



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



14 December 2020

Week A

Dear Parent/Guardian, please find below all the relevant events and notices for the upcoming week.

Language learning FAQ of the week.

I wasn't very good at languages at school myself and I can't help my child with their homework. My child is worried about their language classes.

The best support that you can give your child is your enthusiasm and encouragement. For that no language knowledge is needed. If you are positive and supportive, advising your child to seek the support of the teacher, this will be all that is needed. If you have the time to spend a few minutes sitting with your child and going through the words she/he has to learn, this would be incredibly beneficial too. It is hard in the early stages for students to realise whether they have actually learnt their vocabulary and having someone who can test them provides the reassurance that they need, not to mention the fact that it's far more fun to learn like that.

Just as you worked with your child on tables and spellings, you can do the same routine with language vocabulary. If you are unsure about pronunciation then you just say the English – you'll be able to recognise if your child is saying the correct foreign word back to you!

The Languages team

Christmas Food Hampers and Toy Stockings

Thank you all so much for your generosity in donating food and toys for our Christmas appeal. You will be pleased to know that we made thirty-five hampers and many toy stockings. The hampers and toys will be distributed this week. This is a great achievement in the circumstances, and in spite of so much disruption and many people having to self-isolate the donations kept coming in. Happy Christmas!

Mrs Baker, Mrs Fleet and the Sixth Form Food Parcel team.

Remote learning:

Dear Parents/Guardians, thank you for your support with our remote learning. We are providing a range of lessons for our students, to ensure that progress is maintained. Delivery is through google classroom. Please discuss what has been set with your child and ask to see their google classroom work. Everything is accessible from there. Many thanks,

Year 11 Parents/Guardians:

Thank you for encouraging your children to attend the Year 11 non-core small group subject tutorials. They will be continuing in the last week of term.

English and Maths tutorials will commence after Christmas. Modern Foreign Language tutorials will continue. If we would like your child to attend, you will receive an invitation by email, shortly.

Christmas Week Arrangements 2020

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday -

Lessons as normal

Tuesday 15th December

Christmas Tree Competition - Judging - 1:25pm



Friday 18th December: *please note different timings*

	Key Stage 3	Key Stage 4	Key Stage 5
P1	Lesson as normal	Talent Show Broadcast - In lesson	Talent Show Broadcast - In lesson
P2	Talent Show Broadcast - In lesson	Lesson as normal	Lesson as normal
10:45-11:05	Break	Break	Leave
P3	Mentor Time	Mentor Time	
12:05-12:25	Lunch	Mentor Time	
12:25 – 12:45	Lunch	Lunch	
12:45 – 1:00	Mentor Time	Lunch	
1:05 – 1:35	Assembly - Remote		
1:40	All Students to depart school site. Those that need to stay to report to the PSO.		

E-Safety - IoT Devices

Many families have internet connected devices for their home. These devices are connected to the internet via WiFi, Bluetooth or a physical connection like a USB cable. They can also be connected to each other creating a personal network.

Internet connected devices can send and receive data, respond to voice commands and be controlled remotely using smartphone apps, consoles or personal computers. They are referred to as 'the internet of things'

Some examples of these devices include:

- Smart speakers, such as Google Home/next and Amazon Echo
- Wearables, such as smartwatches and fitness trackers
- Smart meters measuring household energy consumption
- Network enabled fridges, kettles, lightbulbs, doorbells, heating, camera etc...
- Toys with voice and/or image recognition, such as Hello Barbie, Furby Connect Robots, drones etc...

Managing the risks

Many parents don't realise that internet connected devices have the same risks as smartphones and tablets. These can be more likely to happen if the devices are not set up correctly or used properly. Some of the risks of using internet connected devices are:

- Other people might be able to access your device and content without you knowing. (This is the reason why some people cover their webcam with tape when not in use)
- Baby monitors, tablets and even toys can be hacked or modified without the owner knowing.
- Internet connected devices can collect personal data, including audio and visual data, especially devices that are “always listening” for a voice activation command.

It is always the safest practice to make sure parental controls are set for all IoT devices and that they are used in a common place that is easy to monitor, such as a living room.

Emotional Health Consultation Line

Have you noticed a change in your child's behaviour and worried they may be experiencing anxiety?

They may be

- finding it hard to concentrate
- having trouble sleeping and/ or a change in appetite
- seeking constant reassurance
- feeling nervous or on edge.

If you feel your child is struggling and needs extra support, call the emotional health consultation line on 0800 011 3474 to speak to our team (option 1 then option 2). A school nurse will listen to you, provide basic coping strategies and if needed, support with a referral to the children and young people's (CYP) counselling service. Young people are also welcome to call the consultation line themselves, or if they prefer, they can text in confidence by text, through our ChatHealth service on 07520 618850 (monitored 9am-5pm Monday to Friday)

Kent Community Health Foundation Trust (KCHFT) provides support for children and young people's physical and emotional health needs, including the CYP's counselling service.

More information on all our support can be found at www.kentcht.nhs.uk/service/school-health or www.kentyouthhealth.nhs.uk.

Please may we wish you a restful and safe Christmas. Your continued support and positivity have been invaluable.

*Rachel Rolls
Assistant Head Teacher for Raising Achievement*