

# DAME ALLAN'S Digest

APRIL 2019



## The Sound of Music



From filming scenes either 'on location' or using green-screen technology to developing choreography for dances inspired

by each act, Years 3, 4 and 5 thoroughly enjoyed creating this year's Combined Arts performance, The Sound of Music.

We hope you enjoyed the live performances in March. Well done to all of the students and staff involved!



### A welcome from the Principal

Once again we reach the end of another busy term for the Schools.

This half-term has showcased the wealth of talents possessed by the students. Years 3-5 excelled themselves in the Junior School Combined Arts performances of 'The Sound of Music'. My thanks to all of the staff – teaching and support – whose hard work made this possible. The Upper School explored some difficult themes in Timberlake Wertenbaker's *Our Country's Good*, which the students handled maturely in some fantastic performances.

Once again it has been a fantastic few weeks of fundraising by the students. From wearing blue and orange to raise awareness for Batten's Disease to a boisterous singing competition to raise money for the Make a Wish Foundation, our students never fail to impress me with the imaginative ways in which they support their chosen charitable causes. Our whole school efforts for Red Nose Day raised over £1500.

At this year's Allnian Society Annual Dinner, we celebrated thirty years of Dame Allan's having a co-educational Sixth Form. It was a fantastic evening of catching up with familiar faces, and lovely to see our current Sixth Form mingling with old Allnians.

Soon after we return from the Easter break, Year 11 and Year 13 will be heading into study leave and the exam season; I wish them luck in their examinations and hope their hard work is properly rewarded in the public examination season.



# Our Country's Good



We enjoyed some outstanding performances in this year's Upper School production, *Our Country's Good*.

The play, written by British playwright Timberlake Wertenbaker, was adapted in 1988 from the Thomas Keneally novel *The*

*Playmaker*. It concerns a group of Royal Marines and convicts in a penal colony in New South Wales in the 1780s who put on a production of *The Recruiting Officer*.

Well done to the students who took part in the production, both on and off stage.



## OLED awards

Over 250 people turned out to the OLED awards night to celebrate achievements of our students. In total, 222 students achieved an award in Outdoor Education between Sep 2017 and Sep 2018, including 81 Bronze, 113 Silver and six Gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards for Cadets and Climbing Club were also presented.

It was fantastic to take some time to reflect on skills learnt and recognise the friendship and memories made along the way, and we were delighted to be joined by our guest speaker Ninette Edwards from the Northumberland Mountain Rescue. Thanks to all those who made donations for refreshments, we made £75 for Mountain Rescue.

## Unifrog

Year 12 Business Studies students all took part in this year's Unifrog Enterprise Activity competition. They worked in teams to create comprehensive business plans for an idea of their choosing, including financial forecasts and a detailed analysis of the external environment in which they would be operating. All the teams presented to a panel of expert judges including our very own Bursar, Mrs McDonald. Competition was tough, but we are delighted to announce that our 'Back to the Future' team won, beating competitors from schools across the country.

Ria, Henry, Oliver, Ella, and James worked together to create a business plan which aimed to combat loneliness amongst the elderly, as well as providing volunteering opportunities for younger people who would benefit from enhancing their employability skills – all whilst making a profit! They were commended by the Unifrog judges for the level of 'thought and creativity' in their business plan. The winning team will share the prize of a Micro:Mega Education Pack - an introduction to coding and making with hardware and electronics. Well done to those involved!





# Let's dance!

Children from Thomas Walling Primary Academy, Stocksfield Avenue Primary School, and Wingrove Primary School enjoyed a dance masterclass with Mrs Turnbull this term. The children created a fun dance along to We Love to Boogie by T.Rex. In just an hour and a half, the students learned lots of new dance moves and even learned how to lift another person. Great fun had by all involved!

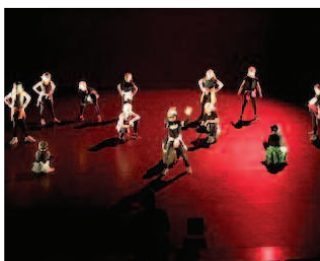


## Jukadance

Jukadance was a workshop specifically for the year 10 and 11 GCSE dancers. A specialist came in to teach and refine their set phrases that they have to perform for GCSE.

