Dane Court Grammar School

May 2026

Dear parent/carer,

New Entrants' Evening -Wednesday 24th June 2026

Welcome to Dane Court Grammar School. We are extremely pleased that your child will be joining us in September, and we hope that you will enjoy being part of our school community.

I am writing to invite you and your child to our New Entrants' Evening which will take place on **Wednesday 24th June at 5.30pm**. This is an important opportunity for parents and students to meet key members of staff.

On arrival (car parking will be available on the school site), parents will be directed to the school's Theatre, where I will speak to you about the life of the school and introduce key members of staff. Meanwhile, your child and their peers will meet Mr Buttery, Year Leader. The students will spend time with their new mentor group, and take a short tour of the school site. It would be a good idea for students to bring the booklet they received during our visit to their school.

After the talk in the Theatre there will be time to view and discuss displays of school uniform with suppliers and purchase a House T-shirt for your child (these will cost £3.00, **payable in cash only** and students will need to wear them on transition day). You will be told your child's mentor group and house by email in advance of New Entrants' Evening. There will also be a second-hand uniform shop run by the Parents' Association where various items, in good clean condition, will be available to purchase by cash or cheque.

Please also note that our Transition Day is **Thursday 2nd July** this year. Your child will spend the whole day with us, forming new friendships and working on some enjoyable projects. More details about the Transition Day will be emailed to parents in due course.

I look forward to meeting you on 24th June.

Yours sincerely

Mr M Jones
Executive Headteacher

Dane Court Grammar School
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Dane Court Grammar School

May 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

Key Stage 3 Languages

We are very much looking forward to welcoming your child to Dane Court in September, and we hope that they are looking forward to next year.

I am writing to give some information about our languages curriculum in Key Stage 3. As you know, Dane Court is a school which prides itself on its international outlook, and we therefore offer French, German and Spanish as part of our Year 7 curriculum, with each individual student studying two of these three languages throughout Key Stage 3.

Your child may already have some skills in one of these languages from primary school, but it will be an equally exciting challenge to study a language from scratch, as that would ensure that all children are starting from the same point. Our language department is going from strength to strength, and this will ensure an excellent educational experience in any of these subjects. If your child would be happy studying any combination of these languages, you do not need to do anything. If you have a strong preference for ***one*** of these languages, you are welcome to complete this google form no later than **Friday 5th June at 5pm** to express your preference for one language, with brief accompanying details, and we will do our best to accommodate but this cannot be guaranteed.

We look forward to meeting you and your child soon.

Kind regards

Sally Jellett
Head of School

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Uniform and Equipment

Stationary

Pupils will need a fully stocked pencil case containing pens (including a green pen), pencils, a ruler, a rubber, a pair of compasses, a protractor, colouring pencils, highlighters and a glue stick.

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Dear Parents/Carers

Re: Calculators

The calculator we recommend, which will see students through to their GCSE, is the Casio fx-85GTCW+ Scientific Calculator with solar power. We are able to order these at a discounted price of around £13.50 and would look to do so early in September. Therefore, we advise that you don't buy a calculator ahead of the first day of school and order through us instead. You will receive an email from the Maths Department in due course.

Yours Sincerely

Mrs Brissenden
Head of Mathematics

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Dear Parent/Guardian,

All branded Physical Education kit is available from the Schoolwear Centre and Ambition Sport. They are the only suppliers of branded items of the main Dane Court PE clothing your child will need for their PE lessons. The clothing supplied has been chosen for its suitability of materials and durability.

If you would prefer not to buy the branded PE kit you can purchase plain versions of the items: please see details below.
Please ensure any plain items purchased are sportswear.

Yours sincerely,

Miss G Bolt
Head of PE Department

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PE Clothing

All students must have all the items listed below. Branded items can be purchased from Ambition Sport or The Schoolwear Centre.

Dane Court Multisports top and/or Dane Court Hoody Or plain black hooded jumper or rugby shirt Optional: Dane Court Logos can be added for an additional cost	
Dane Court Black Polo Shirt or T-shirt (all years) Or plain black polo T-shirt Optional: Dane Court Logos can be added for an additional cost	
Dane Court Black Shorts or Black Skort **or plain black shorts.** **(Skort is optional)** Optional: Dane Court Logos can be added for an additional cost	

***Black Football Socks (only a small logo permitted on them, no stripes)**	
***White Sports Socks**	
****Shin Pads**	
****Trainers**	
****Football Boots**	

*** These items can be purchased from Ambition Sport, The Schoolwear Centre or another retailer**

****These items <u>cannot</u> be supplied by Ambition Sport or The Schoolwear Centre**

Optional items listed below:
Branded items can be purchased from Ambition Sport or The Schoolwear Centre.

