

Sports News

Cross Country

Boys:

Three teams represented DABS in the Newcastle Schools Cross Country Championships in November.

The Minors (Year 7) came 2nd
The Juniors (Year 9) came 5th
Inters (Years 10 and 11) came 3rd.

Congratulations to the following boys who have been selected to represent the City in the County Championships in January:

Minors - Christian Wright, Thomas Hudson, Xavier Taylor
Juniors - Ben Pearson
Inters - Thomas Ellam, Jonathan Hewitt

Girls:

The Intermediate Girls team (Years 9 and 10) qualified for the Regional Round of the Cross Country Schools Cup.

Sports Shorts

◆ Three DABS boys in year 9 entered the national British Schools Orienteering championship in November. Ben Pearson was placed 7th, and David Smyth 12th.

◆ Jonathan Malley (Year 9) has been selected to represent England at orienteering.

◆ Robyn Atwell has passed her Tae Kwon Do Black Belt Grading 1st Dan after five years of effort and commitment.



◆ Daniel Cook (9Z) has come 4th in the U15 Boys Closed Championship Regional Trampoline Championships.

◆ The Year 7 Rugby Team have made a good start to their season. They remain unbeaten, with the highlight of their season so far being a victory over the RGS by 17 – 5.

◆ Sam Thorne has been selected to take part in the North of England Rugby trials.



Diving

Holly Gillot (7m) won the trials for the English Schools National Diving Championships for years 7 and 8. She represented Dame Allan's and Diving Division One (Northumberland, County Durham, Cleveland and Cumbria) at the English Schools National Diving Competition held in Harrogate.



Netball Team news

Dame Allan's won the Newcastle City Netball Tournament and the Tyne and Wear County Tournament. They have now qualified for the NE Regional finals.

The following girls have been selected to play netball for the county:

U 18 – Lauren McGurk, Natasha Khatib
U 16 – Laura Armstrong

Laura Armstrong (Year 11) has been selected to take part in the North East Regional Talent Development programme.

The following girls have been selected for U13 County Netball Development:

P Seeley, Z Warde Aldam, M Gray, G Devine, C Walton, E Turley, A Rundle

Hockey Team news

Dame Allan's are the U16 Tyne and Wear County champions and will now go on to the North East Regional finals.

The following girls have been selected to play hockey for the county:

U18- Lauren McGurk, Rachael Lawson, Rachel Richardson, Charlotte Pace
U16 – Laura Armstrong, Cath Spedding, Jo Bamforth, Sally Cannon

The following girls have been selected for Under 15 county development hockey:

Alex Seal, Hannah Brayson, Hannah Turley, Ellen Johnston, Rachel Taylor, Alice Long, Sam Rundle, Kyra Moir, Nicola Ashurst, Lisa Johnson



2006 SPRING NEWS

DAME ALLAN'S SCHOOLS



Message from the Principal

The last term was a particularly memorable one for us all as will be evident from even a cursory glance at the content of this newsletter. The Tercentenary celebrations reached their climax with a number of events, most notably, the visit of HM The Queen to open the Queen's Building.

I think that all of us in the Schools were privileged to be present on the day and there was a real sense of 'lift' about the Schools afterwards. A physical memento of the day – the copy of the whole Schools' Tercentenary photograph signed by Her Majesty – now hangs in the foyer as a reminder to us all of a truly special occasion.

Yet there were many other special moments too. The reunion weekend which saw over 600 Old Allanians returning to the Schools was a real measure of what gives Dame Allan's its 'family feel'. I have received numerous letters this year from former pupils commenting on this aspect of school life; I trust it is something we can preserve into the future.

This spirit of community was also evident in the Tercentenary Sponsored Walk. To have the best part of 1,000 pupils and staff from Linden and Dame Allan's completing such a walk was an achievement in itself; to do so in fairly horrid weather conditions and to maintain good spirits throughout was something of a triumph and I am very grateful to all those staff who put so much time into organising the event. That we were able to raise over £15,000 for our chosen charity gave an added bonus to a day that demonstrated what makes Dame Allan's special.

