

DAME ALLAN'S Digest

OCTOBER 2017



A welcome from the Principal

Welcome to the first Digest of the 2017/18 academic year, I hope you will enjoy reading about what has already been happening, even at this early stage in the year. Over the summer break we were delighted to celebrate fantastic GCSE and A Level results with our students. They reflected a great deal of hard work and I would like to offer my congratulations again to our students, and thanks to their parents who we know are a great source of support and encouragement for them.

The summer also saw the biennial World Challenge expedition to Nicaragua and Costa Rica, a sailing trip around the Isle of Man (a first for the Schools) and a climbing trip as well as dance and sporting events in school. There was also some time to switch off and relax. As well as an array of sporting, academic and extra-curricular achievements this half term, we enjoyed three very busy open events. Many thanks to our students for helping out at these, and to our parents who, as ever, prove to be ambassadors for the Schools.

We were sad to say goodbye to the Schools' Chaplain, Canon Nick Darby who was also Vicar at St James' and St Basil's Church. Nick retires from St James' and St Basil's after eight years. He has been a huge support to the Schools during his time as Chaplain and will be missed by us all. We were privileged to hear Viscount Ridley address the Schools at Speech Day. His theme of optimism was apt: we do look to our future with confidence, enthusiasm and trust in the Lord's mission for us - something I am sure Nick would endorse. We wish him a very happy retirement and we look forward to welcoming our new chaplain to the Dame Allan's family once appointed.



Grade A stars

Once again our GCSE and A Level students achieved excellent results in their exams this summer.

Continuing the success that we enjoy each year, 34 students at GCSE level achieved all A and A* grades and the Boys' School achieved its best ever results. We had a great deal to celebrate on GCSE results day, which included a number of personal successes. Some of those students who joined us from Sunderland High School also received their results, of particular note were Rebecca Marsh and Louise Peart who both received all A and A* grades

and the coveted new 9 grade in English literature, bucking the national trend of a dip in GCSE passes this year.

At A Level our results were, once again, impressive with 20 students achieving all top A* or A grades.

Our students have gained places on a variety of courses including Medicine at UCL, Economics at Bath and Aeronautical and Aerospace Engineering at Leeds. Nairi Weston received 3 A*s,

scoring 100% in her Spanish exam, and is now studying Modern and Medieval languages at Churchill College Cambridge. Nairi said: 'I'm really relieved and quite shocked! I worked really hard so I'm glad it paid off, I can't wait to start university life.'



Highly Commended

Congratulations to everyone on our School Council, which has been awarded a 'highly commended' at the Speaker's Awards for a project organising a tea party for the residents of local care homes. The annual awards help to celebrate and recognise the work of school

councils and is run by the Parliament's Education Service and the Speaker of the House of Commons. Well done to all of our students who were involved in organising and helping at the tea party, it was so successful that we hope to make it an annual event.



Climbed every mountain



Over the summer break 26 of our students from Years 11 and 12 took part in a World Challenge expedition to Costa Rica and Nicaragua. Following two years of fundraising,

where the students had to raise £4000 each, they set off for their month-long expedition which was made up of a main trek, a project in the community and

then some time for rest and relaxation. The students had a brilliant time on their expedition and learned a great deal. World Challenge offers life-changing,

educational expeditions and we would encourage any of our students who are interested to find out more from the OLED department.



Welcome home

We were delighted to welcome over 30 Allanians back to Dame Allan's 50 years after they left the Girls' School. The DAGS class of 1967 gathered at the Schools during the summer break and for many of them it was the first time they had been back since leaving half a century ago. Following a lunch and tour of the Schools the reunion group then

presented Dr Hind with a cheque for a DAGS '67 bursary fund which totalled an amazing £8,500. Former Head Girl Catherine Buckley attended the event and said: 'Coming back to Dame Allan's was very special for us. We all acknowledge how much we owe the school and that's why we decided to create the Class of '67 bursary, which

we hope will help other girls enjoy the same superb education as we did at Dame Allan's. Perhaps other year groups will take up the challenge of beating our total!' We then welcomed the class of 1967 from the Boys' School the weekend after, which was a brilliant way to mark our Allanians' Golden Jubilee.

History boys & girls



Year 2 enjoyed a brilliant workshop with 'That History Bloke' this half term. They learned all about Florence Nightingale (and were even able to ask her a question!), Scutari Hospital and the Crimean War. This was part of a series of workshops, which Years 4 and 5 also took part in, run by Allanian Richard Stevenson who covers a range of topics and time periods in exciting ways to engage primary aged children.

x Three

Well done to Year 12 student William who competed in the Junior World Triathlon Championships in Rotterdam this term. William competed in the U20 category, swimming 750 metres, cycling 20 kilometres and running 5 kilometres in the

championships. He finished with a time of one hour, nine minutes and 45 seconds and hopes to qualify for the European Championships in Glasgow in 2018. Huge congratulations, a lot of hard work went in to qualifying and competing and we are very proud.



x Seven

Our senior rugby squad was lucky enough to have a coaching session with Scotland Rugby Sevens captain Scott Riddell this half term. The boys were put through their paces by Scott, who

has 18 World Series caps and captained his side to a win at the London Sevens in May 2017. Our games staff also had a CPD event with Scott, we are very grateful to him for coming in!



