

DAME ALLAN'S Digest



OCTOBER 2019



A welcome from the Principal

Welcome to the first Digest of the 2019/20 academic year, I hope you will enjoy reading about what has already been a busy few weeks for the Schools.

Over the summer break we were once again delighted to celebrate fantastic examination results with our students. They reflected a great deal of hard work and we are delighted that our students have got the results their efforts merit. Thanks must also go to their parents who we know are a great source of support and encouragement for them during such an important period of their school life.

The summer saw a variety of trips including canoeing in Scotland, a sailing trip to France and the biennial World Challenge expedition - this year to Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. We also saw the return of our STEM Week summer school during one of the hottest weeks of the summer; it was a delight to present awards to the children in front of their friends and families.

September's Speech Day at the Sage Gateshead was a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the achievements of the Senior Schools' students over the last academic year. It also provided a great stage for our talented students to showcase their skills in music, drama and dance.

Our key note speaker was Professor Russell Cowburn, an alumnus of Dame Allan's. Now a Fellow of the Royal Society and Director of Research at the Cavendish Laboratory at the University of Cambridge, Professor Cowburn used his speech to inspire pupils with his vision of how science will look in the 2020s.

Finally, we were delighted to welcome a record number of families attending our Open Mornings for the Junior School and Nursery and the Senior Schools and Sixth Form.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the students who helped out with tours and demonstrations; they showed Dame Allan's Schools to be the friendly and inviting place we know them to be. Our Sixth Form Open Evening, Life in the Sixth Form, takes place on Tuesday 5 November at 6.30pm.



Speech Day

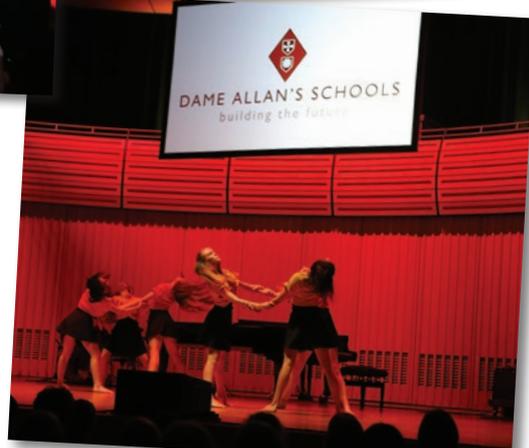
At the beginning of term, pupils, parents and staff gathered at the Sage in Gateshead for the Senior Schools' annual Speech Day.

This year, we were lucky enough to be joined by Professor Russell Cowburn as guest speaker.

As a former pupil of Dame Allan's, it was a delight to welcome him back, and there was much amusement when he revealed a school photo of himself and his sister - known to us as Mrs Fletcher, Head of Modern Foreign Languages!

Now a Fellow of the Royal Society and Director of Research at the Cavendish Laboratory at the University of Cambridge, Professor Cowburn presented his speech in the style of a TED talk, 'What will science look like in the 2020s?'

Attendees were also treated to an excerpt from the Lower School Musical, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat, as well as an impassioned speech from pupils about their work with local charity Eating Stones, and music and dance performances by some of our talented students.





The Allanian Society



Welcome to the new academic year

The start of the academic year has been overshadowed by the death of Christine Straker, Allanian Society Life Vice President, who has been at the heart of alumni relations at Dame Allan's for well over thirty years: we will miss her enormously. I am confident that she would have been thrilled to see a busy year for the Society taking shape. There will be opportunities to support the schools through our work with the Careers Department, building upon this summer's Return and Inspire event.

After the success of the AGM and the convivial London Drinks event, we are looking forward to welcoming many Allanians back to the school for year group reunions, cheering on current Allanians playing in sporting events, and marking those happy fixtures of the social calendar, the Christmas and Founder's Day lunches and the annual dinner. I look forward to meeting Allanians of every vintage in the course of the year!

Thank you,
Stephen Davies
Chairman of the Allanian Society

Contact us

If you are interested in joining the board and helping to shape the future of the Allanian Society, please contact the Development Office: 0191 275 1500
e: alumnirelations@dameallans.co.uk

We are also on Facebook,
find us  The Allanian Society



London Alumni Event



In early October, we hosted our annual London event, this year at The Happenstance in the St Paul's area of London. Over 50 Allanians of all ages were in attendance ranging from those who left the Schools in the 1950's to recent alumni still studying at university. The evening was a great opportunity for Allanians to catch up with Dr Hind before he retires at the end of the academic year, and Bill Lomas, who recently stood down as Chairman of the Allanian Society.