I had feared, at times, that the end of the Tercentenary year might leave us with a sense of deflation, but I am pleased to say that 2006 offers new challenges and excitements for us all – not least in the form of the ISI Inspection of the Schools in October. Planning for this event has already begun and I look forward to showing the inspectors what makes us a special place and a special community.

The Royal Visit

The visit of Her Majesty the Queen in October to open the Queen's Building was the climax of a year of celebrations marking the 300th anniversary of the Schools' foundation in 1705.

The morning had a birthday party theme and the whole school cheered as the Queen cut a giant birthday cake, decorated with an image of Dame Eleanor Allan.

Sixth formers Rachael Lawson and Shona Cameron set the tea party atmosphere when they performed the dance "Fancy a cuppa?"

The duet is set to the theme tune from "Housewives Choice" and involved intricate dance moves while balancing teacups and biscuits.

Head Girl Rebecca Maughan presented the Queen with a specially bound copy of the new history of Dame Allan's, written by Eric Smith, former head of English at Dame Allan's Boys' School.

During the Queen's visit Principal Dr John Hind introduced five pupils (years 10 and 11) playing The Dame Allan's Tercentenary Board Game which they had designed. The game is a cross between Monopoly and Trivial Pursuit!

The Queen met members of the Schools' sports teams who toured Canada and South Africa this summer and pupils involved in fundraising for local charities.

At the end of the visit, the two youngest pupils in the Schools, Charlotte Gunn and Richard Warwick, presented the Queen with a posy of flowers after she had cut a giant birthday cake in front of all the pupils and staff. The two eight year olds were wearing uniforms from the 19th century which appear in old paintings and photographs of pupils of the time.





Speech Day

Professor David Bellamy, OBE, presented the prizes at Dame Allan's Schools Tercentenary Speech Day in September at Newcastle City Hall and afterwards attended a reception held at the Schools.

Professor Bellamy concluded his entertaining speech with an enthusiastic chorus of Happy Birthday to mark the 300th anniversary of the Schools' foundation

Bonjour Byker

There was a new boy in Byker Grove in November. But the French exchange student was from Ponteland, not France.

Head Boy David Harding played the part of François, an exchange student who comes to stay with Stumpy.

Jill Graham of Zenith North explained, "We were looking for someone who could speak credible French and who could also act. David is very convincing and the story of the French exchange students was very funny".



Debating double

Dame Allan's won first and second places in the Regional round of the Cambridge National Debating Contest, held at the RGS. The winning team of Ali Nouraei and Ian Meikle will now move on to the next round.

Record breaking attempt

Girls' School pupils of all ages, together with teachers, parents and grandparents, were involved in helping the Metro Centre create the biggest Christmas Stocking in the world.

The idea was to knit as many 12" squares as possible in red wool. These squares were stitched together to make the stocking which was then made into blankets for the charity 'Crisis'. Thanks go to Anna Robinson in 9J and her mother who works at the Metro Centre for co-ordinating our efforts.

Oliver

The Tercentenary School Production of Oliver inspired an energetic top quality show and was the culmination of hard work and dedication by over 80 pupils involved – backstage and in the orchestra as well as on the stage.

The proceeds of the ticket sales have been invested in a new sound system for the Newsom Hall and our thanks go to Mr George Perfect for buying and installing the equipment.

Flying High

Chris Nelson has been accepted for Oxford Flying school, having already passed pilot qualifications



Battle of the bookworms

A team of eleven and twelve year old pupils from Dame Allan's Schools won the regional final of the annual UK Kids' Lit Quiz for the second year running.

The Kids' Lit Quiz is an annual literature competition, with teams working together to answer wide-ranging literary questions.

The regional final saw teams from all over the north east compete to answer over 100 questions in categories as diverse as food and flowers and Roald Dahl.

The winning team was Mayank Banerjee, Flossie Hunt, Catriona Wright and Harry Cunningham.



By royal appointment?

Did the Royal Family play a new board game during their Christmas break at Sandringham?

When the Queen visited the Schools in September, Cameron Potts boldly asked if she would like a copy of the Dame Allan's Schools Board Game. When she confirmed that she really would like a copy, a boxed set was duly sent to Buckingham Palace and the team has now received a letter thanking them for the 'most interesting game'.

