

DAME ALLAN'S Digest

FEBRUARY 2020



A welcome from the Principal

As this packed Digest shows, it has been a remarkably busy half term. For our pupils in Years 11, 12 and 13 there has been the added pressure of trial examinations. For them - indeed for all our students - it is vitally important that we continue our efforts to promote and nurture good mental health. Two new initiatives have seen drop in sessions in the Jenifer Cole Room on Time to Talk Day for our senior pupils and the Junior School's 'Wellbeing Wednesday' sessions. Based in the library a team of buddies, along with a member of staff, are helping to provide a designated space in school where children feel that they can relax and chat about issues that are concerning them.

Already this term has seen two brilliant performing arts events, Jazz Night and the Whole School Dance Show, where students across the Schools showed their talents in an entertaining and sometimes thought-provoking fashion. We look forward to the upcoming Senior Schools production of 'Sister Act', and the Junior School's Combined Arts performances of 'Annie' next month.

Fundraising continues to be an intrinsic part of the Schools' community work and, once again, I must commend you for your generosity. Following a collection of over £1600 in aid of a local charity Mental Health Concern at the Carol Services in December, various cake-sales have taken place this term and almost £900 was raised for the Australian Bush Fire Appeal by the Non-School Uniform Day in January.

Finally, in news relating to the governing body, Brian Adcock has stepped down from his role as Chair of Governors after four very successful years. Ian Belsham has taken over as Chair and Eric Cross takes his place as Vice-Chair. On behalf of the Schools, and personally, I take this opportunity to thank Brian for all he has done for the Schools.



Diamond Double!

The entire Dame Allan's Schools family is celebrating the Junior School and Nursery being recognised as 'excellent' in their recent ISI inspection report.

Inspected by the Independent Schools' Inspectorate (ISI), the independent sector equivalent of Ofsted, just before Christmas, we received the report shortly after we returned from the Christmas holiday.

The report highlighted that:

- pupils make rapid academic progress and show above-average attainment
- excellent pastoral care ensures pupils are confident, resilient and self-disciplined
- the school is a safe, secure and happy environment within which all can thrive.

A key part of a child's school career is the support and learning they receive during Nursery and Reception.

During the inspection, the

inspectors observed that all children make very good progress in relation to their age and development. By the end of Reception, the majority are exceeding many of the Early Learning Goals.

They found this rapid progress continues throughout the school, noting pupils are aided by excellent teaching in lessons that are well-planned, encompassing a variety of techniques tailored to the needs of the pupils.

The inspection team found examples of this throughout the school: 'The most able pupils respond enthusiastically to the extra challenges provided within lessons and academic clubs and societies, achieving more and more. Pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) or English as an additional Language (EAL) make equally good progress.'

Alongside the importance of academic achievement, Dame

Allan's Junior School and Nursery believes in developing children into well-rounded individuals ready for the next stage in their lives.

This was emphasised in the ISI report: 'The excellent level of pastoral care ensures that pupils grow in both self-confidence and self-esteem and so develop into resilient young adults'.

They also noted that pupils' 'strong moral and social attitudes are rooted in the ethos of the school and fulfil its aim of providing a safe, secure and happy environment within which all can thrive'.

This was reflected in pupil interviews, in which pupils 'spoke of a caring, supportive and happy community in which they show real, genuine concern for each other'.

Mr Laidler, Headteacher of Dame Allan's Junior School and Nursery, said: "We are thrilled with the findings in the recent ISI inspection.

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"The report shows that the inspectors understood, and saw examples of, the spirit and ethos of the school.

"The inspectors' comments support the belief, firmly held across the Schools' family, in providing an education for pupils from all cultures and backgrounds within a supportive environment in which they can make the best use of their abilities.

"We were especially pleased to see the inspectors highlight that we promote an environment in which errors are seen as part of the learning process as this enables pupils to feel free to try something without fear of failure, something we know benefits them both

academically and personally.

"We were equally pleased by the inspectors' recognition that the pupils are supported in these achievements by our wide-ranging extra-curricular programme."

Dr Hind, Principal of Dame Allan's Schools, was also pleased with the result of the inspection:

"We are delighted with the findings in the recent ISI inspection, which follows a similarly excellent report for the Senior Schools in May 2019.

