

DAME ALLAN'S Digest

DECEMBER 2019



We wish you a Merry Christmas

The Junior School put us all in the Christmas mood with yet another year of fantastic Christmas performances. Nursery and Reception delivered a star-studded Nativity, and Years 1 and 2 brought a sense of childhood nostalgia with their interpretation of Peter Pan, complete with lots of pirate jokes! Special thanks to all of the teachers and support staff who make this possible year on year.



A welcome from the Principal

As is custom in the shorter half-term leading up to Christmas, it has certainly been a fast paced and interesting few weeks at Dame Allan's - something I'm sure you'll find reflected in the following pages. This year, however, saw the Junior School and Nursery contend with an added pressure experienced by the Senior Schools earlier in the year - a visit from the Independent Schools Inspectorate.

I am confident that all pupils and staff at the Junior School showcased the school in the most positive way for the inspectors, and I'd like to thank all staff, pupils, and parents for their hard work and support during this time. We look forward to receiving the results of this visit in the coming weeks.

Despite this interference, the Junior School managed to uphold the high standards we have come to expect from their Christmas nativity performances - this year Shine Star Shine and Peter Pan.

As befitting the season of goodwill, I must congratulate pupils on their fantastic fundraising efforts this term, and thank parents and staff for their invaluable support. From selling raffle tickets and cakes in support of reforestation to the DASPA Christmas Fair, in total over £7000 has been raised this half-term alone. A monumental achievement.

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year, and hope the Christmas holiday leaves you fully rested and replenished for our return in January.



Supporting great causes

From Nursery to Sixth Form, the students are already going the extra mile in their fundraising and awareness-raising efforts this year.

The Nursery children were fantastic advocates for Odd Sock Day, learning all about the importance of being a good friend and having a kind mouth and kind hands.

There was a sporty theme at this year's Children in Need Day in the Junior School and Nursery. Activities such as wearing their own clothes and 'guess the weight of the cake' saw them raise a brilliant £656.73!

Own Clothes Day and the Girls v Boys hockey match took place at the Senior Schools, but this year in aid of MND Association as a tribute to Old Girl and Allanian Society member, Christine Straker, who recently passed away. It was wonderful to see a total of almost £1000 raised for this great charity.



All together now!

Year 9 have kicked off this year's Musical Theatre inter-house competition with a lively group of performances. Each act had its merits, but in the end it was victory for Bede and Brewer, Aidan and Plummers tied for second with Hild and Hedley, followed by Cuthbert and Ridley in fourth place. However, with the Year 7 and Year 8 days still to come, it's all still to play for!

Centre of Excellence

The geography department has been awarded the Secondary Geography Quality Mark with Centre of Excellence for Fieldwork by the Geographical Association.

To achieve the award, they had submit evidence to show how we met over 40 assessment criteria relating to four key areas: pupil attainment, progress and achievement in geography; geography teaching; behaviour and relationships in geography; leadership and management in geography. Much of this evidence was work produced by pupils in their geography lessons during last year.

They also had to submit a separate portfolio of evidence to show the high quality of the fieldwork provision in the department.

Schools in the UK and overseas can apply for the quality mark which is the standard award. Some schools also apply for Centre of Excellence status as an additional option which recognises the department's contribution to quality geography at the highest level.

This year, 31 schools achieved the quality mark of which only 12 achieved Centre of Excellence status. Dame Allan's is one of just two schools awarded the Secondary Geography Quality Mark and the only Centre of Excellence in the region.



Strive!

Professor Elliott is a geneticist who is working on prostate cancer at Newcastle University. He gave a talk to 30 Year 10-13 students interested in science as part of our Strive! programme. He spoke about a career as a scientist and about his current work in which he's investigating the link between metastasis and anti-androgen drugs in patients with prostate cancer. His talk was followed by Alice and Chile, both cancer researchers who talked about their academic journey and what sort of work they were doing.



