



6th October 2026



WELCOME TO YEAR 11

Year Leader: Mr Craig

Deputy Year Leader: Ms Salerno



School vision

...to develop knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world.



Whole school priorities

A caring, open-minded and principled community

High quality teaching

A rich curriculum

Life-transforming outcomes & destinations

Very high levels of student attendance



Attendance

24.21% of secondary school students missed 10% or more of school, compared to 13.90% in primary schools

Missing just **10 days of school in Year 11 halves the likelihood** of a student achieving a Grade 5 in both English and Maths compared to peers with **95%+ attendance**

90% attendance across 5 years of secondary school = 1/2 an academic year of missed learning

The overall absence rate in state-funded secondary schools reached **8.57%** in 2025/2026

In 2022/2023, 60% of pupils who missed a day in week 1 of the academic year went on to be PA (for the year) – **absence sticks**



Attendance in year 11

Current attendance

90.4%

25/26 attendance

92.1%

7-10 attendance 25/26

94.2%

7-11 attendance T1-5 25/26

94% with 13.8% PA



Supporting your child's attendance

Build a consistent routine

- Treat school days as being non-negotiable (avoid term-time holidays and try to limit medical appointments during the school day)
- Encourage your child to get organised the night before (uniform, bag packed)
- Sleep, exercise and time away from screens

Use support systems early (teachers, mentor, year leader and safeguarding staff)

- If your child is finding attendance difficult, don't wait - let the school know

Keep motivation high

- Celebrate good attendance and progress



Priorities in year 11

Getting the Basics Right - Routines

- Attendance and punctuality to maximize learning.
- Re-establishing high standards of behaviour, focus, and positive choices across the year group.

Supporting Wellbeing & Building Resilience

- Proactive intervention for anxiety and academic pressure - *Mentors are key here*
- Open home-school communication to ensure every student feels supported.

Aspirations for the Future & Beyond

- Focus on strong GCSE outcomes to secure post-16 Sixth Form pathways and long-term ambitions.
- Cultivating independence, self-motivation, and pride in academic achievements.

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Plan ahead in year 11

Event / Milestone	Date / Week Commencing (WC)
Year 11 Parents Evening 1	Thursday 24th September
“Welcome to Year 11” evening	Tuesday 6th October
Y11 IB Information Evening	Wednesday 4th November
Autumn PPEs	WC 16th November (Art and PE the weeks prior)
6th Form Open Evening	Wednesday 25 November
Year 11 Parents Evening 2	Tuesday 2nd February
Final PPEs	Weeks either side of February Half Term
Year 11 Parent Power evening	Tuesday 9th March
Real GCSE Exams	WC 10th May to 14th June
Thorpe Park Celebration Trip	Post-GCSEs (June)
Sixth Form Inductions	July



Curriculum in year 11

Languages: Completing the GCSE specification across local, national, and global areas of interest while honing exam techniques in listening, speaking, reading, writing, and translation.

Maths: Mastering synoptic problem-solving, advanced vector geometry, probability trees, geometric proofs, and target-driven exam paper practice.

English: Finalising study of all GCSE set Literature texts, analysing non-fiction texts as part of the Language course, evaluating unseen poetry, and mastering transactional and creative writing under timed conditions.



Curriculum in year 11

Humanities: Completing GCSE historical thematic investigations, synthesising geographic fieldwork data into evaluative reports, and tackling high-tariff ethical and philosophical exam questions.

Sciences: Finalising core content: exploring homeostasis, inheritance, variation, and ecosystems in Biology; organic chemistry, chemical analysis, and atmospheric chemistry in Chemistry; and forces, waves, and electromagnetism in Physics.

Practical Subjects: Finalising GCSE coursework and exam components: evaluating socio-cultural issues and ethics alongside final practical performance moderation in PE; completing the Personal Portfolio studio outcome and sitting the 10-hour Externally Set Assignment in Art & Design; refining coursework compositions and preparing for the listening exam in Music; and executing devised performances, scripted practical exams, and written paper preparation in Drama.



Extra curricular

Trips: Pastoral trip - more information to follow in due course

Careers: IAG Career appointments & mentor support/Kent Choices Applications/Oxbridge visits/Apprenticeship assemblies/6th form open evening

Extra curricular clubs in school and interventions

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PSHE Curriculum

Term 1 Building for the Future	Term 2 Respectful Relationships	Term 3 Independence, Health & Wellbeing
Term 4 Living in the Wider World & Personal Safety		
External Speakers: Sexual Health talks from the NHS, Amy Winehouse Foundation		



Mentoring curriculum

A general week for mentoring looks like this:

TIME	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1.15-1.25	Assembly	Cultural capital / politics.	Booklets Or Academic mentoring	In the News / thought of the day	“Soft” Mentoring And attendance conversations
1.25-1.35		Extended Mentoring		Extended mentoring	

Many students also have intervention sessions on specific days.

Intervention sessions as well as revision activities are likely to increase over the year



**Student
ambassadors**

Students now in year 12

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Parent App



Download on the
App Store



GET IT ON
Google Play

The Dane Court Grammar School app can easily be found on the app store and is ready to download.

How We Are Using the App

- **Messages (Push Notifications):** This is our primary tool for direct updates. Please ensure notifications are enabled on your phone so you receive immediate alerts when a message is sent.
- **Absence Reporting:** You can now report student absences directly through the app. As a reminder, we require daily notifications for any ongoing absence. If you are picking your child up early for an appointment, please include the collection time and the reason in your message.
- **Student Timetables:** Easily view your child's daily schedule.
- **Newsfeed:** Check this tab regularly for celebratory stories, student achievements, and general school news. *(Note: Newsfeed updates do not trigger push notifications, so be sure to browse it periodically!)*

FREE SCHOOL MEALS



The deadline for applying for Free School Meals has been extended to **2nd November**. All children from households in receipt of Universal Credit are entitled to receive free school meals.

If your household receives Universal Credit, you could save up to £495 per year per child on school lunches. For families with multiple children, these savings can make a substantial difference to household budgets.

Beyond the financial benefits, this programme ensures children receive nutritious meals during school hours, which supports their learning and concentration in the classroom, physical health and development and overall wellbeing.

www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals





Dane Court website

Mental Health and Wellbeing Page

<https://www.danecourt.kent.sch.uk/wellbeing>



Family Support Page

<https://www.danecourt.kent.sch.uk/familysupport>





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Mentoring



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Extended mentoring

What is my purpose as mentor?

First point of contact for students , being aware of their well being , passing on and explaining important information, structured non-academic time to build community... etc!

How do we review effort with your child after reporting data points?

Extended mentoring conversations are centered around how they feel things went to repeat successful strategies and think about how to manage time and tasks more effectively. Please ask your child about these!



How to get involved

What opportunities are there for students in this form to get involved in the wider school community?

This year should not just be about academic outcomes...clubs are all shared on google classroom. Please encourage these!

What can you do at home to help our mentor group?

Contact me to discuss attendance , behaviour ,uniform , punctuality and well being concerns

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**Ask the
mentor**

Any questions?

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Contact the mentor

11B: Mr Wade rwade@danecourt.kent.sch.uk

11D: Ms Rowland & Mr Howard
mrowland@danecourt.kent.sch.uk
howard@danecourt.kent.sch.uk

11H: Mr Brooks brooks2@danecourt.kent.sch.uk

11N: Mr Sundhu & Ms Vernieuwe
jsundhu@danecourt.kent.sch.uk
evernieuwe@danecourt.kent.sch.uk

11S: Ms Price price@danecourt.kent.sch.uk

11T: Mr Gale agale@danecourt.kent.sch.uk