

# DAME ALLAN'S Digest



OCTOBER 2022

## A Greener Futures Fair



**OUR annual Futures Fair, which helps hundreds of pupils realise the countless opportunities available to them after they leave school, was another huge success.**

Forty representatives from companies, organisations, trusts and charities throughout the region, together with 18 Further/Higher Education institutes and apprenticeship providers, attended the popular fair to offer advice and guidance to pupils from Years 7 to 13.

The Futures Fair had a 'Go Green' theme this year, with exhibitors and speakers sharing their eco-policies and addressing environmental issues.

We were delighted to welcome Northumberland Wildlife Trust and Urban Green Newcastle, as well as the Co-op, whose representatives spread the message about recycling soft plastics.

Dr Georgina Sowman, a GP and a lead member of the RCGP Climate and Ecological Emergency advisory group, gave a fascinating talk on the impact of healthcare on the climate, and, in keeping with the theme, guests were treated to a sustainable gift pack, with reusable eco cup, recycled pen and pack of bee-friendly 'Seeds of Gratitude'.

A number of Allanians came to give inspirational career talks to older pupils in Years 10 to 13, including filmmaker Krishna Muthurangu, Director of The Deli Film Company, Jenny Wilkes, a solicitor at Womble Bond Dickinson, Ella Hughes, a First Class BA (Hons) Interior Architecture graduate who works at GT3 Architects, and Dr Georgina Cassie, a GP at the Forum Family Practice, in Cramlington.

Dr Cassie (Class of 1993) spoke to those interested in the field of medicine about both the challenges and the job satisfaction in her line of work. Sharing her top tips, she said: "My advice to all pupils is to be open to every opportunity that comes their way; to keep learning and to listen to the people around them, because experience is everything; and to look after their mental health."

Miss Wilkes (Class of 2013), a solicitor specialising in agriculture, farms and estates, spoke to pupils about the different routes into law and the availability of apprenticeship schemes. The talented footballer, who played at an elite level as a teenager, said: "My top tip to pupils is to continue with co-curricular activities because, not only do they gain transferable skills, but those activities they do alongside their studies are the things future employers want to talk to them about at interview."

Allanians Andy Bolland, of high-performance digital company Attract, and Nick White, of Graham Construction, had stands in the 'STEM' zone of the fair, alongside Professor Matt Boyle OBE, Executive Chair of Driving the Electric Revolution Innovation Centre and Chair of the North East Automotive Alliance, who gave a presentation to inspire the engineers of the future.

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## A welcome from the Principal

It has been a busy and exciting start to the new academic year, packed full of activities, trips and fixtures, but also with a somewhat sombre note as we mourned the death of Queen Elizabeth II. In 2005 Her Majesty opened the sixth form centre, the Queen's Building. This term pupils have enjoyed making use of the fantastic facilities in our new Jubilee Building, also named in her honour, for science, maths, art and languages.

We are thrilled with the development and my thanks go to all those involved in the creation of this outstanding learning environment which our pupils and staff will enjoy for years to come. One individual who went above-and-beyond during the build was estates manager Les Kirkbride, who is retiring after 15 years of service to the Schools. Les will be much missed and we all wish him well.

It's always a pleasure to welcome new faces at the start of term and also to see pupils settling back into school life, refreshed and ready after the summer break. Year 7 pupils in DABS and DAGS have enjoyed their residential trips to Derwent Hill, with opportunities to form friendships, develop new skills, and most importantly have fun.

Speech day allowed us to reflect on the successes of last year and it was an honour to have Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson as our guest speaker. Her inspiring and encouraging words set the tone for the year ahead. We were also delighted to welcome award-winning international speaker Marcus Child just this week to launch The Lectures. We're looking forward to behavioural economist Roger Martin-Fagg's talk on 1st November - do book in and join us.

With some pupils travelling abroad over the coming week - on sports trips to Holland and Northern Ireland, a languages visit to Spain, and the history and politics trip to New York and Washington DC - I hope everyone has an enjoyable Lord Mayor's holiday on Friday and a restful half term break.

