry as no one from PE will be around to take you over to the fixture and around the school property.

LARGE FIXTURES OR EVENTS:

Unfortunately, for larger events (with more than two other schools attending) we cannot have spectators. This includes but is not limited to any Primary School events held here, Cross Country and Sports day.

INDOOR FIXTURES:

Owing to space only students and teachers are permitted to spectate any indoor fixtures

AWAY FIXTURES:

Spectating policies differ from school to school, so we encourage parents/carers to contact the away team to see if parents are allowed on their site to spectate. It is the parents/carers responsibility to ensure they are allowed on site before turning up.

SCHOOLS ATTENDING DCGS GROUNDS:

- This information will also be given to the team visiting us to play so they are aware of our policy and it is the other schools responsibility to inform their parents and/or carers.

- Teachers from visiting schools must sign themselves and their team in at the main DC reception and PE assistant will meet them and bring them over to PE area/fixture site.
- Any parents/carers who would like to spectate from the opposing schools, will have the same protocol as the home parents/carers and must arrive between 3.00-3.20. At 3.30, after school has finished, they will be escorted to the fixture by the PE assistant.
- Parents and/or carers cannot watch fixtures during school hours
- If parents/carers are later than 3.30pm they will unfortunately not be able to watch the fixture as we will not have a member of staff to escort them to the fixture.

Many thanks
PE Department

PE reminder:

Please can you ensure if your child has a piercing that cannot be removed, they must come into PE with their own medical tape to cover them and a note from parent/carer advising the school as to when they can be removed. We recommend any new piercings wait until the beginning of the summer holidays please.

Any injured students must have a note from parents/carers to email the school to inform so we are aware. If an injury requires more than one week of not participating in PE, we do need a note/evidence from a medical professional please. Students must still bring in and change into PE kit unless their injury makes it too painful or impossible to do.

Many thanks for your cooperation.

Team Chatter

On behalf of Team Chatter, a huge thank you to everyone who bought Easter Raffle tickets and donated prizes. We raised a **fantastic £108.50** for the charities from this term's fundraiser. This brings the total raised to just under £380 so far with just 1 fundraiser next term to go. Chatter 25 shall be hitting your inbox and the school website this week, please take a read as there have been lots of fantastic opportunities for students to write about since Christmas.

Thank you again for all of your support.

Mrs Cronin

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Many thanks for your cooperation.

Miss Bolt

Medieval Banquet

A huge thank you to parents and guardians for all of your support in preparing year 7 students for their Medieval Banquet on Monday. The event was a big success and we hope that you were regaled with tales of the experience when they returned home that day. Please can we ask that any borrowed costumes are returned to Food as soon as possible as well as any unwanted peasant costumes that we might be able to make use of in future years.

A plea for empty containers

Our supply of empty chocolate tubs, ice cream tubs and takeaway containers has run very low this term. If your child has come home with food in a school container, please can it be returned to school early next term, likewise, if you have a stash of unwanted plastic tubs that we can make use of, they will be gratefully received and made use of.

Next term

Year 8 parents can look forward to an invitation to a coffee morning or afternoon tea which will be hosted by each mentor group later in the term or the start of term 6. These events will take place during their lesson time and dates will be released early next term Please check in to the school newsletter for this information.

Year 10 Food students

One of the best things a Food GCSE student can do to prepare for success in year 11 is to cook as often as possible at home. They should challenge themselves with new dishes as well as practising dishes that they have made in school. We also love to see what students have made in their own time, so photos are a great way to keep record.

Wishing you all a happy Easter

The Food department

School absence procedure

It is important that remind you that if your child is going to be absent from school, you must call the absence line, 01843 864941, option 1, or email: csayer@danecourt.kent.sch.uk as soon as possible, or at the very latest by 10 am.

Unless **pre-arranged** you are required to do this **every day your child is absent**. From a safeguarding perspective, your cooperation with this is essential and appreciated.

Mrs R Richards

The French and Spanish GCSE

The French and Spanish GCSE orals will take place after Easter. The exams start on **Monday 24 April** and finish on **Friday 5 May**. Students will be given their oral exam date and time from their language teacher.

Please encourage your child to make good use of their flashcards and to practise their speaking at home with you over the Easter holiday.

Andrew Tate

I am sure you are familiar with Andrew Tate. Schools (and parents) across the country are being advised to address the hateful ideologies he espouses due to the worrying number of young people who are increasingly being influenced by him. I am attaching two articles for your perusal. If you have any questions or concerns about this, or other 'influencers' and want to know how to support your child, please do make contact with me. I previously shared the Internet Watch Foundation Talk guidance with you (which pertains to protecting your children from sexual abuse online), but the guidance can also be extended to this context also. I am resharing it here. <https://talk.iwf.org.uk/>

Internet Watch Foundation

I am attaching a link to this excellent download from the Internet Watch Foundation. The focus is on the dangers that young people face online and how parents/carers can help to mitigate these risks. We will continue to support the safeguarding of your child here through mentoring, PSHE lessons and assemblies.

<https://talk.iwf.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Parent-Resource.pdf>

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.

Family Support

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.

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.

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.

Anna Freud Parent Webinars

A reminder that 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>.

The topics covered are:

Anxiety in adolescence: how can parents help?

Adolescent self-harm: how to make sense of it and when to seek support

Weathering the storms of strong teen emotions: do's, don'ts and when to consider talking to someone

Building resilience, staying connected and nurturing your relationship with your teen

Managing teen behaviour that challenges: tips and tricks

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.

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

THE END

