

## Weekly Parent/Guardian Newsletter

Week B

10 September 2021



Dear Parent/Guardian,

Welcome to this week's newsletter. Some important information is repeated for your convenience, but there is also new content to be read.

### **COVID-19 Asymptomatic Home Testing Guidance**

Thank you for your continued support with Covid-19 home testing.

**Wherever possible, your child should continue testing and reporting results twice a week at home. Students have been supplied with enough test kits to last until the end of term, however if your son/daughter runs out of tests before this please ask them to collect more from the school office.**

### **Reporting results**

Recording all test results helps scientists stay ahead of the virus by spotting new outbreaks quickly and advising how to respond.

### **Reporting results is easy.**

Go to: [Report a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test result - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk) Or call: 119 free from a mobile or landline. Lines are open every day, 7am to 11pm. Support is offered in 200 languages as well as British Sign Language and Live Video Assistance.

**All results should be reported, even if your child's result is negative or void.** To help in communicating the importance of testing and reporting, the government has produced a blog on [why reporting your test result is as important as taking a test](#)

**You should also keep a note of the test ID and share your child's results with school using [this link](#)**

### **Universal Testing**

The government is encouraging all adults to participate in twice weekly testing to help stop the spread of coronavirus. You can order tests through the [Order coronavirus \(COVID-19\) rapid lateral flow tests](#) service.

Up to one in three people who have COVID-19 have no symptoms and could be spreading it without knowing. Maintaining a regular habit of testing twice a week, 3-4 days apart, will help stop the virus spreading and keep schools and colleges open to students and staff.

## 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.

## School Terms and Holidays: 2021–2022

<b>TERM 1 – 2021</b>	* 1 September 2021	22 October 2021
<i>Half Term</i>		
<b>TERM 2 - 2021</b>	1 November 2021	17 December 2021
<i>Christmas</i>		
<b>TERM 3 - 2022</b>	4 January 2022	11 February 2022
<i>Half Term</i>		
<b>TERM 4 - 2022</b>	21 February 2022	1 April 2022
<i>Easter</i>		
<b>*TERM 5 - 2022</b>	19 April 2022	27 May 2021
<i>Half Term</i>		
<b>TERM 6 - 2022</b>	6 June 2022	* 22 July 2022

Staff Training Days:

- Wednesday 1 September 2021
- Thursday 2 September 2021
- Friday 22 October 2021
- Thursday 21 July 2022
- Friday 22 July 2022

\*May Day – Monday 2 May 2022

\*First day of Autumn term Friday 3 September 2021

\*Last day of Summer term Wednesday 20 July 2022

## UNIFORM for Sixth form – Smart/Casual

As outlined in the sixth form dress code we have shared with students, we would like to highlight that jogging bottoms, sports shorts and crop tops are not deemed appropriate sixth form dress.

## SIXTH FORM ABSENCE PROCEDURE:

In the unlikely event of an absence, please email [sfabsence@danecourt.kent.sch.uk](mailto:sfabsence@danecourt.kent.sch.uk) or call the sixth form absence line and leave a message using the options given.

If a student feels unwell during the day, they must report to the sixth form office.

If you have an upcoming medical appointment, please provide evidence, i.e. letter from hospital and send to the absence email [sfabsence@danecourt.kent.sch.uk](mailto:sfabsence@danecourt.kent.sch.uk) or hand to Miss Bowen in the sixth form office. We have forms available in the sixth form office for planned absence, holidays requests, other absence.

## The Food and Nutrition department

Both staff and students are excited to return to more regular cooking with students again this term.

Students are expected to write in their planners when they have a practical lesson the following week. They can find recipes and details of the ingredients needed in their google classroom in the week before the practical lesson. For this term only, year 7 have been given a printout to take home with them.

We really appreciate your support with helping your child to become more independent and well organised and hope that you enjoy the food that is brought home.

Students will be writing an evaluation of their practical work each time they cook and would welcome feedback from those who taste it, they can add these comments into their write up.

Here's what we have coming up for Key stage 3 this term;

Lesson no	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
1			
2	Pizza roll *	Fairy cakes	
3	Crumble		Egg fried rice
4	Potato salad	Swiss roll	
5			Soup
6	Bolognese sauce	Science investigation	Chocolate mousse (May be moved to term 2)



\* ingredients will be provided in return for a donation towards ingredients

It is important that ingredients are put into a named bag or container and that they bring a suitable named container to take their food home in.

## GCSE cookery

Year 10 will be cooking every week on a Thursday. They should check the google classroom regularly for ingredients and recipes.

Year 11 will be cooking in clusters rather than every week this year. This will be highly skilled cooking of recipes that they have selected themselves for their NEA2. We look forward to sharing photographs of the outcomes later this year.

Many thanks for your support

K. Leese

Head of Food Preparation and Nutrition

## Homework club - all year groups

Following my email last week, we now have a lunchtime homework club running every day between 1.40pm and 2.15pm. Students from all year groups are welcome, and a team of sixth formers will be available to offer advice where needed. It will take place in M7, and students may bring their lunch with them.

