

DAME ALLAN'S Digest

MARCH 2018



A welcome from the Principal

This certainly has been a memorable half term – albeit two days shorter than planned! Closing the school is fortunately a rare occurrence and is always a last resort, prompted only by a concern for staff and pupil safety. We would like to thank everybody for their patience and co-operation during a challenging week. With the worst of the weather behind us, the latter part of term has seen a wealth of exciting events. For our inaugural Science Lecture Evening, three highly esteemed professors addressed pupils and parents in the Newsom Hall. Each speaker made genuine cutting edge science accessible to the whole audience and I was especially impressed by the quality of our students' questions on the evening.

To see the Newsom Hall transformed into Rydell High for the upper school production of 'Grease' made me reflect again on the range of talents Allanians display – and on the hard work of our support team! The show itself was excellent; everyone in each of the three full audiences was richly entertained by a superb blend of music, drama and dance. Similar skills were displayed in the Junior School production of 'Matilda', where the children in Years 3, 4 and 5 treated parents to their wonderful, and unique, version of the film.

With a first rate public speaking competition and a sparkling sports awards evening to complete the mix, this term has indeed celebrated the very best of Dame Allan's. Finally, with so much to attract you into school, I would ask again that you do think carefully about parking when coming to school events or picking up children and specifically that you do not park in front of our neighbours' drives.

Professors inspire new wave of scientists



Pupils, parents and teachers were left inspired after the Schools' Science Lecture Evening. Three leading professors from the North East were invited along to talk at the event, 'Saving Lives One Cell at a Time', to coincide with British Science Week. Professors Liz Sockett, Ruth Plummer and Robert McFarland all gave up their free time to explain their fields of expertise to an intrigued audience. Professor Sockett, Professor of Bacterial Genetics at the

University of Nottingham, returned to the school she left in 1980 to kickstart the event to talk about the work she and her team are doing with the predatory bacteria *Bdellovibrio*. She was followed by Professor Plummer, who has strong links to Dame Allan's as a current governor and a parent of two former pupils. Professor Plummer's work at Newcastle University has led to ground breaking development in anti-cancer drugs.

Following a short interval, Professor McFarland, whose son currently attends our Sixth Form, brought the evening to a close with a fascinating insight into the breakthrough in the controversial 'three parent baby' technique which he and his colleagues at Newcastle University are leading. The questions which followed each presentation, particularly from the pupils, were very impressive and it was great that everybody who attended enjoyed the evening so much.

Speakers impress under the spotlight



A big well done to all of our pupils who gave impressive speeches during our annual Public Speaking Competition. The quality of the delivery and content from all finalists was of the highest order, and the students can be proud of their excellent speeches in front of a packed audience. All of the speeches had the audience gripped and it was a very difficult job for the judging

panel to pick the winners. Congratulations to the winners; Helena – the Paul Lewton Trophy for DAGS (Years 7 to 9), Max – the Eric Smith Trophy for DABS (Years 7 to 9), Ruby – the Old Girls' Association Trophy for DAGS (Years 10 and 11), Geordie – the Old Boys' Association Trophy for DABS (Years 10 and 11) and Cameron – the Bill Johnson Trophy for Sixth Formers.

Pupils star on the big screen



Children in the Junior School showed their creative sides as they danced and performed their way onto the big screen.

As part of the Combined Arts Afternoon, pupils in Years 3,4 and 5 showcased their excellent talents in their unique version of the film 'Matilda'.

The pupils had shot their acting scenes on camera in advance of

the three performances, and those scenes were then projected onto the wall in the main hall.

In between the video clips, each class across the three year groups performed a dance from the musical version of the film.

It was a fantastic performance all round with the pupils showing their talents in dancing, acting and singing.

World Book Day – finally...

The snow may have forced the Junior School to close on World Book Day, but the children were determined to have the last say.

A week later than planned, pupils from Nursery to Year 6 turned up

in fantastic costumes of their favourite book characters. All looked excellent in their fancy dress and there was a range of characters from Thing 1 and Thing 2 from Cat in the Hat, to the Fantastic Mr Fox and Harry Potter.



Sporting prowess from juniors Abigail and Eve

There have been plenty of sporting achievements at our Junior School with both Abigail in Year 6 and Eve in Year 5 impressing in prestigious competitions.

Winning the standing triple jump gold medal with an outstanding distance of 6.12 metres, Abigail helped Tyne and Wear Girls to the team title at the Sportshall Athletics North East Regional Final. Eve earned a silver medal at the recent British Under 10 Epee Fencing Championships. Well done to both.



National Careers Week

National Careers Week spread across March at Dame Allan's, with numerous speakers coming in to talk to our students. Pupils across the Schools learned about a range of interesting careers from fashion

design, social media, retail and law, to architecture, estate agency and medicine to name a few. More information will be available in our Allanian Magazine at the end of our school year.