"Such a successful outcome is the result of the efforts of the whole Junior School family and is a credit to the hard work and dedication of parents and pupils as well as the school staff."



Congratulations to all of the candidates who have completed their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award so far this year: Elisabeth, Jonathan, Amelia, Imogen, Ruth, Matt, Louise, Rebecca, Sam, Joe, Matthew, Anna, Rebecca and Hannah.

They will be heading to Buckingham Palace to collect their award in spring.

This is a prestigious award

and a huge achievement for all the students.

Particular congratulations must go to Elisabeth, Jonathan and Matt who have completed the award whilst still in the Sixth Form. This is a very rare achievement and a real testimony to their commitment, organisation and drive. Have a super time celebrating at the palace and best of luck with all your future adventures!



This year's dance show took place at Dance City on the first weekend of February. The theme for this year was 'Dance from around the world' which allowed for a variety of influences on choreographies. Works included a piece inspired

by Cuban contemporary dance performed by Vizavis – an excerpt of which was performed on Speech Day – and a dance inspired by a well-known piece of Greek music performed by Rogue Boys.



Community Choir

Our music department is putting together a community choir to perform Zadok the Priest with the pupils' Senior Choir and Symphony Orchestra at the Spring Concert in April.

This community choir welcomes all parents, staff, alumni and anybody connected with the school, even those who have no previous experience singing with a choir.

We hope you will be able to join us for what should be a really enjoyable and social experience. There will be two rehearsals for the community choir where Mr Smith and Miss Medway will be going through the parts:

- Tuesday 24th March 18:00 -

19:30 in the Lumsden Music Centre (rehearsal for community choir only)

- Tuesday 31st March 18:00 - 19:30 in St James' and Basil's Church, Fenham (rehearsal for community choir with Symphony Orchestra and Senior Choir)

- Wednesday 1st April 18:30 - 19:30 in St James' and Basil's Church, Fenham (Concert)

If you are interested in joining the community choir, please go to <http://bit.ly/DAScommunitychoir> and follow the link to the attached Google Form.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you want to further discuss the community choir.

Deadline: Friday 13 March

TES Independent School Awards 2020

The 2020 TES Independent School Awards evening was held on Friday 7 February at the Grosvenor House Hotel in London.

Whilst we didn't win, we were honoured to be nominated for the award. TES received a record number of entries this year, so to be shortlisted in the final eight was an award in its own right.

It was a fantastic evening and a wonderful opportunity to learn more about other independent schools across the UK.

Dr John Hind, Principal, said: "Whilst it was not the outcome we desired, we are incredibly proud to have got as far as we did in the awards process. The independent schools in this country are truly exceptional so

to make it into a shortlist of just eight schools is still a remarkable achievement.

"Following two excellent ISI reports for both the Senior Schools (May 2019) and the Junior School and Nursery (January 2020), the shortlist was great recognition for all the hard work happening across the Dame Allan's Schools foundation."



新年快乐

Rats the way to do it!



In honour of Chinese New Year, the Nursery children had a fun dance workshop with Startastic and tried different Chinese foods, learned more about Chinese traditions and the Year of the Rat! Year 2 visited the Oriental Museum. Whilst there, the children dressed up as all the animals in the Chinese Zodiac story (a pig, dog, rooster, monkey, sheep, horse, snake,

dragon, rabbit, tiger, ox and rat) and acted out the story of the race organised by the Jade Emperor. They made small versions of the Terracotta Army warriors from clay and performed a dragon dance with a dragon called Gerald through one of the galleries, each child either holding a pole or the pearl of wisdom or making lots of noise on musical instruments.



