

DAME ALLAN'S Digest



MAY 2024

Success for our Debut Giving Day

The 16 and 17 May saw an exciting first for Dame Allan's Schools, our inaugural Giving Day!

This very special event, organised by Development Officer Mrs Leonard, sparked a host of fun and engaging activities across both the Junior and Senior Schools, designed to raise awareness and support for our transformational Bursary Awards.

The fun began on 16 May at the Junior School, where pupils of all ages enjoyed an Olympic-themed day of celebration, featuring a fun outdoor inflatable, house competitions, a Giving Day picnic lunch, and lots of other engaging activities.

On 17 May - specially chosen to mark Dame Allan's founding year of 1705 - Senior pupils and staff rallied to create a fantastically celebratory atmosphere. Competition was fierce in the house fun run, which culminated in a tricky (but hilarious!) inflatable obstacle course. A huge well done too to the staff who were brave enough to take on the inflatable gauntlet, including Principal Mr Scott and Bursar Mrs McDonald! Senior School pupils also marked

the occasion with a special Giving Day themed dessert, created by our talented catering team.

Mr Scott said: We are so grateful to everyone who got involved on the day to show their support, and of course, those who made kind donations to our bursary fund. Thanks to your kindness, we managed to raise an incredible £84,612, which will help even more children within our local community to access a Dame Allan's education, and to fulfil their potential.

Mrs Leonard added: "I'd like to say a very special thank you also to the pupils, past and present, who very kindly shared their experience of attending Dame Allan's on an assisted place. Your openness and generosity really helped to bring Giving Day to life."

You can find out more about Giving Day and the Dame Allan's Bursary Fund by contacting Mrs Leonard at ke.leonard@dameallans.co.uk.



A welcome from the Principal

Summer has finally arrived, just in time to welcome some of our annual milestone moments: the beginning of study leave and public exams, and a first-of-its-kind Leavers' Dinner and prize giving which we held at the Discovery Museum - a super evening.

Excitingly, this half term also saw our very first Giving Day - a fantastic example of our community coming together to support the Dame Allan's bursary fund. There was something for everyone to get involved in and we all took our turn on the inflatable obstacle course!

Our Year 5 pupils have also had their fair share of excitement with their residential trip to Derwentwater, you can read more about this inside.

Many showcases and competitions have also taken place over the last few weeks, including our public speaking competition and the junior dance festival, it was our pleasure to host local primary schools. Our Year 9 pupil William also made the final round of the Pupil Librarian of the Year Awards and he celebrated on a trip to London for a special ceremony.

Another major event was our annual sports awards evening which celebrates the participation, enjoyment and success of a huge number of pupils and recognises the hard work of our sports department. It was wonderful to see pupils of all ages and disciplines in the spotlight.

Other sporting highlights included our U15 Cricket A team beating Sedbergh in the National Cup, our U9 football team winning the Newcastle City Cup, and our U14 basketball team making it to the last eight in the country for their National Cup - outstanding achievements!

We've also said a fond farewell to our after school care supervisor Mary, enjoyed the DASPA summer fair, and seen our Royal Marines cadets flourishing on their CCF Camp. As usual, it has been a busy and bustling time for all.

May I wish you all a very happy half term break.

Year 13 Leavers' Dinner - a new chapter

It was another first for Dame Allan's this half term, as we hosted our first Leavers' Dinner for our departing Year 13 class and their parents.

The event, held at the Discovery Museum in Newcastle, was a fitting celebration for our deserving students. Surrounded by their friends, family, and staff, attendees enjoyed a delicious three-course meal, before a heartwarming prizegiving ceremony. A big well done also to the Year 13 students who performed for their peers as part of the event!

It was a fantastic chance for our students to make memories and celebrate their time at Dame Allan's, before they tackle their exams and head out into the wider world. We know they will do us proud.



Nursery meets spiders, snakes and more...

Our Nursery pupils enjoyed a visit from ZooLab this half term, which is always a highlight of the calendar! Rob and his team of critters helped the class learn all about different creatures, building on their learning about minibeasts. Guests included a python, tarantula, cockroach, millipede, and scorpion! It was a great morning and the class were very brave and kind when interacting with the animals.