Jump to it

Year 10 pupil Saffron did exceptionally well as she bounced her way into the National Schools Elite U19 Trampoline final. At the age of just 15, Saffron was the youngest in the age category as she went up against competitors in the Great Britain U18 squad. Saffron qualified for the final after great performances in the earlier rounds, winning the regional competition and battling illness in the zonal heat to secure a top three finish.



National champions!

Dame Allan's Schools' excellent record at the National Schools Squash Championships continued as both the Under 15 and Under 19 Girls' teams returned from Nottingham as National Champions!

The super talented groups were crowned the best the country had to offer, when they collected gold from the championships a week before breaking up for Easter. As the Schools had not

entered a Boys' Team in the competition, Calum was able to join Beth, Annie, Jessica and Annabelle in the Under 15 team, while Angus was part of the Under 19 team and struck gold alongside Laura, Lowri, Martha and Olivia.

The success topped an excellent few weeks for our squash players with Year 11 pupil Max clinching the Northumberland Senior Open trophy at the age of just 16!

Sports Awards



The sporting achievements of our Senior School pupils were celebrated during a glittering presentation evening at Kingston Park.

Double gold winning Commonwealth Games swimmer, and double Olympian, Chris Cook was on hand to present numerous trophies, certificates and school colours to our sporting stars from Year 7 all the way through to the Sixth Form. Trophies were given to the most improved players and players of the season in each age group in rugby, hockey, netball and



football, while there were also prizes for commitment, excellence and leadership. A sportsman and sportswoman of the year was picked in each year group, but the main awards were the overall sportsman and sportswoman of the Schools. Talented all-rounder Ben, in Year 8, was named top sportsman and Lowri in Year 12, who has enjoyed many triumphs in squash, earned the sportswoman accolade. Congratulations to each and every pupil who received something on the evening. Keep up the great work.



When Danny met Sandy



Our pupils' American accents were on point as they put in some excellent performances during the School Production of 'Grease'. The endless amount of hard work the cast, supporting crew and staff put into the three performances paid off as the audience was

treated to a School Musical version of the iconic 1970s film. Not only did everybody impress with their brilliant acting skills, but they all showcased excellent dance moves and singing voices as part of the package! Year 13 pupils Will and Meg starred

in the main roles of Danny Zuko and Sandy Dumbrowski, and they were well supported in the role by the T Birds and Pink Ladies, as well as all the other cast. A big well done to all who were involved and put in the hours during the rehearsals, mainly after school.

Happy memories

Hazel Younger, a former pupil at our Girls' School, sent us this fantastic picture of an annual reunion of Allanians. She and her former schoolmates left the school back in 1960 but still meet up every year, despite many having to travel many miles to get to the event.



Safeguarding at Dame Allan's

Parents may like to be aware of the YouTube Kids App which automatically filters out inappropriate content. Parental information can be found at <https://support.google.com/youtubekids/?hl=en-GB#topic=6130504>.

Looking to the future...

Thursday 29 March – Art trip to Barcelona departs. Term ends.

Tuesday 17 April – School resumes.

Wednesday 18 April – Jazz Concert, 6pm.

Friday 20 – Sunday 22 April – Combined Cadet Force Weekend.

Monday 23 April – Combined Cadet Force Field Day.

Thursday 26 April – Year 12 Higher Education Evening. Junior Maths Challenge.

Friday 27 April – Spring Concert at St James and St Basil's Church, 7pm.

Wednesday 2 May – The Gig at The Auditorium, 5pm.

Friday 4 May – Leavers' Dance Show, 7pm.

Monday 7 May – May Day Holiday, school closed.

Thursday 10 May – Leavers'

DASPA Juniors

DASPA Junior supported the Dame Allan's Ceilidh in February where everyone who attended had a super time with lots of great music and dancing. DASPA Junior is busy organising the Easter Party this term and support the Decorated Egg competition at the Junior School.

Our annual Summer Fair is on Saturday 12 May (midday to 2pm at the Junior School). We are currently seeking helpers on the day and raffle prizes. We will be in touch in the Summer term requesting tombola, chocolate and bottle prizes alongside good quality used toys. Please contact junioroffice@dameallans.co.uk if you can help in any way. Thank you and we hope to see you on the day.

DASPA

After the success of the ceilidh, DASPA is now greatly looking forward to the next major event on the social calendar: The DASPA Spring Ball!

As we are sure you know, this is to be held at 7pm on Saturday 12 May at the Gateshead Hilton. Tickets are proving to be very popular but places are still available, so there is still time for you to book a place. You can do this by completing the forms that have been sent out, or by contacting DASPA@dameallans.co.uk. We hope to see as many people there as possible for a great fundraising evening!

If anyone is able to provide any sponsorship or prizes for the raffle we would be very grateful if you could contact us at the above email address. Wishing everyone attending a great evening!

Evening, 6pm.

Saturday 12 May – DASPA Junior Summer Fair, noon to 2pm. DASPA Spring Ball, 7pm.

Monday 14 – Friday 18 May – Year 5 Activity Week at Wastwater.

Friday 25 May – Term ends.



DAME ALLAN'S SCHOOLS
building the future

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