Sally Jellett

Assistant Headteacher

## Child protection and online safety

All children have the right to be protected. If you have any Safeguarding concerns, please contact Mr Sunderland (Assistant Head and Designated Safeguarding Lead) at school on 01843 864941, Mr Wallace (Deputy Head and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead) via email on [wallace@danecourt.kent.sch.uk](mailto:wallace@danecourt.kent.sch.uk) or Mrs Ives (Pastoral Support Officer and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead) via email on [ives@danecourt.kent.sch.uk](mailto:ives@danecourt.kent.sch.uk) If you believe a child is in immediate danger, always contact 999 for assistance.

## Chatter- School Newspaper

Chatter is Dane Court's very own school student newspaper. It is published 4 times a year, is designed and created by students from year 7 through to year 13.

Chatter meetings for students have delightfully restarted in the library, **Mondays for years 7-9 and Fridays for Year groups 10-13.**

Chatter is always happy to have new members from all year groups come along and join in. It is also a great way to meet new friends from across the school community.

**Perhaps you have a student who is in year 12/13 that is needing to do CASS hours for their IB course at Dane Court? Why not let them know that they can come along and help at the meetings on either day (or both) or get involved in editing the newspaper before it is published and all this can be signed off towards their CASS hours and of course put on a CV showing teamwork, dedication, working to a deadline, IT and communication skills!**

Below is the link to the latest edition of Chatter for you to have a browse through.

<http://danecourt.kent.sch.uk/parents8/news6/latest-news/1104-chatter-18-summer-2021>

If you require any more information, please email: [rcronin@danecourt.kent.sch.uk](mailto:rcronin@danecourt.kent.sch.uk)

Hope to see you all soon!

Mrs Cronin

## Lost Property

We have various items that have been handed in to the office this week that could belong to either a member of staff or a student. We have put the following photo in the Staff Newsletter this week as well, in an attempt to get them back to their owners as soon as possible. If you or your child recognise any of them, please contact the main office on 01843 864941 to arrange collection as soon as possible.

We have various items, including an empty black Sony ear bud charging case, that have been handed in to the office this week that could belong to either a member of staff or a student. *(the rest of the wording as in the previous message)*

Many thanks the office team



## **Ensembles are back!!**

Ensembles will be starting back as of next week! We are very much looking forward to welcoming students back to ensembles and would love you to encourage your children to join!

<b>Extra Curricular Music Opportunities!</b>					
	<b>Mon</b>	<b>Tues</b>	<b>Wed</b>	<b>Thurs</b>	<b>Fri</b>
<b>Lunch</b>	<b>Open to Y10, 11, 12 and 13 music students only for composition work</b>				
<b>After school</b>		<b>Orchestra</b> (3:30-4:30pm)  <b>Jazz Band</b> (4:30-5pm)	<b>Beginner Steel Band</b> (3:30-4:15pm)  <b>Advanced Steel Band</b> (4:15 - 5pm)	<b>Choir</b> (3:30-4:30pm)	

### **Orchestra Tuesdays @ 3:30-4:30pm**

Orchestra is open to any string, woodwind or brass players at grade 1+ standard on their instrument. Please tell your child to come to H7 (music room) after school. Instruments can be stored in the practice room (P1) if needed.

### **Jazz Band Tuesdays after Orchestra @4:30-5pm**

Jazz band is for our more advanced students, invite only.

### **Beginners Steel Band Wednesdays @3:30-4:15pm (starting 22/9/21)**

Any students can join our steel band and no previous experience is necessary! This is a great ensemble to join at beginner level and if you are interested, please get in contact with Miss Curran ([jcurran@danecourt.kent.sch.uk](mailto:jcurran@danecourt.kent.sch.uk))  
 N.B. There is a small charge for the hire of the instruments.

### **Choir Thursdays @3:30-4:30pm (starting 16/9/21)**

Any students can join choir, please meet in H7 (music room) after school on Thursdays.

Instrumental lessons are also continuing. Please see the attached letter for more details

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/FMfcgzGjlmJrQksCdLngcCsCRTkZXNq?projector=1&messagePartId=0.1>

## **Online Safety advice - Passwords**



With the start of the new school year, many students will be signing in to applications and websites they haven't used in a while, this always leads to forgotten passwords and lots of password resets in school. Please see below some tips for creating passwords that you can remind your child about.

### Things to Avoid in a password

- Four Digital Years
- Anniversaries or famous years like 1776 or 1066
- Any variant of "Password" e.g. p@\$word
- Sports References e.g. tennisfan1980,
- Names
- Personal Information e.g. your name, email address, phone number, National Insurance number
- Keyboard Patterns or Sequences e.g qwerty, asdf, 123456,abc123

### Good Passwords

A good password will meet the following requirements;

- A mixture of uppercase and lowercase characters
- A number (0-9) and/or symbol (such as !, #, or %)
- Ten or more characters total.

One way to do this is to start with a word you can remember e.g ‘**pamphlet**’. Then add elements from the criteria listed above to create ‘**pAMPPh\$3let**’

### Better Passwords using passphrases

Passphrases are longer and more complex than passwords. They are easier to remember, but more difficult to guess.

To do this you can convert a Phrase to an Acronym e.g.

I Love Chocolate chip ice cream at Morellis!! = ILCCic@!!



