

## Weekly Parent/Guardian Newsletter

Week A

1 March 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian, welcome to this week's newsletter.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming the students back to school from Monday 8th March.

As mentioned in a previous letter, all students will be offered a Covid-19 test on site before returning to the classroom. In total, we will provide three on-site Covid-19 tests to all students.

In order to enable all students to return to school as soon as possible, we will begin our testing programme on Monday 1st March. In line with DFE guidance we are prioritising our senior students for the first rounds of testing to ensure that they can resume face-to-face teaching at the earliest possible opportunity.

Also, we are looking forward to resuming face to face lessons in school with your child, but may we please remind you that if your child is displaying any of the recognised **COVID-19 symptoms**, they should not attend school for a lateral flow test or lessons. Self isolation guidance should be adhered to, and a PCR test should be organised at the local testing centre. Please let the school know if your child is unable to attend via the school absence line 01843 864941.

### **Consent for COVID-19 Testing**

The government have made it clear that mass testing of students and school staff will be an important feature of the re-opening of schools.

Up to one third of people who have coronavirus experience no symptoms. By testing we will help to stop the virus spread and help to keep our school open as safely as possible.

The testing is voluntary, but I would encourage everyone to participate.

If you have not done so already, please complete the [consent form](#) if you are happy for your son/daughter to take part in the testing programme.

If you would prefer your son/daughter not to take part in the testing programme please let us know by emailing [admin@danecourt.kent.sch.uk](mailto:admin@danecourt.kent.sch.uk)

Mr M Jones  
Headteacher

### **National Careers Week 2021 1st - 5th March**

This year our school careers fair is online! We have over 100 organisations talking about routes into their industry and the variety of roles available in the future. Students will have the opportunity to look around the careers fair during their ICE (Years 7 - 11) and PPS lessons (Year 12).

Students are able to enter the **Theatre** to listen to a variety of talks from professionals and employees from 12 industry sectors.

Then by visiting the **School Hall** students can visit the stands of over 100 organisations:

- Watch an interview with an employee
- Read about essential skills for the role
- Find out about activities that they can complete now to prepare them for that role/pathway in the future
- Answer some frequently asked questions

We have exclusive access to the website from the 1st - 8th March, and would invite parents/carers and their son/daughter to look at it together to discuss the many opportunities available.

URL: [www.ebpkentvirtualtours.co.uk](http://www.ebpkentvirtualtours.co.uk)

Login: danecourt2021

Password: dane-court2021

*Please note that ownership of the site and copyright belongs to EBP Kent. Employers have agreed to support the site with the arrangement that the platform is used purely for educative purposes. Unless stated within the stand itself, we ask that employers are not contacted directly for further information and any specific requests are sent through the EBP team first. Access to the site should be for students and staff at the partner school not for any other individual or organisation unless agreement is arranged with EBP Kent.*

Mrs Linton  
Careers Leader

**World Book Day** is coming up, on 4th March, and as schools and shops will still be closed we are sending you a digital book token for your child/children, instead of the usual paper version. This can be printed off and exchanged for one of the £1 World Book Day books or used towards buying another book, from participating supermarkets and bookshops. Please note that the book token is valid until 29th March and it can only be used once. The 2021 World Book Day £1 books can be found

here: <https://www.worldbookday.com/books/>

Book marks will be emailed next week.

Mrs Finlay  
Librarian



### **Sixth Form Student Leadership Team**

I am delighted to announce, having received some truly exceptional and thoughtful applications, our new Sixth Form Student Leadership Team is as follows:

Oscar Philip-James  
Evie Anderson  
Gilem Yilmaz  
Louise Carroll  
Jessie Cherry  
Abbie Debling  
Aimee Lewry  
Macey Boulton  
Cesar Delgado

Furthermore, from this group we have appointed the following students to their respective positions:  
Abbie Debling and Cesar Delgado as Head Students  
Macey Boulton and Jessie Cherry as Heads of the Student Council.

We have a brilliant team and we look forward to their contributions to the Sixth Form and wider school community

### **Year 13 Students. Ethical Project / Extended Essay.**

On Monday 1st March, students will spend the day off timetable in order to give them some additional time to complete their work for the Core. This will be the final opportunity we can give them to complete these pieces, in order to achieve the DP/CP qualification.

Students are not required to attend lessons or to register for lessons but must register at 8.40 with Mrs Linton or Mr Rye on the Ethical Project or Extended Essay Google Classroom, via the Google Meet link. Bespoke student's will not need to register but instead should spend the time working on IA's/coursework.

Details of the work which should be completed by CP or DP students has already been sent to students in advance.

The school's upload deadline for this work is the 15th March. Time is needed prior to this for marking and uploading of documentation and so all work must be completed and submitted by the end of the day Monday in order to meet the IB's requirements.

Thank you.  
Mr Pleasant

## **SEN Department**

### **Google Workspace and Accessibility**

I have become aware of a parent/carer guide to using the accessibility settings available through the Google Workspace platform that we use for Google Classroom and all the other linked Google tools.

