

## Weekly Parent/Guardian Newsletter

Next week is Week A

26<sup>th</sup> May 2023

# Half Term Next Week

# Return Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June



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 2-1-2 timetable	
Date	Events
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> June 2023	Year 12 Geography Trip to Juniper Hall 2
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> June 2023	Year 12 Geography Trip to Juniper Hall 2
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> June 2023	-
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> June 2023	Grease, Dominion Theatre London
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> June 2023	Year 9 Ypres trip

## New Content

### **This Week's Menu**


**Dane Court Grammar School - Week 1**


Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Chilli Beef served with Tortilla Crisp, Jalapenos, Cheese & Sour Cream	Chicken Style Tikka Masala served with Turmeric Rice	Traditional Roast of the Day, Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Sweet & Sour Chicken served with Egg Noodle	Fish Shop Friday: Breaded Fish & Chips
Spicy Mixed Beans served with Coriander Steamed Rice	Sweet Potato, Chickpeas & Spinach Curry served with Naan Bread	Caramelised Red Onion, Tomato & Cheese Square Puff	Mixed Vegetable & Beans Teriyaki served with Steamed Rice	Vegetarian Spring Roll
Sweetcorn & Mixed Peppers	Steamed White Cabbage	Broccoli Florets	Steamed Carrots	Garden Peas or Baked Beans
Jacket Potato with a Selection of Hot & Cold Fillings	Jacket Potato with a Selection of Hot & Cold Fillings	Jacket Potato with a Selection of Hot & Cold Fillings	Jacket Potato with a Selection of Hot & Cold Fillings	Jacket Potato with a Selection of Hot & Cold Fillings
St Clement Sponge Cake	Lemon Drizzle Sponge Cake	Red Velvet Cake	Marble Sponge Cake	Cheesecake Pot

# IKEBANA CLUB

Japanese Art of Flower Arranging  
For Year 12 students only

BY MS MYERS  
(Qualified Ikebana Teacher)



*Feel the soul of Japan through enjoyment of a process  
that both calms and purifies the spirit.*

いけばなクラブ

Term 6

Week B Friday after school 3:30-4:30 in L4  
Starts on 16th June

❖ Inform Ms Myers if you would like to attend the club  
as the space is limited. [myers@danecourt.kent.sch.uk](mailto:myers@danecourt.kent.sch.uk)

## Ikebana (Japanese Flower Arranging) Club for Year 12 next term

Ikebana is the traditional Japanese art of flower arrangement; it invites people 'to feel the soul of Japan', through enjoyment of a process that both calms and purifies the spirit.

It takes place Week B Friday after school 3:30-4:30 in L4 and starts on 16th June.

Please inform Ms Myers ([myers@danecourt.kent.sch.uk](mailto:myers@danecourt.kent.sch.uk)) if you would like to attend the club as the space is limited.

This is for Year 12 only.

## Message from Kent Police regarding Bicycle Thefts



**Kent  
Police**

Urgency: 3 2 1



**Bike Thefts**

CRIME PREVENTION

We have had several reports of pedal cycle thefts across the Isle over the last few days. They have been stolen from schools, outside houses, and some that have been left outside shops whilst the owner goes in.

Please click the below link to see how you can prevent it from happening to you.

Remember, ALWAYS lock your bike even if you are only nipping into the shop, Thieves can be quicker than you!

[Protect your bike from theft | Kent Police](#)

Be safe, Be Sure

## Final Revision Workshops for Yr11

The French department will be running final revision workshops for foundation and higher tier during **Lesson 3 on Monday 5 June**. (In L3 + L5) All students are encouraged to attend for some final revision tips and advice ahead of the French writing exam that afternoon.

## The Chemistry of Good Chocolate yr9 Competition

The chemistry, food technology and art departments are running a competition for Y9 students on the "chemistry of good chocolate". Students will spend some time in lessons researching the chemistry of chocolate and learning how to prepare good quality posters with images that they have created.

Students are invited to submit their posters by email to Dr Green by 30th June. Winning posters will be awarded prizes before the end of term 6. Students are also encouraged to enter their posters to the Royal Society of Chemistry poster competition, the details for which are in their Google Classrooms.