ESU Schools' Mace

Congratulations to Emily, Libby and Imogen, who won their English-Speaking Union's Schools' Mace debate (they proposed 'This House would make voting compulsory') in November and go through to the next round in January. Well done, ladies!



This Girl Can!

We are immensely proud of the group of U11 girls who won the first ever girls' Football fixture in the history of Dame Allan's Junior School!

Playing against Cheviot Primary School in the first round of the U11 Girls Becky's MND City Cup, the girls dealt with cold and tough underfoot conditions admirably. It was a hard-fought match with a crucial goal in the last minute of the game sending our team into the second round in a few weeks' time.

The result here was a bonus, it was just brilliant to see the girls having fun, getting muddy and competing hard. It was also fantastic to see 23 girls attend training before the match. We look forward to seeing the progress in the coming year.



Senior Sport

Hockey

Congratulations to the U14 girls' hockey team for their outstanding performance in the U14 National Schools competition. After a strong set of matches in the pool games, they came runner-up overall which meant they qualified for the North Finals in Leeds.

Rugby

This half-term has seen a flurry of accolades for our rugby teams! Congratulations to the U13, U14 and U16 rugby squads who each won the County Cup in their age groups. A fantastic achievement, well done to each and every one of the players!

Squash

This term, five of our six squash teams made it through to the second stage of the National Schools squash competitions, and the sixth team will play in the second stage of the Plate National Schools squash competition. Fantastic to see such a strong representation in squash for Dame Allan's.

Cricket

Some great news out of season for Year 10 Ben, who has been selected for the Northumberland U15 Cricket Squad for the 2020 season. Congratulations!

Biathlon

Great news for Year 7 Ollie, who recently competed in the National Biathlon Championships in Nottingham, where he claimed the silver medal. Well done, Ollie!



 **tes**
independent
school awards
2020

Shortlisted
Senior school
of the year

Dame Allan's Boys' and Girls' Schools have been shortlisted together for the Senior School of the Year award.

Tes editor Ann Mroz said: "The Independent schools in this country are truly exceptional. And those that have earned a place on the Tes Independent School Awards shortlist are a cut above the rest."

The winners will be revealed at a gala awards evening on Friday 7 February 2020.

Want to hear a fascin-eight-ing hairy leg-ture?

On Friday 15th November, bestselling children's author Katherine Rundell visited Dame Allan's Junior School and Nursery. She talked to Years 4-6 about her books and her writing process, which includes experiencing anything she plans to include in her stories. This has seen her visit the Amazon rainforest, learn to be a trapeze artist and even eat a tarantula! It was clear that the children were all fascinated by their rapt expressions and the enthusiasm with which they engaged in the interactive sections of her talk.



Masterclass

The latest Gifted and Talented workshop had a festive feel as children from our partner schools spent the afternoon in our design and technology lab making Christmas tree decorations.



Arabic Reading Challenge

We are in awe of Year 10 Ahmed who won the National Arabic Reading Challenge, which saw him read 25 books in Arabic and then comment on them to a panel of judges.

This earned him the chance to represent the UK in the International Arabic Reading competition in Dubai where he was up against the winners from other non-native Arabic speaking countries. He came fourth overall - congratulations Ahmed!

Computer says yes!

We're so proud of Year 11 Ben and Year 5 Mary who both scored 100 per cent in the Bebras Computing Challenge, a fantastic achievement as only 31 students in the country achieved this perfect mark!



Allanian Society Dates

The Allanian Society Annual Dinner

Saturday 28 March 2020

Decades of Dedication

In the year Dr Hind retires and Brian Adcock and Bill Lomas step down from their posts of Chair of Governors and Chair of the

Allanian Society, we are keen to celebrate their dedication to the Schools by gathering together as many staff (past and present) as possible and alumni of every age.

Tickets and information on how to book will be sent out in the New Year but make sure you put the date in your diary now.