Dane Court Tracksuit Bottoms or plain Black Tracksuit Bottoms **(if buying your own only a small logo is permitted on them no stripes or other artwork)**	
Dane Court Leggings or plain Black Sports Leggings **(if buying your own only a small logo is permitted on them no stripes or other artwork or see through areas)** **Leggings must be specific sportswear material.**	

Uniform – 2026-27 Years 7-11

Blazer	Black with Dane Court school badge	No other garments acceptable
Trousers/Skirt	Plain, black, full-length, straight leg trousers Black watch tartan kilt	Trousers must be straight legged. No extreme styles, and they should not resemble jeans (back pockets) Denim and corduroy are not acceptable; neither are skin-tight trousers or leggings. Skirts must be worn at an acceptable length.
Shorts (summer uniform only)	Black, knee length, tailored shorts	No other garments acceptable
Shirt	Plain white with a normal collar or open collar. Shirts must be tucked in	Shirts must be plain white, with no patterns or styling. No sports shirts. No t-shirt or jumper should be visible under the shirt.
Tie	If normal collar: Dane Court school tie, full length. If open collar: no tie required	
Jumper	Black Dane Court sweatshirt Plain black jumper or cardigan	Jumpers or sweatshirts with logos other than the Dane Court logo are not acceptable.
Socks/Tights	White, black, or grey socks Plain black tights	No other colours or patterned socks are acceptable
Shoes	Plain, black, low heel and polishable	Trainers that are fabric or with noticeable logos are not acceptable. Shoes must be black and polishable. **Health and safety**: No high heels should be worn. Shoes should give sufficient support and protection to growing feet, therefore, canvas shoes and backless shoes are not acceptable. <u>Boots are not acceptable.</u>
Outdoor Garment	Plain style	Jackets not to be worn instead of blazers.
Jewellery	**One** set of studs in ears (flat or rounded only). All other piercings **MUST** be clear studs. Any other jewellery to be discreet.	Hoops or any other non-stud earrings are not acceptable. Visible body piercing, including nose studs, which are NOT clear studs. **In the event that a student has a visible body piercing which can't be removed, it must be covered with a suitable plaster until the item can be removed.**
Hair	Natural colours and moderate hair styles	No extreme hair styles.
Make-up	Must be discreet	
Nails	Coloured nail polish can be worn Nails must be cut short	
Religious clothing E.g. hijab, kippah, turban	Black or dark blue	

Wisepay

WisePay is the secure online payment system we use here at Dane Court Grammar School. This should be used to pay for school trips, buy revision items, and top up your students school meal account to enable them to purchase from the school Canteen.

WisePay can be accessed via their website (found here) or by downloading the WisePay app. During the summer holidays, we will send you your username and password, along with the organisation code which you will require if you choose to use the app.

School Meals and Cafeteria Top-Ups

Online top-ups are fast and usually hit the student's account within 30 minutes, although they won't show on your WisePay app or online portal until the following day. You can view real-time balances, purchase histories, and account credits. The system also gives you direct access to the three-weekly school meal menus.

A daily spending limit can be put in place for your child by writing directly to the school office.

The school incurs a charge per transaction, so we ask that you top up using the largest amount possible to help us minimize these costs.

School Trips and Activities

Before most trips, we usually gauge numbers by asking parents and guardians to express interest. You will be notified of this by email, and you will need to log into your portal or app to register your interest. It is very important that you only express an interest in a trip if you are sure your child wants to attend and it is financially viable for you, so that we can cost the trips accurately.

Once the trip has been approved, you will be notified by email that your child has been offered a place and that it is available to pay via WisePay. Larger, more expensive trips are paid for in installments with a payment schedule. It is imperative to keep to the schedule and not fall behind, as these deadlines are aligned with our payment commitments to the travel companies.

Classroom Sales

You will also be notified of items you can buy for your child, such as calculators and revision guides. You will receive an email letting you know that these are available to purchase as and when they are required.

A full user guide is available here and can also be accessed at the bottom of the portal's home page once you are logged in.

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RE: Pupil Premium

I would like to draw your attention to the available benefits of Free School Meals. A number of our students already enjoy Free School Meals each day. Your child may also qualify if you receive one or more of the following:

- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)
- 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 guarantee 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.

By registering for Free School Meals, if eligible, you will give your child the option to take up a healthy school meal and at the same time help our school to support them in their learning. The Government provides this additional funding to support students from lower income families and we use this money to directly support our students. In addition to a healthy meal, we may be able to offer financial support for various activities and resources including revision materials. A Free School Meals allowance of £1.38 is also available (in addition to the dinner allowance) which can be used to purchase breakfast items before school starts between 8.15am and 8.35am.

It is, however, only made available to schools if children are registered for Free School Meals by their parent(s)/carer(s). If you think your child may be eligible for Free School Meals, please click this link for more information and to register.

Please be aware that the Government's transitional protection arrangements for means tested Free School Meals (FSM) is due to finish at the end of this academic year. Transitional protections for free school meals have been in effect since 1 April 2018. This has meant that pupils becoming eligible for free meals under the benefits-based criteria have retained their entitlement, even if their household circumstances have changed. All pupils eligible for free school meals under the benefits-based criteria before the end of the 2025 to 2026 academic year should continue to receive this entitlement until the end of that academic year. From the start of the 2026 to 2027 academic year, transitional protections for free school meals will end. Households must meet the FSM eligibility criteria from the start of the 2026 to 2027 academic year to continue receiving provision.

Children who are entitled to receive free school meals, can also get free school transport to the nearest grammar school if:

- they have met the admissions criteria of the school
- they have been offered a place at the school
- it's the nearest grammar school to their home
- the distance from their home and the school is between 2 and 15 miles.

If you think your child is eligible and you have not already applied for this, further details and application forms can be found here: Free school transport - Kent County Council

If you have any queries about this or would like to discuss it further, please contact us at the school.

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