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Matt said: "The world needs more engineers! The North East has a huge deficit, so it's important to talk about engineering with young people and open their eyes to the wealth of opportunities."

"This is a really good careers fair, and my aim is to demystify engineering and champion the importance of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics) because the industry needs more creative and skilled people."

NHS Northumbria Healthcare had a popular stand on the day, with resources from its state-of-the-art simulation hub (DASH) at Wansbeck Hospital, including an augmented reality headset that was able to teach users about the human skeleton.

More than 1,000 pupils benefitted from the Futures Fair, including guests from St Thomas More Catholic School, Benfield School, Westfield School, and Kings Priory School.

Head of Careers Bel Whitehouse said: "It was fantastic to see all ages benefit from the event, from the Year 7s so excited about the choices out there when they get older, to our Sixth Form students who are making very serious decisions that will shape their entire future."

"Our gratitude, as always, goes to the Allansians and the many representatives who gave up their time to come to Dame Allan's to share their knowledge with such enthusiasm... they really are helping the next generation make informed decisions about green careers and eco-friendly, eco-futures."

- **A competition to design a Go Green eco pavilion was launched at the fair. The deadline for entries is 12pm on November 7. To enter visit: <https://forms.gle/j1fjBLHaQVnQaMV77>**
- **The Futures Fair website represents all companies who were able to join us onsite or virtually, as well as Go Green and UN Sustainable Goals values and aims: <https://sites.google.com/dameallans.co.uk/futuresfair2020/home>**

## Career poster winner



CONGRATULATIONS to Mariana, in Year 4 at Dame Allan's Junior School, who won the CDI's (Career Development Institute) 'Careers in 100 Years' national poster competition.

Mariana designed a fantastic poster recruiting for a job in the future... an 'Automatic Instant Food Maker'!

Her entry caught the attention of CDI chief executive David Morgan, who came to the school to talk to pupils in Years 3 - 6, and present Marianna with a £100 book voucher.

He said: "We liked the strong promotional approach to the poster - appealing to people through their stomachs - and the level of content Mariana included."



At the beginning of term, pupils, parents and staff gathered at the Sage in Gateshead for the Senior Schools' annual Speech Day. This year, we were lucky enough to be joined by BARONESS Tanni Grey-Thompson who was a hugely inspiring and engaging guest speaker. As one of Britain's greatest Paralympic athletes, she shared personal and often funny stories from both her schooldays and her years as an athlete, while also recounting the time she met the Queen to receive her Dame Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (DBE) in 2005.

Her heartfelt words of encouragement - inspiring pupils to have goals and chase their dreams - provided the perfect message at what was a lovely evening of celebration for Dame Allan's Schools.

Attendees were also treated to music, dance and drama performances by some of our talented pupils as well as a vote of thanks from Head Girl Alex and Head Boy John.



# Derwent Hill

This year both DABS and DAGS went on their respective residential trips to the fantastic Derwent Hill, in the Lake District. The outdoor excursions are always full of adventure and fun, helping pupils to develop confidence, resilience and get to know each other better.

On Friday 30 September 46 Year 7 Girls went to Derwent Hill to begin their weekend of outdoor adventures and activities. The girls started off with some orienteering at Talkin Tarn where their positive approaches prevented the rain from dampening their spirits. The weather later calmed down enough for the girls to enjoy various high - adrenaline activities such as ghyll scrambling and canoeing at Derwent Hill. However, without doubt, it was the giant swing that was the most enjoyed activity as the girls overcame their fears and were treated to a thrilling and exhilarating experience.

The following weekend was the time of the boys' school. The boys threw themselves into all their activities with a similar enthusiasm. They enjoyed orienteering, hill walking, canoeing, gorge walking and the high ropes challenge. All of which helped them to develop the key skills of listening and working together as a team.

