



DAME ALLAN'S SCHOOLS  
building the future

# Weekly Update

Friday 12 June 2020

## Key information

As we come to the end of the second week with some year groups back in the Junior School and Nursery, we'd like to take this opportunity to reassure parents and guardians that we are looking into ways in which we can permit the wider opening of the Schools before the end of the Summer term.

We are keen to return to some semblance of 'normality' as soon as possible, but the safety of our pupils is paramount. We will keep you informed as and when our plans develop further.

### Once again, some key points to remember regarding infection control:

- Please do not send your child into school if they or a family member present any symptoms of coronavirus. Click the following link for [NHS information on asking for a COVID-19 test](#)
- Please encourage your child to wash their hands more often and with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Here is some great [information on how best to wash hands](#) from Public Health England (PHE).

## Allanian magazine 2020

### Would you like your artwork featured on the front cover of this year's Allanian magazine?

The Allanian magazine is both a great way to highlight key events of the academic year, but also to record them for the Schools' archive. In light of the events of the past few weeks, we feel this year's magazine is more important than ever. As such we'd like to use the rainbow, which has been adopted as a universal symbol of hope and community during this crisis, as our magazine cover.

This is where you come in.

We would like every pupil in Dame Allan's from Nursery to Year 13 to send us a photo of a rainbow. This rainbow can be a drawing, a sculpture, a collage, a cake, a photo of an actual rainbow - the choice is yours. It can be a rainbow you've already made and have on display in the window at home or one you create especially for this. We just want as many rainbows as possible to make a joyful, colourful collage cover for the Allanian 2020 magazine.



**Please send your rainbow pictures to [enquiries@dameallans.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@dameallans.co.uk) under the email title 'RAINBOW' by 10am, Friday 26 June.**



Dame Allan's Schools



@DameAllans

# Dame Allan's @ Home

## Distance dancing

What an amazing achievement to get so many of the Dame Allan's family to dance 'together'. Thank you to everyone who took part - it features everyone from current students from Reception to Sixth Form, staff, old Allanians and family members - and huge thanks to Mrs Turnbull for organising it.

Watch it on our YouTube channel, here: [‘Dance dance dance’ by Dame Allan’s Schools](#)

Feel free to join in and dance along!



## Ellis Saul

The Place is currently showcasing the brilliant 'Fagin's Twist' by Tony Adigun's Avant Garde Dance. The film features Ellis Saul, an Allanian.

It is available to watch until 10pm on Monday 15 June.

To celebrate this limited-time live stream opportunity, the cast will also be reuniting for a live online post-show chat where they'll be taking questions from audience members and you'll also get behind the scenes banter from the current and past cast; all live on Facebook and Youtube on Monday, 7-8pm.

[The Place Online: Tony Adigun's Avant Garde Dance - Fagin's Twist](#)

## Pass the ball

Rory (Year 3) has come up with a fantastic idea to make the biggest 'pass the ball' challenge ever - possibly even worthy of the Guinness Book of Records - and Miss Dobbin is keen to see if we can make it happen.

If you don't know the challenge, a child stands in the middle of the screen on a video and someone throws a ball to them from the left of the screen; the child catches it and throws it off screen to the right. All of these little videos are stitched together to make one long game of 'pass the ball'. Let's get the whole school involved!

Interested? Send your video to [f.dobbin@dameallans.co.uk](mailto:f.dobbin@dameallans.co.uk) by 22nd June.

## Sunday Funday!

Children in Year 2 are very keen on books by David Walliams so Mrs Smalley suggested that they might like to respond to his invitation for questions to answer in the Sunday Times Funday Times Home Classroom supplement.

You can imagine the utter delight when, out of just twelve questions answered, one of the chosen questions was from Reuben in 2AS!

Reuben asked: "I really loved Gangsta Granny. Was your granny really like this?"

David Walliams said: "No, she wasn't an international jewel thief, but she did have an exciting life before I was born. She lived in London during the Blitz in the Second World War, so had many adventures. Listening to her as a child was something I thought about a lot when I was writing Gangsta Granny. The book is a tribute to her, and all grandmas really. Be sure to ask your granny lots of questions about her life as I bet she has some stories to tell."



## Run Nation

In last week's update, we sent a virtual 'good luck' to several of our teachers taking part in the Run Nation virtual relay race for clubs and workplaces across the North East during the coronavirus lockdown.

We're pleased to announce that, despite a string of injuries, they were rewarded for their efforts with the workplace trophy in both the Men's and Women's workplace categories. Congratulations, everyone!

The majority of the Dame Allan's teams were self-described 'non-runners' and some went from 'couch to 3k' in one graceful leap having never even entertained the notion of running until Mr Salisbury flooded their inboxes with pleas for them to join the team!

Despite this, 21 teachers successfully completed a run and all of them finished ahead of at least one 'real' runner from a running club. Overall, the DAS Women's A team placed fifth and the Men's team narrowly missed out on a podium finish, coming fourth.

Some notable individual efforts:

- Mr Friel recorded the fastest time in his age category
- Mrs Walton was second fastest in her age category
- Mr Lynch and Miss Brady were the third fastest in their age category.