Conversation flowed over drinks and nibbles with and it was lovely to see some 'regulars' - those who attend every year - chatting to those who were there for the first time. We look forward to seeing you all again next year!

Reunions

Earlier this term we welcomed a group of Allanians celebrating the 30th anniversary of the first ever co-educational Sixth Form at Dame Allan's Schools.

The group spent the morning and lunchtime in the Schools, before continuing their celebrations in town.

A couple of weeks later we hosted the DABS 1966 leavers' reunion. The morning started with coffee, a welcome from the Principal, and a quick reminder of who was who (some had not seen each other since leaving school), before being taken on a

tour around the school by some of Dame Allan's Officers. Lunch followed, and with it a speech from the organiser, Peter Turner, finishing with a toast to Dame Allan's Schools with cake.

It was then time to mingle, reminisce about the good old days, look at the memorabilia that some of the guests had brought (prompting more memories to come flooding back!), and have photos taken. It was a lovely day, and everyone agreed to stay in touch and come back to Dame Allan's in 10 years' time!



Date for the diary Friday 13 December 12:30pm Christmas Lunch

Once again the Allanian Society's Christmas lunch will be held at the Northern Counties Club on Friday 13 December at 12.30pm, following on from the Schools' Carol Service that morning.

If you would like to attend the lunch, please see our website for price and how to book www.dameallans.co.uk/Alumni-Events or email alumnirelations@dameallans.co.uk

Junior Sport

Trying for Dame Allan's

Lots of rugby this term for all year groups. The highlight was fixtures with RGS and QEGS Wakefield where we had 75 boys and a couple of girls all playing at the same time. We are looking forward to some more opportunities after half term to learn and develop.



Jolly hockey sticks

We have had a number of fixtures this term in hockey. We warmly welcomed Durham High School for Girls and Mowden Hall to our school and thoroughly enjoyed playing against them. All year groups have improved a lot learning through playing in tournaments. Our focus this term has been winning the ball back and going forward with the ball.



Mud. Mud. Glorious mud.

Well done to all the runners that took part in the event at Mowden Hall early in October. They all tried their best to complete the muddy course and run as fast as they could! Another big congratulations to Xanthe who came first in the girls' Year 1 race.



Hockey

U16 National Schools

The U16 National Schools team took part in the county round of the competition on Thursday 3rd October. The girls played excellent hockey and worked well as a team even though they had never played together as there is a combination of Year 10 and Year 11 girls in the team. The girls started strongly with wins over Berwick and NHSG before facing Kings Priory and RGS, where they drew 1-1 and 0-0 respectively. This resulted in the girls winning the tournament and qualifying for the Regional round. The girls will travel to Leeds on Friday 15th November for the next round of the competition.

U14 National schools

The U14 National Schools team took part in the county round of the competition on Tuesday 8th October. With a combination of girls from Year 8 and 9 in the team, they played well with wins over Longridge, Bede and Kings Priory. The girls then faced a strong RGS side; after some tactical changes the girls fought hard, but narrowly lost 3-0. The last match was against NHSG, where again the girls fought as a team, but just missed out on the win. The girls finished 3rd overall and qualify for the Tier 2 Regional competition in Leeds on Tuesday 13th November. Well done girls!

Autumn Concert

The Autumn Concert is coming up on Wednesday 6th November, 7pm in the Newsom Hall.

This year, the theme of the concert is space. It will celebrate 100 years since Gustav Holst's The Planets was performed and 50 years since the moon landings.

We hope to see you there!

Senior Sport

DAS on tour

Two sporting tours are taking place during the half-term holidays. Twenty-four Year 8 boys are currently on a rugby tour to Dublin. They're packing lots into their four day trip (Thursday 24th - Sunday 27th October). They'll play Drogheda and Bishop Vesey's Grammar Schools, take a tour of the Aviva Stadium - home of the Irish national rugby union team - and immerse themselves in authentic Irish sporting culture with a spot of Gaelic games.