The support of Sixth Form officers, Alex, Annabelle, Iona and Zoë, was really appreciated by the members of staff on the DAGS trip: Ms Ward, Mrs McLaughlin, Ms Fairbairn, Miss Clifton, Miss Reynolds and Mr Dobson. Likewise a huge thanks to the Sixth Form officers, John, Hadyn and George, who came along to help alongside Mr Ridley, Mr Gardner, Mrs Cookson, Dr Leese, Mr Surrage, Mrs Mee, Mr Jones,



Mrs Morris and Dr Wilkinson on the DABS trip. They were wonderful role models for the Y7's helping them to overcome their fears and tackle all the various activities in front of them.

It was great to see both the girls and the boys develop the Dame Allan's Attributes for Success throughout the trip. They showed kindness to others, both during tasks and when people felt a bit homesick. They challenged themselves and pushed themselves to do even the hardest tasks, showing their growth mindsets. And they even returned without a bag full of lost property, so they are definitely doing well when it comes to organisation! We now look forward to many more adventures with our Year 7 boys and girls across the rest of academic year.

## Cookbook Fundraiser

A COOKBOOK packed with popular school recipes has raised an incredible £1,179 for charity.

The money will be donated to '4Louis', a Sunderland-based charity that supports families across the UK affected by miscarriage, stillbirth and infant loss.

Head of Food Studies Mrs Crawley compiled the cookbook using school recipes and creative recipe ideas submitted by staff and pupils.

She said: "The charity 4Louis is a huge support to many families and this cookbook was a great way to raise funds for such a worthy cause.

"Pupils, parents and staff have been hugely supportive of this venture and I'm so grateful to all those who purchased a book and helped to raise this astonishing amount."



## In conversation with... Katherine Leonard, Development Officer



### Tell us about your role:

The Development Office works to build relationships, to strengthen the Schools' community and support their mission to provide the best education to every pupil, regardless of background.

It's much more than fundraising - though that is very important. It's also about building links with our community and enabling alumni to stay connected with one another and the Schools.

Day to day, I might be speaking with a donor about how best to use their gift; making arrangements for an Allanian to visit to talk with pupils; or organising a reunion event. It's a busy and varied role, and I enjoy that.

### So, you have a strong relationship with alumni?:

I'm the point of contact for the Allanian Society and any former pupils wanting to get back in touch. We're fortunate to have a large network of Allanians supporting the Schools in many ways, and I'm working to build upon these foundations and to raise the profile of the Allanian Society among pupils, staff and parents.

### How can Allanians become more involved?:

We have a new website, [theallaniansociety.co.uk](http://theallaniansociety.co.uk), which hundreds have joined so far; it's a hub for Allanian news and events. Anyone connected with the Schools is welcome to join. It will also host our mentoring programme, where Allanians and other friends of the Schools can offer to volunteer their time at school careers events or with younger Allanians embarking on the first steps of their career.

We hold numerous events throughout the year: reunions, the annual Allanian Dinner and Christmas lunch, sports matches, a coffee morning... there's something for everyone I hope. It's a friendly and supportive network and I think it's nice for leavers to know that wherever in the world they end up, and whatever they are doing, they will remain a part of the Allanian Society and can get involved at any point.

### You joined Dame Allan's six months ago, how have you settled?:

I've found everyone to be so welcoming and helpful as I find my feet in the role.

An exciting part of my job is the opportunity to be involved in the Schools' vision and plans for the future. I'm able to see projects come to fruition and the impact that donations have on pupils' school experience.

I also love meeting so many Allanians who have gone on to have successful and interesting careers in such varied fields after leaving Dame Allan's. I always like to hear from Allanians and share their success stories with our network.

## Estates Manager Les Kirkbride retires after 15 years' service



### ESTATES manager Les Kirkbride has retired after 15 years' service dedicated to the management and development of Dame Allan's Schools.

A much-loved member of staff who has remained steadfastly committed to the '24/7 role', Mr Kirkbride chose to wait until the completion of the Jubilee Building before saying goodbye to the Schools.

"It was really important for me to oversee such an important and impressive build and see it through to the end," he said. "It's been a crazy year with a lot of moving - out of the old building, into the temporary portacabins and storage, and then into the new development - but it's rewarding to finally see the Jubilee Building being used and enjoyed; I feel very proud."

