

Weekly Parent/Guardian Newsletter

Week B

21 January 2022



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

Updated guidance from the Department for Education

Face coverings

Face coverings are now no longer recommended in classrooms and teaching spaces for staff and students in year 7 and above.

From Thursday 27th January, face coverings are no longer recommended in communal areas for staff and students in year 7 and above.

Please remember:

- *Students should bring their own masks to school each day.*
- *Anyone wearing reusable face coverings will be expected to bring a plastic bag to keep these in when not in use. Disposable face coverings will be disposed of in a bin when finished with and should not be reused.*
- *Everyone will be asked to wash their hands before and after putting on or removing a face covering.*
- *Everyone will be made aware that they must not touch the front of the covering during use or removal.*
- *A supply of spare face coverings will be kept for anyone who arrives without one or has a covering that's unsafe to wear, but these are for emergency provision only.*

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Changes to the self-isolation period for individuals who test positive for Covid-19

People who are self-isolating with COVID-19 now have the option to reduce their isolation period after 5 full days if they test negative with a lateral flow device (LFD) test on both day 5 and day 6 and they do not have a temperature. For example, if they test negative on the morning of day 5 and the morning of day 6, they can return to their education or childcare setting immediately on day 6.

The first test must be taken no earlier than day 5 of the self-isolation period, and the second must be taken the following day. All test results should be [reported to NHS Test and Trace](#).

If the result of either of their tests is positive, they should continue to self-isolate until they get negative results from two LFD tests on consecutive days or until they have completed 10 full days of self-isolation, whichever is earliest. Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests or anyone who continues to have a temperature will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation.

Further [information on self-isolation for those with COVID-19](#) is available.

Daily testing for close contacts of Covid-19

People who are fully vaccinated, or children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months, identified as a close contact of someone with Covid-19, should take an LFD test every day for seven days and continue to attend school as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time.

COVID-19 Asymptomatic Home Testing Guidance

Thank you for your continued support with Covid-19 home testing. Students will be issued with new home testing kits next week. If your child will need additional tests before then please ask them to collect a kit from the school office.

Wherever possible, your child should continue testing and reporting results twice a week at home.

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 they 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 they 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.

Water Bottles

Please ensure your son/daughter brings a refillable water bottle to school every day.



Social Media Usage

A number of schools across the country have reported problems with the creation of fake social media accounts in the name of staff members. Parents and students are reminded that members of staff should **never** contact students via social media, and any such accounts should be immediately reported to the school. We thank you for your support and vigilance.

Site security & arrival times for students this term

Please be aware that some new security measures are being introduced this term. Students should not be aiming to arrive before 08:00 as this is the earliest they should be on site.

The entrance by the main reception is for sixth form students only. Students in year 7-11 should use either the Delphi or Fairfield Road entrances. These entrances will close at 8.40am and all late students should then come through the main reception to be signed in.

Fairfield Road gates and Sports Hall gates will not be opened until 08:00 and will be locked at 15:45. After 16:30 when the main office closes, the main entrance/exit will be access controlled, staff supervising students after this time will need to let them out.

Similarly, gates will be locked at 15:45 and students will need to exit the site via the main entrance if they are on site after this time. Students should leave the site by 16:30 at the absolute latest unless they are being supervised by a teacher. The bell will sound at 16:20 to remind students they should be leaving.

Many thanks for your support on this matter.

Ryan Bowen
Site Manager

Year 8 & 9 HPC Vaccines

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Please be aware that we have the School Immunisation Service visiting Dane Court Grammar School on the 3rd & 4th February 2022 to administer the HPV vaccine to years 8/9 students. Please note that if you haven't already given your consent via the online form you will have received an email reminder today.

Revised term dates for the Platinum Jubilee 2022

In acknowledgement of the additional Bank Holiday for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, the Summer term 2022 will end a day early. This means that the last day of Term 6 for students will now be Tuesday 19th July 2022.

Year 11 GCSE Business

Year 11 GCSE Business revision and exam preparation sessions will run after school every Wednesday 3.25pm - 4.25pm in B8. All year 11 Business students welcome!

Next Duke of Edinburgh News

Next Duke of Edinburgh training session Wed 26th Jan in D10. First Aid Homework for this will be set on Google Classroom.

The training program was shared with parents and DofE participants in Google Classroom on 22nd November 2021. attendance by ALL participants is essential-please email Mrs Whelan IN ADVANCE if unable to attend for a particular reason. Time will have to be made up on another occasion if this happens as training has to be verified for undertaking the expedition part of the program.

Thank you

Japanese Sakura Cherry Tree Project

On Thursday 13th January, a Japanese cherry blossom tree was planted which was donated to the school by the Sakura Cherry Tree Project. A letter from the Chairman of the project reads:

"I am delighted to send you this certificate to accompany the gift of the cherry blossom tree that commemorates the ongoing friendship between Japan and the United Kingdom. Over 6,000 cherry blossom trees are being planted across the UK, symbolising the long-standing and cultural links that underpin our wider relationship. The project was launched in the joint communique issued by the then Prime Ministers Shinzo Abe and Theresa May when the two met in Japan in Autumn 2017. The trees are a gift from the Japanese people to the people of the United Kingdom. It is hoped that they will grow and be enjoyed for years to come."

The tree is situated at the front of the school, in the grass area to the right of the pedestrian footpath.

Contain Outbreak Management Fund

Dear Families,

Thanet Council have some money that they have been given from the Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) to support households who are at risk of losing their home, either by way of rent or mortgage arrears as a result of Covid. This fund is available to anyone and everyone and you do not have to be in receipt of benefits to be eligible.

The criteria stipulates that households who have been adversely financially affected as a result of the pandemic are prioritised.