The girls are heading north on their half-term tour (Friday 1st - Sunday 3rd November). They'll be in Edinburgh to play hockey and netball fixtures against Trinity Academy Edinburgh and Queen Anne High School. Whilst there, they'll take a sightseeing tour of Edinburgh, visit Edinburgh Castle and participate in some outdoor team-building at the Broomlee Centre near West Linton.

Table Tennis

In mid-October, eight boys represented Dame Allan's at the School Games Qualifiers for U13 table-tennis. The boys competed in two teams of four.

Team one: Patrick, Charlie, Charlie and Max (all Year 8)

Team two: Tom, Charles, Ben (all Year 8) and Albie (Year 7)

Both sides made the semi-finals, but were unfortunately drawn against each other in the knockout rounds. It was an epic contest in which the sides couldn't be separated - eight games each and incredibly 70 points each! It was decided that the top seeds from each group would play a deciding match in which Tom W and team two prevailed.

Team one secured third place with the second team showing the depth of the squads by winning the final and qualifying for the next stage of the regionals.

A great day of learning and competitive table tennis was had by all.

School games trampolining competition

This half-term saw a very successful day at the School Games Trampolining competition. In total, 25 pupils from Years 7-11 represented Dame Allan's.

The results were as followed:

KS3 beginner section:

Joint 3rd: Poppy & Amelia (Year 7)

KS3 beginner team winners:

Mabel, Poppy, Annabelle and Amelia (Year 7)

KS3 Novice section:

1st: Freya (Year 7)

KS3 Elite section:

2nd: Stuart (Year 9)

KS4 Development section:

1st: Annabelle

2nd: Eve

KS4 Novice section:

2nd: Zoe (Year 10)

3rd: Lucy (Year 10)

KS4 Elite section:

3rd: Zoe (Year 11)

Congratulations to all competitors!

The students who have placed will go through to the next stage where they will represent Newcastle in the Tyne and Wear competition in November.

Cross-Country

We already have some great cross-country news, both individual and team! Poppy (Year 7) and Annabel (Year 11) are the new Tyne and Wear champions and Ollie (Year 7) won the Emmanuel College Invitation cross-country event

Our junior teams are doing particularly well at the moment with the junior girls (Years 8 and 9) winning the Tyne and Wear team competition and the junior boys (Years 7 and 8) winning the Northumberland round of the ESAA Cross-Country Cup.

Water-skiing

In August, Year 11 Anna competed at this year's British Waterski and Wakeboard Annual Cutting Edge Boat competition as part of the Northern Team. This is the national grassroots competition for young skiers aged 16 years and under.

Anna competed in four of the disciplines - Kneeboard, Wakeboard, Slalom and Trick Ski - winning the girls' slalom, her favourite discipline where the skier runs a set course of six buoys on a single ski. The speed of the boat increases on each run making the course progressively harder to complete.

Well done, Anna!



Elmer Elephant

Inspired by their Elmer's Great North Parade fundraising in the 2018-19 academic year, every Junior School pupil sewed their initials onto a colourful patch, each of which was then carefully transformed into a magnificent Elmer by Mrs Forster over the summer holidays.

This was proudly unveiled in September and is now on display in the Main Hall. As you can see, it looks absolutely marvellous.



The things that make me different are the things that make me

A.A. Milne

CCF RM competition

At the beginning of October, nine of our CCF cadets took part in the Sir Steuart Pringle Trophy at Lympstone, Devon. Held at the Commando Training Centre, this nationwide Cadet Competition saw our students compete in activities such as stalking, first aid (triage, trauma care and reporting) and map reading.

This was only the second time the cadets have taken part in this competition and they were up against really strong RM CCF schools such as Harrow, Rugby, Charterhouse, and Winchester College. Whilst the cadets didn't leave the event with a trophy, they took second place in stalking which was assessed by a Royal Marine sniper and overall finished just one point behind Rugby School. We hope they are as proud of their performance as we are; they showed determination and resilience in every task.

Top marks!

Students and staff at Dame Allan's Schools in Newcastle are celebrating another excellent batch of GCSE and A Level examination results.

At A Level, seventeen students achieved all A*/A grades.

