

DAME ALLAN'S Digest

FEBRUARY 2019



A welcome from the Principal

The new term started in earnest with trial examinations for Years 11-13. I trust the students involved have all worked towards producing the best results they can in these examinations and I look forward to seeing the fruits of their labours when the results are published.

We have had a busy start to the Schools' performing arts calendar. Beginning with our Jazz Evening in January, once again our music, dance, and drama students have excelled themselves. The annual Dance Show at Dance City was a huge success with two sell-out shows across the first weekend in February and the Junior School have been hard at work filming ahead of their live Combined Arts performance in March. In the senior Schools we await with excitement the annual production - this year 'Our Country's Good' - and also look forward to the Lower School musical - 'Joseph and the mazing Technicolour Dreamcoat' - for which rehearsals are already underway.

This year we welcome new staff to the Schools. In the Junior School, Mrs Forster will provide maternity cover for Mrs Holliday's class and we have employed Miss Foreman to take on Miss Lambourne's work when her maternity leave begins; working across all schools, Ms Parkinen has begun work as our new HR Manager. We are also delighted to welcome back Mrs Devine to the Senior School.

As ever, our students' parents and guardians are the greatest advocates for Dame Allan's Schools. Our thanks to you all for your continued support.

From Shakespeare to the Rolling Stones



Our Dance department is celebrating yet another fantastic whole school dance show at Dance City in Newcastle. Over 100 students from Years 6-13 were part of the two sell-out shows which took place over the first weekend in February. 'Not Made in China' celebrated the diverse culture and iconic figures of Great

Britain through the ages to the present day. The performances were inspired by everything from pop music such as the Rolling Stones and Blondie to William Shakespeare, Charlie Chaplin and West End musicals. Art-inspired dances were based on portraits of the Royal Family and artists such as Banksy and Antony

Gormley. There was even a performance based on the Great British Bake Off. A huge well done to all involved!

We look forward to two upcoming events later in the term. In March, the Senior School will host 'Prelude', an exhibition of students' exam work, and we return to Dance City in April for the Leavers Show.



Sport

Junior round-up

This term has been frequently disrupted by the weather. However, this has not dampened the pupils' enthusiasm for attending netball, football, hockey and rugby whenever possible. It is brilliant to see so many pupils willing to learn and develop. Keep this up!

Football

Years 5 and 6 football teams took part in a Floodlight Football tournament at RGS. Well done to Year 6 who worked well together to finish third. Year 5 finished top of their group and made it to the final before losing in extra time. They went on to play in the ISFA North East Regional tournament and came top of their group once again. The final against RGS ended in a draw and went to extra time, but the team focused well and used their team spirit to go that one step further and take the trophy away with them.

Netball

This term the U11 netball team represented the school at the High 5s School Games competition. Not only did they win the first round,

but the children were all very polite, complimentary about other children's skills, and well-behaved throughout the afternoon. We look forward to the next round of the competition!

Rugby focus

This term, the focus for Year 6 has switched to rugby 7s. With a series of tournaments coming up over the next few weeks, including the HMC tournament in March, it will be interesting to see how the pupils progress over the next few weeks with their first experiences of rugby 7s.

Swimming Gala

Swimmers from Years 4-6 travelled down to Leeds to take part in the HMC Gala. All pupils supported each other before, during and after races. Two pupils showed fantastic skill and speed to win their individual competition in U11 Butterfly and U11 Freestyle. What an incredible achievement! One of the team in particular showed true Dame Allan's spirit to compete in a relay after being disappointed in their individual performance. Great job everyone!

Senior round-up

Rugby

Dame Allan's is lucky enough to be regularly represented in the U15, U16 and U18 Northumberland County rugby teams. Well done to the 14 DABS who have recently played. Good luck to Year 10 DABS Charlie, Dan, David, James, and Will, who have all been invited to Newcastle Falcons on Academy trials over a two-week period.

Netball

This term, our netball teams from both the Girls' School and the Junior School and Nursery have been using the Newcastle Eagles basketball teams' fantastic new facilities.



Cross-country

Seven students represented Northumberland in the Inter Counties cross-country meeting at the beginning of February. Thanks to the students for giving it their all in difficult conditions on snow. Selection will soon be made for the English Schools Championships, good luck all!

CONGRATULATIONS

Year 7 Holly recently won a Bronze medal at the Scottish Open gymnastics competition in Glasgow. She is looking forward to competing in Las Vegas in March for the Vegas Acro Cup, Good luck Holly!

Year 11 Saffron recently won Bronze in the zonal round (Elite section) of the National Schools' Trampoline competition. This means she has now qualified for the National Schools' Final - a really fantastic achievement!

