



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



18 January 2021

Week B

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

Christmas cake competition

We had a very high standard of entries to our annual Christmas cake competition this year. Congratulations to the winners, please see results below.

Joint First place goes to:

Lydia Jones 8D
Isabella Gjini 8N
Oliver Norton 8N
Daniel Pook 8T
Kieran Buchanon 8S
George maiden-Tilsen 8T

Joint second place

Mary Leese 8N
Oliver Jones 8N
Sean Allan 8B
Kacey Hammond 8B
Finlay Newton 8B
Beatrix Bright 8S
Verney Luxmoore 8S

All entries will receive a merit, with extra merits going to the winners.



Remote Learning Attendance

If your child is unable to access their learning owing to illness or another matter, will you please be kind enough to let the office know on the absence line.

Mrs R Rolls, Assistant Headteacher

Critical workers

Parents whose work is critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) and EU transition response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined in the following sections:

Children with at least one parent or carer who is a critical worker can go to school or college if required, but parents and carers should keep their children at home if they can.

Duke of Edinburgh Training

Google Meet Duke of Edinburgh Training for year 12 Silver D of E participants Monday 18th @15.30. All must attend or email Mrs Whelan if unable.

Reminder: First D of E payment due next week - Thank you.

Yr 13 Physics Students

In November 2020 four Year 13 Physics students sat the British Physics Olympiad. This year 1,616 students from 270 schools participated from the UK and from a few schools overseas (and a further 2,000 students in China). This paper is to challenge a range of student knowledge, preparation and ability, allowing access for good students, whilst also aiming at stretching and challenging the top young physicists in the country in a national competition. Every question requires a different perspective to get the measure of it. This fluency in recognising topics and linking ideas is, in part, what develops the physicist's confidence and mastery. It reflects positively on a candidate who has been willing to take part in a competition that has such demanding questions. Over time, they will come across these difficult ideas and applications and begin to see their way through. This is the first step in developing valuable problem solving skills that enable an understanding of the broad landscape of a fantastic subject.

Elliot Sage-Ling, Max Roe and Ashling O'Neill-Malon achieved commendations and Zara Ahmed achieved a Bronze II certificate, congratulations goes to all of these students."

Mr L Fricker, Head of Physics

Extended Essays - Year 13

Please can you support the diploma students in year 13 to not forget their Extended Essay whilst they are doing remote learning. The deadline for submission of their completed EE is Friday 5th February. They should be well underway in redrafting but might need assistance in ensuring they are making progress and meeting the deadline.

Staff need time to give a predicted grade, conduct the viva voce, then students need to ensure their final reflection is written, reflections are copied onto the required form, and that everything is electronically uploaded to the IB. This will need to be done before March.

I will be prompting students via the EE classroom, but please can you remind your children as well?

Many thanks,

Mr J Rye, Educational Visits Co-ordinator

Sports News:

Indoor athletics which we held when in school in the sports hall with the different year groups. The results come back as:

Year 7 boys - 1st in Thanet, those results then also got compared to all participating Kent schools and they were 1st in Kent too.

Year 7 girls - 1st in Thanet, those results then also got compared to all participating Kent schools and they were 1st in Kent too.

Year 8 girls - 1st in Thanet school, those results then also got compared to all participating Kent schools and they were 3rd in Kent.

Year 8 boys - 2nd Thanet schools, those results then also got compared to all participating Kent schools and they were 3rd in Kent.

Some amazing results and well done to every student who participated and had their results go forward.

Dance

Thanet Schools Dance competition - Maddie Eastland came 2nd in the virtual dance competition and this is when she had also been put up a Key Stage so she was entered as our KS4 participant even though she is in year 9, so to achieve 2nd place is excellent.

Well done everyone.

Year 7 Flu immunisation Programme

The school nursing team has arranged to come into school on Wednesday 20th January for a catch up session for year 7 flu vaccinations. If your year 7 child missed their flu vaccination and you would like them to have it, please complete this online form.

<https://forms.gle/ixV68eTrnDf5bUp8>

In the morning, please bring your child to school and then wait for them in the car park as there won't be room for parents to wait in reception.

Your child should wear a mask but does not need to wear school uniform. Please respond to this email to book a place by Monday 18 January.

Thank you

Dane Court School Office

Year 11 options

Parents of Year 11 students should have received an email with details of the Year 11 options interview process. Please read and respond to this message as soon as you are able.

The Year 9 options process will follow the Year 11 options process and take place after half term. Detailed information will be provided to students and parents nearer the time.

Mr B Forward, Assistant Headteacher.

Year 13 IBCP students'

Year 13 IBCP students' deadline for completing their IB Ethical (Reflective) Project by the end of term, 12th February. Students have the support of their supervisors, any concerns can be emailed to Mrs Linton, Assistant Head of Sixth Form, IBCP Co-Ordinator

Online Safety advice – WhatsApp

WhatsApp is a free messaging app that allows users to send messages to other users over an internet connection, mobile data is not required. Users must verify their account with a mobile phone number to start using the app. WhatsApp offers users the ability to send end-to-end encrypted messages, images, voice notes and a wide range of emojis, in addition to voice and video calls.

Age restriction and appropriateness

The minimum age of use for WhatsApp is 16 years old.

Like many age restrictions, some children may choose to ignore this requirement and sign up for WhatsApp using a falsified age.

WhatsApp's main purpose is to send messages to friends, people can only message friends who are already added on their phone. As long as your child only has trusted people as contacts on their phone, it is a relatively safe social media app.

Group chats

The group chat function allows up to 256 people to chat in one conversation window. Each group is set up by one person, known as the group admin or moderator, who is the only person who can add or remove participants and change or add further group administrators.

Within a school environment, students tend to set up groups for classes with the intent of sharing deadline reminders, resources and ideas. This however opens up the possibility of unmonitored bullying between groups of students. It is therefore always wise to monitor your child's whatsapp usage, where you can check the appropriateness of the messages being sent and received.

If your child has or wants WhatsApp, it is a good idea to talk to them about group chats, stating the risks and showing them how to exit a group if they're invited to one that has people in it that they don't know.

End-to-end Encryption

WhatsApp uses end-to-end encryption in all its communications methods. This means only those with access to the phones of the sender and receiver can access them. This has caused problems with the police when trying to access communication records, as even WhatsApp cannot access the messages.

However, it is a very attractive feature for those concerned about the privacy of their messages.

It is still possible however to screenshot messages and images, which can then be used outside of the app.

Privacy settings, blocking and reporting

The app has a default privacy setting which allows anyone else on WhatsApp to view the user's profile photo, and status.

It's easy to change this setting to specify that the WhatsApp profile is only seen by 'My contacts' or 'Nobody' making the app feel safer.

To do this, tap Settings > Account > Privacy > Status.

In this area, you can also manage any blocked contacts.

There is no direct way to report a user, or specific abuse, other than to block them from sending you further messages. To block a contact, when the conversation is open, click on the 3 dots on the top right, tap 'More', then 'Block'.

Blocked contacts won't be able to see your profile information, and they won't be able to contact you. To permanently delete a contact from WhatsApp you will need to delete them from the contacts on the device itself.

Please click on the link below to access the January 2020 edition of Ditto magazine, with advice for the following topics:-

- YouTube Influencers
- Tiktok
- Family safety Mode
- Like Farming
- Taming Gaming
- Harmful content
- Snippets

https://www.esafety-adviser.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/DITTO-Ed-23-January-2021_compressed.pdf
Mr S Lycett, Teacher in Charge of Computing.