

DAME ALLAN'S Digest

JULY 2022



A Vibrant Festival of Sport

The Senior Schools' fields and local athletics stadium were filled with vibrant colour, cheering and activity as pupils marked the end of an incredible term of sport with a fantastic Sports Day.



The day started with a house athletics event at Gateshead Stadium, where 200 athletes were selected to compete on the track and in the field. There were many stand-out performances, an excellent atmosphere and some brilliant PBs on the track, with Hild and Hedley leading the Sports Day standings at the halfway point in the day.

The afternoon saw all pupils take part in a whole school 'Festival of Sport', with points up for grabs in rounders, softball, football, tug of war, handball, volleyball, tennis and a dance contest. It was great to see such enjoyment in competitive sport. Congratulations go to champions Hild and Hedley, who managed to retain their lead from the morning athletics and finish with 795 points, just 40 points ahead of second place Ridley and Cuthbert. Third were Bede and Brewer and fourth Plummer and Aidan.

The Junior School also enjoyed its own fun-filled Sports Days across different year groups. Early Years children took part in various events including egg and spoon, a sack race, an obstacle course and some sprints, while KS1 pupils opened their Sports Day with a fabulous Olympic Games inspired parade.

Pupils in KS2 were split into groups and rotated around a carousel of sporting events, including 60/80m sprints, 200m, 400m, hurdles, long jump, cricket ball throw and relay, to gain points for their houses. In Years 3/4 Aln came first with 826 points, in Year 5 Tweed won with 727 points and in Year 6 Coquet celebrated with 922 points.

Thank you to staff for their huge team efforts in helping to officiate, score and organise pupils at these events... and thank you to all parents who came to support and cheer!



A welcome from the Principal

This term has reminded us how a real end of year should be - from the leavers' ball and sports day through to the myriad trips, visits, performances and everything else. It has certainly been busy but also fulfilling and significant, not least in the willing and purposeful engagement of so many young people, staff, parents and alumni in these events that make life at Dame Allan's feel special.

One of the best bits, it seems curious to write, was the return to a proper public exam season, complete with all of the strains and stresses we would normally expect, but managed in an extraordinarily calm and mature way by all our young people. We have discussed on many occasions over the last two years how to develop resilience, a sense of gratitude and a growth mindset, but it was breathtaking nevertheless to see these qualities so well presented in our 275 GCSE and A Level candidates - I take my hat off to them all.

As this term draws to a close, we bid farewell to two long serving members of staff - Mr Friel after an extraordinary 39 years teaching French and Latin, and our librarian Mrs Giddings, who has been with us for 22 years. We wish them the very best for long and happy retirements.

At this time last year, I wrote about the 'first steps' in our North End development project. Now, the exciting final steps are being taken to complete the building, ready for our return in September. We are looking forward to settling into this building and enjoying our new facilities to the full.

May I wish everyone in the Dame Allan's family a lovely summer break.

Final Show is a Roaring Success

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Summer Prize Giving

It was great to celebrate the successes of all our pupils at the Summer Term Prize Giving on 28 June at St James' and St Basil's Church.

For the first time, pupils in Years 7, 8, 9, and 10, 12 were awarded their prizes before Speech Day in three separate ceremonies. There were so many fabulous achievements from our pupils across the year that selecting our prize winners proved immensely challenging. A huge congratulations to all our prize winners.

We hope that you all enjoyed the new structure which we believe allowed us to better recognise the efforts and achievements of so many of our pupils.

Final Show is a Roaring Success

YEAR 6 put on a spectacular performance of *The Lion King* for friends and family in a perfect last hurrah before leaving the Junior School.

With the support and encouragement of staff, pupils planned and rehearsed with such energy and commitment, making all the colourful

props and masks themselves.

Mr Laidler, Head of Junior School and Nursery, said: "The children were so motivated throughout and we were all incredibly proud of the final performance. It was a real team effort, which showcased the talents of the staff and children as well as thrilling the audiences."



For One Night Only

Performing arts pupils in Years 7-9 delighted the audience with an evening of music, drama and dance in the Newsom Hall.

The varied programme featured pieces inspired by different musicals, including *Dream Girls*, *The Greatest Showman*, *Chicago* and *Sister Act*, and included performances by the Intermediate Choir, Musical Theatre Club, Rogue Boys and Jeune Dance Company,

as well as dance and drama clubs.

Pupils worked hard during rehearsals all term, with those in Years 7 and 8 also taking part in a Musical Theatre Day, and special thanks goes to all staff who supported them. Allnian Kayleigh Oborka-Letman choreographed pieces for both Jeune and the Year 9 dance club, while Matthew Bell returned to help direct the boys' drama group with their own original Monty Pythonesque version of *Bugsy Malone*.