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 [f](#) The Allanian Society



IMPORTANT NOTICE

Whole School Dance Show

Tickets are now on sale for the Whole School Dance Show at Dance City.
Saturday 1st February, 7.30pm
Sunday 2nd February, 2pm
Tickets are purchased via Dance City on 0191 261 0505.

Safeguarding at Dame Allan's

We now have a link for CEOPS on our website. CEOPS is the Child Exploitation and Online Protection command and is part of the National Crime Agency. It seeks to help children, parents and carers to deal with issues around online abuse and grooming. There is a wealth of helpful information on the site for both adults and children as well as a reporting function for direct help. The link can be found at www.dameallans.co.uk/parent-portal

Looking to the future...

Saturday 14 December

Richard Holmes Memorial rugby match, 11am

Monday 6 January 2020

Staff training day

Tuesday 7 January

Start of term

Tuesday 7 January

DASPA Back to School coffee morning, St James' and St Basil's Church, 8:30am

Thursday 9 - Friday 10 January

Year 12 mid-term examinations

Saturday 11 January

DAGS entrance exam, 9am

Tuesday 14 January

Life in the Middle School, 6:30pm

Saturday 18 January

DABS entrance exam, 9am

Monday 20 - Friday 24 January

Year 11 trial examinations

Friday 24 January

Jazz Evening, 7pm

Thursday 30 January

Year 11 DAGS Parents' Evening, 4-6pm

Saturday 1 - Sunday 2 February

Whole School Dance Show, Dance City (Saturday 7pm, Sunday 2pm)

Monday 3 - Friday 7 February

Year 13 preliminary A level examinations

Monday 3 February

Sixth Form Taster Day

Friday 7 February

Lunchtime recital in Lumsden Centre, 1pm

Friday 7 February

Evensong at St James' and St Basil's, 5pm

Tuesday 11 February

Year 11 DABS Parents' Evening

Wednesday 12 - Tuesday 18 February

GCSE German trip to Berlin

Thursday 13 February

Half-term ends for Nursery - Year 5, 3:30pm

Thursday 13 February

Founder's Day Services, St James' and St Basil's Church (half-term ends at the end of the school day)

Sunday 16 - Monday 24 February

Ski trip to Sestriere

Monday 17 - Friday 21 February

Half-term holiday

Monday 24 February

Schools resume

DASPA

Thanks to everyone for supporting DASPA this year. The DASPA committees are pleased with the monies raised to enhance student life at Dame Allan's, but are equally grateful for the wonderful sense of friendship across the Dame Allan's community, ensuring support at all of our events. The Christmas Fair was a brilliant morning that got everyone who attended into the Christmas spirit. Over £5,500 was raised for good causes including £4511.68 for DASPA, and over £500 for other charitable organisations including the Children's Liver Disease Foundation, White Magic - an organisation that helps Romanian orphans, the Dog and Cat Shelter, St James' and St Basil's Scout group and our own Allanian Society. Special thanks to all of the students, staff and parents who helped in the organisation of this event, especially the music department, office and bursary staff, the senior management, catering and caretaking teams.

DASPA have launched a 50:50 lucky numbers club with tickets purchased on ParentPay or via email at daspa@dameallans.co.uk

The DASPA committee are also busy organising the annual family Ceilidh on 28th February (in Newsom Hall) and the Summer Ball at St James' Park on 20th June (tickets will be for sale in the New Year). The DASPA committee are actively seeking sponsorship for the ball and would be interested in any match funding opportunities, please email daspa@dameallans.co.uk if you could help us! Thank you!

Meanwhile at the Junior School, DASPA organised another successful uniform sale, a Halloween party, a bauble competition and are busy organising a Bumper Year 5 Christmas Party. After our DASPA Junior AGM, we can report that the merger with DASPA is progressing well and we would like to reiterate the message of thanks from the AGM to all students, staff and parents for making DASPA J such a strong Parents' Association. DASPA hope to announce an exciting project they are funding in the New Year!

All the committee members of DASPA wish everyone the best of wishes in the festive season.



DAME ALLAN'S SCHOOLS
building the future