

## Weekly Parent/Guardian Newsletter

Week B

7 May 2021



Dear Parent/Guardian,

Welcome to this week's newsletter, some important information from previous weeks is repeated this week for your convenience, but there is also new content to be read and enjoyed.

### **COVID-19 Testing Guidance**

I would like to clarify the guidance for COVID-19 testing. Please see details below:

#### **Asymptomatic COVID-19 Testing**

- Students with consent should be testing using the home LFD test kits twice a week (on a Sunday and a Wednesday evening/Thursday morning) and reporting the results to both the NHS and to the school using [this link](#):
- Students in years 7-10 have now been supplied with enough tests to last until half term. Years 11-13 have been given 6 tests and will be given a further set of 7 during the week beginning 10th May.
- Home tests supplied by the school should only be used by the student. Regular rapid testing is now also available for parents, their households and support or childcare bubbles. The government is encouraging all families to participate in twice weekly testing to help stop the spread. Additional LFD test kits can be ordered using [this link](#)

#### **Symptomatic COVID-19 Testing**

- Home testing using the LFD tests **does not replace testing for those with symptoms**.
- If your son/daughter (or anyone in your household) experience symptoms of COVID-19 your household must self-isolate immediately, book a PCR test and follow [national guidelines](#). You will need to inform the school if this is the case.
- Once you have the result of the test please inform us as soon as possible. If the result is negative you can then stop self-isolating and your son/daughter can return to school if they are well enough. If the result is positive your household will need to continue to self-isolate for 10 days from the onset of symptoms and follow [national guidelines](#).

If you have any queries regarding testing please contact Carolyn Hobbs, Office Manager.

## The Big Ask survey for school pupils

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Last month the Children's Commissioner, Dame Rachel de Souza, launched [The Big Ask](#) – the largest ever survey of children in England. It asks all children about their priorities and concerns for the future, so that we can put children at the heart of the national recovery post-COVID-19. We'd like Dane Court students to have their voice heard. If they have not done so already would you please encourage your child to complete the survey. The deadline for completing the survey is Friday 28 May.

Kind Regards,  
Mrs R Rolls  
Senior Leadership Team

### Extra Curricular clubs for term 5 will be:

- Year 7 - Monday 3.30-4.30 - athletics and rounders
- Year 8 - Tuesday 3.30-4.30 - athletics and rounders
- Year 9 - Wednesday 3.30-4.30 - athletics and rounders
- Year 10 - Thursday 3.30-4.30 - athletics and rounders



Students just need to turn up on their correct day, change on their normal peg and complete the register. No need to sign up prior to the club.



### Duke of Edinburgh Award News!

The Year 12 DofE participants had a successful practice expedition 1st-2nd May under the watchful supervision of Mrs Whelan, Ms Webster, Ms Leese and Mrs Baker. This was in preparation for their qualifying expedition for their Silver award which takes place 20th-22nd May.

The students hiked with loaded rucksacks, tents, food supplies and Trangia-cookware covering approximately 30Km over the two days around Beltinge, St. Nicholas, Minster, Plucks Gutter, Grove Ferry and finishing in Chislet.

They set up their tents, cooked their evening meals and on departure from the camp site, only left their footprints behind!

Morale was good and we were blessed with sunshine ☀️.

Well done DofE staff and students!



Ps We are currently recruiting Year 11s for the next DofE cohort....



# Free school meals

Your child might be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Universal Credit - your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)
- 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.



Some schools in Kent manage their own Free Schools Meals application process. For more information, go to:

***[kent.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals](https://kent.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals)***



## Online Safety advice - Passwords



Many students and adults alike are still not secure enough with their online passwords. The following information from [www.comparitech.com](http://www.comparitech.com) shows some very alarming statistics in relation to weak or poor passwords;

- At least 60% of people reuse passwords across multiple sites regularly.
- About 13% of people use the same password for all accounts and devices.
- About 80% of data breaches in 2019 were caused by password compromise.
- Although 91% of participants in a recent survey understand the risk of password reuse, 59% admitted to doing it anyway.
- In 2019, 42% of companies were breached by a bad password.
- 48% of workers use the same passwords in both their personal and work accounts.
- Compromised passwords are responsible for 81% of hacking-related breaches.
- The average person reuses each password 14 times.
- An estimated 49% of people only add a digit or change a character in their password when they're required to update it.
- Passwords were leaked in about 65% of data breaches in 2019.

Tips for password creating and management.

- Create a unique password with a mixture of uppercase and lowercase, numbers and special characters such as **\*2Bor!2B\_ThatizThe?**
- Don't reuse passwords. If you're using the same password across mail, shopping, banking and/or other websites and one of those experiences a hack or breach, you've now exposed all of your other services to the hacker.
- If you write your password down as cold storage, make sure it's either only written partially, in code or it is just a hint to the real password.
- Use a password manager. There are many apps that create and store very complex passwords for every site you visit. These are then kept securely, you only need to remember one password to log into the manager.
- Don't share your passwords. if you must share a password for some reason, change it as soon as possible after to something completely unique.

Below is a link to an excellent website that can tell you if your email has ever been involved in a data breach before. If an email account has been subjected to a breach, it is wise to look at the severity of the attack and possibly create a new clean account.

<https://haveibeenpwned.com>

## We need your help! For a chance to win £5000 worth of new books for the school Library!



Please help to fill the library with new books by filling in the competition form for a chance to win £5000 of book tokens!

Here is the link:



[https://www.nationalbooktokens.com/schools?utm\\_source=nbt&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=win-5000&utm\\_campaign=schools-campaign-2020](https://www.nationalbooktokens.com/schools?utm_source=nbt&utm_medium=email&utm_content=win-5000&utm_campaign=schools-campaign-2020)

Many thanks,

Mrs Finlay

## Musical achievement announcement!



- Congratulations to **George Hall** who passed his grade 8 with **merit** on the Tenor Horn!

If your child has passed a music exam recently, we would love to hear from you. Please send any details to Miss Fox ([fox@danecourt.kent.sch.uk](mailto:fox@danecourt.kent.sch.uk)).

- Instrumental lessons have now resumed and students can now have lessons at school or in some cases, opt for out of school hours zoom lessons. If you think your child might be interested, please email [fox@danecourt.kent.sch.uk](mailto:fox@danecourt.kent.sch.uk) (please could you insert a link to the instrumental letter here, Julie said you have this now).

Kind regards,

Abigail Fox

Head of Music

*Dane Court Grammar School*

## Love languages!

Following on from last week's advice on how to help your child prepare for upcoming assessments in French, German and Spanish, here are some links to the websites previously mentioned. If some of them require a password, your child should speak to their teacher who should be able to help.

[memrise](#) [language gym](#) [BBC bitesize](#) [quizlet](#) [Conjuguemos](#) [Lyrics training](#) [Languages online](#) [Blooket](#)  
[Zut - French \(free after 4pm\)](#) [Gut - German \(free after 4pm\)](#) [Oye - Spanish \(free after 4pm\)](#)



## Boots Fairs Boot Fairs!!

This year's events are as follows:

Saturday 8 May 2021  
Saturday 10 July 2021  
Saturday 12 June 2021  
Saturday 11 September 2021  
No August Boot Fairs

Look forward to seeing some of you there!  
The Parents' Association



## A celebration of creativity in year7!

In order to get the students excited and passionate about Shakespeare, year 7 have made their very own Shakespearean thinking hats to wear while we study and read. Students have worked very hard to decorate them with all things Shakespeare and we want to celebrate their hard work and creativity. Here is a photograph of some of them!





**Dane Court**  
Grammar School