Mr Kirkbride has overseen many other developments during his years at the

Schools, most notably the creation of the Junior School and Nursery, as well as the refurbishment of the library, and work on the reception, food tech room, DT centre, drama room, labs 12, 13 and S6, and the new music room.

"I've loved seeing the school grow and thrive, it has given me so much job satisfaction," he said.

He admitted: "It's a 24/7 role that never stops... I even got a call one Christmas morning about a technical fault!"

"I'm proud to be an Allanian - to be part of a school community with such a unique and warm, friendly feel," said Mr Kirkbride.

## balletLORENT

Dame Allan's Junior School took 25 Year 5 and 6 pupils to the premiere of Rapunzel by the leading dance theatre company balletLORENT at Northern Stage. They had a fantastic time and loved the use of props, the broad age range of the dancers and the contemporary twist on a classic fairytale. Year 6 pupils were then able to meet with the choreographers and some dancers when balletLORENT came to the school to hold a special workshop.

# Great sporting start to the year

**It's been a strong start to the new term, with many excellent games played on the rugby and hockey pitches, and some fast running on the cross country tracks.**

Congratulations to Eve, Penny, Leah, Annabel, Nick and Archie, all in Year 7, who ran superbly at the NSAA Cross Country and qualified for the next round. The Year 7 girls' and boys' teams both finished in second place in the overall team competition.

Emmanuel College hosted an invitational cross country tournament, where the Year 9/10 girls' team celebrated first place. The Year 9/10 boys' team, and the Year 7/8 girls' and boys' teams, all came second in their races.

The Inter Girls and Senior Girls both finished fourth in their overall team events at the ESAA Cross Country Cup and qualified for

the regional finals in November. A special mention to Annie and Poppy who both ran exceptionally well.

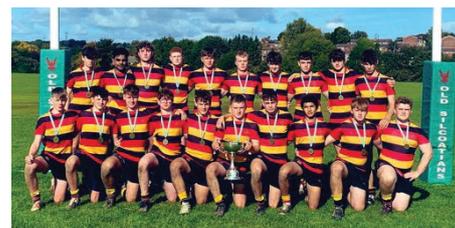
In hockey, the girls have shown excellent skill and development on the pitch. Well done to the u14s who were TWSSA winners and made it through to the Northern Schools Sub Area Finals. The u12s were runners up in the Barnard Castle School tournament, with Penny winning player of the tournament, while the u13s were runners up in the Yarm School tournament.

The boys rugby teams have played some brilliant matches and shown great teamwork and positivity. Our 1st XV celebrated excellent wins at both the Tom Burrow Cup, and against Yarm School, at the Darlington Arena. Sixth form pupils Tom, Harry and Oliver are on the Falcons u18 programme, while Harry in Year 11 has secured a place on the u16 programme.

In football, the u16s progressed to the next round of the city cup following a 5-4 penalty shootout against Benfield School. The u14 team also progressed to the next round after

a 5-1 win against Walbottle School. Well done to Ahmed who is on the City Boys' squad.

Well done to the u16 netball team who won the City Tournament, and to the u15 team who came runners up.



## The Allanian Society

**WRITER Ian La Frenais - creator of some of the most iconic comedy shows on television including Porridge, The Likely Lads and Auf Wiedersehen, Pet - returned to Dame Allan's where he was a pupil in the '50s, to inspire some of the Schools' budding creative writers.**

The writer, who now lives in LA, spoke fondly of his time at school. "Growing up in Whitley Bay and my happy schooldays at Dame Allan's defined me as a person. While I live and work in the 'craziness' that is Hollywood, the values I hold dear are rooted in my upbringing," he said.

Born in Monkseaton, La Frenais went to primary school in Whitley Bay before attending Dame Allan's Boys' School, where he was a keen rugby player and often involved backstage in theatre productions. During the visit he was taken on a tour of the school's Fenham site by Sixth Form pupils Arwen and Annabel, and shown the new Jubilee Building.