Elmer the Elephant

We were thrilled to welcome St Oswald's Hospice to our Junior School and Nursery at the start of term to hear about all the fantastic work they do, and present them with our Elmer's Great North Parade fundraising

total of £2,340. This astounding amount has meant the Junior School children can design and decorate three large Elmer the Elephants for this year's Elmer the Patchwork Elephant Parade. We can't wait to see them!



Girls in Tech

The Girls' School hosted a fantastic event in January called 'Girls in Tech'. The event looked at challenging career stereotypes and featured presentations and stands from Waterstons Business and IT Consultancy, the University of Sunderland, Sage and Balfour Beatty.



Filming has taken place in preparation for the Years 3-5 Combined Arts Performance later this term. The children had fun filming on location at St James' and St Basil's vicarage as

well as using the green screen at the Junior School and Nursery. Here's a behind the scenes shot of their green screen work. We can't wait to see the performance in March!

Happy New Year!



The Junior School and Nursery celebrated the Chinese New Year in style. The Nursery children had fun at a Startastic workshop where they each took a turn to dress up as a traditional Chinese Dragon. Year 2 took a trip to the Oriental Museum in Durham to learn about Chinese New Year and Chinese culture. They dressed up as animals from the Chinese zodiac and looked at Chinese artefacts.



The ALLANIAN Society

Thank
you for
making a
difference

Bursaries are one of our main fundraising priorities and we would like to thank our alumni and friends who have chosen to support us in this way. Dame Allan's Schools have a long history of providing support to pupils who would not otherwise be able to access the excellent opportunities the Schools offer. A donation of a regular gift over a period of years or as a single gift allows us to continue to support able and interested pupils to access the excellent opportunities Dame Allan's Schools provide. As one of our donors recently wrote:

"I was fortunate to benefit from financial support to attend Dame Allan's Schools. Without this I am certain my family and I would not have been able to experience the education, environment and encouragement the Schools can offer. Having recently retired after a career in biomedical sciences and information technology, I donate when I can to the Alumni Bursary Fund to help the Schools

offer much needed opportunities as widely as possible. I would like to thank Dame Allan's Schools and everyone who contributes for the benefit of current and future students."

Graham N Watson (1968-1975)

Other students who have benefitted from bursaries at Dame Allan's Schools have said:



"I knew my admission to Dame Allan's would be dependent on receiving a 100% bursary towards tuition costs. I was thrilled when I was accepted as I knew the bursary would allow me to access the best education in the North East. It inevitably helped me become the first member of my family to attend university. I was able to explore a rich and diverse curriculum as well as make friends for life. I am really grateful to have attended the Schools and hope the bursary scheme helps others access their true potential".

Nakkita Charag (2010-2017)



"I graduated from Newcastle University in 2014 and currently work as a dentist in Teesside. I have always believed that the 10 years I spent at Dame Allan's gave me the soundest foundations for my career and life ahead. None of this would have been achievable were it not for my bursary which came at the most critical point in my education. I would like to take this opportunity to thank not only the donors for their generosity but all the staff at Dame Allan's who helped me throughout my time at the Schools."

Kevin Leung (1999-2009)

More information about the Alumni Bursary Fund is available on the Dame Allan's Schools website at dameallans.co.uk/Alumni/Bursaries or alternatively contact the Development Office on 0191 275 1500 or by email: alumnirelations@dameallans.co.uk



Allanians for life

Dear Allanians,

One of the Allanian Society's main aims is to bring together current and former pupils of Dame Allan's Schools and to afford them opportunities for meeting and ongoing engagement.

In order for the Society to achieve this aim, the Board agreed at a recent meeting to waive the existing fee for Life Membership of the Allanian Society: membership will now be automatic and free of charge. Membership will be ratified by completion of a consent form either when leaving Dame Allan's Schools or at any time in the future.

This decision enables the Society to fulfil a long-held ambition to be fully inclusive working closely with the Development Office to increase engagement with our "Allanian Family" and allowing more effective planning of communications and events.

Looking forward to meeting up with you in 2019.

Bill Lomas
Chairman of the Allanian Society

The Allanian Society Dinner

Thirty years ago, the first mixed Sixth Form was introduced at Dame Allan's Schools, so we've decided to celebrate this important milestone at this year's Allanian Society Annual Dinner!

It would be fantastic to see lots of Allanians of all ages at the dinner, so why not get together with a group of your school friends and come along? You can share stories of your time in the Sixth Form

and meet up with some of your former teachers. We will have a seating plan on the night, so you can make sure you'll sit with your friends.