Prestigious nomination for Library Assistant William

Our Year 9 pupil William and Librarians, Mrs Huck and Mr Naish, travelled to London this half term, as William was one of only seven young people in the country in the finals of the Pupil Library Assistant of the Year Awards 2024! Although William didn't take home the grand prize, he still had a fantastic day, meeting authors and coming away with a haul of personalised books. He is an asset to have in our Library, well done William!

The Dame Allan's Public Speaking Competition

Our talented public speakers once again took to the stage for an evening of spirited debate. From the podium in the Newsroom Hall, pupils from across the Schools spoke eloquently and with confidence. It was a fantastic night! Well done to all of our dedicated participants, plus to our English department who work so hard to make this event a success each year.



In Conversation with... the Senior School Office

Miss Plummer, Mrs McPhillips, Ms Penman, and Miss Thompson

As the School Office, your team are often the first people that people meet when they come to Dame Allan's - can you give us a snapshot of your day-to-day roles?

Linda: I'm responsible for our Sixth Form administration relating to pupil attendance, and I manage a lot of the correspondence from the Schools - I'll proof read and send out letters, emails and that need-to-know information. I also order and monitor school supplies, so I am very organised! Otherwise, I spend my time welcoming visitors to the school and dealing with pupil queries.

Lauren: I am a bit of an all-rounder! I assist with general administrative tasks for the Schools, greet visitors, direct them to the appropriate person or office, and answer phone calls or emails. On Thursdays and Fridays, I also manage the front desk, as well as administer registration for Years 7-11. Where I can, I also support other departments with admin tasks, which is a great insight into other areas of Dame Allan's.

Honor: My main role is administering AM and PM registration for Years 7-11, ensuring all pupils are present and correct. I am also the first point of contact when entering Reception so therefore meeting and greeting all our visitors. I also oversee, along with my colleagues, all regular office duties, from replying to emails to answering phone calls, and helping with photocopying. Every day brings something new.

What is your favourite part of working in the Senior School office?

Lauren: I love the opportunity to contribute to the wellbeing of pupils in such a supportive and dynamic environment. No day is the same as the day before, and that's what makes it so enjoyable.

Honor: That's tough as I do not have a favourite part as such, I just enjoy working in the Dame Allan's Schools environment and generally being around the pupils. Happily, I enjoy all aspects of my varied job!

What is the one thing that you'd like people to know about working in your role?

Linda: It can be a very fast paced environment, so you need to be diligent at all times. We need to be flexible, approachable, empathetic and understanding in any situation that arises.

Lauren: How important it is to maintain a friendly and approachable attitude while speaking to anyone who visits the office, including staff, pupils, and visitors - even if you're having a busy day! More specifically, the importance of completing registration with great accuracy, as it directly impacts the safety and wellbeing of the pupils.

Honor: I want to reiterate how important it is to be friendly and approachable to all of our visitors. We are often the first face people see, so we want them to feel welcome as soon as they arrive.



L-R: Mrs McPhillips, Miss Thompson (standing), Miss Plummer and Ms Penman (sitting)

Miss Plummer, as well as working with the office team you are also PA to the Principal of Dame Allan's, Mr Scott, so you're quite busy! How do you manage?

Rachel: I am really fortunate to have a very supportive office team. They are all experienced and knowledgeable in their roles so I depend on them enormously. Supporting Mr. Scott is the most diverse (and busy!) part of my job, as he oversees numerous school development projects along with the usual duties of running a large school like Dame Allan's. I also help to plan a lot of our events, such as the recent Year 13 Leavers' Dinner at the Discovery Museum. We are always working to balance the history of the school with fresh ideas for our future, and it's wonderful to have a role to play in achieving this.

Junior Dance Festival

brings young talent together



On 25 April, the Newsom Hall hosted a joyful festival of dance, featuring our own Junior pupils, as well as pupils from local primary schools. All types of dance were represented across the event, from ballet, to breakdance, and more modern styles. Dance teacher Miss Rowe organised the event and choreographed our Junior School dances, which were a pleasure to watch.