“ We have so many incredible talented and creative children in Year 7, 8 and 9. It has been wonderful to see these pupils grow and develop their skills, and for them to share their love of performing arts with their families and teachers in what was a wonderful celebration of all their hard work this year. ”

Head of Drama, Kristy Clark

The DASPA Diamond Ball



The DASPA Black Tie and Diamond Ball on the 18th of June, sponsored by Queensway Dental, was a huge success. Over 280 parents, staff and governors from Dame Allan's Schools had a brilliant evening.

St James' Park proved to be a stunning venue, the room decorated by DASPA volunteers and sponsored by Vertu Motors looked wonderful. Fizz on arrival and magicians for entertainment got the evening off to a great start. This was followed by a game of heads and tails and our delicious dinner. After our main course, we drew our 50-50 numbers and diamond raffle, when a guest won a stunning diamond necklace from Angelic Diamonds. Our auction with fabulous prizes from the school and generous donations from parents and local businesses was great fun and helped events at the ball raise just over £4000. Guests were then treated to a fantastic disco and a fun casino. A photographer was present on the night and captured some wonderful moments (we will be in touch with attendees in due course regarding access to photos).

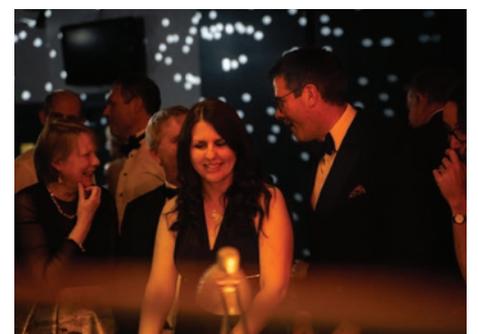
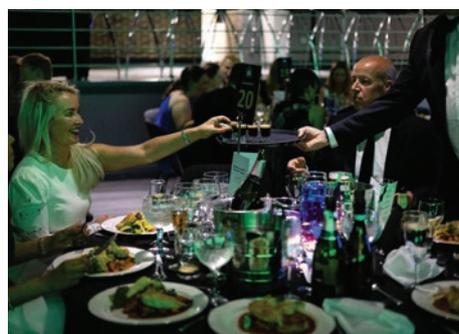
Overall the ball was a terrific evening and a wonderful way to celebrate our great school while raising money for additional purchases and activities that will benefit our students. Thanks to our ball sponsor Queensway Dental who helped make the event such a success. In total the ball raised £16,000 and we have undertaken to utilise some of the money to pay for a state-of-the-art kiln for the North East Development. Many thanks to all the parents and staff who attended and supported this successful event.

This term the DASPA committee has also been very busy with lots of events. We have been privileged to be part of the school team

welcoming new parents at numerous events. We look forward to their support and potential membership of DASPA! (Please email daspa@dameallans.co.uk if you would like to join our growing committee.) We hosted tea, coffee and cakes for all of the students in years 11 and 13 on their final examination day. At the ever-welcoming St James and St Basil's Church we provided breakfast before the lower KS 2 sports day. There have also been two uniform sales this term and we will continue our monthly sales (first Tuesday of the month) next year. As always donations are gratefully accepted and can be left at reception of both the Juniors and Senior Schools.

We have held a reception film night, provided prizes for the nursery colouring competition and paid for and organised an ice-cream van as a treat for all junior school students. We were excited to co-hosted the neon year 6 and 7 parties. Finally, this term we provided refreshments for the fantastic For One Night Only event on the 2nd of July.

A really big thank you to all of the parents and staff at Dame Allan's Schools who have supported and encouraged these events. We wish you a brilliant summer and hope to see you at our school-wide welcome coffee morning on 7th September at St James and St Basil's Church at 8.45 am.



In conversation with... Jennifer Kenny

Sixth Form, Higher Education and Careers Administrator



Tell us about your role:

It's a very varied job that sees me liaising with students, staff and DAS alumni, as well as higher education and apprenticeship providers, and numerous companies and employers. I directly work with both Mrs Whitehouse, the Schools' Head of Careers, and Mr Terry, the Head of Sixth Form, to ensure that collectively we are doing all we can to support students' aspirations and plans for the future.

The role of the careers department is not 'just' to offer advice to students, we are here to provide a clear understanding of the world of work; to

look at routes to jobs and careers; to help students set up realistic goals and encourage them to increase their skills and be broadminded; and to inspire them through a variety of special events and organised placements.