Pupils taking part in the John Muir Award programme spent their second Discovery Day day at The Sill on Hadrian's Wall. Whilst there, they walked to Sycamore Gap along the wall, practising navigational skills on the way, and learned a little more about the surrounding landscape and the wall itself. They met with

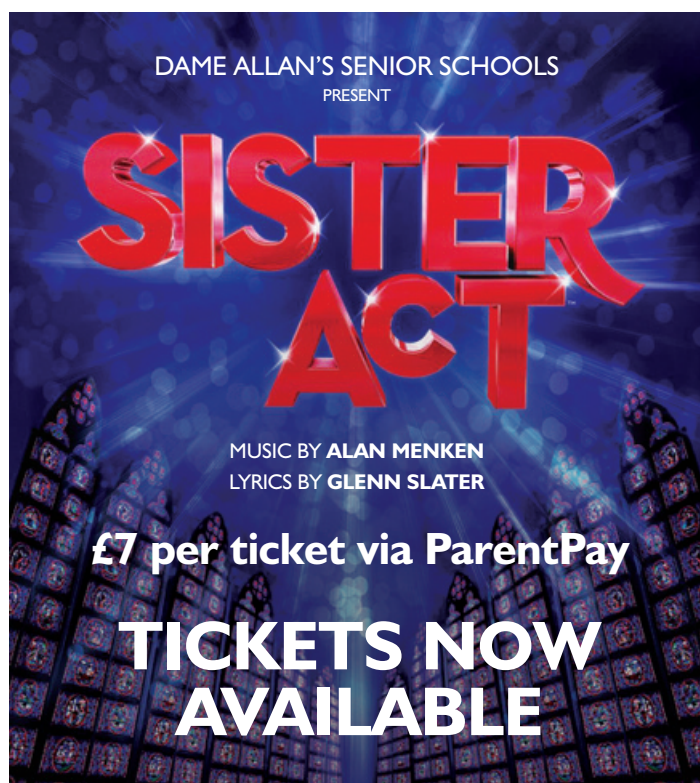
volunteer rangers, who explained the work they do and the wider work of national parks across the UK. Towards the end of the afternoon, they enjoyed an Astro Explorers session and, once darkness fell, went outside to stargaze – though unfortunately due to a lot of cloud cover this was not as successful as hoped!

Arguably the best



Congratulations to our Senior School debate team, Emily, Libby and Imogen, who won the local round of the English-Speaking Union (ESU) Schools' Mace in

January. This win takes them through to the regional round of the competition – the furthest Dame Allan's have got to in the Schools' Mace in recent times!



Important Message

Can we please remind you to switch off car engines whilst waiting to collect your children from school?

A local resident recently got in touch with us with some concerns about idling engines in the streets surrounding the Senior Schools – both in regards to consideration for residents and also in regards to environmental impact.

This academic year, our whole school target is to become more environmentally friendly across both school sites. Whilst we can take measures in school, we would appreciate your support in doing so at the beginning and end of the school day.



The ALLANIAN Society



We are always delighted to welcome back Allanians who want to relive memories of their school-days with a visit to Dame Allan's. In April, some DAGS 1962 leavers

are visiting the schools for a day of nostalgia and a spot of lunch. We are really looking forward to meeting them and hearing stories from their school days! If you would like some help to

organise a reunion of your year group, please contact the development office on alumnirelations@dameallans.co.uk who will be very happy to help.

The Richard Holmes Memorial 2019

Saturday 14 December saw yet another competitive bout between the Under 25s and Over 25s at the annual Richard Holmes Memorial match. The U25s held on to their winning streak and, more importantly, £217.54 was raised for Marie Curie UK. Our thanks to everyone who turned out on a chilly December morning to support the players and commemorate Richard.



Dear Allanians,

This year, The Allanian Society has continued to be active in bringing Allanians together and supporting the Schools.

I enjoyed meeting many parents, pupils and friends of the Schools at the DASPA Christmas Fair and it was great to see the Christmas lunch at the Northern Counties Club was well attended. The Richard Holmes Memorial Match proved to be a super way to round off the autumn term and it was good to see so many Allanians there in support of this good cause.

Over 140 Allanians have already committed to attending the Annual Dinner in March and in the coming weeks Allanians will be lending support to the Junior School, the Archives Club and the careers department, through both funding and visits. If you are reading this and would like to similarly support activities in the Schools, please get in touch with the Society; details below. I look forward to meeting you at an event soon!

