

DAME ALLAN'S Digest

MAY 2019



A welcome from the Principal

Inspection has been the buzzword of this half-term, with both a visit from the ISI and the first biennial inspection of our Royal Marines Combined Cadet Force at the beginning of May.

Extra-curricular activities such as the CCF provide our students with a host of skills which are essential in all walks of life such as leadership, teamwork, problem-solving and perseverance – all skills which came in useful whilst hosting the ISI staff. I'd like to thank all staff, pupils, and parents for your help in making sure this was a positive experience, and we look forward to receiving the results of this visit in the coming weeks.

The summer term can be a tense time for our students as they prepare for, and sit, their examinations. I am sure they have been working incredibly hard and I encourage them to persevere to ensure they see the fruits of their labours later in the summer. In the weeks following Mental Health Awareness Week, I'd also like to remind our students that our excellent counselling service provides invaluable help and guidance if they ever feel things are getting too much.

Of course, the term is not solely focused on examinations and we have enjoyed many great events in recent weeks. Fieldtrips such as the CCF trip to Arbroath, the Year 5 visit to Wastwater, and various Duke of Edinburgh expeditions; a wonderful Spring Concert at St James' and St Basil's, where the large audience was once again reminded of the wealth of talents possessed by musicians from both the Junior and Senior Schools; the excellence we have come to expect in our leavers' dance show; and a very successful Junior School Summer Fair.

Finally, as we say goodbye to our Year 13 students ahead of their A Level examinations, I wish them well in both their examinations and their future endeavours.



An inspector calls...

At the beginning of May, the RM cadets received their first ever biennial inspection. Dame Allan's welcomed Major Kane Holford from 43 Commando based at

HMNB Clyde Faslane, Scotland. Following a formal parade in the Boys' yard, Maj. Holford observed the cadet NCOs taking and instructing activities,

performing battlefield First Aid and fieldcraft, and an unarmed combat workshop by a Royal Marines physical training instructor.

Biology Olympiad

We're extremely proud of a group of Year 13 students who have won awards and commendations in this year's Biology Olympiad competition. Competing against students from across the UK, for our students to gain medals is an

incredible achievement. Special congratulations to Cissie for achieving a Gold medal, meaning she is in the top 7 per cent in the UK. Dame Allan's has only had one gold medal previously. Further congratulations to Meg,

Cameron and Peter, who all achieved Silver medals, which puts them in the top 8 per cent nationally; and to Uzaam and Yunus who also achieved commendations. Well done everyone!



Wedding bells

An unusual early duty for our new Chaplain, the Rev James McGowan, saw him conduct an unlikely wedding between two members of Year 2 at St James' and St Basil's church. The pupils were learning about Christian wedding ceremonies as part of their topic on the stages of life. The chaplain welcomed suitably dressed students into the church and the children

acted out the service with pupils taking key roles, such as bride, groom and reader. The pupils discussed the different stages of the service while taking part, and even managed to walk down the aisle to the Wedding March, courtesy of Mr Laidler on the organ! There were two objections to the "union" - a first for Reverend McGowan!



Sports Awards 2019

We're thrilled to announce the guest speaker at this year's DAS Sports Awards is rugby union star Katy Storie. Katy was a weightlifter representing Great Britain before she discovered rugby at university, eventually representing England at the 2006 Women's Rugby World Cup and Six Nations in 2009. Katy is now Head of Sport and Exercise at Northumbria University. This year, the awards evening is on Friday 21 June at Newcastle Falcons in Kingston Park. Ticket information to follow.



Image credit: Northumbria University.

Sporting achievements

Year 7 Lucy has added to her medal collection following badminton success at the Glasgow International Youth Championships with another gold and two bronze medals. Will, also in Year 7, has been overall winner in both of the gymnastics competitions he has entered this year; at one event, he recorded the highest boys score in any of the age categories and levels. Year 9 Haylie has seen more golfing success this half-term, and cut another three from her

handicap. She has also been selected for a Northumberland vs. Cumbria match at the end of May. Congratulations to the U9 and U11 Junior School pupils who took part in the Newcastle City Cross-Country Races in April. In a field of 920 pupils, the U9 and U11 girls came third overall. The U9 boys were very close to a top 3 position, with Julian coming 3rd overall in the race standing; and the U11 boys did fantastically to win the U11 event.



The ALLANIAN Society



Who's who?

We thought you'd like to see more photos from the Annual Dinner in March, attended by pupils and teachers both past and present. Can you spot yourself or people from your year?



Dear Allanians

By the time you read this, the Year 13 pupils (or 'Upper Sixth') will have left Dame Allan's to start their study leave, leading up to A level exams. Of course, the Allanian Society wouldn't just let them leave without saying goodbye, so in their last week at the Schools they gathered for a 'farewell-and-keep-in-touch' meeting with me, and also signed a form giving us permission to contact them once they have left the Schools. This means we can keep the leavers up-to-date with school news, and invite them to reunion and events. We very much look forward to seeing them at an event in the near future, but for now we wish all the Year 13 students good luck with their exams and their future education and career choices. Are you an Allanian who hasn't heard from us in a while? It is probably because you are not on our mailing list. If you would like to receive regular news and events from the Schools' and the Society, please email the Development Office on alumnirelations@dameallans.co.uk or fill in our contact form on www.dameallans.co.uk/contact-form
Bill Lomas
Chairman of the Allanian Society

REUNIONS - Can you help?