What sort of events take place?

This Summer Term we organised for Year 12 students to attend the UCAS Higher Education Exhibition, Lancaster University and also arranged a Sixth Form Experience Day for Year 10. More recently we hosted the popular Allanians Return and Inspire event, which the Year 12s found very helpful. Looking ahead, we are working now on plans for October's Futures Fair, which this year will have a 'Go Green' theme, and we're in the process of inviting lots of companies and Higher Education providers to talk to our students and offer them the best advice possible.

You only joined us in April, can you tell us a little more about yourself:

The path that led me here has been an interesting one. My father was a British soldier and, while I would

probably call Liverpool 'home', I spent a lot of my childhood in Germany and attended many different schools both in England and abroad, depending on where he was posted. My own career path has been equally varied! I started out in the legal industry and I'm a qualified paralegal by trade. However, after working for two large law firms I then took a step into estate agency eight years ago and found my niche as a Sales Progressor, where my legal background helped when guiding sellers and buyers through the conveyancing process.

When this role at DAS became available, I knew I had a wealth of experience to bring to the Schools and pupils, even down to being able to advise those in Year 13 soon heading off to university on student housing!

Life is a journey, and very often one that's full of twists, turns and junctions, especially when it comes to career choices. I'm thoroughly enjoying supporting students as they embark on their own journey through Dame Allan's and beyond, and I encourage each and every one of them to follow their dreams.



A tour of Js' and B's

On Thursday 9th June, a group of Allanians which included former pupils and staff, gathered for a tour of St James' and St Basil's Church.

Afterwards, the guests enjoyed a lovely afternoon tea outside in J's and B's gardens. Thank you to everyone who came along, and to our hosts at J's and B's, for a wonderful tour.

More photos from the day can be found on our website: <https://theallaniansociety.co.uk>

The Allanian Society Save the Date!

Tickets are now available to book for all year reunion year groups ending in 0, 1, 2 and 3! We would like to invite you to join us for a tour of the schools followed by an afternoon tea with your old school friends.

To book your place visit :
<https://theallaniansociety.co.uk/events> or
email: development@dameallans.co.uk.

Classes of 2020 and 2021 BBQ
9 September 2022

Reunion for all year groups ending in 2
1 October 2022

Allanian Society AGM
11 October 2022

Reunion for all year groups ending in 0
15 October 2022

Reunion for all year groups ending in 1
19 November 2022

Allanian Dinner 2023
11 February 2023

Reunion for all year groups ending in 3
4 March 2023

London Drinks
11 May 2023



Junior Masterchef returns!

Food Studies pupils welcomed the return of the Schools' popular Junior MasterChef competition and created some incredible dishes that showcased their culinary skills and flair.

Eleven Year 9 pupils made it through to the final of the cooking contest and had 90 minutes to create a two-course meal. A panel of judges took into account the level of skill and creativity, as well as the appearance, taste and texture of each dish when awarding points to the young cooks.

Amelia and Martha, who together prepared a starter of rocket and parmesan bresaola rolls followed by an authentic schnitzel chicken main course, were crowned winners.

Allanian Graham Watson, who attended DAS in 1968 until 1975, and guest Tina Embleton, were invited to help judge. He said "The standard was extremely high and I'd have been happy to pay for the food at a restaurant. Cooking has been a hobby of mine for 35 years and it's great to see young pupils demonstrate real creativity in the kitchen."

The competition was open to all pupils in Years 8 – 10. Head of Food Studies Danielle Crawley said: "This is the first Junior MasterChef since Covid and the students have done so well, working to a brief in GCSE-style conditions to create some exceptional dishes. Well done to all who took part!"



The Schools were delighted to welcome back those Allanians who kindly attended the annual Return and Inspire speed networking event, to offer advice and guidance to Year 12 pupils.

The Newsom Hall was set up with eight large tables, each of which was given its own theme or topic and headed by a guest Allanian, together with supporting members of staff, some of whom were former Dame Allan's pupils themselves. The students, who will soon be applying to universities and considering their next steps after Dame Allan's, made their way around the tables over the course of 80 minutes and gained valuable careers guidance, tips and advice.

Sarah Hewitt (class of 2017) returned to share her experience of taking an apprenticeship with global professional services company Accenture. She was joined by Year 13 pupil Anna Gillespie, who has secured an apprenticeship with chartered accountants UNW. Miss Hewitt said: "It's nice to help remove the stigma sometimes attached to

apprenticeship schemes and explain the many benefits of going down that route for students who perhaps aren't keen on heading off to university."

