



DAME ALLAN'S SCHOOLS
building the future

Weekly Update

Friday 3 July 2020

After 16 years as Principal, it is safe to say that Dr Hind has a special place in the hearts of the whole Dame Allan's family and will be greatly missed. We thought it was only right that this week's update should have a very particular theme, Dr Hind.

Along with so many other key moments in the school year affected by COVID-19, several planned events to mark Dr Hind's retirement did not take place, but we hope you can see from the following pages the efforts of pupils, staff and parents to ensure the occasion was marked.

Tributes and celebrations

Staff

On Monday 23 March, a surprise presentation was arranged for Dr Hind at the Senior Schools' staff briefing.

In her speech, Vice Principal Ms Shaw regaled the staff room with several anecdotes from Dr Hind's tenure. These moments ranged from moving to hilarious, one or two of which left Ms Shaw unable to read the speech through her giggles. It was a great way to look back over Dr Hind's time at Dame Allan's and a nice counterpoint to the seriousness of heading into distance learning.



Dame Allan's Schools



@DameAllans

The Allanian Society

Student Joseph (Year 12) was commissioned by The Allanian Society to produce a piece of artwork for Dr Hind. Here he is presenting Dr Hind with his painting of the Senior Schools on behalf of the Society.



DASPA

DASPA would like to thank parents for their messages and contributions for Dr Hind's leaving gift from the parents and carers at Dame Allan's Schools. A socially distanced presentation was made to him by a DASPA representative of an engraved decanter, message book and a cheque.

They would like to wish the longest and happiest of retirements to Dr Hind and wish everyone a safe and sunny summer.



A special challenge...

Mrs Crawley set a 'Showstopper' challenge to all of the pupils who wished to take part. Each cake marked Dr Hind's retirement. Our thanks to William and Ruby (both Year 5) and Imogen (Year 9)* for taking the time to make these fantastic cakes on top of their entries for this week's Bake Off challenge.

William (Year 5) presented his 'Dame Allan's Diamond' cake and cupcakes to him earlier this week and we know Dr Hind was incredibly touched by the gesture.



**clockwise from top left: cakes by William, Ruby, Imogen.*

Governors' farewell

Shortly before the end of term, the governors held their final meeting of the 2019-20 academic year. Once again, Dr Hind was surprised with a presentation - this time on behalf of the governing body and school staff. A keen campanologist, Dr Hind was presented with an engraved hand-bell and a portrait produced by the Schools' design consultants, Boom Creative.

Our thanks to Crest Photography for taking photos of the occasion. It was particularly fitting as Simon has been working with the Schools for many years and took the first 'official' photos of Dr Hind when he joined Dame Allan's 16 years ago.



God Be With You

The music department enlisted students and staff to produce another virtual choir, this time singing Dr Hind's favourite hymn, 'God Be With You'. It begins with solo vocals by Sixth Form student Zoe before she is joined by staff and finally roughly 35 pupils and staff join together to sing the final verse.

This was played to Dr Hind at the SMT presentation and played as part of Dr Hind's final assembly. We know Dr Hind was incredibly moved by this gesture. Our thanks to Mr Smith for organising this, to Zoe and other pupils and staff for lending their voices, and to Mr Davidson for working his AV magic to produce this wonderful video.

[Watch it here.](#)

And finally...

Year 6

Children in Year 6 took part in a 'photoshoot' on the last day of term to mark the end of one chapter and the beginning of the next in their school lives - the move up to the Senior Schools.

The sun might not have made an appearance for them, but we loved this shot of the pupils in their leavers' hoodies looking ahead to the Schools and their future! We're sure they'll be hugely missed at the Junior School, but a welcome addition to the Senior Schools. See you in September, Year 6!



Dame Allan's Bake Off

The last bake off challenge saw pupils tasked with creating two dishes which would be suitable for an afternoon tea. Each dish had to be different - for example, one cake and one pastry.

Congratulations to this week's winner Imogen (Year 9) for her wonderful Alice in Wonderland-themed afternoon tea!

