

DAME ALLAN'S Digest

OCTOBER 2016



A welcome from the Principal

This Digest comes to you at the end of a busy first half-term of the academic year. As you will see, we enjoyed a very successful careers convention, this year renamed the Futures Fair. It was a fantastic event which highlighted the excellent relationships we have with employers, training providers and universities from across the UK and further afield. I know our students found it an exciting and informative day.

Our recent speech day gave us the opportunity to reflect on this year's excellent public examination results at GCSE and A Level. We were also privileged to hear the wise words of our inspirational guest speaker, Lucy Armstrong. We reflect on our GCSE and A Level results in this newsletter; once again our students achieved excellent results and we are very proud of them all.

This half term has also seen Open Mornings for our Junior and Senior Schools which were a huge success and showed Dame Allan's Schools to be the friendly and inviting place we know them to be. Many thanks to all of our students who helped out. Our Sixth Form Open Evening, Life in the Sixth Form, takes place on Thursday 3 November at 6.30pm. Amidst all of this, school life continues as normal, showcasing the breadth of talent amongst our pupils – evident in school activities and in the hobbies and activities our students take part in outside of school – some of which we share with you here.



Focus on the Future

Students from Dame Allan's Schools, St Thomas More School Blydon and Kenton School were encouraged to think about their futures by regional and national businesses and universities at our biennial Futures Fair.

The fair, which was held at the Senior Schools, saw over 1000 attendees speaking with over 100 businesses, educational establishments and training providers.

Amongst those in attendance was Regional Director of the CBI and alumna of Dame Allan's Sarah Glendinning, who has an active interest in education. Sarah gave a talk called 'What Really are My Options?' where she discussed the importance of adaptability and soft skills and also encouraged young people to have the confidence

to explore. She said: 'The world of work is changing and schools and teachers need to catch up. Businesses and industry are evolving so quickly that many of the skills our young people are learning are for jobs that haven't been created yet. It is so important that events like this are held to offer advice and guidance to students who are faced with an ever changing world. We need to raise the value of vocational education and ensure that careers advice goes from play level to A Level. Skills are the currency of the 21st century.'

The packed programme included over 70 stalls representing a variety of businesses and employers including representatives from the armed forces, Reece Group, the Laing Art Gallery, the NHS,

Beamish Museum and many more. Representatives from universities, including Oxford, Durham, Edinburgh, St Andrews and Queen's Belfast joined over 40 more who travelled from across the country to attend. There were 30 inspirational presentations on a variety of careers from industry leaders including Matt Boyle, President and CEO of Sevcon who brought along an electric motorbike. Matt described the fair as 'a superb opportunity for young people to see what careers are available to them in the North East and beyond.'

The topics of the talks, which parents were also welcome to attend, ranged from writing personal statements to digital hi-tech apprenticeships to careers in medicine.



Bumper Harvest

Many thanks to everyone who donated to our Harvest Festival collection. This year our Senior Schools donated to the West End Food Bank and our Junior School

donated to the People's Kitchen. They were thrilled to receive our donation which will go a long way to help people who are struggling in the North East.

Best in the North East

Our students once again achieved outstanding results in the GCSE and A Level examinations. Our Girls' School GCSE results showed that we are the best girls' school in the North East and in the top 30 in the country, with 77.2% of papers sat by the girls graded A or A* grades, according to the Independents Schools Council's league table. Not to be outdone, the Boys' Schools performed brilliantly once again, with a remarkable 90% A A* pass rate in maths a particular highlight. We obviously had a lot to celebrate on results day. Of particular note were the impressive results of pupils who represent Dame Allan's on the sports field who did so well, with members of our squash and rugby teams achieving outstanding results. This included

Laura Neill, who captained our squash team to be national champions for two years in a row, and Alex Watson a committed member of the Schools' rugby team and the Newcastle Falcons' Academy, both of whom achieved all A and A* grades. We also celebrated the success of twins Hector and Pippa who picked up identical GCSE results! Both have stayed on to go into the Sixth Form at Dame Allan's... though they have chosen different subjects. At A Level 22 students achieved straight A and A* grades. Many of our recent leavers are now enjoying university life on a wide variety of courses including economics, archaeology, law and medicine. We hope to catch up with them all soon. As ever we are incredibly proud of all of our students who



worked so hard to achieve their grades – there were a number of personal triumphs. Many thanks to everyone who supported our students and helped them gain these achievements.