Stephen Davies
Chairman of the Allanian Society

Contact us

If you would like to send us alumni news or have any queries about the Allanian Society, please contact the Development Office
t: 0191 275 1500
e: alumnirelations@dameallans.co.uk
We are also on Facebook, find us [The Allanian Society](#)



SPORTS NEWS



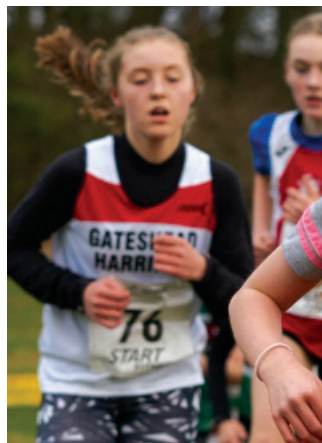
Seniors

Seven of our Year 8 girls represented Newcastle in the County finals of the Tyne and Wear Indoor Athletics Competition. We are still waiting to hear which girls will be selected to represent the County in the next round, but the team finished 3rd overall. A fantastic achievement. Well done to Abigail, Amelia, Isabel, Lily, Lucy, Marina and Sian!

Dame Allan's was well represented in the Northern Cross-Country Championships in January. Congratulations to Poppy who has been selected for the North East U13 team for the Inter Counties National Final in Loughborough in March. Will (U15) and Dan (U20) have also been selected.



Amelia (Year 8) ran at Sport City at the Manchester Indoor Open meeting representing Gateshead Harriers. She ran 60m in a new PB



of 8.30 seconds and 200m in a new PB of 26.8 seconds. As there is no U14 category, there are two stages of the U15 category - Year 1 and Year 2. Amelia competes in Year 1. This means whilst she is currently ranked 66th in the UK for U15 60m indoor, she is actually 14th in her age range. For the 200m indoor, she is currently ranked 18th, but 3rd in her age range.

Juniors

At the Junior School and Nursery, the U10 football team successfully defended the ISFA Northern Championship. Six wins and a draw was enough to see them top the group which consisted of independent schools from across the North East. The following day, the U11 squad showed their class to comfortably progress into the quarter finals of the Newcastle Schools' Cup.

Also this half-term, DAJS welcomed boys and girls from Mowden Hall School who came to play netball and hockey with Year 3. For many, it was their first fixture in a new sport and they performed well. The Senior School Sports Leaders did a fantastic job of umpiring of the boys' hockey games.



Following a fantastic win for the Year 11 team earlier in the year, the Senior School basketball teams are going from strength to strength. So far this term, the U15 team won the Tyneside Basketball competition. They beat St Cuthbert's, RGS and Durham Johnston on the way to the final against Emmanuel College. The boys played brilliantly and, with the scores level at half time, managed to pull ahead in the second half to win 25-18.

Year 9 Isaac was the top scorer for the team with Year 8 Jack scoring three crucial three-pointers. Year 10 students Nicholas and Oscar led the rebounding with fellow Year 10 students Advay and Pranav

and Year 9 Tom and Charles all contributing at both ends of the court.

The Year 9 team were not so lucky, but it was a close call! After winning through the group stage competition with wins over NSB, Valley Gardens and Emmanuel College, we hosted the Tyneside Cup Final at Dame Allan's in February. The Year 9 team beat Prudhoe 28-4, setting up a final against St Cuthbert's. In a very close match, the team just lost out 20-16 in an exciting basket-for-basket encounter with Year 9 Charles and Year 8 Jack top scoring. Some excellent performances though, from a talented team that will go from strength to strength in the coming years.



We've got a fantastic number of DABS representing us in county rugby at the moment.

Northumberland County U18s

Year 12 Ben and Year 13 Tobi, our 1st XV Captain, both played in three fixtures versus Yorkshire, Cumbria and Cheshire. Ben also gained selection to the North of England squad.

Northumberland and Durham County U17s

Year 12 students James and Ben have been selected for the Northumberland County side, whilst Year 12 Jacob has been selected for Durham.

Northumberland County U16s

Year 11 David, Dan, James, Will and Charlie have all been selected for Northumberland and recently played against Durham at Billingham.

Northumberland and Durham County U15s

In Year 10, Ben and Jaime have been selected for the Northumberland U15 squad whilst Nathan has been selected for Durham. They all have received invites to assessment sessions for the Newcastle Falcons Academy, which they will undertake over the coming months.

Check mate!

Congratulations to the Junior School and Nursery's U9 chess team, who competed in the regional round of the English Primary Schools Chess tournament at the start of February. All pupils played well and achieved points for their team, with the team taking third place.



