

# DAME ALLAN'S Digest

FEBRUARY 2017



## Teamwork

Well done to our Junior hockey team who, after playing some brilliant hockey, qualified for the Year 3 and 4 quicksticks finals. They have all shown great technique and teamwork skills.



As you will see in this latest Digest, 2017 has begun as 2016 ended, with school life providing a wide range of activities offering our pupils opportunities for both participation and success in their chosen fields. It goes without saying that academic work is at the centre of all we do. Students in Year 11 and the Sixth Form have been

focused on their studies this year with trial examinations for all year groups just completed. They will, I am sure, be keen to replicate the successes of last summer which saw Dame Allan's girls securing the highest percentage of A\*-A GCSE passes of any girls' school in the North East (and amongst the top 30 nationally) whilst the boys achieved an outstanding 90% A\*-A pass rate in maths. Both are a tribute to the hard work and dedication of our pupils and the skills of our teachers. Pupils achieve similarly highly in sport and we were delighted to be placed 20th in the list of top independent schools in the country

for sporting success in School Sport Magazine. In addition two of our students will receive Rising Star Awards at the Sport Newcastle annual dinner later next month, more on that will follow in the next newsletter following the awards night. I also take this opportunity to wish our Under 19 netball team the best of luck in the national finals which are being held later in March. For many of the girls this will be their second successive visit to national finals: a major achievement in itself. Another success for us to celebrate is with our Head of Careers Mrs Whitehouse who

has been shortlisted for Career Educator of the Year in the Career Development Institute's UK Career Development Awards. This is a huge achievement. Mrs Whitehouse was up against some of the top career educators nationally to make the shortlist, and we wish her the best of luck for the awards night. We enjoyed a fantastic dance show again this half term, both performances at Dance City were sold out and the standard was exceptional. Students from Year 5 – 13 performed and it was wonderful to see the Dame Allan's family coming together in such a fabulous joint creative exercise.

## ICE Bridge



Students in Year 10, Year 12 and Year 13 became engineers in school thanks to the maths department's collaboration with the Institution of Civil Engineers. Each of the students taking part donned hard hats, hi-vis jackets and gloves and used a variety of skills that civil engineers would use to construct a 13 metre long

bridge. The task involved teamwork skills, maths and engineering knowledge as well as problem solving skills. The idea behind the task is to inspire and motivate students to consider a career in science or engineering fields. We know that everyone taking part had a great time!







# Keira, Queen of the dance

Our Year 7 student Keira recently took part in a number of ballroom and Latin dance competitions, including the Champions of Tomorrow Grand Finals in Blackpool and a further competition in Newcastle which

saw her win Best Juvenile Classical and Latin trophies. Keira has been dancing for the last five years and she is really looking forward to developing her dance career and taking part in more competitions.

## Youth Council

We are really proud that three of our Year 12 students, Leo Chen, Joe Wood and Rory McFarlane, have been elected to the Newcastle Youth Council which is a body of young people elected to represent the views and interests of young people in Newcastle.

Leo's focus is on protecting our multicultural society, campaigning for the abolition of tuition fees and fighting for affordable transport.

Joe is also interested in public transport, in particular having

safe and on-time metro and bus services, he is also passionate about reducing the number of children living in poverty. Rory wants to ensure that Newcastle receives funding for medical treatment and research that it would have previously received from the EU and wants overall investment in Newcastle's infrastructure. Rory also wants to focus on the causes of mental health issues amongst young people and how these issues are treated. Well done, we are sure that you will all do a great job!



## Memorial Match

Many thanks to everyone who supported the Richard Holmes Memorial Match just before Christmas. We were thrilled to welcome so many friends and Allanians back to Dame Allan's both to take part and to spectate. We hold the memorial match every Christmas in memory of

our former pupil Richard whose passion for sport lives on after his sad death in 2013. For the first year we also held an old girls' hockey match on the same day and collectively £529.53 was raised for Marie Curie. Many thanks to everyone who played in and supported the event!



## Students get a shift on

We enjoyed two fantastic sold out dance shows this term. Over 100 of our students from Year 5 to Year 13 took part in the show, this year called Shift. All three of our dance companies, Rogue (boys), Jeune and Viz a Vis showcased the amazing talent

that the dancers have at Dame Allan's. There were Irish dance performances as well as pieces choreographed by current pupils and Allanians. Well done to everyone who took part, and thanks to all of you who supported the shows.

## Science!

Reception class had a fascinating lesson with Head of Science Mr Downie as part of their project on space. The children were learning about what happens in a vacuum and they enjoyed the marshmallow experiment the most - they found out that when a marshmallow is put into a vacuum it grows to be really big.





# Sport



## Rowing for Gold

Congratulations to our Year 8 student Jamie who has set three British records for indoor rowing recently.

Jamie attended the British Indoor Rowing Championship in the Olympic Velodrome where he set the Men's 12 and under records for rows under 500 metres, under 100 metres and under one minute.

Jamie was inspired to take up rowing following the 2016 Olympics and for him to do so

well in such a short space of time is very impressive. Jamie also took part in the Tyne and Wear School games alongside his peers as part of the Dame Allan's team. We were delighted that our Year 8 boys took first and second place and that two of our students also won as part of the team relays. There were also bronze and silver medals to add to the collection. Well done!

## In2hockey

We hosted the In2hockey festival at Dame Allan's this half term. We were delighted to win the festival

which included other independent schools in the city and our team will go on to represent Newcastle.



## Athletic Abigail

Well done to our Year 5 pupil Abigail who competed as a member of the Newcastle team at the Tyne and Wear Sportshall Athletics Final in January. Abigail equalled the county standing triple jump record, set in 2007, with a jump of 5.82 metres and the Newcastle team came second overall.



