



DAME ALLAN'S SCHOOLS  
building the future

## Weekly Update

Friday 24 April 2020

### Welcome back!

We hope you managed to find some semblance of normality and joy over the Easter holidays - though with our first week back already under our belts, no doubt it feels a distant memory.

To help us get back into the swing of things, our thanks to Jack (Year 7) for sending us these fantastic tips for good learning at home:

- Get your books ready the night before
- In the morning, get dressed in proper clothes - don't stay in your PJs!
- Keep to the routine and school schedule
- Desk space is important - keep organised and neat and have everything ready on your own desk
- Take normal school breaks- if you can, go outside for have fresh air and play or go for a walk
- Keep in touch with teachers and let them know what you are doing and ask any questions
- Get lunch ready after morning lessons so you are not late for afternoon registration
- If you focus and do your lessons you can finish school on time so you have tons of time in the evening as you are at home already and do not have to drive or take a school bus - for example, I play tennis with my sister, I play with my two dwarf hamsters and I go for a run with my family.

### Key information

You should have received an email letter from us earlier today (Friday morning) entitled 'Information about Child Protection and Safeguarding at Dame Allan's During School Closure'. This outlines the ongoing ways in which we are providing safeguarding provision remotely and ways in which we can support you if you have any concerns.

Please take the time to read through the letter and, if you have any questions, concerns or would like future advice, our Designated Safeguarding Leads would be only too happy to help:

Mrs Fiddaman [EC.Fiddaman@dameallans.co.uk](mailto:EC.Fiddaman@dameallans.co.uk)

Mr Wildsmith [p.wildsmith@dameallans.co.uk](mailto:p.wildsmith@dameallans.co.uk)

Mrs Farren [DM.Farren@dameallans.co.uk](mailto:DM.Farren@dameallans.co.uk)

Mrs Ferguson [pl.ferguson@dameallans.co.uk](mailto:pl.ferguson@dameallans.co.uk)

Northumbria Police has also shared further information from their PREVENT team, which raises awareness of online radicalisation. If you wish to read it, please click the following link which will take you to the PDF:

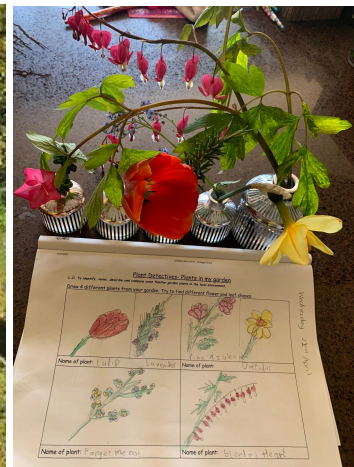
[Parent-Guardian Online Radicalisation Information and Support leaflet.pdf](#)

## Dame Allan's @ Home

Let's take a look at what some of the students have been upto recently.

### Outdoor fun!

Year 1 has been learning about capacity and there has been lots of fun water-measuring. A great lego chess set has also been built and there has been much fun outdoors in the sunshine.



### Sewing Bee!

India (Year 5) is an active member of the Sewing Club at the Junior School. She got a sewing machine for her birthday and recently made a cushion cover. We think it looks fab!





## Congratulations!

Following his success in the BEBRAS Challenge earlier in the academic year, Ben (Year 11) recently competed in the TCS Oxford Computing Challenge.

The initial round was invite only and 24 Senior School students opted to take part in this challenging round held at the beginning of March. Ben scored 100% in the first round and was subsequently invited to take part in the finals, held at the end of March.

Ben placed in 5th position in the country for this final round. Only 10 students out of the initial 1421 students entered nationally were selected to compete in the final, so this is a really fantastic achievement for Ben. He completed the final at home under parental supervision, as did the other participants. Huge congratulations to him!

## Easter holiday activities

Our thanks to the staff who provided a programme of activities over the Easter holidays for the children of key workers. From making s'mores to painting stones, it looks like it was a huge amount of fun!



