

Weekly Parent/Guardian Newsletter

Week A

15 October 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

Please see below the link which confirms the Governments review at the end of September of student's continuing voluntary home testing twice weekly:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/schools-covid-19-operational-guidance#asymptomatic-testing>

Guidance for parents and carers on the vaccination programme for young people aged 12 to 15

This autumn, all young people aged 12 to 15 are being offered a first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. Public Health England has updated its [page of resources for young people and their families](#) with [answers to some frequently asked questions](#).

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=c9344d00-71be-4509-92da-fd3f044fc47f&utm_content=immediately

[Guidance and resources for schools](#) are also available.

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 \(www.gov.uk\)](#) 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.

Letter from the Secretaries of State for Education and Health

The Secretary of State for Education and the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care have written a [joint letter](#) to parents about the vaccination of children aged 12 to 15 and the importance of continuing with twice-weekly COVID-19 testing and reporting.

The letter provides information on COVID-19 testing and advises that, in response to potential outbreaks, local health teams may advise additional testing and isolation protocols at your school or college.

Alongside the letter are some [frequently answered questions for parents](#), from Dr Mary Ramsay, Head of Immunisation.

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.

Mental Health Support

Dear families,

We have been asked to share the information below in case it is useful to you or someone you know.

Are you feeling distressed, frightened, overwhelmed, or that things are too much for you? Don't know where to turn to get mental health support? Are your usual sources of support closed? This is a free out of hours service, running 6 pm -11pm, 365 days a year, for Thanet residents aged 16 and over. No appointment or referral needed. Visit us at Thanet Safe Haven, Holy Trinity Church, St Mary's Avenue, Dane Valley, Margate, CT9 3TN or ring 07850 655 877 to make an appointment. Please wear a face covering to enter the building. To access our 24/7 helpline, call: 0800 107 0160.

Eligibility criteria: 16+, residents of Thanet District Council

Tel: 07850 655877 | thanet.mhm@nhs.net | [WEBSITE](#)

Thank you

Anita Ives

pastoral support officer

Food Technology

Last week year 10 GCSE food students were learning about the function of gluten in bread making. Over two lessons they made a Focaccia dough which they then shaped, decorated and baked. This week they will be investigating how much gluten is found in different types of flour in order to choose the best flour for bread making.

Year 7 are finishing off their term one skills building course by making a Bolognese sauce this week. Some students made meat sauces and others made vegetarian ones using a variety of meat alternatives. Chopping an onion is something that takes practice and skill to be done effectively and safely. Please do encourage students to practice this at home where possible.

Year 8 are conducting investigations into the effect of ingredient substitution for dietary needs in cake making. They will be writing up results next week.



Maths Anxiety

Sometimes a student's progress in mathematics can be seriously hampered by a feeling of anxiety and sometimes parents feel they don't have the skills or expertise to help.

With this in mind we have been informed of the following events being run by Eedi, an online platform which helps build confidence in Mathematics. See the below information from Eedi.

1. Free webinar for parents on helping your Maths-anxious child

We as teachers have heard some of these phrases at parents' evening: "I'm afraid she gets her maths brain from me", "I'm not a maths person", "I'm useless at maths", "What they learn in school is so hard these days"... etc etc. As maths teachers this is heart-breaking, but what these parents are really saying is that they are maths-anxious, under-confident and unsure how to help their child with maths. At Eedi, we want to help those parents.

Using both the latest research and her vast experience in this area, Rachel will give practical advice on ways parents can help their children with their maths, whether they are struggling with maths anxiety or stuck on their homework. And they'll learn tips for keeping their own mathematics anxieties at bay too!

The webinar takes place on Wednesday 3rd November at 7:30pm.

The link below to your networks via email or social media:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_RaZtoO11RIGk7HzuDRVYMA

[https://diagnosticquestions.us14.list-](https://diagnosticquestions.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=2603fe95bdcec4f6c05864497&id=61c8babfe1&e=983824464f)

[manage.com/track/click?u=2603fe95bdcec4f6c05864497&id=61c8babfe1&e=983824464f](https://diagnosticquestions.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=2603fe95bdcec4f6c05864497&id=61c8babfe1&e=983824464f)

2. Free course for Maths-anxious Parents

In addition to the live webinar, we also have a short online course called "[Helping with Homework: For Maths-Anxious Parents](#)" that is ready to access now. It guides parents through a few of the ways they can help their child without having to know too much about maths.

