

Sport



Badminton

Well done to our Year 8 student Charlotte and Year 9 student James who recently competed at a Badminton England event.

Charlotte won two medals, silver for level doubles and gold for mixed doubles and now has her sights set on qualifying for the national finals. Charlotte represents the county in badminton and was UI3/14 team captain last year.

James won three medals, silver in singles and mixed doubles and bronze for boys' doubles. James has been playing badminton since he was in primary school and is keen to continue playing for as long as he can.

Charlotte also entered the UI7 County Championships and came runner up in the singles and won gold in the mixed doubles. Well done both!



Cross Country

Well done to our boys Year 7 and 8 cross country team which competed at the ESAA Cross Country Cup national finals this half term. They travelled down to Sevenoaks School in Kent after they qualified through the County and Regional rounds. The team was placed 14th nationally which is an excellent achievement and one of the boys, William in Year 8, finished 6th in a field of 155 runners. Well done to all the boys for a fantastic achievement, they trained very hard this season and should be really proud.



Netball and hockey

October half term saw some of our hockey and netball players go on a tour to Northern Ireland. They had a brilliant time, enjoying the ferry journey across and playing a

number of games against schools including Wellington College and Lurgan High. They also visited the Giant's Causeway, the Titanic Experience and went to see a Belfast Giants ice hockey match. The U14 netball team were awarded silver medals in a tournament at the end of the trip, which was a fantastic achievement and a great way to end the tour.



Rugby

We have enjoyed great success on the rugby pitch this half term with our Under 14 team and 1st XV being crowned County Champions. The 1st XV beat KEVI 26 - 7 and the U14 team beat Duchess Alnwick School 38 - 7. Well done to all of the boys who took part, a brilliant achievement.



Whitehouse at Westminster

Our Head of Careers Mrs Whitehouse was invited to speak at the Westminster Employment Forum this half term. Mrs Whitehouse addressed the audience at Westminster about priorities for schools in improving careers provision, advice and guidance. This was in preparation for the government to release the long awaited new Careers Strategy and Policy for all schools in England.

The audience included representatives from the Department for Education, the Home Office, the House of Commons, the House of Lords, the Education Development Trust, Ofsted and the CDI. Mrs Whitehouse spoke about the success of the careers department at Dame Allan's, including our Futures Fair.

This is a huge achievement for the careers department and we are delighted that they were able to share their successes!



DASPA

DASPA would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who supported our Christmas Bazaar this year, either by coming along on the day or by sending in the many fantastic donations. It was a great festive experience and an extremely successful fundraising event, raising over £3000!

We are now very much looking forward to being able to support a broad variety of funding requests in the New Year.

Please remember as do your Christmas shopping that you can further support the Schools through the Give as you Live initiative when you make online purchases. You can sign up for this at www.giveasyoulive.com

Finally we would like to end by wishing you all our very best for the festive season and we look forward to your continued support in 2018!

DASPA Junior

It has been a fun half term for DASPA Junior, Years 3 and 4 had a Halloween Party, complete with amazing costumes, and the Year 5 Christmas Party was a huge success. Our annual Christmas Bauble competition was well supported, with all of the amazing entries decorating the Junior's DASPA funded Christmas trees. DASPA Junior would like to thank everyone for their support this year and wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



One step closer

We enjoyed another fantastic Prelude dance show at the end of term. The annual performance showcases the GCSE dance practical coursework, with students' choreographies well on the way to being completed. Many thanks to everyone who supported the show.

Safeguarding at Dame Allan's

Many children will receive a new smartphone, tablet, computer or games console for Christmas this year. Northumbria Police in association with Get Safe Online are urging parents to invest time in equipping their child with cyber sense to ensure they stay safe with such devices. There is a wealth of useful information on getsafeonline.org dealing with all age groups from the under fives to teenagers.

Looking to the future...

Thursday 14 December - Term ends for Nursery to Year 5

Friday 15 December - Carol service at St Nicholas Cathedral. Term ends after service for Year 6 - Year 13 - Allanian Society Christmas lunch, The Vermont Hotel, 1pm

Saturday 16 December - Richard Holmes memorial rugby match and Allanian hockey match. Rugby match at Kingston Park with 12 noon kick off, hockey match at Dame Allan's Senior School with 11am start. All welcome.

Tuesday 9 January - School resumes

Thursday 11 January - Life in the Middle School, 6.30pm

Thursday 1 February - Year 11 DAGS parents' evening, 4pm

Friday 2 February - Choral Evensong, St James and St Basil's Church, 5pm

Saturday 3 February - Dance show at Dance City, 7.30pm

Sunday 4 February - Dance show at Dance City, 2pm

Monday 5 February - Year 11 DABS parents' evening

Thursday 8 February - Nursery to Year 5 break up for half term

Friday 9 February - Founder's Day service at St Nicholas Cathedral for Year 6 to Year 13, 10am. Term ends after service.



DAME ALLAN'S SCHOOLS
building the future

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Model language student

We were amazed when our Year 7 student Imogen brought in two sculptures that she had made at home. Imogen, a talented linguist, made a model Arc de Triomphe and Eiffel Tower using cardboard, pen and hot glue. They now have pride of place in one of the languages classrooms. Well done Imogen!



