



**Dane Court Grammar School  
Parent/Guardian Newsletter**

**Week beginning 20 November 2020**



**Week B**

**Language learning FAQs of the week.**

**Wouldn't it be better for my child to concentrate more time on getting better at English?**

Learning a foreign language is an essential core entitlement for all of our students; concentrating on English is not a reason to deprive any student of their right to learn a foreign language. All students are capable of learning a foreign language and doing anything to make them believe otherwise is unhelpful, to say the least.

Language lessons can provide less confident students with a real boost as they often all begin with a similar level of knowledge. We develop many skills in language learning that are essential for progress in other subjects: memory, problem-solving and thinking skills.

Learning languages contributes much to a child's overall ability to learn. It is not simply a matter of the foreign language words they acquire.

Thank you

The Languages team.

**Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award**

If any students in Year 12 are interested in doing the Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award, they need to email Mrs Whelan and get their application in by 27 November, the deadline has been extended.

**Scholastic Book Fair for Years 7,8 and 9**

We will be running a Scholastic Book Fair during library lessons from 27th November until Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2020.

Here is the link to the book list, order form and payment methods:

<https://images.scholastic.co.uk/assets/a/54/8d/sbf-secondary-parent-order-form-1974939.docx>

Our school ID is 17302894.

Please order ahead of the library lesson.

Thank you

Rebecca Finlay Dane Court Librarian

**Christmas Food Parcel Donations**

Thank you so much for all the generosity you have shown in donating food and baby products for the food parcels. We are starting to build up a good supply of items to make into hampers in December.

We have learned from the Food Banks that the need is extreme in Thanet and our contribution will be of great benefit to the families who are struggling. If you are aware of any families, or people living on their own who might want a food parcel, please email Margaret McCloskey, who is the Chair of the St Vincent de Paul Society at: [maireadmcc@live.co.uk](mailto:maireadmcc@live.co.uk)

This group are coordinating the allocation of food hampers to families. The information they require will be the number of people in the family and the ages of the children if any, and their address. This information will of course, be confidential.

Thank you Mrs Baker

## **Weekly E-Safety advice**

### **Social Networking - 5 things to think about.**

Social networking allows people to share a lot of information about who they are and what they like doing with lots of different people. This could end up putting people in very difficult situations. Below are five things for parents and students to think about.

#### **1. Digital footprint.**

As students get older, their interests and the things they find comical change. The problem is things posted on social networks from years ago can be difficult to delete, especially if they can no longer access that account. Other people could also have copied them or shared them resulting in the image or posts being around forever.

#### **2. Sharing personal information.**

Social networks let students post all kinds of information. The more information someone puts online the more people can find out about that person. Some people might use this to find out where they live, what school they go to, bully, harass or make contact and lie about being into the same things as you.

#### **3. It's very easy to lie online.**

Some people set up fake accounts or profiles on social networks. They even pretend to be different genders, races or age. It can be really hard to tell the difference between someone who's genuine and someone who is fake.

#### **4. Anti-social networking.**

Just as social networks can be used to share lots of great information and stay in touch with family and friends they can also be used to share nasty things such as; embarrassing pictures, upsetting comments, and fake profiles.

#### **5. I did not want to see that.**

Anyone can post videos, pictures or ideas on social networks. That means users might see things they don't want to. Sometimes these can be masked by a nice picture or title, however when opened could be something very upsetting.

Thank you  
Mr Lycett  
Head of Computer Studies

### **Live and recorded lessons**

With an increased number of our students having to isolate, you can expect more and more use of live and recorded lessons. Students will be able to access these lessons by joining the lesson link in the relevant Google Classroom at the start of their timetabled lesson. Please note that students will only be able to join the live lesson once their teacher has already joined. Please also note that, in some subjects and year groups, work on Google Classroom - rather than live lessons - may still be more appropriate.

We have been very impressed with the behaviour and conduct of our students in these lessons so far, however there are some simple guidelines that need to be followed:

- Students should ensure their cameras and microphones are turned off when joining a meeting.
- Students may switch on their microphones to contribute to the lesson, but cameras should remain off.
- Students **must not** record, photograph or otherwise document the live lesson.

Please note, lessons will be recorded and uploaded to Google Classroom for students who are unable to access the lesson at the assigned time. Only the teacher and the whiteboard will ever be in view of the camera. If parents are concerned that their children will not have the IT facilities to access this learning from home, or have any other concerns about this process, they should contact the school.

### **Face coverings.**

Thank you for your support with students wearing masks. They have been mature and sensible with this new way of working and we have been impressed with their cooperation.

As you will be aware, we have had a small number of students testing positive for COVID-19. Where this is the case, we have relied on parents/guardians to inform us that their child has tested positive, and we have informed other parents/guardians when there is a need for their child to self-isolate in accordance with Public Health England guidelines, on a case by case basis. Please rest assured that we are enforcing these guidelines stringently and your child's safety, your safety and our staff safety is our priority.

Thank you

Rachel Rolls

Assistant Head Teacher