## England Golf event this weekend – Congratulations Jack!

Jack S. had an amazingly enjoyable & successful weekend away with the team. England secured the victory against Spain, winning 16-8 & Jack contributed to this score with a win & 2 tied matches. The matches were incredibly closely contested. In this afternoon's Singles, Jack birdied the 17th to ensure it was taken to the final hole - which he also had to win in order to achieve halving the match. To have the opportunity to experience this at such a young age & elevate his golfing career is phenomenal. Jack was a credit to himself & to us all.



## Reference Section

### Picking up and dropping off by car.

We have recently had a number of reports from local residents regarding unsafe and illegal parking in nearby streets. We appreciate that parking around the school is limited but parking in an unsafe way can endanger the lives of our students and other pedestrians. We are committed to safeguarding our students and ask that you take notice of the following:

- Please do not park in the school entrance or exit or on the hazard lines either side of the entrance and exit gates.
- Please park considerately when dropping off or picking up your child. Please do not park on our neighbours' driveways or over their drop curbs, even if this is only for a few minutes.
- Please do not attempt to access the school car park using the security gates unless you have a temporary car park access pass.
- Please try to drop off/pick up your child from one of the local quiet side streets.
- Unfortunately, we have had some reports from local residents of verbal abuse and aggressive behaviour from parents over parking issues.

Many thanks

### Grease Tickets

Tickets for Grease are now on sale at £6 each. Mr Stanley and Mrs Radley will be selling tickets Tues-Fri breaktime outside of drama (cash only). The show dates are 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th of July curtains up at 7pm.

## School Terms and Holidays: 2023–2024

Dane Court Grammar School  
 Term Dates 2023/24

Aug-23							Sep-23							Oct-23							Nov-23																											
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Dec-23							Jan-24							Feb-24							Mar-24									
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Apr-24							May-24							Jun-24							Jul-24							
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Aug-24							
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	School Day
	School Holiday
	Bank Holiday
	Training Day

Term 1	01/09/2023 - 20/10/2023
Term 2	30/10/2023 - 15/12/2023
Term 3	02/01/2024 - 09/02/2024
Term 4	19/02/2024 - 28/03/2024
Term 5	15/04/2024 - 24/05/2024
Term 6	03/06/2024 - 23/07/2024

1 training day to be added once confirmed.

## Year 11 Students

You are invited to join us at Dane Court Grammar School for our Sixth Form Taster Events from Wednesday 21st to Friday 23rd June. The afternoon of Wednesday 21st June is for those of you who are new to Dane Court. The following two days are for all year 11 students, and we encourage you to attend both days.

We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday 21st (PM only) Thursday 22nd and Friday 23rd June 2023.

## Exam Dates for Yr11s

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

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

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

**28<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Details for Sports Fixtures

All sporting fixtures have a team sheet with details of the location of the fixture, arrive, leave and return timings and the team. These are all found on the fixture board in the PE building. We ask students to take a photo of this and to show home so parents/carers are aware.

Please do be aware that on away fixtures the return time may vary due to situations outside of our control such as traffic. If a fixture is leaving before school hours please do not arrive any earlier than the time stated as there will be no one in school to let you in the gates until the time specified on the fixture sheet.

## PE Piercings:

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.

## School Absence Procedure

It is important to 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](mailto:csayer@danecourt.kent.sch.uk) as soon as possible, or at the very latest by 10am.

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.

### **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, 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**

### **Parent Support Webinars**

Our NHS Emotional Wellbeing Team continue to support parents with their virtual webinars based on challenging issues parents may face. If you would like to attend a session, please email [holmes@danecourt.kent.sch.uk](mailto:holmes@danecourt.kent.sch.uk).

This and all other support available for parents is listed on our school website, within the Family Support page <https://danecourt.kent.sch.uk/parents8/news6/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](mailto:admin@danecourt.kent.sch.uk)) or the Sixth Form office ([abowen@danecourt.kent.sch.uk](mailto: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](mailto:leese@danecourt.kent.sch.uk)

[nedmondson@danecourt.kent.sch.uk](mailto: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.

### **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](mailto: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 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](http://danecourt.kent.sch.uk/boot)

**HAVE A GREAT HALF-TERM**  
**THE END**

