

DAME ALLAN'S Digest



JULY 2024

Super Sports Days mark end of Summer Term

Rowing, dance, and tug of war were just some of the quirkier activities on offer at the Senior School as part of a highly-anticipated Sports Day.

A firm fixture in the summer calendar, Sports Days have taken place across this half term, from our youngest athletes in the Nursery, right up to our Sixth Formers.

Our Early Years pupils enjoyed classics such as the egg and spoon race, as well as an obstacle course. KS2 Junior School pupils took part in their sporting challenges on the Senior School field, culminating in a fiercely competitive relay. It was fantastic to see so many parents turn up to cheer their children on, as well as those who were brave enough to take part in the parent race!



The Senior School event began at Gateshead Stadium, with selected pupils taking place in an athletics competition. The afternoon saw a hive of activity on the school field, as houses worked together to secure a final victory for the 23/24 academic year. A big well done to Hild and Hedley!

The buzzing event was made even more sweet with the addition of an ice cream van, very kindly funded by our parents' association, DASPA.



A Tale as Old as Time - Year 6 Show

Our talented Year 6 pupils marked their final year in the Junior School with a production of much-loved classic, Beauty and the Beast. There was singing and dancing galore, complete with some impressive French accents! A big well done to the whole cast, as well as Mrs Brinn, Mrs Waters and all of the Junior staff who worked so hard to make this show such a success.



A welcome from the Principal

Just like that, another year has flown by at Dame Allan's Schools. Spirits are high as I write this, anticipating the fun-filled last days of term before a well-earned summer break.

This time of year always encourages me to look back at the highlights of the previous terms. In almost all cases, it is the community spirit of Dame Allan's, and the fantastic attitudes of our pupils, that stands out. Pupils have worked hard over the past year and showed remarkable dedication; as demonstrated with the many winners in our recent prize giving ceremony.

This Dame Allan's spirit remains even after leaving the Schools, as shown admirably by the many Allanians who returned to share their wisdom for our 'Return and Inspire' event. Their advice will certainly help guide our Year 12s in their future paths.

Pupils have also demonstrated the power of trying something new throughout the year, encapsulated this half term in events such as our House Regatta, and our Junior Masterchef competition, which challenged pupils to whip up a vegetarian feast.

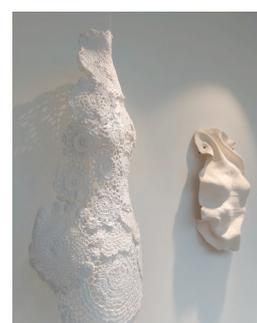
Our Sports Days too were a triumph of getting stuck in, with everything from egg and spoon races, to dance! Other sporting highlights included our Year 7 basketball team being crowned Junior NBA Champions, NUFC success for our youngest athletes at the Junior School, and a stellar showing for recent athletics competitions.

A huge thank you to our parents' association DASPA, for all of their support. From discos and ice cream vans, through to the fantastic fundraising at the recent DASPA Ball, they really have helped to enhance the school experience for our pupils and parents.

May I wish all our families and friends a lovely summer break and I look forward to welcoming pupils back for the new school year on 2 September.

Stunning Senior School Art Exhibition

Parents, pupils, staff, and our wider community were invited to our Art Centre on 27 June for our Senior School Art Exhibition. A range of artwork from our talented A-Level and GCSE pupils was on display, demonstrating a range of mediums and techniques, as well as sketchbook investigations showcasing personal responses to selected starting points. It was brilliant to see so many people attend and show their support for our artists.



Prizegiving celebrates Pupil Success

Our whole school prizegiving was a highlight of the summer term, with pupils from Years 7, 8, 9, 10, and 12 gathering in our marquee to celebrate their hard work over the last academic year. Parents and family members were also invited to enjoy the day, which came complete with some moving speeches from Heads of Year, plus musical and dance performances from our pupils.



As well as academic achievement, prizes were awarded for endeavour across different subjects. It was a fantastic celebration of our talented and determined pupils!



Making a Splash at the House Regatta



Pupils of all ages took part in our second ever House Regatta on 26 June, taking to the Tyne to show off their skills. They were lucky enough to race in glorious sunshine, and were even treated to a seal sighting during the day!

After some nail-biting time trials, the final event saw two crews race side-by-side, before the eventual winning team was crowned. Congratulations go to Cuthbert and Ridley!



In Conversation with... Mrs Clough, Exams Officer

As our Exams Officer, you're just coming out of a very busy period! Can you give us a snapshot of your day-to-day role both before and during exam weeks?

During exam times it is very busy, sometimes you are juggling so many things. I have a good team of invigilators who help me and keep me sane. Day-to-day when exams are on, it is setting up the exams and making sure all the invigilation team know what's going on, then making sure all papers are sent to the exam boards.