Retired Vice-Principal Bill Lomas will be hosting the dinner, and the teachers who have already expressed an interest in attending are: Janet Middlebrook, Andrea Fairbairn, Angela Crossfield, Kate Thorpe, Peter Hollins, and Nick

Glover. Current teachers Mrs Downie, Mr McFall, Mr Henry (former Head of Sixth Form), and current Head of Sixth Form Mr Terry are also attending, and are already looking forward to catching up with former pupils. Tickets can be bought online, you can find the link at: dameallans.co.uk/Alumni-Events

If you have any difficulties please contact the Development Office.

Contact us

If you would like to send us alumni news or have any queries about the Allanian Society, please contact the Development Office t: 0191 275 1500
e: alumnirelations@dameallans.co.uk
We are also on Facebook, find us The Allanian Society



ESU Public Speaking

Two teams from our Senior School entered the ESU Public Speaking Competition at the start of term. The two speeches 'Any book worth banning is a book worth reading' and 'Kill to cure: can the

hunting of animals improve the survival rate of endangered species?' were well-received;

Miss Ward got lots of positive comments from the teachers accompanying other schools. There was a lovely atmosphere and it was great to see the students collaborate with other schools: they can be very proud of themselves. The experience gained will be invaluable for next year. Well done to everyone involved, you did the school proud!

Trainer Tuesday



This term, the students of IIS organised 'Trainer Tuesday' at the Senior School. Students were asked to pay £1 and wear trainers to school on Tuesday 29 January to raise money for Henry Dancer Days, a wonderful North East charity which provides practical support to young children with cancer. Well done to everyone who took part and helped raise £323!

Safeguarding at Dame Allan's

Please remember that the Schools' policies on all aspects of safeguarding and child protection are readily available on our website. The policies for e-safety are also available as well as guidance for pupils and parents on internet safety, giving plenty of good advice. Printed copies of all policies are also available.

Do keep channels of communication open with your child around use of the internet and social media. If you have any concerns, please get in touch.

Looking to the future...

Monday 25 February

School resumes

Friday 1 March

DASPA Ceilidh, 6:30pm

Monday 4 - Friday 8 March

National Careers Week

Wednesday 6 March

Year 9 DABS Parents' Evening

Friday 8 - Sunday 10 March

'Our Country's Good' by Timberlake Wertenbaker (Upper School production)

Tuesday 12 March

Year 9 DAGS Parents' Evening

Wednesday 13 March

Northumbria Club Guest Night, 7pm (London)

Saturday 16 March

Junior School Open Morning, 9:30am-12:30pm

Monday 18 - Friday 22 March

Team photos

Wednesday 20 March

Year 8 DAGS Parents' Evening

Wednesday 20 - Friday 22 March

Year 3-5 Combined Arts performance, 1:45pm

Friday 22 - Sunday 24 March

Officer Training

Tuesday 26 March

Year 8 DABS Parents' Evening

Wednesday 27 - Thursday 28 March

Junior School and Nursery Parents' Meetings, 3:30-6:00pm

Saturday 30 March

Allanian Society Dinner, 6:30pm Newsom Hall

Tuesday 2 April

Public Speaking Competition, 7:00pm Newsom Hall

Friday 5 - Tuesday 9 April

Year 9-13 Music Tour to the Netherlands

DASPA Junior

We have held two successful film nights for students this half term. These nights have not only raised funds for the school, but were also greatly enjoyed by the children. We are now involved in planning the DASPA Ceilidh on 1st March 6:30-9:30pm in Newsom Hall (tickets available on ParentPay) and we are starting preparations for our Summer Fair on 18th May 12:00-2:00pm.

The two sets of recently-funded floodlights are being used in the dark nights this term, enabling after-school sports clubs to continue in the winter months. We are now fundraising for the development of the pond area of Woodland Way and look forward to updating you on the progress of this project.

DASPA

DASPA held its first meeting of the calendar year on 14th January. The meeting reviewed our very successful Christmas Fair and projects we funded in 2018, many of which are now in place and enhancing the education of our children.

We look forward to our social Ceilidh night, taking place on the 1st March at 6:30pm (tickets are available on ParentPay). Planning is also under way for our 2020 Spring Ball: we are hoping to at least match the £11,000 raised last year. The Dame Allan's Supporters' Scarf is now available for sale from ParentPay, each scarf costs £10 and will contribute £5 to school funds - it's a fantastic way to support the school. Keep an eye on the Dame Allan's Schools social media pages for a sneak peek and do get in touch to request yours as numbers are limited.

As always we remain grateful for your continued support and look forward to seeing you at the Ceilidh!

Friday 5 April

Term ends 3:45pm

Wednesday 24 April

School resumes



DAME ALLAN'S SCHOOLS
building the future