



Courtier



Issue 26

February 2012

Dates for your diary:

Examination dates
Science EMPA's
March 16th Year 12
Physics

March 23rd Year 13
Physics (am) and
Year 12 Biology (pm)

March 27th Year 12
Chemistry

April 24th Year 13
Chemistry

April 27th Year 13
Biology

Energy Drinks:

Some years ago, we banned the use of energy drinks in the school and on the school grounds.

We did this as we have found that such drinks do have an effect on students' behaviour and there is good research to show that beverages with high sugar and/or caffeine are detrimental to the health of young people. These drinks are appearing again in school.

Please may we ask parents to discourage their son or daughter from bringing such drinks into school.

News from Dane Court

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing this after our first heavy snowfall of the winter and I want to clarify the arrangements should the school have to close for any reason. Should the school close during the course of a school day we will announce the closure on the school website and ensure that you are contacted by telephone before your child leaves the premises. I would ask that you please make sure that the school has a current daytime telephone number on which we can contact you. I would also suggest that your child has a second place of safety to go should snow make it impossible to get directly home; this might be your workplace, another relative's home or a friend's house. Should your son or daughter not go directly home then they must tell us the address to which they are going before they leave the school grounds.

Should we need to shut the school outside school hours there is now a new and more efficient way for all Kent schools to announce any school closure. A full and updated list of all school closures will now be published on the Kent County Council website (www.kentclosures.co.uk). Parents may also use this site to receive free email notification or to pay for an automated text alert. As is currently the case, local radio stations will continue to list school closures and we will also post a notice on the school website (www.danecourt.kent.sch.uk).

As you may have gathered from your son or daughter the school has been enforcing its dress code. I believe it is important that all students learn the life skill of dressing both appropriately for work and of learning to be part of a corporate team. Details of the school's dress code were sent out in the summer mailing and are available on the school website. I would be grateful if you would continue to ensure that your son or daughter arrives at school in full school uniform including both a blazer and black trousers which have no embellishments.

As is customary at this time of year many teachers and departments will be running additional revision sessions for exam groups. The additional classes are arranged on an ad hoc basis and departments

or teachers will notify you individually.

Should you have any concerns that your son or daughter is not taking advantage of any sessions being offered then please contact either your child's mentor or head of house. I would like to thank all of the parents who attended the Year 11 option interviews with their son or daughter. Year 9 option interviews will start after half-term and I again thank, in advance, those parents who are able to attend with their child.

Finally I would like to give special praise to the school's football teams for their recent successes. The Year 9 Futsal team won the Kent Futsal Tournament for the third year in a row and will again be competing in the national tournament. The Years 8, 9 and 11 boys' teams won their respective Thanet Leagues with the Year 9 team reaching the last 16 of the English Schools' National Cup. The Under 16 Girls' Team reached the semi-final of the Kent Cup and the Senior Boys' Team have reached the final of the Kent Cup which will be held against Sandwich Technology College in March. Well done to you all.

I hope you all have a good half-term break and remind you that Term 4 starts on Tuesday 21st February 2012 following the school's INSET day on Monday 20th February 2012.

Simon Pullen, Headteacher

Uniform matters:

We would be most grateful if parents would support our Heads of House and mentors in their drive to smarten up our students. We are becoming increasingly concerned by the facial piercing that is appearing in school. As detailed on our uniform list sent out every year in the summer mailing, lip and nose piercing is not allowed in school and any student who does attend with such adornments will be asked to remove them. Often this causes some distress as the piercing is often costly and this money is wasted if the piercing grows over.

We would therefore ask parents to discourage piercing in the first place.



What?

We are aiming to collect 5000 books (Maths, Science, Physical Geography, up to date atlases, dictionaries and teenage level fiction). We are also hoping to raise £2000 towards the cost of sending the books to East Africa.

Where?

The books are packed up and shipped to Tanzania. The schools there follow a secondary school syllabus almost identical to the UK but teachers often lack the resources needed to teach. This is where you come in!

When?

NOW! We have a Read International collection bin in school.

Who?

The Read Team is a group of Year 12 students who have decided to take up this challenge.

How?

Bring your old revision guides and unwanted fiction books and drop them in the bin provided by the main entrance. Spread the word. Please tell friends and family. **Thank you from the Read Team.**

Mediaeval Banquet

Year Seven will be taking part in a Mediaeval Banquet during the afternoon of March 13th. This is an annual event on the school calendar and a memorable one!



The costumes we use for the Barons, Ladies and Knights are in need of repair and some need to be re-made. If any Parents are able to help us with a 'mediaeval sewing workshop' one day before the event we would be truly grateful. Spinning wheels, looms and sheep (for wool) will be provided!!

We are also in need of any volunteer parents to assist in the mediaeval kitchens or to run a mediaeval side show in the hall.

We already have apple bobbing, the stocks, wood turning, spinning and weaving and hopefully some entertainment. If anyone has any bright ideas, please contact Mrs Baker at Dane Court, email baker@danecourt.kent.sch.uk



Gardening Club

Gardening club starts on February 2nd. Please could students return their forms A.S.A.P to the Delphi science prep room, to either Mrs. Santry or Miss Palmer (science technicians). It's an exciting opportunity to learn about gardening and growing different fruit, vegetables and flowers. We will be running a "growing the tallest sunflower" competition, a "giant pumpkin challenge" as well as building a scarecrow and a stylish "bug hotel".

Students can take home any produce that they grow. It will give them a sense of pride to take home and eat something that they have grown themselves. There will be many garden related arts and crafts to do, wildlife to see and lots of fun to be had in the garden.

Kind regards **Angela & Kass .**

Euro Disney Mathematics Trip a Real Adventure

Despite the nearly constant precipitation and the zero temperatures the Disney Study Experience was a roaring success on so many levels. Students in year 9 had the opportunity to think about Mathematics, Science and Technology in a real life context as well as having the chance to experience a variety of thrills on roller coasters such as 'Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom' and 'Space Mountain Mission 2'.

Having set off from Ashford International students got to experience the lightning travel of the Euro Star and the fact that it disembarked right in the hub of the Disney Park. Once there we had the opportunity to stay in the Cheyenne Hotel and despite the fact that it felt like 'The Gunfight at the OK Corral' might occur at any moment the en-suite facilities made the 2 night stay very comfortable. The very favourable time of year meant that students had to rarely wait more than 10 minutes for the next thrill seeking adventure and could move around the park with ease. The lectures themselves were very thought provoking with facts like on average 35,000 people entered Disney each day and the Mathematics mentioned was from basic year 7, in terms of how many rotations occurred on a roller coaster ride, right up to year 13, with the concept of centripetal force. Apart from the educational impact of the trip, students did experience many opportunities to develop personally, and learnt such things as: how to be self-sufficient; share accommodation and facilities; take responsibility for themselves and their possessions; and in so many cases being away from parents abroad for the first time. It is an adventure

that a lot of them will remember for years to come and we as staff would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their company, maturity and exceptional behaviour.