Sports Awards 2024

The Sports Awards returned to the Vertu Motors arena this half term, bringing together parents, pupils and staff to celebrate the breadth of sporting talent that Dame Allan's has to offer.

This year, the event was opened by guest speaker Jack Ross, former professional football player and experienced coach and manager. His inspirational talk drew from his experience of playing around 1000 matches at professional level, for clubs such as Falkirk and St Mirren in the Scottish Premier League, as well as his management stint at Sunderland. It was a perfect way to kick off the evening's festivities.

Individuals and teams across the Schools were honoured for their excellence, progress, and achievements in sport.

- Rosie (Year 13) was named Sportswoman of the Year, alongside Albie (Year 11), who was named Sportsman of the Year.
- The Director of Sport Awards for Sports Leadership were presented to Erin and Charlie (both Year 12)

- The Trophy for Excellence in Sport went to Isabel (Year 12) and Hayden (Year 9).
- The Trophy for Commitment to Sport went to Harriet (Year 8) and Jack (Year 10).

Mr Barlow, Director of Sport at Dame Allan's, said: "Sport at Dame Allan's continues to soar, aligned and inspired by the department's vision of enjoyment, participation and success in that order... It has been wonderful to see the outstanding success of so many of our teams at a National level including football, rugby, basketball, hockey, squash, rugby sevens, cricket and athletics. The Sports Awards is a real highlight, as it allows us to look back and reflect on all of these successes."



Sporting Updates

Cricket

Our U15 A team beat Sedbergh by six runs in the National Cup, and our girls have also enjoyed a host of cricketing matches, including our U15 and U14 teams who both triumphed over Ampleforth.



Football

Our U9 team won the Newcastle City Cup, beating a tough South Gosforth side in penalties in the final. Across the whole tournament they scored 31 goals in 8 matches and didn't concede a single goal!

Basketball

Our U14 basketball team made it to the last eight in the country for their National Cup, before sadly being knocked out by Sale Grammar. A fantastic effort from our boys!

Athletics

Athletics competitions saw a welcome return, with a group of pupils taking part in the City Championships on 8 May at Gateshead Stadium.

We were also delighted to welcome NUFC Club Doctor Paul Catterson to our Sixth Form. He spoke with A Level Academic PE students about his career in medicine and his transition into his NUFC role. He also gave valuable advice about future careers within his field.



The Allanian Society

Society Support shines through

This half term has seen heartwarming support from our Allanian community, as they rallied to support Dame Allan's first ever Giving Day! From kind comments and emails, to much-appreciated donations, it was wonderful to see the Allanian community come together to support future pupils at the Schools.

Make sure to save the date for some exciting summer events:

Weds 5 June: Allanian Coffee Morning, 9.30am - 11.30am at Dame Allan's Senior School

Weds 19 June: Sixth Formers vs Allanians Cricket Match, 5.30pm at Dame Allan's Senior School

Are you celebrating a milestone anniversary of leaving Dame Allan's this year?

We're organising an afternoon tea at Dame Allan's for all reunion groups in October.

Get in touch with Katherine Leonard on ke.leonard@dameallans.co.uk

School Trips

Derwentwater Adventure

Year 5 enjoyed a residential trip to Derwentwater in May, where they made the most of the great outdoors with hiking, rafting, ghyll scrambling, and more. A massive thank you to all of the staff who made this trip possible.



“My favourite activity was ghyll scrambling. I loved climbing over all the obstacles and jumping in the freezing water!”

-Jax

Camping, Concealment, and Camouflage: CCF Camp

Dame Allan's Royal Marines cadets took part in the contingent's annual camp at Warcop, Cumbria on 19-22 April.

Activities included building a camp, section attacks, an ambush, a casualty evacuation, camouflage and concealment. Cadets also visited the training trenches for Ukrainian soldiers. Congratulations also to Year 10 pupil Mo, who was promoted to corporal during the camp.

Cadets are encouraged to sign up for the next camps, which are taking place in summer. Please see Mr Oliver for details.



A fond goodbye to Mary, After School Care Supervisor

After almost 20 years and varied roles at Dame Allan's Schools, our After School Care Supervisor Mary left us recently for a well-earned retirement. She was presented with flowers to mark her dedicated service, as well as delivered sweets by some of our Sixth Formers.