## From our Chaplain

As a new term begins, Easter is already becoming a distant memory as we continue to try and live and work in very different circumstances. Our school community, for the main part, is hidden away from each other, and if we do meet it is in very small groups, for brief periods, behind closed doors perhaps with a sense of incredulity at the situation in which we find ourselves.

The Christian community will continue in its celebration of Easter for some time – albeit in a very different way. Last Sunday many of our Churches shared again the account of Thomas and his moment of doubt, though I wonder perhaps if that might be more appropriately called ‘a moment of revelation’. The account of this moment - one of withdrawal, of a closed meeting, of strange anxious circumstances, of doubt and question, of evaluation and investigation and then revelation - is something which has always fascinated me.

If we apply the same circumstances to say, the current climate of medical research and the search for a vaccine for Covid-19, we can see these situational characteristics are the very same ones which might lead to medical breakthrough. Thomas has often been maligned and remembered negatively as being the doubter, and perhaps rightly so for Jesus commended those whose faith leads them to believe without question. But I wonder if this is entirely fair. In Eastern and Asian Christianity, Thomas is often viewed a little differently. For it is in the wonder and doubt, the withdrawal and searching, that we often see new things emerge and the moments of revelation are all the more clear and abrupt.

As a Dame Allan's parent, I see first-hand the efforts that are being made to develop and deliver a creative curriculum in new ways. There are teething troubles here and there, many staff have been exhausted at trying to get something up and running quickly, before then being able to go back and refine and develop. Their motivation might be said to be rooted in that same mentality that Thomas shared – not the doubting, but the characteristic of developing wonder, independent thought and critical thinking as they find new ways to develop young leaders of the future.

Perhaps the account of Thomas is one which might encourage us not to be afraid of the real human responses of doubt and anxiety, of wonder and of searching. In anxious times, may we not doubt, but continue to search for moments of revelation.



Thomas' moment of incredulity is perfectly captured in a great work of art by Caravaggio (left). To find out more about the history of this image, the techniques that Caravaggio used and the events that it details, visit [Caravaggio, 'The incredulity of saint Thomas'](#)

**If you'd like to talk or get in touch with me about anything, you can email on [chaplain@dameallans.co.uk](mailto:chaplain@dameallans.co.uk) or telephone on 0191 274 5078 / 07485 055178.**



## And finally...

Due to the ongoing social distancing measures and lockdown, our uniform suppliers Schoolblazer, Emblematic and SquadKit are not processing or delivering orders.

If you have any uniform or sports kit - for either Junior or Senior School - which your child no longer needs or has outgrown, please consider donating to our second-hand uniform supplies. This will help us provide items to any new students who have been unable to buy the correct uniform for the start of term in September.

We cannot accept donations at the moment, but if you could pop the items to one side and email us at [enquiries@dameallans.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@dameallans.co.uk) to let us know, we would be very grateful.

We appreciate this might also affect you, our current parents and guardians, in terms of replacing old or outgrown items of uniform for the coming year. Until such time as the suppliers are up and running, if the official uniform cannot be worn, pupils can come to school in the following:

### Junior School and Nursery

- Smart grey trousers, a plain red or black jumper and a white shirt (Boys)
- Smart grey skirt, a plain red or black jumper/cardigan with a white shirt or blouse (Girls)

### Senior School

- Smart grey trousers, a plain black jumper and white shirt with the collar open (DABS)
- A smart grey knee-length skirt, plain black jumper and white, open-collared shirt or blouse (DAGS)

If you are unable to find any of these items, pupils should dress as smartly as possible for school until their uniform arrives (i.e. no hoodies, sports tops, jeans, trainers or boots).

For PE and games, pupils should wear any sports kit they have until such time as SquadKit can meet orders.

We will review this at the end of December 2020 with the hope that all will be in proper school uniform by January 2021.

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### Get in touch!

If you would like to send us stories or photos of remote learning, interesting links or useful resources, email us at [news@dameallans.co.uk](mailto:news@dameallans.co.uk)

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