Close call

Our Year 13 student Matthew Garvey took part in the British Junior Masters golf event at Close House in September. Matthew qualified after winning the regional qualifying competition, securing one of only 10 places across the county. He was also able to meet some of the professionals who were competing at the British Masters at Close House in the following days.

Cadets on parade

We are very proud that three of our CCF cadets attended the Duke of Edinburgh's final public event at Buckingham Palace in August. At the event Prince Phillip met with Royal Marines who had

taken part in fundraising for the Royal Marines Charity and our three cadets were involved in the parade which also included serving marines and veterans. During the summer break some

cadets took part in a summer camp at the Commando Training Centre, Lympstone and HMS Raleigh. On returning in September they enjoyed a field day, a brilliant way to start the term!



Safeguarding at Dame Allan's

The Schools are committed to the safeguarding of children, our safeguarding leads are:

Philippa Ferguson – Early Years
Deborah Farren – Junior School
Elaine Fiddaman – Girls' School
Phil Wildsmith – Boys' School
Please make sure that we have your up to date contact details by contacting the Schools' office

or emailing enquiries@dameallans.co.uk. Please also be aware that we need your child's annual consent form in order for them to take part in school trips, these should be returned to the Schools' office.

Looking to the future...

Friday 20 – Tuesday 24 October – Netball and hockey tour to Belfast
Monday 23 – Monday 30 October – Half term holiday
Tuesday 7 November – Year 13 parents' evening
Wednesday 8 November – Autumn concert, Newsom Hall, 7pm
Saturday 11 November – Year 10 Shakespeare Festival, Northern Stage
Thursday 16 November – Year 10

DABS parents' evening
Saturday 18 November – DASPA Christmas Bazaar, Newsom Hall, 10am – 12noon
Monday 20 November – Year 10 DAGS parents' evening
Tuesday 21 and Wednesday 22 November – Junior School and Nursery parents' meetings, 3.30 – 6pm
Tuesday 5 December – Reception Nativity, 2pm

Wednesday 6 December – Nursery Nativity, 2pm
Thursday 7 and Friday 8 December – Years 1 & 2 Christmas production, The Nutcracker, 2pm
Friday 8 December – Prelude dance show, 6pm
Monday 11 December – Year 7 Christmas Extravaganza, Newsom Hall, 7pm
Thursday 14 December – Term ends for Nursery to Year 5

Friday 15 December – Carol service for Years 6 - 13 at St Nicholas Cathedral, 10am, term ends after service. Allanian Society Christmas lunch, 1pm. Further details available via the Allanian Society page on the Schools' website
Saturday 16 December – Allanian rugby and hockey Richard Holmes Memorial Matches in aid of Marie Cure. All are welcome, pre-match brunch available in the dining hall



DAME ALLAN'S SCHOOLS
building the future

t: 0191 275 1500 e: news@dameallans.co.uk www.dameallans.co.uk  

DASPA

DASPA would like to extend a warm welcome to both existing and new parents at the start of this busy and exciting school year. We are very much looking forward to hosting our first fundraising event, the DASPA Christmas Bazaar on the 18th November. This is always a fun event for the whole family, with a variety of stalls and festive entertainment provided by the Junior School choir and Senior School carollers. There are many opportunities for both parents and pupils to be involved, whether it be by bringing donations for stalls and raffle in the run up to the day, or by joining us on the day itself. All support is very much appreciated. This school year is also when we will be hosting our biennial Spring Ball, which will be held on Saturday 12th May. We hope this will once again prove to be a thoroughly enjoyable evening and a great fundraising event. A huge thank you to everyone who helped with our second hand uniform sale at the end of the summer term, we raised a fabulous £700! The next sale will be at the Christmas Bazaar; any donations of school uniform or good condition sports equipment would be very much appreciated. We look forward to seeing you at our various events this year, and thank you once again for your continued support.

DASPA Juniors

DASPA Junior is looking forward to organising lots of fun fundraising events this year for Junior School pupils. The first party is a spooky Halloween Party on 3rd November for Years 3 and 4. Our notice board near the flag pole at the Junior School has the dates of other forthcoming events and contact details for our year reps. If you would like to join DASPA or help at any of the events please contact Vanessa Morrell via the Schools' office.