[https://diagnosticquestions.us14.list-](https://diagnosticquestions.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=2603fe95bdcec4f6c05864497&id=004c4aacd8&e=983824464f)

[manage.com/track/click?u=2603fe95bdcec4f6c05864497&id=004c4aacd8&e=983824464f](https://diagnosticquestions.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=2603fe95bdcec4f6c05864497&id=004c4aacd8&e=983824464f)

3. Free course for Students with Maths anxiety

This course for students is available [here](#). We have had over 2000 students already complete the course and some lovely praise coming in from those who have found it really valuable. We send through an email certificate upon completion of the course so you'll have something handy to record as evidence!

[https://diagnosticquestions.us14.list-](https://diagnosticquestions.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=2603fe95bdcec4f6c05864497&id=60aee117df&e=983824464f)

[manage.com/track/click?u=2603fe95bdcec4f6c05864497&id=60aee117df&e=983824464f](https://diagnosticquestions.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=2603fe95bdcec4f6c05864497&id=60aee117df&e=983824464f)

Free Support

I wanted to share details of a free youth course below, but also draw your attention to the fact that the same organisation offers a variety of other free support services. Their website <https://www.maidstonemind.org/youth-services-covid-19-outbreak/> is worth a look.

'Mind The Knife' is a FREE, five-week programme which provides young people with a safe space and time where they can explore practical ideas about how they can keep themselves safe without breaking the law. The course aims to take a resilience-driven focus, encouraging young people to build and develop their positive coping strategies so they can maintain good levels of mental health.

The aim is to boost self-esteem and confidence in the young people who take part in the course, whilst making them aware of how low levels of emotional resilience can lead to increased risk factors of falling into crime.

The course is free and takes place virtually via ZOOM. For more details, including current dates, please visit: <https://www.maidstonemind.org/mind-the-knife/>

Mrs Ives - Pastoral support officer

School Direction Information Evenings

Thinking of training to teach?

Primary and secondary School Direct routes into teaching with the East Kent Learning Alliance.

Book your place on one of our online information evenings:

Wednesday 1st December - 6 pm **BOOK NOW**

<https://www.ekla.org.uk/itt/school-direct>

DANE COURT PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

Events 2021

Quiz Night

Dane Court School Theatre
Friday 26th November 2021



Tickets: Adults £7.00 Children £3.00

Doors open at 7pm quiz starts 7.30pm

(price includes ploughman's supper- bring your own drinks, glasses provided)

Teams up to 8 persons per table.

To book a table please contact Mrs Lois Gadd (Maths) (Tel (or text) 07968 687415 or Email gadd@danecourt.kent.sch.uk) by 4pm on Wed 24th Nov

Charity number 1023394



Online Safety advice - Social Networking - 5 things to think about.

Social networking allows people to share a lot of information about who they are and what they like doing with lots of different people. This could end up putting people in very difficult situations. Below are five things for parents and students to think about.

1. Digital footprint.

As students get older, their interests and the things they find comical tend to change. The problem is things posted on social networks from years ago can be difficult to delete, especially if they can no longer access that account. Other people could also have copied them or shared them resulting in the image or posts being around forever.

2. Sharing personal information.

Social networks let students post all kinds of information. The more information someone puts online the more people can find out about that person. Some people might use this to find out where they live, what school they go to, bully, harass or make contact and lie about being into the same things as you.

3. It's very easy to lie online.

Some people set up fake accounts or profiles on social networks. They even pretend to be different genders, race or age. It can be really hard to tell the difference between someone who's genuine and someone who is fake.

4. Anti-social networking.

Just as social networks can be used to share lots of great information and stay in touch with family and friends they can also be used to share nasty things such as; embarrassing pictures, upsetting comments, and fake profiles.

5. I did not want to see that.

Anyone can post videos, pictures or ideas on social networks. That means users might see things they don't want to. Sometimes these can be masked by a nice picture or title, however when opened could be something very upsetting.

Lost Property This Week

We have various items, including keys, jewellery, a hairbrush, perfume, unnamed shoes/blazers/coats/water bottles that have been handed in to the office. Please remember to name any items your child brings into school to help us quickly return any lost items. If you recognise any of them, please do contact the office on 01843 864941 to arrange collection as soon as possible.

Many thanks, Office Team