Former Head Boy and Cambridge student Geordie Cheetham (class of 2020) came back to offer pupils guidance on university applications and life after school. He said "My advice was to ensure they never pigeonhole themselves, and instead figure out what really interests and inspires them, because that's what will get them up in the morning ready to live, learn and work!"

Our thanks go to all those who attended, including:

Emily and Libby Doughty (class of 2021)
 Rachel Younger (class of 2021)
 Katy Lyall (class of 2020)
 Kayleigh Oborka Letman (class of 2018)
 Elspeth Cunningham (class of 2017)
 Charlotte Keenan (class of 2017)
 Jenny Wilkes (class of 2013)
 Stephen Davies (class of 1994)

Beach Clean

Well done to Willow and William who organised a large litter pick at South Beach, in Blyth, where they and ten classmates from Year 7 DAGS and DABS filled more than a dozen large sacks with waste.

The pair then gave a fantastic assembly to Year 5 and 6 pupils in the Junior School about their community work, to encourage them to do their bit to help save the planet.

William said: "We wanted to talk to the younger Dame Allan's pupils because it's important to encourage people from an early age to make a difference. We challenged them to do their bit for the planet and start picking up litter."



A Fond Farewell

Two long-serving members of staff have retired from Dame Allan's Schools.

Mr Friel, who joined Dame Allan's in 1983 when DABS and DAGS operated as two very separate schools, is leaving after 39 years as a teacher of both Latin and French. Outside his work in the classroom, Mr Friel has organised and accompanied pupils on numerous overseas language trips.

During his years here, Mr Friel was Head of Lower School DABS (2009 – 2020), ran the weight-training club, was in charge of cricket and cross country teams, and ran the school tuck shop.

He told us: "I will undoubtedly miss the pupils and my colleagues. The lively, enquiring minds of DAS pupils has not diminished over the years and it would be hard to imagine working with a finer set of colleagues. Teachers at DAS are not only supportive

of the pupils but of each other."

Librarian Mrs Giddings, who joined Dame Allan's in February 2000, has also retired after more than 22 years at the Schools. Mrs Giddings was instrumental in cataloguing all books onto the electronic system and worked at both the Junior and Senior School sites. She also helped pupils enter numerous national reading competitions.

She said: "I will miss the pupils very much; there's no greater job satisfaction than a child asking for your help to choose a book and then coming back, having read one, to rave about how much they enjoyed it. My advice to all pupils would be: learn to love reading for pleasure, because there's nothing better than being absorbed in a good book!"

The Schools would like to wish both Mr Friel and Mrs Giddings a very happy retirement!

Sports Highlights

The Year 9 and 10 girls' athletics team made it through to the ESAA Track and Field Cup Final finishing 10th in the country. Congratulations to Martha, who smashed a championship record in the Inter Girls Pole Vault with a jump of 2.75m.

Individually, Martha and Poppy (Year 9), and Will Collinson (Year 12), made it through to the national ESAA Track and Field Championship. Will qualified to compete in the boys 1500m with a time of 3:57, while Poppy qualified for the girls 800m having placed second at the county championships with a time of 2:18.

Year 8 pupils competed in the Tyne and Wear Schools Athletics Competition, where the boys team finished third overall and the girls team finished fifth.

Our u13 girls' cricket team came second in the TWSSA tournament. Congratulations to India and Lorena who both represented Northumberland in u13 county cricket.

Our u11 girls' cricket team won the inaugural HMC u11 cricket tournament in York.

The u14 boys' cricket team made it through to the county cup final last month following a great semi-final against Queen Elizabeth High School.

The Schools' IXI celebrated victory in a super match against a strong Allanian side.

Our u13 boys' tennis team came second in the TWSSA tennis tournament.

Safeguarding at Dame Allan's

Whilst we wish you all a lovely and very well-deserved summer, safeguarding remains a priority for the Schools during the holidays. Any safeguarding concerns or enquiries can still be made to the Schools over the summer. Please contact us via enquiries@dameallans.co.uk or call the Senior Schools' office on 0191 275 0608 and your concerns will be referred on to a Safeguarding Lead.

Please note: the Junior School office will not be staffed over the summer, so the contact details above should be used for any safeguarding query about pupils from Nursery to Year 13.

You can also access Social Services for your area via the numbers in our Safeguarding Policy which is on the website. If anyone is in immediate danger, do not hesitate to call the police.

There are many helplines available for both parents and pupils, particularly for mental health issues. These can offer general advice and support as well as contact options for a one to one chat within the kooth and themix sites.

www.kooth.com
www.childline.org.uk
www.youngminds.org.uk/
www.themix.org.uk/



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building the future