If your child has a visual or a hearing impairment, or you would like to see what Google offer regarding tools that can 'lighten the load', electronically speaking, please access the guide in this link:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-MfcIYSfLuH5rR8BBxNKxpsPEG\\_4lX5PcqG-6FSJcg/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-MfcIYSfLuH5rR8BBxNKxpsPEG_4lX5PcqG-6FSJcg/edit?usp=sharing)

### **Return to School**

If you have any particular concerns regarding wellbeing or mental health with respect to our return to school from 8th March and you can foresee difficulties that we may need to address to smooth the transition back to face to face learning, please let Mrs Holmes and Mrs Ives know as soon as possible on [holmes@danecourt.kent.sch.uk](mailto:holmes@danecourt.kent.sch.uk) and [ives@danecourt.kent.sch.uk](mailto:ives@danecourt.kent.sch.uk). We will endeavour to work with you to address these issues.

Lucy Holmes



### **Japanese Cooking Competition**

The Japanese Cooking Competition for all students, teachers and staff has been launched during the lockdown.

The students can watch a video about the competition on Google Classroom.

Just cook Japanese food, take a photo and upload it on the Google Classroom with a brief description and comments on the dish.

There will be prizes, and the winners will be announced in Term 4. The participants can submit as many entries as they wish. The deadline is 7th March.

Hope it helps people to be off screen and enjoy learning something new.

The useful recipe websites are:

Japan Centre- Recipe: <https://www.japancentre.com/en/cookings>

Weeknight Meal Ideas: <https://www.justonecookbook.com/15-easy-japanese-recipes>

Enjoy cooking, and eating too, of course!

M Myers

### Dane Court Staff Team Challenge

The Dane Court staff virtual trip around Europe challenge to raise money for the Pilgrim's Hospice in East Kent is now well underway.

They are 2 weeks in and have completed 1684.2 miles, 30.67% of the 5492 mile target.

They have visited Neuchatel Castle and La Rambla in Barcelona, and are almost at Sorrento.

This mammoth challenge is a team building exercise to boost both physical and mental health, whilst raising money for an amazing cause. If you wish to donate, the link to the justgiving page is:

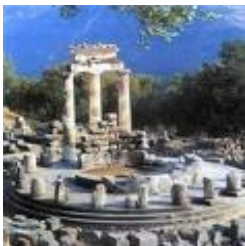
[https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/dane-court-grammar-school?utm\\_source=whatsapp&utm\\_medium=fundraising&utm\\_content=dane-court-grammar-school&utm\\_campaign=pfp-whatsapp&utm\\_term=e0326b6de07a428991b7ae9f7a1ae726](https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/dane-court-grammar-school?utm_source=whatsapp&utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=dane-court-grammar-school&utm_campaign=pfp-whatsapp&utm_term=e0326b6de07a428991b7ae9f7a1ae726)

Thank you  
Laura Rattenberry

Sorrento



607 miles to  
Delphi



1727 miles to  
Tallinn



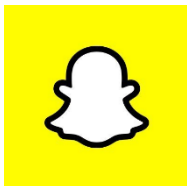
56 miles to  
Helsinki



1372 miles back to  
Dane Court



## Online Safety advice – **Snapchat**



The Snapchat app lets users send photos, short videos or messages to friends. The pictures and videos, known as 'Snaps' usually appear for a selected number of seconds before disappearing forever. In the UK Snapchat is one of the most popular choices of messaging between teenagers and young adults.

### **Is Snapchat Safe for children?**

Snapchat has an age rating of 13, so if your child is younger than that then they should not be using the app. Snaps capture a 'moment' as an image, these are not saved to the device's camera roll and disappear forever after a few seconds. If however a user tries to screenshot a snap that has been sent to them, snapchat will notify the sender to help safeguard them. Users have however found workarounds to this which means it is possible to secretly save snaps.

Snapchat is designed to share messages with friends, but there is still the danger that children may connect with people they don't know as it's easy to add users by searching for usernames or through links. It is always wise for younger users to only share content with their real friends and share things only they would be happy to share with their parents or carers.

As with most messaging apps, there are features to block or report users, which can be done as easily as clicking their names and pressing the block/report text.

There is one other dangerous feature on Snapchat called 'Snap maps.' This feature shares your physical location data with friends in real time and it is possible to pinpoint friends exact location on the map. If your child leaves the house to go to a shop or to the cinema, then other users could follow them in real life, tracking every step they make.

There are three settings for the 'snap map':-

Ghost mode - This does not share the users location, however you can still see everyone else on the map.

Friends - Shares the users location with their friends only

Select friends - Shares the user's location to selected friends only

Please note that once 'snap map' is set up, there is no setting to completely disable it.

As with all social communication apps, it is always wise to have a discussion with children and young adults about the risks related to the service, the possibility of cyberbullying and how to use the app safely.

**Mr S Lycett, Teacher in charge of Computing**

### A painting from year 7 Lockdown Gallery

The students have been looking at the work of the Impressionists, Post impressionists and their influence on David Hockney landscapes. They have looked at the use of realistic and abstract colours and mark-making, the emotional content of the work and have produced a response using whatever materials they have available.

Work is anonymous in case some people do not want to be identified.