## Shine

Year 3 and 4 Dance Club took part in the Shine platform at Dance City, where they performed to 'Intergalactic' by the Beastie Boys.



## Pulse

Both Vizavis Dance Company and Rogue Boys took part in Pulse, a regional dance platform to celebrate youth dance in the area. The boys performed 'V for Vendetta' which was created by local choreographer Geoff Hobson; and Vizavis performed 'The Bigness of Knowing' choreographed by Luke Brown.



# A taste of The Good Life

Children in the Junior School have voted overwhelmingly to work towards achieving their first Eco Schools Green Flag, an internationally recognised scheme already operating in 67 countries worldwide. Following a detailed review of how the school is performing in ten key areas, such as biodiversity, energy use and litter has allowed us to prioritise and start our journey towards making

the school more environmentally-friendly. A 'Green Team' with representatives from Reception to Year 6 have already begun their actions. For example, fruit and vegetable waste from the school kitchen is now composted, with the Gardening and Ecology Club - Geco Club - taking daily responsibility for collecting this. Children across the Junior School

are also drinking from their own water bottles at lunchtime in order to reduce the use of plastic cups, while the kitchen staff are investigating whether the Junior School could use alternative eco-friendly packaging in the future. By the time this newsletter is published, they anticipate having achieved a Bronze award, and are aiming to achieve a Silver by the end of the summer term.



# Year 2 on the road

The pupils in Year 2 have been on some great trips this half-term. On a visit to the Discovery Museum, the children learned about the Great Fire of Newcastle. They looked at Victorian artefacts and all agreed carbolic soap smells awful! They also

looked at how to source information to help them retell the events in a puppet show. It was a lot of fun! On their habitats trip to Northumberland National Park and The Sill Visitor Centre, the children spent the morning looking at pond and woodland

habitats. They had lots of fun pond-dipping and even caught a toad! In the afternoon, they explored The Sill Visitor Centre, looking at the exhibitions about the local area and wildlife. The children really enjoyed walking on the grass roof!



# National Careers Week

Two assemblies launched this year's National Careers Week at Dame Allan's Schools. Chris Ferry, founder of the charity Eating Stones, and civil servant Tom Frater returned to school to speak about their inspirational career paths. We are very proud of their achievements.

**The Junior School** celebrated Careers Week with 'A Day in the Life...' talks from parents in various careers such as dentistry, medicine and engineering. Year 3 had a great time at the BBC. The pupils loved seeing the studio, meeting some of the staff there and watching their very own Dame Allan's news story! Junior School head boy Eddie met pilot Tim Rishworth: "It really informed me about how hard you have to keep working and I now have a much better understanding of the job overall."

**At the Senior School**, the students enjoyed a mini Futures Fair in the Jenifer Cole room with a different career theme each day. Year 11 Libby said: "I found the NHS Careers in Medicine talk very helpful. I got some good tips for boosting my

application and picking the correct university. It was a great talk and opportunity." Year 12 student Laiba enjoyed Dr Sharma's talk: "I really enjoyed it because I am interested in working with children. He explained that he loves working with children because they challenge him and ask him things adults wouldn't. He told us that even though medicine is hard work, it pays off."

Year 11 Emily attended Tom Frater's talk: "Not only did Tom tell us about his interesting career, but also about his time studying history at Cambridge, and the pros and cons of studying there. He loves history and said history helps him to put everything into context."

In total 48 visitors came to Dame Allan's to inform and inspire our students during National Careers Week. Specialisms covered everything from STEM to digital marketing – we even had an astronomer from Kielder Observatory! Thank you to everyone who gave their time and expertise to make this event so successful.