James meets Kubo

The start of the new school year was particularly exciting for our Year 7 student James. He joined the Boys' School a day after interviewing a top Hollywood animator! James was given the amazing opportunity by Newsround after becoming one of the award winners of the national Animation 16 competition, where

he won an award for his own mini-animation. James interviewed Travis Knight, the director of 'Kubo and Two Strings' which features the voices of stars including Charlize Theron, Matthew McConaughey and Ralph Fiennes. We have posted the video of James' interview on our Facebook page, it's well worth a watch! Well done James.

Courageous Lucy

We are very proud of our Year 8 student Lucy who was one of only four winners in the country in the 'Why Virtues Matter' essay competition. The competition was run by the Jubilee Centre of Character and Virtues and Lucy wrote an essay on courage. Lucy was invited to the Youth Awards Lunch at the House of Lords during the summer break. Lucy and her family had a great time at

the lunch where she received a trophy and certificate. In her essay Lucy wrote about how courage can help people in a range of situations, including how it helped her grandfather, who served in the Second World War and went to a Japanese prisoner of war camp. Courage, Lucy says, helped him to keep going and eventually return home. Congratulations, a fantastic achievement.



Sport

Old Boys



Once again we are holding an Old Boys' memorial rugby match during the Christmas break on the 17th December. The annual match is in aid of former pupil Richard Holmes and all the money raised will be donated to Marie Curie. This year there will also be an Old Girls' hockey fixture on our school astro pitch. We would like to encourage as many Allanians as possible to take part and everyone is welcome to come along and watch. It is always a brilliant fixture.



and Golden Girls



This term some of our girls took part in a 'Girls Go Gold' event where they attended seminars, workshops and lectures for sportswomen. The girls met Dame Sarah Storey, the GB

Paralympic Cyclist; gold medalist GB hockey star Alex Danson and bronze medal gymnast Amy Tinkler at the event which gave them an insight into high level competitive sports.

Priceless

Congratulations to Year 6 pupil Ellie Price who came in second in the Northern Region pentathlon event this term. Ellie achieved

over 2000 points which means she progresses to the British Schools Biathlon Championships at Crystal Palace in March 2017.

Singalong

On Saturday 5th November we are taking part in a 'Come and Sing' event at St James' and St Basil's Church. Come along at 5pm to hear our choir sing Aaron Copland's Old American Songs

and Randall Thompson's The Road Not Taken. It's going to be a wonderful event. Tickets are just £5 and are available on the door. For more information contact the school office.



Smokin' Science

Over the summer holiday we held our first STEM week for primary school children. The week evolved from our usual science week, and incorporated a maths and engineering day alongside science. The children had a fantastic week, enjoying an eco-survey at our Junior School, a visit from the Newcastle

University Street Scientists and building and firing their own rockets on the science days. On the maths day they built bridges and a huge tetrahedron which was great fun. The engineering day was also very popular when the children went into our Design Technology suite and built 'battle bugs'.

Top of the World

Congratulations to our student William Simpson in Year 11 who achieved the amazing feat of climbing to the top of Mount Kilimanjaro over the summer. William climbed all 5895 metres of the mountain, sometimes with less than 50 per cent of sea level oxygen to make it to the top,

sometimes climbing through the night. William and his dad are keen walkers so they decided to challenge themselves with climbing the tallest free-standing mountain in the world... apparently they took a lot of sweets with them to keep their sugar levels up!



Victoriana

Our Year 9 student Victoria was recently lucky enough to perform Giselle with the English Youth Ballet at the Newcastle Tyne Theatre. Victoria, who is part of the Schools' dance company Jeune, was given the part of a 'scary widow', meaning she got to wear a dramatic costume and put her drama,

as well as dancing, skills to work. Victoria had a fantastic time performing with the English Youth Ballet, well done.