The five designers, Cameron Potts, Christine Ince, Catherine McAlpine, Alice Burn and Alison Wise, led by Mr Pyburn, are all thrilled by the recognition for their game.

The Dame Allan's Tercentenary Board Game is based on the layout of the school rooms as they were used in 2005. Players move around two boards, which are plans of the school buildings, visit subject rooms and answer questions to gain a set number of house points and return to the Principal's office to win the game.

Young Achiever

Congratulations to Sixth Former Sarah Richardson who was runner up in the Evening Chronicle's Young Achiever award.

Mr Henry nominated Sarah after she ran a first aid course for fellow pupils last summer.

Despite spending hours helping out at St John's Ambulance events across the region she still managed to achieve five A grades in her AS Level exams.

Mr Henry's nomination said: "Sarah is a confident but unassuming young lady who deserves recognition.

"The way she manages her workload is testament to her commitment. She has a very strong sense of community, both local and further afield."

Changes

There is a new face in the School Office this term. Mrs Nadia McAulay joins the staff as Office Manager and will work with Mrs Debbie Jefferson and Mrs Ann Brooke, Admissions Secretary. Mrs Lorraine Stephenson remains PA to the Principal.

Mrs Lesley Johnston, whom many of you will know, or have spoken to on the 'phone, has left to spend more time with her family. However, we will still keep in touch as she has two daughters in the School, Emily in year 13 and Ellen in year 10.

We wish her well for the future.

Sharing Fair

Charity Prefects Naomi Jones and Danielle Czuprynski organised a sale of goods on behalf of Sharing Fair.

This is the fourth year Dame Allan's has supported Sharing Fair, a fair trade organisation helping women to make a living in poor areas of the world. Sister Lucina Wogan who runs the charity in the UK was given a cheque for £520 from this year's sale.

Sweet taste of European Day of Languages

Staff and pupils enjoyed free chocolate in September to celebrate the European Day of Languages.

The only price they had to pay was to speak in one of seven different languages. During morning break the school hall was crammed with eager pupils speaking in Bulgarian, Polish, Estonian, Chinese, Urdu, Portuguese and Dutch.

At lunchtime the hall was filled with the sound of more foreign languages, this time in the Schools' annual version of the Eurovision Song Contest. Pupils were given special permission to wear a European hat in school for the day so some of the sights were as remarkable as the sounds!

Martin Callanan MEP had the auditory honour of selecting the winner from a variety of acts in French, Spanish and German.





World Challenge – an exhausting PS

Mr Hamilton returned from the Schools' World Challenge expedition to Ladakh in Northern India determined to raise money for Thikse School, where one team did their project in the summer.

He took on his own challenge: The Helvellyn Triathlon in September – and thought it would be a way to maintain his fitness levels for the next trip to Tanzania in 2007.

After a mile swim in Lake Ullswater, a 40 mile bike ride and then a tough 9 mile fell run to the top of Helvellyn and back, a very tired Mr Hamilton wondered whether it had been such a good idea! However he managed to raise £150 in sponsorship for this very poor school and is grateful to everyone who contributed.



Best foot forward

Staff and pupils from Dame Allan's and Linden Schools put their best foot forward for Leukaemia research as part of their Tercentenary celebrations.

They took part in a sponsored walk along the Derwent Valley and raised the magnificent sum of £15,557.88.

In the final School assembly of the Tercentenary Year, they presented a cheque to Andrew Hall, Professor of Experimental Haematology at the Northern Institute for Cancer Research in Newcastle. Professor Hall leads a research group investigating the reasons why not all children with leukaemia are cured using current treatments.



Tercentenary Review



Reunion Weekend



Bags of relief from Fenham

School Chaplain, the Rev Can Joan Dotchin, vicar of St James and St Basil's Church, turned a modest bring and buy sale into a community wide effort to help victims of the Asian Earthquake.

She persuaded all the churches in Fenham plus Dame Allan's and other local schools to take part and worked with Taj Malik and Hari Shukla to ensure that the Muslim, Hindu and Sikh communities were all involved, even though it was during the feast of Ramadan.