## Allanian Society



### Annual Dinner

The Allanian Society Dinner was held at the end of March, with Allanians of all ages coming together to celebrate 30 years of mixed Sixth Form. Speeches spanning the 30 years included the then Chairman of Governors and the first Head of the joint Sixth Form. It was lovely to see so many Allanians, and they really enjoyed catching up with each other as well as with some of their former teachers. As usual a raffle was held to support a charity of the Principal's choice. This year almost £300 was raised for Eating Stones, run by Allanian Chris Ferry. More photos can be found at [www.dameallans.co.uk/Alumni-News](http://www.dameallans.co.uk/Alumni-News)

### Reunions

Peter Turner (DABS 1959 - 1966) is organising a reunion at the Schools on Saturday 12th October 2019 for all DABS pupils who joined Form II in October 1959 (either directly or via Lower II), and/or left the school in July 1966. This covers a number of boys who either joined in 1959 and left before 1966, or joined after 1959, but still left in 1966.

### 1969 Reunion

The following Saturday, 19th October the 1969 DABS and DAGS leavers will hold a 50 year reunion. For more information on either reunion, please contact the Development Office on [alumnirelations@dameallans.co.uk](mailto:alumnirelations@dameallans.co.uk)

# Senior Sports round-up



## Rugby

The Senior Schools hosted the Heineken Champions Cup and European Rugby Challenge Cup trophies this half-term. It was a great opportunity for the boys who play for the county and Newcastle Falcons age-grade teams to get up close to this prestigious silverware. In total 16 boys have won representative honours at these levels, which is the most we have had in recent times in one season.

Huge congratulations to the U13's who won the County 7's cup this half-term with a very convincing 30-5 win against Ponteland – a fantastic end to a very successful season! Well done to all of the team, particularly Dan who took Man of the Tournament for his excellent attacking and defending.

Well played indeed, gentlemen!

## Rowing

Well done to Jamie, Mariella, James, and Isabella who qualified for the Regional Indoor Rowing competition in



March. Congratulations to Jamie, who won Gold, and will be representing the region at the National competition in Peterborough later this month.

## Squash

It has been a great season for our Squash teams and individuals. Congratulations to the KS3 Girls'

team, who were crowned winners of the Plate competition at the National Finals. The KS4 Girls' and KS5 Boys' teams also did well in the National Schools Championships, reaching the final and semi-final respectively. Congratulations to Sixth Form student Max who has been selected to play for England in the U19 European Individual and Team Squash event in April and to play for England in the U19 World Individual event in July.

## Cross Country

We had two students competing for Northumberland at the Year 7

National School Cross Country Championships which took place at Prestwold Hall in Leicestershire. Marina placed 81st out of a field of 153.

She was the 6th placed Northumberland athlete, and her team were 7th out of 17 overall. Will placed 19th out of 184. He was the first athlete home for

Northumberland and his team were 9th out of 20 overall. A great achievement for both, well done!

## Hockey

We are immensely proud of the Year 9 leaders, who have umpired at a series of quicksticks matches recently, including the Year 3 and 4 county finals.



## Netball

The Year 9 netball team came runners up in the City Trophy Tournament. Well done, girls!

## Congratulations

Year 12 student Dan won the U17 Boys Individual Grand Prix running event for the North East Harrier League, a huge achievement!

# Junior Sports round-up

## Rugby

Year 6 rugby 7's have attended a number of tournaments this half-term. The boys performed really well against NSB, working hard as a defensive unit. This prepared them for the HMC tournament, where they were put under a lot of pressure. It was great for the boys to be tested in this way and it gave them clear goals to continue to develop.

## Football

Four wins and a draw saw the U11 football squad take part in a 'winner takes all' final match at the ISFA Regional qualifiers. The team put in an excellent performance against Hymers, just narrowly missing out on the top spot. Well done to our 'B' squad who

finished a very creditable second place at the prestigious HMC tournament, both our 'A' and 'B' teams excelled in their group games – winning all six matches with a goal difference of +22! We are enormously proud of the seven brave volunteers who stepped up to take part in the dreaded penalty shoot-out in the final against Barnard Castle at the annual Bow tournament in Durham.

Year 5 took part in a triangular festival of football and rugby against RGS and Hymers College. This was a fantastic opportunity for the boys to represent the school – which they did with great pride and to great effect. The teams were evenly matched with a spread of victories, draws

and defeats across the two disciplines and across all four teams.

## Hockey

There has been huge improvement in hockey over the year for both the girls and boys. A huge well done and thank you to everyone who has represented the school. It is great to see the boys making a lot of progress in a sport that most of them have previously had little exposure.

