

DAME ALLAN'S Digest

OCTOBER 2018



A welcome from the Principal

Welcome to the first Digest of the 2018/19 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 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. I would like to offer my thanks to their parents who we know are a great source of support and encouragement for them.

The year began with our Speech Day prize-giving event, which was held for the first time at the Sage in Gateshead. It was a wonderful evening of celebration and showcased our students' many talents and achievements.

We were honoured to be joined by Sarah Glendinning, Regional Director of the Confederation of British Industry (CBI), as key note speaker. A former pupil of Dame Allan's, the theme of Sarah's speech focussed on looking to the future and the careers the students can look forward to in the years to come.

Building the future has been a strong theme throughout this half-term with two successful Open Mornings and our biennial Futures Fair. Many thanks to all of the students who helped out at these events, and to our parents who, as ever, proved to be ambassadors for the Schools.

This year we are delighted to welcome Geoff Laidler to Dame Allan's as the new headteacher of the Junior School. A former pupil of Dame Allan's Boys' School, Geoff comes to us from St Agnes' in Crawcrook. We look forward to working with him over the coming year.

Finally, this term saw the Schools congregate on the Senior School field for our whole school photo – the last being taken five years ago, how time flies!



What to be or what not to be

A leading Consultant Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeon dazzled budding medical students at the Dame Allan's Schools' Futures Fair. Taking up residence in one of the science labs, Mr Robert Banks talked at length about the unique route through both medical and dental studies which leads to a career in oral and maxillofacial surgery. He brought with him key pieces of equipment used in surgery, a replica skull and a laparoscopic training box used to teach trainee surgeons how to perform keyhole surgery. Mr Banks was one of over 80 leading figures, businesses, universities and apprenticeship providers who were at the Dame Allan's Schools Futures Fair to encourage students to think outside the box when it comes

to their future careers. This year, students from St Thomas More School Blaydon, Percy Hedley School, and Walker Technology College were among just some of the students who benefited from the event. Advice was on hand from national and regional businesses and employers including Procter & Gamble, Northumbrian Water, HMRC, and Muckle LLP; representatives from universities included Imperial College London, University of St Andrews, and the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. Alongside exhibitors, there was a packed programme of over 30 inspirational presentations on a variety of careers from industry leaders and professionals in a wide range of fields.

High on the agenda was showcasing careers in science, technology, engineering, and maths (STEM). Professor Anya Hurlbert and Dr Lisa Russell from Newcastle University gave talks on their respective fields, neuroscience and scientific research, and representatives from Fairhurst talked about the different types of engineering careers available to students. There was also a strong presence for students interested in the arts, languages and humanities. This year, the event partnered with the Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art, and the fashion retailer Topshop & Topman also attended the event for the first time in the Futures Fair's history – a coup for budding fashion students!



Students look to the future

In September, pupils, parents and staff gathered for the School's annual Speech Day, held for the first time at the Sage in Gateshead, with Sarah Glendinning, Regional Director of the Confederation of British Industry (CBI), in attendance as key note speaker. As well as celebrating the previous academic year's achievements and accolades in academia, sports, and the arts, those in attendance were treated to exceptional performances by

music, drama, and dance students. In an impassioned speech to the students, Ms Glendinning – a former pupil of Dame Allan's – echoed this sentiment and stressed the importance of taking advantage of the wonderful extra-curricular opportunities to which they have access at Dame Allan's Schools: "Listening, learning, taking an interest in what's going on around you, and being an active contributor to all your communities is so important.

You never know where it may take you." Ms Glendinning cited the values of the school – courtesy, consideration, and respect – as well as the encouragement to have an enquiring mind and an awareness for actions in regards to the wider community have been invaluable to her throughout her career. Speaking about the current career climate, Ms Glendinning noted that technology is reshaping and revolutionising

the world of work with no more 'jobs for life', but that whilst this could be confusing, it is also incredibly exciting, quoting: "65% of children entering primary school today will do jobs that don't even exist yet. Ten years ago job title Social Media Manager or App Developer didn't exist... It can feel like there is no link to the subjects you're studying at school, but... you will adapt over time to the situation you are in, with the solid foundation you are building now."

The results are in!