The floor of the chapel was hidden beneath the black bin bags full of clothing and blankets which have been sent to the earthquake area and £2,350 has been sent to the relief fund.

"It was an absolute joy to see so many members of one community, regardless of age, faith, colour or creed, working together for the good of humanity," said Canon Dotchin



Charity round up

Year 9 raised £186 for Breast Cancer by selling 'pink ribbons'

The Boys v Girls hockey match raised £92 for the Asian Earthquake appeal

A sale of 'trench warfare' cakes raised £43 for the British Legion, together with £265 from the sale of poppies

DAS pupils raised £1,142 for Children in Need

Shoe boxes were filled for West End Refugees

The Carol Service raised £1400 for the Lord Mayor's charity, the Newcastle Society for Blind People

Diary dates

Linden School Scholarship Exam

Tuesday 31 January 2006 – for entry into year 4.
Please contact Mr Metcalf for more information.

Life in the Sixth Form

Thursday 26 January 2006 – For all year 11 pupils and their parents 6.30 pm in the Newsom Hall

Dame Allan's Careers Convention

Monday February 6th 5-8pm for all Year 10,11,12 and 13. Students and parents are invited to come along.

Dame Allan's 10th Public Speaking Competition

Wednesday 22nd March 7pm

All Year 7-10 pupils enter the competition in a first round in their English lessons.

Year 11, 12 and 13 are encouraged to enter. See Mrs Whitehouse for more details.





DADT / OLD ALLANIAN'S

Dame Allan's Development Trust



Gwyn Bevan with Meriel Johnston

"I am very aware of how much many of us have benefited from the contributions of those who have gone before, contributions which have made our lives so infinitely more rewarding. For me, the benefits which have stemmed from the generosity and foresight of Dame Eleanor are as wonderful as they are obvious."

"I attended the Founder's Day Service at the Cathedral in February and what I saw and heard made me more proud than ever. This has been further enhanced by the magnificent way in which staff and pupils have conducted the celebrations of the wonderful summer which followed."

"It is therefore very satisfying to be able to say a small thank you for these privileges and blessings through the mechanism of the Tercentenary Campaign which allows those of us without the means of Dame Eleanor to make a significant aggregated contribution to Schools affairs."

Gwyn Bevan, Old Allanian

"We are proud to send our child to Dame Allan's to have educational opportunities that we were unable to have ourselves, and we also want them to have the best resources available to assist them in their studies. The new library and IT room will be a great benefit to everyone. Asking parents to support the Schools in this manner, [the Development Campaign] allows us to be able to give in accordance with our circumstances, and yet have the satisfaction of being included in the improvement of the Schools' and our child's future."

Sandy Aynsley, parent.

"I am delighted to have had the opportunity to talk to so many parents face to face about the plans we have for the Schools' future. The Parents' Receptions allow all parents to hear about our development aims and how they will benefit all pupils in the Schools. Whether they attract a large number, as some have, or the smaller groups present at other meetings, these receptions allow us to put the message clearly to everyone present and also to show some easy ways to support our campaign which do suit all pockets."

Dr J R Hind Principal

We are in the middle of one of the most important development programmes the Schools have seen – probably since moving here to our Fenham site 70 years ago – and it's very exciting to be part of it!

The programme started with the new Music and Art blocks, then the new Sports Hall and Science labs – and most recently the magnificent Queen's Building housing the Sixth Form Centre, Dance Studio and classrooms.

Where next?

Well, the Governors have a priority list of capital projects which are part of the Schools' Development Plan. Learning Resources were identified as not only a priority, but also something that would be appropriate in our 300th year, building on the original aims of our Founder. So the Tercentenary Development Campaign was launched specifically to raise £800,000 to upgrade our libraries, learning resources, IT and to make a provision towards bursaries.

Why an appeal?

The Schools cannot fund all the capital projects out of revenue. From time to time we need to seek additional funds from the wider school family – parents, former parents, Old Allanians, friends and trusts. The Schools do not exist only for the present. What we have now is the legacy of development work done in the past, and what we do today will ensure the future for new generations of girls and boys at Dame Allan's.