"It's great to come back. While some of the original buildings look physically the same on the outside, it's incredible to see the transformation inside and be shown the new development, with its fantastic space for art," he said.



"The students here are really switched on and knowledgeable; it's been a real pleasure."

### October reunion

On the 1st October, we had the pleasure of welcoming back Allanians from far and wide who left in 1962, 1972, 1980, 1982 and 1992 for a tour of the Schools and afternoon tea. The next reunion is due to be held on Saturday 19 November - tickets are available on our website.



Reunion attendees from 1982 with former staff, Bill Lomas.

### Save the Date!

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

Allanian Society AGM  
2 November 2022

Reunion for all year groups  
ending in 0 and 1  
19 November 2022

Richard Holmes Memorial Match  
10 December 2022

Allanian Society Christmas Lunch  
16 December 2023

Allanian Coffee Morning  
18 January 2023

Allanian Dinner 2023  
11 February 2023

Reunion for all year groups  
ending in 3  
4 March 2023

London Drinks  
11 May 2023

# Transport

Following a couple of incidents recently, we would like to remind parents not to drive along or park on Fowberry Crescent, Bourne Avenue and Bolbec Road.

If you are driving to the Schools, please try to park slightly further away and walk the last bit of the journey.

# DASPA

**During this half term DASPA have organised some great events to connect and support parents. Our welcome coffee mornings and uniform sales have been a lovely opportunity to meet new parents and catch up with others. We take donations of uniform all year so please leave any preloved donations at school receptions. Our next senior sale is on 1 November 8.45-10 at St James' and St Basil's Fenham and our junior sale will be held during upcoming parents' evenings.**

It has been DASPA's pleasure to offer refreshments at the Drivetime Concert and the Music Scholars' Concert. The performances

were fantastic and it was lovely to have new members of DASPA helping out. Please have a chat with us about what DASPA does at these events, we would love to meet you.

We have organised two Halloween parties one for year 8 and one for year 3 and 4. Many thanks to all the staff and DASPA members who make these events possible.

This half term we have funded the purchase of aprons for the Food Technology department to be used by both Junior and Senior pupils.

We will be organising a design a magnet competition at juniors next half term. The magnets will then be sent to Allanians and local

residents. We will also be holding our annual Design a Bauble Competition at the junior school. All baubles entered will decorate the school Christmas tree.

Many thanks to Mrs Needham for organising our Christmas card and calendar fundraiser at the juniors. Thanks for everyone's support purchasing the items, it's a great fundraiser for the junior school.

We are currently organising the DASPA Christmas Fair which will be held in the Newsom Hall on 26 November from 10-12pm. If you have any raffle prizes you would like to donate please contact [daspa@dameallans.co.uk](mailto:daspa@dameallans.co.uk). We will be collecting tombola prizes including sweets, bottles and toys at the senior school the week before the fair. If you would like to help at the fair please contact DASPA! Thank you.

Our AGM is on 17 November at 6.00pm in the senior library and all parents and carers are welcome to attend to hear about our work over the past year and our plans for the future.

## Safeguarding at Dame Allan's

Now that the Autumn Term is well underway, many of our young people are actively engaged in sport, representing their school, club or county in a range of activities. Physical activity, particularly participation in team sport, has a strong and positive influence on mental health and wellbeing in young people, boosting mood, building resilience and protecting against depression and anxiety.

October 3rd-9th was 'Keeping Your Child Safe in Sport Week', and the NSPCC has a range of resources on best practice for sports clubs on their website, including an informative e-learning course for parents (<https://thecpsu.org.uk/parents/keeping-your-child-safe-in-sport-e-learning-course/>). For any activity, it is important to check that a club or organisation is accredited or

affiliated to a regulating body. Check that your child's club takes the safety, wellbeing and safeguarding of its members seriously by checking that they have suitable vetting and safeguarding procedures in place, including a named welfare officer that you can contact if you have a concern. Clubs should actively welcome questions about their activities and policies and have information on demand.



DAME ALLAN'S SCHOOLS  
building the future