## Netball and squash success

We are thrilled that our Under 19 netball team qualified for the national finals for the second year in a row. The girls won seven of their eight games meaning they go on to the finals on the 18th March. For many of the girls this will be their second successive visit to national finals: a major

achievement in itself.

There is also a lot to celebrate on the squash court. Our Under 19 girls' team has reached the National Schools Championships Final again, as have the Under 15 boys' team. Our Under 15 girls have qualified for the Trophy Final. Well done and good luck!





# Top of the Fells



Over the Christmas break our Year 11 student William successfully completed 'The Wainwrights', walking 214 Lakeland Fells made famous by Alfred Wainwright's 'Pictorial Guides to the Lakeland Fells'. Completing the walks is a feat for the most experienced of walkers and William's challenge was set 2 years, 6 months and 30 days before he completed it. His chosen routes meant William spent 77 days on the fells, he walked 539 miles and climbed 185,823 vertical feet. William also recently climbed Kilimanjaro and we are thrilled to celebrate another success with him.

## DASPA

Following the success of the DASPA Christmas Bazaar, we are extremely pleased that we have been able to fulfil two exciting new funding requests. The first was to purchase a solar telescope for the physics department, which will be available for all students to use as part of their physics curriculum, and also for use by students in the astronomy club. The second request was for the music department for the purchase of a mixing desk which will provide greater opportunities for the Schools' pop and rock bands to rehearse, perform and record. We very much look forward to seeing both in action! Also, the first 50/50 club draw has been held and this year due to increased members we will be able to provide four prizes each draw. Winners will be notified by email. Please remember that you can also support DASPA without costing you anything through [www.giveasyoulive.com](http://www.giveasyoulive.com) and selecting Dame Allan's Schools Parents' Association.

## DASPA Junior

DASPA Junior would like to thank staff, parents and pupils for making our first Year 5 Christmas Party such a great success last term. It was brilliant to see the children having such a good time! We have a few social events for the children in the spring term but we are mainly preparing for the Summer Fair on 13th May (12-2 pm), we will be asking for donations next term and we hope lots of you will join us. We were also delighted to fund the mobile floodlights for the Junior School multi use games area, particularly useful in the winter months when it gets dark very early.

## Allanian Dates

### Dame Allan's North East Alumni Event

**Thursday 16 March**

**2017 6.00pm – 9.30pm**

In March we will be holding our first North Eastern alumni networking event at the Northern Counties Club in Newcastle upon Tyne. Join us for drinks and nibbles, and the opportunity to meet up with Allanians and school staff.

### Annual dinner Saturday 1 April 2017 6.30pm – 10.30pm

This year we are holding a medical dinner to recognise the contribution Dame Allan's Schools has made in this area and to pay tribute to retired Head of Biology Ted Baldry, who sadly died last year. Ted taught many pupils who went on to study medicine and related disciplines, and it was Ted's idea that a dinner

should be held to celebrate the Schools' success in medical, veterinary and related sciences. Some of the Schools' current and retired science teachers will attend, so whether or not you are a professional in a medical (or related) field, please come along and help us celebrate! *To book tickets for these events visit the Alumni Events page on the Schools' website.*

## Safeguarding at Dame Allan's

During Safer Internet Week all of our Senior School pupils made a personal promise about their behaviour around images posted on social media. Please ask your child about their promise and why it is important to keep it. At the Junior School our Digital Leaders

gave fabulous presentations on internet safety in assemblies. Junior School staff have been increasingly concerned about children using an app called Musical.ly. There are doubts both about the suitability and security for younger children and the

terms of service for the app require that users be at least 13 years old. A useful article (amongst many helpful reviews on the internet) is published on the website [gooseberry planet](http://gooseberryplanet.com/what-is-musical-ly/) at <http://gooseberryplanet.com/what-is-musical-ly/>

## Looking to the future...

**Monday 20 – Friday 24 February**  
– Half term holiday

**Monday 27 February** – School resumes

**Tuesday 28 February** – Allanian Society Meeting, 6pm

**Thursday 2 March** – Year 12 parents' evening, 4pm

**Monday 6 – Friday 10 March**  
– National Careers Week

**Wednesday 8 March** – Year 9 DABS

parents' evening, 4pm

**Tuesday 14 March** – Year 9 DABS parents' evening, 4pm

**Thursday 16 March** – Year 8 PSHE day

**Thursday 16 March** – Dame Allan's North East Alumni Event, 6pm

**Monday 20 March** – Year 8 DABS parents' evening, 4pm

**Tuesday 21 March** – Public speaking competition, Newsom Hall, 7pm

**Saturday 25 March** – Junior School

Open Morning

**Sunday 26 March** – Spring concert, St James' and St Basil's Church, 7pm

**Tuesday 28 March** – Year 8 DABS parents' evening, 4pm

**Wednesday 29 – Friday 31 March**  
– Years 3, 4 and 5 combined arts afternoon, 1.30pm

**Friday 31 March** – lunchtime music recital, Lumdsen Music Centre, 12.55pm

**Saturday 1 April** – Allanian Society

Dinner, 6.30pm for 7pm

**Saturday 1 and Sunday 2 April**  
– Year 9 Expedition Award practice

**Tuesday 4 and Wednesday 5 April**  
– Junior School and Nursery parents' meetings, 3.30pm – 6pm

**Thursday 6 April** – Choral Evensong, St James' and St Basil's Church, 5pm

**Thursday 6 – Tuesday 11 April**  
– French trip to St Omer

**Friday 7 April** – term ends 3.40pm



**DAME ALLAN'S SCHOOLS**  
building the future

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