GCSE students at Dame Allan's Schools are among a small handful across the country who received the highest grades this summer. Whilst nationally just over 700 pupils gained the highest grade of 9 in all subjects, Geordie Cheetham, Jonathon MacDonald and Alex Strong made it onto the

list from the Newcastle schools. Rhiannon Zhao was among the high achievers too with eight 9 grades, with Molly Richards gaining seven 9 grades and an A* in history. It was a good day all round for the Schools in the first year of the new grading system as over 20 per cent of their pupils

achieved a level 9 – the national average stood at 4.3 per cent. Overall 66 per cent of all GCSE sat were awarded either 9-7 or A*/A grades making it one of the most successful years in the Schools' history. At A Level, Maria Strong achieved the highest accolade achieving A* grades in all three of

her A level courses. Erin Boyle, Mark Evans, Harry Smith and Kathryn Stoner also achieved a clean sweep of A* and A grades. Once again the majority of our Sixth Form students were accepted into their first choice universities and we wish them every success in their futures.

Derwent Hill action



On Friday 21 September we took 72 boys to Derwent Hill in the Lake District for an action-packed weekend. On the way we stopped at Gibside National Trust site for a morning of orienteering.

At Derwent Hill, the boys did high-challenge activities such as the Big Swing, the Gladiator Challenge and the Trapeze, all of which involved climbing up to great height and jumping off. There were mountain walks on Catbells and Latrigg. The water-sports activities were canoeing and kayaking.

Mr Friel said: "I was really impressed with the way in which the boys progressed over the weekend, gaining new skills, facing up to and overcoming challenges and bonding well as a group."

Hexham hi-jinx

The start of year saw 62 excited Year 7 girls and their form teachers heading for the beautiful countryside just outside Hexham for lots of fun, challenge and friendship. During their time, the girls took part in six different activities including a problem-solving course, a zip-wire, Aeroball and a mini Olympics. One student said: "I learned that I love to encourage people to be their best or try something new

that they wouldn't have done otherwise. I think that's what Dukeshouse Wood is all about." It was wonderful to see how much support the girls gave each other as each had their own personal challenges to overcome. The year group showed great resilience and empathy and certainly have a spirit for adventure! Thank you to all the staff and sixth form helpers who made this trip possible.



Synagogue visit

The Junior pupils have been on some lovely trips so far this term. Year 1 visited the Laing Art Gallery and took part in a portrait workshop. They had a wonderful visit looking at the beautiful paintings in the gallery and they explored how the artist

painted faces to show different feelings and expressions. Year 2 visited the Newcastle Reform Synagogue on Monday 8th October. They took part in a 'pretend' Bar Mitzvah and Bat Mitzvah, and learned about the festival of Sukkot.

Senior Sports round-up

Rugby and Hockey

It's been a promising start to the rugby and hockey season with some excellent wins, including a clean sweep against Yarm in the rugby. The U16 National Schools Hockey squad qualified for the regional round of the competition.

Netball

Congratulations to the U15 and Senior netball teams. They both competed in the City Tournament; the Seniors made

it all the way to the semi-final and the U15 team become Plate Champions. Well done girls!

Cross-Country

The new academic year has seen extra provision in running for the girls with an added lunchtime session. This has been well-supported by the girls – especially lower school – which is reflected in the Year 7 girls winning the County Championships for their year group, and the U12 girls' team are currently NSAA School team champions. The

boys have also made a good start with the Inter boys' team placing 1st equal at the Emmanuel College Invitation Championships and both Junior and Inter boys' teams progressing to regional finals in the National XC Cup.

Sporting Stars

Congratulations to the following pupils for their recent achievements:

Anna O'Brien achieved a Personal Best (PB) in the 50m and 100m butterfly at the Summer Nationals, and placed

9th in the 100m final.

Kieron Mutch took home a Bronze medal in the Junior Great North Run.

Jamie Dykins is the current high-jump champion after competing in the North East/Yorkshire U15 Development League.

Haylie Philips took part in the U14 Junior golf tour finals for Northumberland vs Durham and Cumbria. After taking the top spot in the girls' advanced category, Haylie retains her title for the second year in a row.



Junior Sports round-up

Rugby

There has been a promising start to the rugby season at the Junior School and we look forward to their continued development over the term.

Years 3-6 have had some great games against Yarm and Mowden Hall, which has helped them develop their decision-making, tackling, and defence. We took two Year 4 teams to the U9 Mowden Hall Rugby Festival. All the players developed and had a

lot of fun. The hot dogs were a particular highlight for the pupils!