Mary said: "I'll miss all of the children, some of them I have looked after since they were in Junior School! However, I am looking forward to embracing retirement, taking long walks with my dog and enjoying more time for my arts and crafts."

She will be a big miss!

DASPA

Giving Day

We have been delighted to support the first ever Dame Allan's Giving Day by funding the inflatable obstacle courses at our Junior and Senior Schools, which gave our pupils an additional activity for this event. We were also delighted to support the school by posting this exciting event on our WhatsApp groups. It was great to see everyone having so much fun!

Summer Fair

Our Summer Fair at the Junior School was a great success. We had hundreds of people in attendance and raised over £6000! A big

thank you to all our volunteers, supporters and people who gave donations. Many thanks to Melissa Gaglardi, the DASPA J chair for organising such a successful event, and a big thank you to the always amazing Mrs Needham.

Raffle winners have been notified and the winning lists shared on WhatsApp. Please email DASPA (daspa@dameallans.co.uk) if you need to know your numbers, or have trouble finding your prize.

Special thanks among our keen volunteers, also go to our Year 6 parent volunteers, some of whom have helped DASPA J for a decade!

So, thank you to Helen Dresser, Ashleigh Willins, Jenny and Stephen Davies, Ali and Fatima Hassan and Richard Johnson. Extra thanks to our outgoing treasurer of DASPA J, Jen Vakharia and secretaries Sarah Johnson and Rachel Bowey. You have all worked so hard to make DASPA J such a success and enjoyable place to volunteer.

DASPA Ball 2024

The preparations for our ball on 22 June at The Biscuit Factory are going very well. We still have availability for a sponsor if you know of any interested companies. It's going to be an exciting event. If you haven't got a ticket (priced at £85), do get in touch as soon as possible and we will do our best to accommodate you.

Uniform Sales

We would be really grateful for uniform donations from the Senior School and new kit from the Junior School, to support our popular second hand sales. The next sale will be on 2 July.

Safeguarding at Dame Allan's

Online safety and 'sextortion'

Sex Education is a key part of the PSHE curriculum at Dame Allan's, and a topic that continues to evolve. You may have seen in the news recently that the NSPCC has been speaking about a recent report from the National Crime Agency, which was sent to schools across the UK, highlighting the rise of 'sextortion' involving young people.

Sextortion is often financially motivated. It is a form of blackmail that involves a person being forced into paying money or meeting another financial demand, following a threat to release nude or semi-nude photos of them. In this digitally connected age, it is important that your teenager is aware of this possible danger.

They should also be reminded that sharing nude or semi nude pictures - of themselves or of others - whilst the person pictured is under-18 is a crime, regardless if they were shared consensually. However, the law is intended to protect children and not criminalise them.

With regards to a sextortion threat, the photos in question could be real, sent by a young person via a social media or messaging app, or even something deep-faked via AI. For example, someone's head being superimposed onto a nude image.

It should be noted that a majority of victims of this type of abuse are male. Ninety one per cent of victims in UK sextortion cases dealt with by the Internet Watch Foundation in 2023 were male.

In this situation, or any blackmail situation online, the current advice for parents and carers is:

- Firstly, don't pay. Once the offender has been paid once, it is likely they will continue to ask for money. It does not guarantee that the threats will stop, or that the images will not be leaked. Block the offender and cease contact.
- Keep evidence. Don't delete any messages, images, bank account details, or call logs, these will be useful to show the police or other authorities.

- Report it. Call 101 or 999 if there is an immediate risk of harm to your child. Or you can use the CEOP Safety Centre (www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre/) to report any online blackmail attempts.

Adults can also support young people in getting their images removed using Childline and the Internet Watch Foundation's Report Remove tool, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's Take It Down tool, and reporting to the platform or app it has been shared on.

Our Pastoral team is on hand to offer non-judgemental advice to all pupils. If you have a concern, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Sources and useful links:

www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/news/nca-issues-urgent-warning-about-sextortion
learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-abuse-and-neglect/child-sexual-abuse
www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre/



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