Cameron Lackey did particularly well obtaining three A*s in biology, chemistry and mathematics, which will see him studying medicine at Downing College Cambridge in September.

At GCSE, 21 students achieved all 7-9 grades.

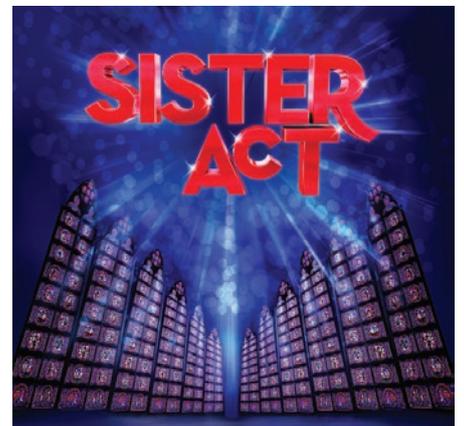
Two of those high achievers are twins Emily and Libby Doughty, both of whom received a set of straight 7-9 grades.

Emily and Libby are both members of the North Tyneside Youth Council and heavily involved in the debate and public speaking events at Dame Allan's. This passion for politics will continue for Emily when she returns to the Sixth Form to study politics

and government, English literature and history. Libby will join her sister in English literature classes, but is keen to pursue a career in medicine and so will study biology and chemistry as her other A Level choices.

Dr Hind, Principal at Dame Allan's Schools said: "We are delighted to be celebrating the success of our students again this year.

The ethos of Dame Allan's Schools is to educate the whole child and support our students in being the very best they can be. We are delighted when these efforts bring students their best possible results."



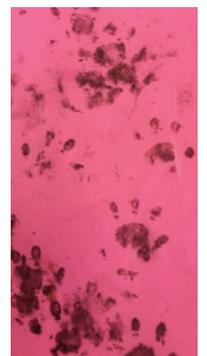
Oh, happy day!

Auditions have been held to cast our Upper School Musical, 'Sister Act', to be performed in March. Music, dance and drama staff were extremely impressed by the exceptional talent of students during the audition process and it promises to be an extremely exciting production.

The Wild West End

The Schools have been taking part in a nature project run by the local partnership group, Greening Wingrove. The 'Wild West End Project' is a two year project to see whether there are hedgehogs, swifts, house martins and bats living in the Wingrove and Arthur's Hill area. All of these creatures are classified as 'at risk' as the numbers of them are declining in Britain. The aim is to understand where they nest, where they eat and where they sleep in the winter (hedgehogs and bats) so improvements can be made, if necessary, to ensure the West End is a better place for them.

Surveys have been run at both the Junior School and Senior Schools sites. This involved placing some food in a 'hedgehog tunnel' and recording the footprints of the animals who walk through it. Students diligently checked the tunnel every day for a week, replenishing food and recording results. We're pleased to say... both sites have hedgehog presence!



Dukeshouse Wood



This year's DAGS Year 7 trip to Dukeshouse Wood was a great opportunity for the year group to get to know each other better, discover things about themselves and work together as a team. The weather was certainly very kind to us and it was really inspiring to see the girls challenge themselves and support each other, as well as watching them pretend to lay an egg to try and win the night-time mini-Olympics!

Derwent Hill

On Friday 13 September, 69 excited Year 7 boys and seven staff headed to Derwent Hill, an outdoor education centre near Keswick in the Lake District. This proved to be a lucky day for many as they experienced a fun-filled trip of mountain walks, water-sports and high-rope challenges. All boys were challenged to try something new and make new friends. On the way, they also stopped at the National Trust property Gibside for an orienteering session.



Safeguarding at Dame Allan's

There is plenty of evidence to link children's use of social media and their mental health and wellbeing. Parents and carers should be aware of the social pressures that children commonly experience on a number of different platforms. The National Online Safety group are producing a series of guides to these pressures. The first is based on the simple 'like'. Please have a look at this and discuss it with your child. You can find it at: www.nationalonlinesafety.com/resources/wake-up-wednesday/likes-online-safety-guide/

On this topic we are receiving worrying information about pupils' use of TikTok. When a child (13+ with parental permission) signs up for TikTok, their account is public by default, meaning anyone can see their videos, send direct messages, and use location information.