Giving 100 per cent

You might remember in our December 2019 Digest we featured an article about the Schools' results in the Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge. Year 11 student Ben scored 100 per cent which saw him qualify to go to Oxford University to complete the final round. We're pleased to announce Ben won the overall competition for the Senior category, a truly outstanding achievement. Well done, Ben!

DASPA

After a successful Christmas Fair, DASPA funded the purchase of a cricket bowling machine. We are currently organising our annual family Ceilidh for the 28 February from 6.30pm at Newsom Hall, tickets are available on ParentPay and on the night.

The first 50/50 lucky numbers will be drawn at the Ceilidh, the £15 numbers are available to purchase on ParentPay until 24th February then at the Ceilidh itself. Half of the money will be prize money and half will be used to enhance student life at Dame Allan's. There will be a Senior Uniform sale in reception at the Ceilidh from 6pm.

Tickets for the DASPA Summer Ball (20th June) at St James' Park will be on sale from Friday 28 February. They will be available to buy via ParentPay and at the Ceilidh; for members of staff alternative arrangements will be made and communicated thereafter. Early birds can currently buy tickets at the discounted price of £60.

We are currently seeking sponsorship and raffle donations for the ball, please contact DASPA if you can help.

At the Junior School, DASPA have run two very successful movie nights and are in preparation for the annual Easter Party and a final movie night. Many thanks to Mrs Needham, Mr Thompson and Mr Horton who enable these activities to happen. We also wish all the Junior School students luck in the DASPA-sponsored decorated egg competition. Lastly, the Junior School DASPA are currently fundraising to re-landscape the pond area of woodland way.

If you would like to find more about getting involved with DASPA, please email daspa@dameallans.co.uk or chat to us at our events or when we provide refreshments at Senior School concerts; for the Junior School, please contact your year rep – details are on the DASPA notice board next to the flag pole.

Thank you

Safeguarding

We are all aware of the increasing pressure on young people and the effects that this can have on their mental health. There are lots of people in school to talk to - the nurse, the psychotherapist, and the counsellors as well as staff who can point pupils in the right direction for help. There is also plenty of helpful information on the young minds website (youngminds.org.uk) which has information for both pupils and their parents/carers.

Looking to the future...

Monday 24 February 2020
Schools resume (Senior Schools' Week 1)

Wednesday 26 February
Year 13 Parents' Evening, 4-6pm

Friday 28 February
DASPA Ceilidh, 6:30-9pm

Saturday 29 February – Sunday 1 March
Technical rehearsal for Upper School Musical, 9am-5pm

Monday 2 March
Dress rehearsal for Upper School Musical, 8:55am-5:30pm

Wednesday 4 March
Year 9 DABS Parents' Evening, 4-6pm

Thursday 5 – Saturday 7 March
'Sister Act', 7pm

Tuesday 10 March
Year 9 DAGS Parents' Evening, 4-6pm

Wednesday 11 – Sunday 15 March
Relais de la Mémoire, Paris

Friday 13 March
Prelude Dance Show, 6:30pm

Saturday 14 March
Junior School Open Morning, 9:30am-12:30pm

Monday 16 March
Senior School sports team photos, 12:30pm

Wednesday 18 – Friday 20 March
Years 3-5 Combined Arts Performance, 1:45-2:45pm

Wednesday 18 March
Year 8 DAGS Parents' Evening, 4-6pm

Friday 20 – Sunday 22 March
Officer training

Wednesday 25 – Thursday 26 March
Junior School and Nursery Parents' meetings, 3:30-6pm

Friday 27 March
Lunchtime Music Recital, 1pm

Friday 27 March
Evensong at St James' and St Basil's, 5-5:45pm

Friday 27 – Sunday 29 March
CCF weekend in Arbroath

Saturday 28 March
The Allanian Society Annual Dinner

Wednesday 1 April
Spring Concert, 6:30-7:30pm

Friday 3 April
Term ends, 3:45pm

Monday 6 – Friday 17 April
Easter holiday

Monday 20 April
Staff training day

Tuesday 21 April
Start of term

Tuesday 21 April
DASPA Back to School Coffee Morning, St James' and St Basil's Church, 8:30am



DAME ALLAN'S SCHOOLS
building the future