Hockey

Despite the weather, the hockey family have got off to a flying start.

Year 4 ladies took part in a match against Durham High School for Girls to start their season off with a bang; and the U11 team travelled to the HMC Hockey tournament in Leeds. Always a big occasion, they competed brilliantly against the opposition.

The ladies set their own targets of how to improve their game and when to try out new skills.

Football

The U11 football squad travelled to Walker Riverside College for their first taste of competitive action on Tuesday 25th September, playing in the ESFA Knockout Tournament.

The boys remained unbeaten in the group stages, winning one and drawing the other two of their games, but unfortunately

they just missed out on top spot and qualification. Three clean sheets in three games indicates a solid base upon which to build a successful season.

Cross-Country

Years 1-3 took part in their first sporting event at the cross-country at Mowden. All the girls and boys had a fantastic afternoon running through the woods and cheering each other on. Well done everyone!

Performing Arts

It has been a busy time for our talented drama and music students. Year 11 student Sophia Anderton won a place with the National Youth Theatre and performed with them in the summer. The prestige didn't end with the warm summer. In September, Year

12 student Zoe Buckthorpe received a NODA North Youth 'Rising Star' award for her performance as Tuptim in 'The King and I' with Ponteland Repertory Society in November/December 2017. Speaking about the award, Zoe



said: "It was a huge surprise, but I'm very pleased!"

There was also fantastic news for Peter Qiang of Year 11, who was awarded the Worsley Award by Future Talent, also in September.

The award is worth £3000 to be used on a variety of musical needs, and also includes mentoring and performance opportunities offered by the charity over the years 2018-2021. Well done to all!



The ALLANIAN Society



Old girls reunion

On Saturday 6 October, 22 DAGS 1968 leavers and a couple of their teachers spent a day at Dame Allan's Schools to celebrate 50 years since leaving the Schools. They were shown around the

school by some of the Officers before a spot of lunch in Newsom Hall. This was followed by speeches, anecdotes, and reminiscing about the good old days, before cutting a cake made

especially for the occasion. Everyone had a really good time. They were all presented with DAS badges by Old Girl and Allanian Society board-member, Christine Straker.

Surprise reunion after 60 years!

At a recent concert by the Northumbria Sinfonietta in Alnwick, three members of the violin section made an amazing discovery. They were all past leaders of Dame Allan's School orchestra and had not seen each other for nearly sixty years! Gordon Johnstone, Mike Smith and Eric Nixon attended the school in the 1950s, each learning to play the violin, joining the school orchestra and making their way to the top by eventually becoming leader. Gordon has spent his working life teaching Geography at the Duke's School in Alnwick while Eric became a solicitor in Newcastle and Mike became Senior Lecturer in Mechanical Engineering at Newcastle University.



All three have played significant parts in the musical life of the region, Gordon playing in the Alnwick area, Eric playing in many orchestras in Newcastle and the Tyne Valley, while Mike was co-founder of the New Tyneside

Orchestra in 1970 which he lead for 35 years and has played for many musical groups and orchestras in the region. Despite their combined age of well over 200, all three are still fit as a fiddle!



Dear Allanians

Welcome to the new academic year.

As many of you will be aware, the Development Office has been working to ensure that we comply with the new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) which came in to force on 25th May 2018.

In line with the regulations we have updated our privacy policies and contacted all those on the Alumni database both to gain their implicit consent to contact them and also to establish their preferred method of contact on their areas of interest. Dame Allan's Schools are also registered with the independent Fundraising Regulator in line with current best practice. The Allanian Society is delighted with the response from past pupils who wish to remain in contact with the Schools and would like to thank everyone who has completed the form.

If you know any Allanians with whom we may have lost touch, consent can be given by going on the Dame Allan's Schools website, Alumni and Development section and go in to Contact Form, or ask them to contact the Development Office via the details below.

Thank you,
Bill Lomas
Chairman of the Allanian Society

Allanian Society Christmas Lunch

The Allanian Society Christmas Lunch

Friday 14 December 2018,
Northern Counties Club.
12:30pm arrival for 1pm start.
Tickets £27.

Join us at the Northern Counties Club for a festive three course lunch which includes turkey with all the trimmings.

To book your place, please send a cheque payable to The Allanian

Society to the Development Office at the Schools by Friday 7 December. Please be aware that we are unable to reserve places for you until we have received your payment.