Parents should make sure to turn on all privacy settings for accounts their children are using, so only people you and they know can interact with videos or message on the app. That means either opting for a private account or changing the settings for comments, duets, reactions, and messages to "Friends" instead of "Everyone". You can also turn those features off completely. It is advised that the site is used with parental supervision.

In relation to Chromebook use, we remind parents of our stated policy that every pupil is ultimately responsible for everything that happens on their device. They can be quickly locked and unlocked if a pupil needs to leave them momentarily. Pleading that someone else misused them will not be deemed an acceptable excuse.

Looking to the future...

Friday 25 October - Monday 4 November

Half-term holiday

Friday 1 - Monday 4 November

Year 9 DAGS hockey and netball tour to Edinburgh

Tuesday 5 November

Life in the Sixth Form, 6:30pm

Wednesday 6 - Monday 11 November

Relais de la Memoire, Germany

Wednesday 6 November

Autumn Concert, 7pm

Thursday 14 November

Year 12 parents' evening, 4pm-6pm

Friday 15 November

UCAS entry deadline

Saturday 16 November

Vizavis residency

Monday 18 November

OLED awards evening, 4pm

Tuesday 19 November

Junior School and Nursery parents' evening, 3:30-6pm

Tuesday 19 November

Year 10 DAGS parents' evening, 4pm-6pm

Wednesday 20 November

Junior School and Nursery parents' evening, 3:30-6pm

Thursday 21 - Friday 22 November

Year 11 GCSE drama devised work performances

Wednesday 27 November

Year 10 DABS parents' evening, 4pm-6pm

Saturday 30 November

DASPA Christmas Fair

Tuesday 3 December

Early Years nativity, 2pm

Thursday 5 December

Years 1-2 Christmas production, 2pm

Thursday 5 December

Year 7 DAGS parents' evening, 4pm-6pm

Friday 6 December

Lunchtime music recital, 1pm

Monday 9 December

Year 7 Christmas Extravaganza

Tuesday 10 December

Year 7 DABS parents' evening, 4pm-6pm

Wednesday 11 December

Christmas lunch, 12noon

Wednesday 11 December

Junior School Carol Service (Years 3-6) at St James' and St Basil's Church, 2pm

Wednesday 11 December

Senior Choir singing at Muckle LLP Carol Service, 5:30pm

Thursday 12 December

End of term for the Junior School and Nursery

Friday 13 December

Senior Schools' Carol Service at St Nicholas' Cathedral, 10am (end of term after service)

Friday 13 December

The Allanian Society Christmas lunch, 12:30pm

Saturday 14 December

Richard Holmes Memorial rugby match, 11am

DASPA

DASPA and DASPA Junior have held successful welcome mornings at St James and St Basil's at the beginning of term welcoming over sixty parents. Both organisations would like to thank the church for their support in these events.

Both DASPAs have also supported the school at two successful open days and DASPA members are providing refreshments at the forthcoming Autumn Concert on 6th November.

All of DASPA J's events for the year are displayed on the noticeboard next to the flag pole at the Junior School site, thank you to Rachel Bowey-Bland for designing this. Events this half term include a Halloween party.

Meanwhile DASPA are preparing for their annual Christmas Fair on 30th November, we do need volunteers so if anyone is available to help on the day or setting up the afternoon before, please email

daspa@dameallans.co.uk - your help would be invaluable! We would also be grateful for any raffle prizes for the fair and will be collecting donations of toys, books, sweets, general tombola, uniform and bottles in the week commencing the 25th November.

Other DASPA dates for the diary are the annual Family Ceilidh on 28th February and the Biennial Ball on 20th June at St James' Park. If anyone has a business interested in sponsoring the Ball or has an auction prize, please email DASPA. We are also launching a 50:50 Club in time for a draw at the Christmas Fair, emails detailing this will be sent shortly.

Both DASPAs have held successful uniform sales this term, but are always grateful for more stock, we collect uniform all year and any donations can be left at reception of both sites.

Finally, DASPA agreed to invite DASPA J to merge with them at their AGM on 7th October and this will be formalised at DASPA Junior's AGM on 28th November at the Junior School at 4pm.

Many thanks,
DASPA and DASPA J committee



DAME ALLAN'S SCHOOLS
building the future

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