## DASPA

Our Parents' Association has been keeping busy over the last few weeks. To mark what would have been the Junior School Summer Fair in May, they had a Junior School Treasure Hunt where students were invited to suggest a city where the treasure was buried. There were lots of entries from every continent with children

across the year groups at the Juniors participating in the event. The treasure was located in Cartagena in Columbia and the closest winning city was from Castries, St Lucia. The winner received an Amazon gift voucher.

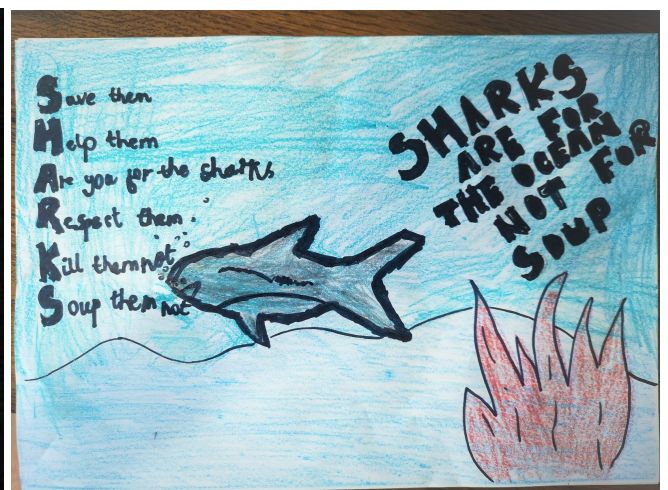
The Summer term would have been a particularly busy time for our Parents' Association, as it should have been the DASPA Black and White Ball on Saturday 20 June. Whilst this event understandably had to be postponed, DASPA will still draw the next numbers in the Lucky Numbers 50/50 draw next weekend and contact the winners in due course.

## World Oceans Day

This week, the Junior School and Nursery celebrated World Oceans Day in a variety of special ways.

Pupils (at home and in school) got involved with lots of live lessons, listened to talks by experts, watched live rockpool talks from Plymouth Aquarium and joined in with creative sessions including yoga, junk modelling and music.

Looks like it was a lot of fun and a great way to learn about such an important issue. Well done, Year 3!



# A message from our Chaplain...

With recent news of some restrictions being lifted, we might be looking forward to a (socially-distanced) summer of some (limited) adventure. Recreation with responsibility perhaps, for although there is still work to be done, the end of this very different term isn't far away, and whatever our dreams for this summer might look like, here's hoping there is some element of adventure somewhere to sustain the soul.

Two years ago this coming week, I paused for lunch on what felt like the top of the world in an almost mountain top experience. I drew breath on the edge of the Cairngorms as I escaped normality for adventure and retreat on my motorbike. No such adventure was seen last year; a new home, new job and new routines put a stop to all but the briefest of sojourns on the highways and off-road tracks. Back in January, I did have embryonic plans for this summer... my bike, my tent and my escape awaits patiently in the garage. I'm sure many plans have been put on hold for this summer whilst we 'wait and see...'



The Psalms offer more than a distinctive, poetical medium in scripture. As I've tragically conducted more funerals than I might normally have been expecting in recent months, families have frequently used the Psalms within memorial services as a literary mountain-top, often providing a perfect articulation of a question even if there is no immediate answer.

The familiar words of Psalm 121 echo something of the moment for many people:

*<sup>1</sup> I lift up my eyes to the mountains where does my help come from? <sup>2</sup> My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. <sup>3</sup> He will not let your foot slip, he who watches over you will not slumber; <sup>4</sup> indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. <sup>5</sup> The Lord watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand; <sup>6</sup> the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night. <sup>7</sup> The Lord will watch over your life; <sup>8</sup> the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.*

These words of King David are thought to have been written after he had just spent considerable time – perhaps as long as 15 years - in the mountains seeking refuge from earthly oppressors. The moments in the mountain were times of refreshment for David, but they were also times of soul-searching, times of abandonment, of dreaming dreams and looking to the future. However individuals might understand the concept of 'Lord', we all need these mountain-top moments in which we find time to re-evaluate without the distractions of life around us. Even if we cannot continue with the planned adventure that we might have dreamt of, we ought to be certain to seek something of a cerebral adventure and escape in order that we can re-evaluate, review, reflect, reconsider, remember, restore, ready, renew, or any other 're' based alliterative word. King David was certainly doing all of these on his mountain-top experience, and I hope to find time to do the same - I will get to the Pyrenees on the way back from Santiago-de-Compostela one year!

The current mood in culture and society seems to be one of doing all those 're' things, too, as we hope for continued emergence from lockdown. From the hopes of a shift from carbon-based industries and economies to those focussed on sustainability and care of the environment; to an at-times painful revisiting of moments of history encapsulated in the statues and monuments that have adorned our cities, the protests and campaigns, and the writing and rhetoric from our leaders; mountain-top moments, real or metaphorical, are essential seasons of growth.

This weekend, I'll take solace in changing the oil (an escape of sorts into the garage), dreaming of where a road might lead me and all those 're' verbs that I'll consider on the way. Even though the work isn't quite finished, I wonder where your dreams might lead you?

Revd James  
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## Get in touch!

If you have any stories or photos of your children getting creative with their remote learning, email us at [news@dameallans.co.uk](mailto:news@dameallans.co.uk)