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



That History Bloke

The Junior School pupils have enjoyed a series of workshops with Allnian Richard Stevenson – otherwise known as ‘That History Bloke’. The workshops are designed to cover time periods,

topics, and historical figures in an interactive and exciting way to engage primary-aged children. So far Year 2 learned about Florence Nightingale and how to apply a bandage to a wounded soldier;

Year 3 discovered what life was like for Roman soldiers; Year 4 learned about the Egyptians and how to make mummies; and Year 5 got an insight into the life of a Tudor.



Safeguarding at Dame Allan's

Wednesday 10th October was World Mental Health Day and it was great to see 9M raising funds for such an important cause with their ‘Wear It Yellow’ campaign.

One of the main messages – not only from this day, but from mental health charities around the country

– is ‘it’s good to talk’. We know that mental health services for children within the NHS are stretched with long waiting lists for help. Please remember that we have a counselling service available in school and there are many other people to talk to, whatever the problem.

Looking to the future...

Friday 26 October – Friday 3 November
Half-term holiday

Tuesday 6 November
Shakespeare Festival (all day) with performance at the Northern Stage, 7pm

Thursday 8 November
Life in the Sixth Form, 6:30pm

Friday 9 November
Autumn Concert in Newsom Hall, 7pm

Tuesday 13 November
Year 13 Parents’ Evening

Saturday 17 November
DASPA Christmas Fair

Tuesday 20 – Wednesday 21 November

Junior School/Nursery Parents’ Evening, 3:30-6pm

Thursday 22 November
Year 10 DABS Parents’ Evening

Thursday 29 November – Sunday 2 December
Relais de la Memoire Conference at Dame Allan’s Schools

Tuesday 4 December
Reception Nativity, 2pm

Tuesday 4 December
Allnian Society meeting, 5:30pm

Wednesday 5 December

Nursery Nativity, 2pm

Thursday 6 December
Year 7 DAGS Parents’ Evening

Thursday 6 – Friday 7 December
Year 1 and 2 Christmas Production, 2pm

Friday 7 December
Choral Evensong at St James’ and St Basil’s Church, 5pm

Tuesday 11 December
Year 7 DABS Parents’ Evening

Wednesday 12 December

Junior School Carol Service (Years 3 - 6) at St James’

and St Basil’s Church, 2pm

Thursday 13 December
Junior School end of term

3:15pm/3:30pm

Friday 14 December
Senior schools’ Carol Service at St Nicholas’ Cathedral, 10am. Term ends after the service.

Friday 14 December
Allnian Society Christmas Lunch, Northern Counties Club, 12:30pm

Saturday 15 December
Richard Holmes Memorial Match at Newcastle Falcons (Kingston Park), 11am

DASPA Juniors

We welcomed new parents with our annual Tea, Tears and Cheers event on the first day back to school with over 30 parents attending. This half-term also featured a uniform sale and the Year 3 and 4 Halloween Party. Our AGM is 4pm on Tuesday 23 October at the Junior School - all are welcome.

We invite parents to read our notice board next to the Junior School flagpole which details forthcoming meetings, events, uniform sales and contact information for our year reps. Finally, last year’s party for Year 6 was spectacular! Thanks to all the staff and parents involved, the children loved it. The committee would also like to thank last year’s Year 6 parents and the DASPA J rep, Avril Swift, for their support of DASPA Junior.

DASPA

DASPA would like to welcome you to an already busy and exciting academic year.

Our fundraising efforts have begun in earnest with our popular Vintage Fashion Show on Friday 19th October. ‘A Hundred Year Fashion Journey’ was a joint fundraiser for DASPA and the Children’s Liver Disease Foundation. We look forward to updating you on the amount raised in the next newsletter.

We are busy preparing for our traditional Christmas Fair – a fun filled family event with Santa’s Grotto, games and treats as well as an opportunity to buy some Christmas gifts from a selection of stalls. We hope to see you there on Saturday 17 November.

Don’t forget you can support us free of charge whilst you are doing your Christmas shopping by using ‘Give as You Live’ and selecting DASPA. All funds raised are used for educational resources and enhance our students’ experience.

Once again, we look forward to seeing you at our events this year, and we thank you for your continued support.



DAME ALLAN'S SCHOOLS
building the future

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