Safeguarding at Dame Allan's

Please remember the importance of the Schools having up to date and accurate contact information for your child so that the right person can be contacted swiftly in an emergency. This is collected on the annual consent form without which your child will not be permitted to go on school trips. It is also vital that, if your child is absent for any reason without prior agreement, you call the Senior or Junior School office by 8.30am. This will ensure that we can account for all the pupils and know that they are safe.

The Allanian Society



Jane Raine and Claire Bowler

Many thanks to everyone who attended our London event earlier this month. We were delighted that Allanian and partner at DWF LLP Claire Bowler could host us in the 'Walkie Talkie building', we enjoyed some fabulous views and it was great to catch up with so many Allanians with the years of attendance ranging from 1955-2013. Mr Bill Lomas, Chairman of the Development Trust and The Allanian Society welcomed the guests, many of whom were his pupils when he was a



Dr Hind, Lesley Donnelly, Natasha Khatib and Chris McAdam

teacher at the Schools. Plans are already in discussion to hold another event in London in 2017. If you would like help to try and contact members of your year group please contact the Development Office at alumnirelations@dameallans.co.uk

Many thanks to Allanian Richard Mabane who provided a work experience placement for a week at Holman Fenwick Willan for our student Patrick Reid Milligan.

We were delighted to welcome a reunion of 2006 leavers to Dame Allan's this term. The Allanians, who left ten years ago, enjoyed a tour of the Schools, a speech from Dr Hind, a drinks reception which was kindly sponsored by the Allanian Society and a lunch in the Newsom Hall. It was great to catch up with them and we look forward to seeing them at their next reunion in ten years' time!



DASPA

The uplift to the girls' quad area to provide café style seating is proving immensely popular with all year groups enjoying the seating out in the fresh air. A nice spin-off to this is that there is a natural mingling of Sixth Form girls and younger girls on a casual and regular basis. The DASPA AGM and first meeting of the new term took place earlier in October. Many thanks to everyone who attended.

DASPA Juniors

DASPA Junior started the new academic year with a uniform sale which raised an impressive £400. We are now preparing for a spooky Year 3 and 4 Halloween Party. We welcomed new members at the parents' social events. We also have a social night planned for the 17th November. If you would like more information or would like to help we can be contacted via the Junior School office. The Junior School have adopted the use of ClassDojo to help promote a positive culture amongst our pupils and share snapshots of school life with our parents. For Junior School parents, if you would like to register please let us know!

Looking to the future...

Saturday 22 October – Year 11 perform at Northern Stage, Shakespeare Schools Festival, 7pm
Sunday 23 – Wednesday 27 October – Netball tour to Spain
Monday 24 – Monday 31 October – Half term
Thursday 3 November – Life in the Sixth Form
Saturday 5 November – Come and Sing event at St James' and St Basil's Church, 5pm
Thursday 10 November – Year 13 parents' evening, 4pm
Tuesday 15 November – Year 10 DABS parents' evening
Wednesday 16 November – Autumn concert, Newsom Hall
Tuesday 22 and Wednesday 23 November

– Junior School and Nursery parents' meetings, 3.30 – 6pm
Thursday 1, Friday 2 and Saturday 3 December – School production, 'The Crucible', 7pm
Tuesday 6 December – Reception nativity, 2pm
Wednesday 7 December – Nursery nativity, 2pm
Thursday 8 and Friday 9 December – Years 1 and 2 Christmas production, 2pm
Thursday 8 December – Year 7 DABS parents' evening, 4pm
Friday 9 December – Prelude dance show, Newsom Hall, 6pm
Monday 12 December – Year 7 Christmas Extravaganza, 7pm

Tuesday 13 December – Year 7 DAGS parents' evening, 4pm
Wednesday 14 December – Junior School carol service (Years 3 – 6) St James' and St Basil's Church, 2pm
Thursday 15 December – Term ends for Nursery to Year 5
Thursday 15 December – Choral Evensong, St James' and St Basil's Church, 5pm
Friday 16 December – Carol service for Years 6 to 13, St Nicholas Cathedral, 10am (term ends after service)
Saturday 17 December – Old boys' rugby match and old girls' hockey match and after match function, 11am kick off



DAME ALLAN'S SCHOOLS
building the future

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