We have had a lot of interest in the reunions we are holding in the Autumn term.

Peter Turner (DABS 1959 - 1966)

is organising a reunion at the Schools on Saturday 12 October 2019 for all DABS pupils who joined Form II in October 1959 (either directly or via Lower II), and/or left the school in July 1966.

This covers a number of boys who either joined in 1959 and left before 1966, or joined after 1959, but still left in 1966. If this includes you, please contact the Development

Office who will put you in touch with Peter for further details.

1969 Reunion

The following Saturday (19th October) the 1969 DABS and DAGS leavers will hold a 50 year reunion. If you left in 1969 and would like further information, please contact the Development Office.

First Mixed Sixth Form - 1991 Leavers Reunion!

It was 30 years ago that the first mixed sixth form was introduced at Dame Allan's, so the leavers of 1991 are celebrating this with a

reunion at the Schools on Saturday 21 September 2019.

If that is your year, contact the Development office who will put you in touch with the organiser.

Sadly, we have a huge list of Allanians for whom we have no contact details and we would like to get in touch with them. If you are in touch with any Allanians of the age groups relevant to the reunions, please let them know about the events, and ask them to email the Development Office.

Please spread the word. Thank you for your help!

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



New uniform

All Dame Allan's uniform is available to order now. Schoolblazer are encouraging early orders with free UK P&P (on orders over £150) from 1st -14th July 2019.

The intelligent sizing system offers a simple step-by-step process to help you choose the right size, but their fantastic Growth Guarantee means you can return your items for free before 30th September if

you find that the item doesn't fit at the end of the summer holidays. Name tapes can be applied free of charge. Order now at www.schoolblazer.com



Safeguarding at Dame Allan's

We are aware that a number of younger pupils are using the video-sharing app TikTok (previously known as Musical.ly). There have been some concerns expressed over the possibility of children being harassed for inappropriate images. Parents should be aware that the recommended age for this site is 13+ and that great care should be taken with privacy settings. Instructions for this can be found at:

TikTok – 'Setting up a private account'

<http://support.tiktok.com/knowledge-base/setting-up-a-private-account>

If your child is using the app, there are features such as 'digital wellbeing' which can help you to control

time spent on the app and limit inappropriate content. You should also make sure that your child knows how to report inappropriate content. More information can be found at:

TikTok – 'Privacy & Safety'

<http://support.tiktok.com/article-categories/privacy-safety>

Further information is available at:

Internet Matters – 'TikTok app safety – what parents need to know'

www.internetmatters.org/hub/esafety-news/tik-tok-app-safety-what-parents-need-to-know/

Looking to the future...

Mon 27 - Fri 31 May
Half-term holiday

Mon 3 June
School resumes

Tues 4 June
DAGS New Parents' Evening, 7pm

Wed 5 June
DABS New Parents' Evening, 7pm

Wed 5 - Fri 14 June
Year 12 exams

Mon 10 - Fri 14 June
Senior Schools' exam week

Mon 17 June
Nursery, Reception and Years 1-2
Sports Day, 1-3pm

Wed 19 June
Year 6 Move-up and
Introductory Day

Fri 21 June
Year 13 CCF RM camp

Fri 21 June
Sports Awards evening, 6:30pm
Kingston Park

Mon 24 - Fri 28 June
Suggested week for Year 11
work experience

Mon 24 June
Years 3-6 Sports Day at Fenham,
1-3pm

Wed 26 - Thurs 27 June
Year 6 Shakespeare production

Fri 28 - Sat 29 June
Lower School Musical

Fri 28 June
Reception event, 1:30pm

Fri 28 June
Senior Schools' Sports Day,
DABS am / DAGS pm

Friday 28 June
Music Recital, Lumsden Music
Centre, 1pm

Mon 1 July
Junior Prize giving (Years 3-6),
6pm

DASPA Junior

DASPA Junior would like to thank everyone in the Dame Allan's Schools community for supporting their Annual Summer Fair. It was a brilliant day, with just under £4,000 being raised for Dame Allan's Schools. Special thanks to all of the staff, parents and students who helped on the day, with extra special thanks to Mrs Needham who works so hard for DASPA Junior and to Mrs Batey who was treasurer of DASPA Junior.

We are now preparing for a massive uniform sale on Move Up Day 19th June and our Year 6 end of term party.

DASPA

It was a privilege for DASPA Senior to support the music department at the Spring Concert last month and enjoy the amazing talent of our young musicians. The art department is soon to acquire a sophisticated silk-printing system funded by DASPA and we are excited to see what our children can produce with it. We thank both the music and art departments for their continued support at our events.

The Astronomy and Science Club will also benefit from new equipment: a celestron telescope and lego rocket set 'Apollo Saturn V'.

We look forward to welcoming the new parents joining the Senior Schools in September at the New Parents' evenings on Tuesday 4th and Wednesday 5th June.

Mon 1 July
World Challenge trip to
Uzbekistan and Kyrgystan

Tues 2 July
Year 8 Musical Theatre Day

Wed 3 July
Junior School Summer Concert,
6pm

Wed 3 July
Year 7 Musical Theatre Day

Thurs 4 July
Term ends 12noon



DAME ALLAN'S SCHOOLS
building the future