From the Governors

This term has been an eventful one for Governors. As well as the half termly meetings to take a strategic view of matters concerning curriculum, finances, marketing, premises and compliance, many have also been in to keep up with the daily life of the Schools. Visits have been made to Early Years and Key Stage 1 in the Junior School and to a variety of lessons in the Senior Schools, giving us a flavour of the breadth of curriculum on offer at Dame Allan's.

Some Governors have also accompanied Learning Walks, which highlight and spread great ideas and practice, and visited Master Classes involving children

from local primary schools. These form part of a popular, ongoing programme enabling Dame Allan's to share good practice and offer public benefit to the wider community. Of course, life at Dame Allan's rarely ends with the school day and it has also been a great pleasure for Governors to attend events such as Speech Day and Open Days, as well as the autumn concert and Christmas Fair which were both wonderfully supported by so many.

As this term draws to a close, the Governors would like to echo the Principal in wishing everyone a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

DAME ALLAN'S Digest

DECEMBER 2017

Cracking Performance

We enjoyed a fabulous festive season at Dame Allan's again this year. Children in Years 1 and 2 put on an excellent performance of the Nutcracker, a lovely traditional show including dance, drama and acting with a modern twist. We also thoroughly enjoyed seeing the Early Years children perform the nativity, again a traditional story which was a pleasure to watch.



A welcome from the Principal

Our Christmas newsletter always shows the variety of activities we have across all parts of the Dame Allan's Foundation. We have enjoyed some fantastic festive performances from our Junior children, including the Nutcracker which was a real pleasure to see at Christmas time. Less traditionally, Santa took time out of his busy schedule and paid a visit to the Juniors to open the yurt kindly purchased by DASPA Junior. The yurt will strengthen our outdoor learning and Skogsmulle provision even further, and Santa certainly approved!

News of Mr Edge's forthcoming retirement made this a special year for all members of the Dame Allan's family - especially in the Junior School. There will be ample opportunity to say our fullest goodbyes later; suffice it for now to record our thanks to a man who has personified the family spirit of the Schools and whose legacy is clearly evident not only in the Hunter's Moor buildings, but in everything that happens there which has made the Junior School such a great success. Mr Ogg, meanwhile, may be known to fewer members of the Schools' community, but his dedication, professionalism and expertise as a teacher of business studies and economics mean that he too will be much missed by everyone at Dame Allan's.

It has been a busy time for our interim chaplain, the Reverend Jon Cooper, curate of St Francis High Heaton who is standing in as our chaplain until Nick Darby's permanent replacement as Vicar of St James and St Basil and Chaplain to Dame Allan's Schools is appointed. We are delighted to welcome him to the Schools and look forward to working together.

Alongside the extra-curricular and festive activities that you will read about in this newsletter, we are very proud to have been named as having the best girls' school and best boys' school in the North East by the Sunday Times Parent Power 2017. This is a huge achievement for us and one which is thoroughly deserved. As ever, it is the result of an effective partnership between the Schools, the pupils and their parents whose support for our students in their studies is much appreciated. I know there will be a lot of hard work over the holiday in preparation for January exams, and I am sure it will be to good effect.

I hope you all enjoy the festive period. I wish you a peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year and I look forward to working together for another successful year in 2018.

Christmas Myrrhories

This year saw a festive departure from the norm as Santa visited to officially open the yurt, which was kindly funded by DASPA Junior. The yurt will be used to expand and build upon our outdoor education and Skogsmulle provision which is becoming increasingly popular. Santa, however, used it to speak to the children about his reindeer and make sure he knew what they were all asking for for Christmas.

At the Senior School the Year 7 Christmas Extravaganza was a wonderful way to showcase the musical and dramatic talents we have at Dame Allan's and to get into the festive spirit.



It's a small world



Year 6 enjoyed a microbiology lesson at the Senior School this half term. They were able to use the senior labs and equipment, including microscopes, to look at different microorganisms and they started an experiment on bacteria which they continued at the Junior School.

Question time

We are delighted that debating has been so popular this year and this half term we welcomed a coach from the English Speaking Union to hold a workshop with 25 students from Years 7 - 10. The workshop taught them about structuring arguments, tone and delivery.

Following the workshop we entered a team in to the English Speaking Union's MACE Competition where the motion: 'This House would introduce a year of compulsory non-military service after Year 13' was debated. Our team had a fantastic time and look forward to more debates in the New Year.

An out of this world guest

We were delighted to welcome Allnian Aine O'Brien back to Dame Allan's this half term to speak with some of our Sixth Form students and our Year 9 - 11 girls. Aine spoke about having a career in STEM as a female and gender inequality which was thought provoking for us all. She also explained a bit about her PhD work studying Martian meteorites. We are really proud of Aine and very grateful for her for coming back to speak with our students.

A grand old Duke of York Award



Well done to our Year 6 children Jessica, Amelia and Isabel who were given their Bronze Duke of York Inspiring Enterprise Award this half term. They worked on lots of different tasks over a number of weeks,

including online safety and received their certificates from Buckingham Palace! They are part of the Digital Leaders club at the Junior School and really enjoyed taking part in the award. Well done!

Great Collabro-ration



Our Senior Choir was given the fantastic opportunity to perform at The Sage this half term. They were invited to join Britain's Got Talent 2014 winners Collabro for their sold out show, singing Bui Doi from Miss Saigon, and Circle of Life and He Lives in You from the Lion King.

The opportunity was particularly special as band member Jamie Lambert is an Allnian and he used to sing in our Senior Choir! Well done to everyone who took to the stage and huge thanks to Collabro for giving our students the opportunity.