## Netball

The netball teams have been out in full force this term competing in a variety of tournaments. Well done to Year 6, who travelled to Hull to compete in the HMC netball tournament against very strong opposition and challenging

conditions. Year 5 have progressed a huge amount during competitive fixtures, honing their skills in defence and attack. Year 4 performed brilliantly as a group during a group fixture against RGS this week.

## Swimming

This half-term has seen the school swimming galas take place. In the gala children take part in a range of races using surf boards, floats, noodles, rubber ducks and stroke relays. Regardless of the level of swimming ability they all took part together to reach the end goal. Their determination reminds us that the strongest aren't always the ones that win the races, but the people who don't give up!



# Music to our ears



Congratulations to Year 9 student Alex, who recently won several awards at the Ryton Music Festival. She won U16 woodwind award and the duet category for open class performing a cello duet with her mum. She also came second in the U16 string category.



## Creative writers

The winners of the Lit and Phil Society creative writing competition were announced on Wednesday 13th March, with the prize presented by children's author David Almond. Approximately 130 students took part from schools across the Newcastle area, and we're

proud to say Anna won the Fiction prize for Year 7-9 and Sophie was runner up in non-fiction Year 7-9. Overall, eight Dame Allan's students were awarded a year's membership of the Lit and Phil library for their creative entries. Well done, everyone!

## Safeguarding at Dame Allan's

Take some time during the Easter holidays to chat to your child about their understanding of personal safety both online and when they are out and about as the days grow longer. Check privacy settings on all devices and as they start to become more

independent make sure your child knows how to contact you if they are unable to use their mobile phone. Keep revisiting the topic of social media and be aware of the ways in which your child communicates with others.

## Looking to the future...

**Monday 8 – Tuesday 23 April**  
Easter holidays

**Wednesday 24 April**  
School resumes

**Tuesday 23 – Friday 26 April**  
LAMDA exams

**Friday 26 April**  
Spring Concert, 7pm at St James' and St Basil's Church

**Tuesday 30 April**  
Junior Maths Challenge

**Friday 3 May**  
A Level Drama practical exam

**Monday 6 May**  
May Day Bank Holiday

**Tuesday 7 May**  
2nd HPV vaccinations for Year 8 DAGS

**Friday 10 May**  
Year 8 DAGS Food, Feast and Famine Day

**Sunday 12 – Tuesday 14 May**  
Duke of Edinburgh Silver/Gold practice expedition

**Monday 13 – Friday 17 May**  
Year 5 Residential Trip

**Tuesday 14 May**  
Leavers' Evening, 5:45pm

**Friday 17 May**  
Music Recital, Lumsden Music Centre, 1pm

**Friday 17 May**  
Choral Evensong at St James' and St Basil's, 5pm

**Friday 17 May**  
Year 8 DABS Food, Feast and Famine Day

## DASPA Junior

We are busy preparing for the annual Summer Fair which will be held at the Junior School on Saturday 18 May, 12 noon-2pm. Many thanks to all the staff, parents and students who enable this to happen each year. It is always a fun event that brings the Dame Allan's community together with food, games, tombola, and a raffle.

Please note: this year our second-hand uniform sale includes uniform for both the Junior and Senior Schools.

We are currently collecting raffle prizes and will also be collecting tombola prizes and toys after Easter. We would be grateful for any donations. If you are available to help on the day or have any raffle prizes, please contact Vanessa on [vmorrell@contactbabel.com](mailto:vmorrell@contactbabel.com)

Before the fair we will be hosting an Easter Party for Years 1 and 2 and providing the prizes for the decorated egg competition.

## DASPA

Our recent Ceilidh family event has once again proven to be very popular. Over 100 attendees enjoyed an evening of entertainment by our Ceilidh band and guest performers from Queen Elizabeth School, Hexham. This was a social evening packed with great music, barn-dancing, refreshments and bottle tombola, and raised £251.

DASPA would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the music department for their continued support of all our events.

We look forward to the Junior School Summer Fair, and we hope to see you there.



**DAME ALLAN'S SCHOOLS**  
building the future

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