As a former pupil and current parent I can see the great strengths of our Schools very clearly and would urge you, if you haven't already, to join with those who have made a pledge to support the Campaign.

Brian Adcock

Campaign Chairman



A taste of Victorian lessons

This term Year 6 pupils would normally visit Cragside, for a super living history experience to supplement their History topic on the Victorians. However, as it is closed for renovation, the children were subjected to an afternoon of Victorian schooling in their own classroom. Pupils found out what it was like to be educated in the 19th century and saw Mr Brown and Mrs Smith in a new light in their roles of very strict teachers. The verdict: great fun but the children much prefer their class teachers as they really are!



LINDEN / JUNIORS



Linden

Pupils from Linden School sang carols in Asda, Benton, to raise money for St Oswald's hospice.



Early years pupils from Linden gave a thoughtful and entertaining performance of "The Sleepy Shepherd" nativity play in front of parents and friends of the School.



Linden pupils took part in the Tercentenary sponsored walk in October – joined by Mr Edge's dog Monty and former head Col Johnson.



Linden appointments

Mr Brian Metcalf has been appointed Acting Head of Linden School with effect from January 2006.

He will build on the excellent work done by Mr Edge who achieved the objective of bringing the two schools closer together to provide increased opportunities to both Linden and Dame Allan's pupils.

Mrs Pam Pollock has been appointed Acting Deputy Head for the next two terms. She will continue her role as Head of Early Years and providing Learning Support to pupils at Dame Allan's.

Mrs Barrell has agreed to take on extra work with year 6 to support Mr Metcalf in his new role.

Junior Department

Thank you to the sixth formers of the Young Enterprise scheme for organising a most enjoyable Disco for the junior pupils on Monday, 5th December.

It was great fun!

NEW HOUSE TROPHY

Thank you DASPA for providing a Trophy to present each week to the House with the most house points.

All children can be rewarded for academic and non-academic achievements, or for effort or being caring, indeed for all aspects of good work, attitude and behaviour, regardless of their age and abilities. Everyone has risen to the occasion!

Amaan Nadeem & Ellen Reynolds (Wansbeck House Prefects) are proud to collect the trophy and share it with the 'Wansbeck House' pupils in 4H (below)



The date for the next Parents' Reception is:
Thursday 2 February
at 7 p.m. in the Queen's Building

If you would like more information about the Tercentenary Appeal and presentations please contact:
Meriel Johnston
Campaign Administrator

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Dame Allan's Schools
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Newcastle upon Tyne
NE4 9YJ

Tel: 0191 275 1516
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Email: development@dameallans.co.uk

OLD ALLANIAN'S

Obituaries

Mrs Elsbeth Williams

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Mrs Elsbeth Williams.

Mrs Williams, who retired as Head of English in 1978, was an inspirational teacher at Dame Allan's Girls' School for 31 years.

Mrs Linda McDonald

We were also saddened to announce the sudden death of Mrs Linda McDonald, our after school supervisor, who died during the Christmas holidays. We extend our condolences to both families.

Founder's peal

The bells of St James and St Basil rang on Saturday 26 November to celebrate the Tercentenary of Dame Allan's Schools.

Former pupil Alan Ainsworth brought together a team of eight bellringers to ring a specially composed peal of bells.

Alan has named this new method Dame Allan's Alliance

Major in honour of the Schools' founder. The peal took 2 hours 54 minutes and involved 5010 changes and will be commemorated by a special board in the church's bell tower.

Alan Ainsworth is a former pupil of Dame Allan's and learnt to ring at St James' and St Basils' Church in 1948 while he was at the School. He is now Ringing Master at St Mary's in Amersham, Bucks., and Secretary to the Guild of Ringers at St Paul's Cathedral where he

rings every Sunday and on special occasions.

The bellringing tribute has a particular significance for Dr John Hind, Principal of Dame Allan's Schools. "As a bell ringer myself, I was delighted to be able to join the team Alan put together. It does show the strength of gratitude so many people have towards the Schools, that they want to make their personal contributions to the celebrations."