Before and after exam times is just as important. I am usually busy planning, and liaising with department heads to make sure entries are all in place.

What is your favourite part of your role?

Probably in July when the season is over and you can sit back and relax! Also, it's wonderful on results days when everything comes together.

How did you get into this area? Have you always worked within schools?

I have worked in schools since 2007, I actually sort of fell into the role when looking for a change of career. Previously, I worked for a car dealership after finishing my degree in Media Studies at Sunderland University.

You're relatively new to Dame Allan's, what were your first impressions of the Schools?

The Schools are totally different from other schools I have worked at. They are much more calm and the pupils are so much more polite. The pupils are articulate, patient, and ambitious. The staff here are also willing to help and are very supportive.

And finally, what top tips would you give our pupils on how to best prepare for an exam day?

I would say:

- make sure you know your timetable and which venue you are in



- make sure you have all equipment
- make sure you know all the exam rules and regulations
- do not bring phone or any other devices into the venue
- get a good sleep the night before
- don't panic and try to stay calm!!!

Any problems please just ask the invigilator or myself - we are here to help.

Veggie Delights at Junior Masterchef Competition

Vegetarian cuisine was in the spotlight for the Junior Masterchef competition this year, with pupils competing to whip up a winning dish to impress the team of staff judges. Contestants could choose to make a starter and main, or main and dessert, and were marked for creativity, skills, appearance, taste, and texture.

Pizza, pasta, ramen soup, cookies, and cupcakes were on offer. Competition was fierce, but a winner was chosen - Ini (Y10) with her meal of jollof rice and plantain, plus puff puff donuts.

A massive well done to everyone who took part, plus to Mrs Crawley and Mrs McFall for arranging such a fantastic competition.



Sports Updates

Cricket

Our cricketing girls enjoyed an inspirational trip to Durham to see England take on the New Zealand women's team, whilst our U14 girl's cricket team also triumphed over Durham by 76 runs!



Football

A massive well done our Year 3 pupils Logan and Cameron, who have both been signed for Newcastle United under-9s! A great achievement for them both.



Basketball

Our Year 7 basketball team were victorious in the Junior NBA competition, beating St Cuthbert's 31-17 in the semi final, followed by a very exciting 22-21 win against Acklam Grange School in the final, coming back from 7 points down at half time. The whole team pulled together really well and played some superb basketball. Well done to all of our players (seen here showing off their championship rings!) and to their coach, Mr Hopper.



Athletics

Athletics has had a very successful half term! 28 students (Years 8-12) qualified to represent Newcastle City in the County Athletics Champs on 8 June.

Congratulations were also due to Rebecca E, Ruby G, Matty R, Will B and Martha HC, who all qualified for the Inter County Champs to represent Northumberland, which were held on 15 June at Gateshead Stadium.

Finally, 31 pupils out of 46 entrants (Years 7 and 8) qualified to represent Newcastle City in the Minor County Athletics Champs on Saturday 29 June, also at Gateshead Stadium. Well done to all of our amazing athletes!

The Allanian Society

Return and Inspire



We welcomed a whole host of Allanians back to Dame Allan's this half term to take part in our popular Return and Inspire event. Our volunteers spoke to current Y12 students about applying for university, apprenticeships, gap years, managing finance, their career paths, and more. It was fantastic to see everyone again - plus a great opportunity for Allanians to catch up with former teachers! Former pupils also took the chance to look around our newly refurbished Queen's Building.



Allanian, and former Head Girl, Alex Morrell said: "It's really good to be back, it feels a little bit like a dream!" Fellow Allanian Anya Holdsworth added: "Since we have been gone a year it feels like we're now in a totally different phase of life, but also like we haven't been gone a week!"

New **LinkedIn** page

We have a brand new LinkedIn showcase page, which aims to bring together Allanians past and present, staff and friends of Dame Allan's Schools. This replaces our previous group page, and should make it a lot easier for our wonderful community to interact. Find us by visiting www.linkedin.com/showcase/the-allanian-society

Dates for your Diary

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|--------------------|--|
| Sat 9 November: | Reunion Groups Afternoon Tea & Tours, 11.30am - 2.00pm at Dame Allan's Senior School |
| Thurs 28 November: | London Drinks 2024, 6.30pm - 9.00pm, Lansdowne Club, Mayfair, London |

School Trips

La Petite Creperie

Our Year 3 classes had the opportunity to use their French in a real life situation thanks to Julien and La Petite Creperie. Not only did the pupils have individual conversations with Julien in French, they also ordered and then ate beautiful fresh crepes!