The funding will enable Thanet District Council to:

- Boost the support for private rented sector tenants to financially recover from impact of the pandemic and prevent them losing their homes
- Support landlords in recovering from the loss of rental payments received where the tenants have fallen into rent arrears
- Support the containment of COVID-19 outbreaks by supporting households to remain in their existing homes and prevent households from becoming street homeless, or resulting in insecure and transient housing arrangements
- Provide support to homeowners who may be at risk of having their homes repossessed as a result of COVID-19

Thanet District Council will provide financial support for tenants in privately rented accommodation to recover from the financial impact of the pandemic and prevent them losing their homes, and will help landlords to recover from the loss of rental payments received where the tenants have fallen into rent arrears.

They will also provide financial support to homeowners who may be struggling to pay their mortgages as a result of COVID-19.

If you are renting a property and are having trouble paying your rent or if you are a homeowner and are struggling to pay your mortgage, please contact the Housing Options team on 01843 577377 or email LLO@thanet.gov.uk.

I hope this is useful

Anita Ives

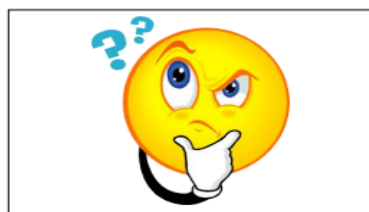
Pastoral support officer

DANE COURT PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

Events 2022

Quiz Night

Dane Court School Theatre
Friday 11th March 2022



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 9th Mar

Charity number 1023394



COOKING COMPETITION

Take a look at this fantastic opportunity for young people aged between 7 and 21 in Kent. Young people are annually invited to take part in the south east's Young Cooks cookery competition with the winners receiving a share of £500!

The idea is to encourage all young people to roll up their sleeves, get stuck in and discover how much fun cooking can be – while learning vital life skills along the way!

The Young Cooks judges love to see local produce being used, so thought should be given to this. Finalists will be chosen based on their entries and those who make the shortlist will be invited to an exciting final.

We are lucky to have some fantastic farm shops in our area so this is a great opportunity to make use of them. <https://www.kmcharityteam.co.uk/schools/youngcooks/>

In food lessons this week year 8 have enjoyed working together to make flatbreads and a reduced tomato sauce. They have been able to enjoy eating these together at the end of the lesson. This forms part of their unit of work on different types of sauces. They will be learning methods of cooking sauces, investigating viscosity of sauces and considering the functions of ingredients this term.

Next week Year 9 will be working together to adapt a cottage pie recipe for a specific dietary requirement. Watch this space for photos next week.



Second-hand uniform shop

The Dane Court PA will be running a **second-hand uniform shop on the first Tuesday of each month starting on Tuesday February 1st at 3 until 4 pm.**

It will be held in the main school entrance way. We have many items all in good clean condition.

The PA will also endeavour to open the shop at as many other events as possible when the school is open to parents.

The first of these events is the year 8 information evening on January 19th so please look out for us there.

Many thanks

Parents Association

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I am attaching the list of clubs running for this term and this will be updated termly. There are a wide range of exciting and engaging activities happening and I am sure that your child will be able to identify something of interest to them. These clubs are free of charge.

Kind regards

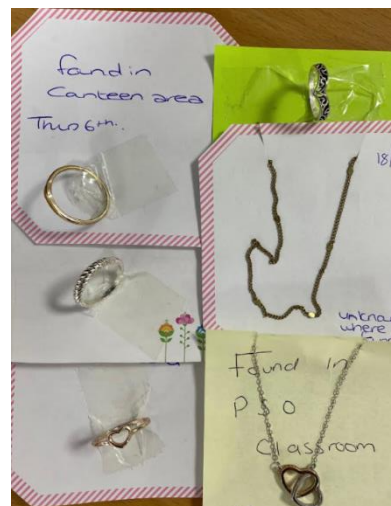
Rachel Rolls
 Assistant Head Teacher

Day	Name of club	When	Where	Year group
Monday				
	Non contact boxing	After school	PE - studio	KS3
	Chatter	Lunchtime	Library	All
	Choir	After school	H7	All
Tuesday				
	Trampolining	After school	PE- sports hall	KS4 + GCSE
	Craft club	3:20 - 4:30	ART	KS3
	Calm club	Lunchtime		all years (INVITE ONLY)
	Orchestra	3.30-4.30	H7	all years
	Jazz Band	4.30-5	H7	all years
Wednesday				
	Rugby M/F	After school	PE- sports hall	7 & 8
	Dance	After school	PE-Studio	All KS
	from 19/01 DOfE			yr 12
	Mindset	Lunchtime		all years (INVITE ONLY)
	Beginner Steel Band	3.30-4.15	H7	All
	Advanced Steel Band	4.15-5	H7	All
	Mathsbombe	After school	S plaza	Year 10 and 11 INVITE ONLY - Starts on 26th Jan
Thursday				
	Climbing	After school	PE- climbing wall	All years (if they did the introduction in the last 2 terms)
	Yoga	Friday 3.30	PE - studio	6th form
	Drama	Thursday 3.30-4.30	H1	7-10
	Film Club (Wk A)	After school	M4	12/13
Friday				
	Dungeons & Dragons	3.20-4.20	Library	All years
	Chatter	Lunchtime	Library	7-13

Lost property this week!

We have a few unnamed items in our lost property already this term. They include a coat, PE hoodies, hats, a blazer, empty Tupperware, water bottles, keys and various items of jewellery. Please remember to name any items your child brings into school to help us quickly return any lost items. Photos of the easily identified items are set out below. If you recognise any of them, or think that the items of unnamed uniform may belong to your child, please do contact the office on 01843 864941 to arrange collection as soon as possible.

Many thanks, Office Team



THE END