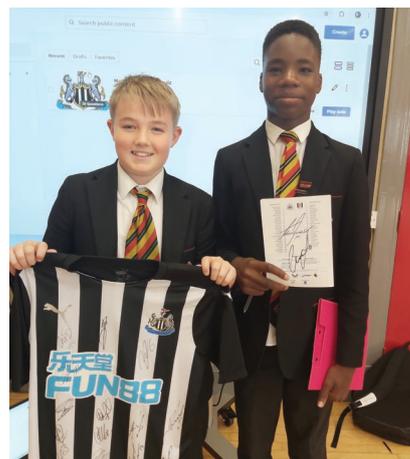


Hadrian's Wall

Our Year 9 Latin pupils enjoyed an educational trip to Hadrian's Wall this half term. We're so lucky to be close to this amazing World Heritage site. Led by our Head of Latin Mr Lawrenson, pupils took lots of time to explore, including visiting the Roman Forts and learning more about the history and cultures around the wall.

NUFC Raffle for Cancer Research

We are so proud of our Y8 pupils Thomas and Okiki, who arranged an NUFC quiz this term to raise money for Cancer Research UK. Signed memorabilia was on offer to tempt quizzers, as well as chocolate and sweets for the runners-up!



DASPA

We would like to offer a huge thank you for all the support from the school community for DASPA this year. We have celebrated the end of this academic year with our wonderful biennial ball at the iconic Biscuit Factory. All the attendees embraced the Gatsby theme and looked fantastic!

Thanks also to all the contributors for our raffle and auction. The event raised over £6000.00, which will all be used to enhance the lives of Dame Allan's pupils. A big thank you to Laura, Anneliese and Jocelyn who organised this event and to Stephen for his help on the night.

This term, we have supported the purchase of headsets for German, have funded academic and co-curricular trophies for drama and

music respectively, as well as a selection of games for the lower school form rooms. We have also provided sponsorship and some of the table decorations for the Year 13 Leavers' Ball. Additionally, we were happy to provide part of the refreshments for the Year 9 music festival, as well as ice cream vans for the Junior Tennis Tournament and Senior Sports Day.

At the Junior School, we were delighted to support the EYFS fun afternoon with a colouring competition, candy floss and bubbles. We're also supporting the Year 6 party, which is always a BIG event and have supported the purchase of games for the junior French department.

As the year draws to a close, we'd like to offer our heartfelt gratitude to Anneliese and Jocelyn



- who are leaving DASPA as their children leave the school, for all their enthusiasm and hard work helping through the years, you'll both be missed. Thank you.

We had our final uniform sale of the year on 2 July, 8.45am - 10.00am at St James' and St Basil's church. We have a welcome coffee and Senior School uniform sale on the first day back of term - 2 September (at the same time). The uniform sale relies on your donations, so please give generously if you can to allow this valuable service to continue and grow.

Thanks again for all of your support, best wishes for the summer from DASPA.

Safeguarding - Safer Gaming

With the long summer break ahead of us, many children and teens will be looking forward to spending some time on their consoles and computers, getting lost in a game.

Online chat is a big part of the gaming world and can help build friendship bonds - your child might currently speak to their friends on Fortnite or Minecraft - but there is an area where chat can turn more worrying.

Chats can take the form of text, voice, or sometimes even video. They can be inbuilt into the games, or held via a third party app that integrates directly into the gaming experience. Some key elements to be aware of are:

- **Exposure to bad language or online hate.** Some games filter swearing and other hate speech out, but this is very hard to police through mediums such as voice chat.
- **Grooming.** Sadly, gaming platforms are a popular choice for predators to approach and attempt to groom children and teens. Red flags to watch out for are

strangers repeatedly chatting to your child, requests for photos or personal information, and requests to take the chat onto a third party platform, such as a social media network or WhatsApp.

- **Cyberbullying.** Using a digital chat platform unfortunately can lead to instances of cyberbullying, especially during competitive games where emotions may be heightened. Being able to hide behind characters or avatars in a game can sometimes embolden people to be cruel in a way that they would never consider in 'real life'.

So, what is the best way to support your child to game in a safe way? Dependent on their age, you can:

- For younger children, research and choose games with a closed chat, where they can only talk to people they know. Check the privacy settings on each game to see how you can tailor chats to your child.

- Remind your child that they should only be talking about the game, should someone they don't know chat to them. If the conversation gets unpleasant, worrying, or they ask for personal information or photos, ensure your child knows to not engage. Make sure they know they can always talk to you about anything they experience online - clear, non-judgemental communication is key.
- Ensure that children are aware of how to block and report other users.

Useful Links

CEOP Safety Centre To report any concerns of an individual contacting a child and asking for personal information

Family Video Game Database

Advice about different games and their features. This website also suggests alternative options for any games you do not want your child to play.



DAME ALLAN'S SCHOOLS
building the future