[Take a look at the slideshow of entries here.](#)

Yet again, we think all the work produced by each pupil was superb, but don't just take our word for it - Mrs Crawley said: "I have been so impressed by the hard work and determination demonstrated by all students - their work is fantastic."

Bake Off Champions

We know it was an incredibly difficult decision for Mrs Crawley to choose winners each week and we're sure choosing overall champions can't have been easy either. We're thrilled to announce the overall [Champions of the Dame Allan's Bake Off](#) are:

- Senior Schools' - Imogen (Year 9)
- Junior School - William (Year 5)

Well done to everyone who entered the competition, you all did such an amazing job each week so we hope you're all incredibly proud of yourselves. However, Mrs Crawley felt the dedication shown each week by Imogen and William ensured they just pipped it. Congratulations to both of them!

A message from our Chaplain...

Where to, where do I go? If you never try, then you'll never know.*

Not quite the first words sung, but I wonder, do you recognise the song? Most of our current students were around when this peaked at number two in the Charts in 2005 – just! So often a piece of music defines a moment and an era. I haven't asked Dr Hind what music he might choose to reflect a moment or an era in his time in school... an impossible task I expect.

Another piece that has marked many significant moments in my life is the mind-boggling Symphony No. 3 in C Minor with Organ by Saint-Saens**. The theme from this might be familiar as the theme tune from the film Babe based on the Dick King Smith book The Sheep Pig. In its original form the music is a majestic and triumphal masterpiece written for a full orchestra with the Pipe Organ as a soloist. When the piece had been completed in 1886 Saint-Saens remarked, I gave everything to it that I was able to give. What I have achieved, I will never achieve again. Saint-Saens is said to have planned to give up composing music at this point, perhaps taking a view that he should quit whilst he was ahead. Though this plan never worked out; he would release in the same year the great work The Carnival of Animals, and his poetic Danse Macabre, though written much earlier, would finally find some popularity. Symphony No.3 might have been Saint-Saens' masterpiece, but his talent continued to find new opportunities to entertain, to nurture and importantly to inspire others in the years to come.

From my short time at Dame Allan's, I see in Dr Hind a man who might rightly share some of the sentiment of the Saint-Saens as the Allanian drama of Symphony No. 3 has played out with its moments of joy, utter chaos and turbulence at times, and great celebration and fanfare. I say some of the sentiment, noting particularly the dedication to give everything to the task at hand as the composer, the conductor, and the visionary behind a great chapter in the life of our schools. It might be tempting to think that this marks an end; though we hope that it will be but a pause before something new begins to emerge on the horizon.

The summer is often a season when music defines the moment as we find that extra time to relax with friends and family. As this less than normal summer begins, I wonder what the rhythms of the season might be for you this year?

Another song that defined a moment in the middle of the last century is the song Turn, Turn, Turn; covered by The Byrds in 1965, but actually first released by the folk group The Limelighters in 1962. The lyrics are of course those words from the book of Ecclesiastes chapter 3, a familiar passage to those of the Christian tradition and a reminder that life does indeed have a rhythm in which some chapters end and others begin. When read publicly, a verse often omitted (for some reason which remains a mystery to me), is the line there is nothing better for them than to be joyful and do good as long as they shall live; everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all their toil, for this is God's gift to them.! As more than our school year ends, we give thanks for the great gift to Dame Allan's that we have seen in the efforts and toil of Dr Hind; a Principal who has given everything that he is, who has remained joyful and who rightly deserves this season of joy and pleasure as new things emerge in the song of his life and the life of our school.

Even though our community has dispersed for a time of rest and a pause in our rhythm, those opening lines from Chris Martin are from a song that calls us to look onward to new things as we recognise and gives thanks for the many miracles and blessings that we have encountered in life so far and as we lift our thoughts to what might lie ahead.

Rev'd James

chaplain@dameallans.co.uk

**The song is Speed of Sound by Coldplay. Not simply a random choice – a song from a moment! Released in April 2005, this was one of the only English songs that I remember hearing on Italian radio as my wife and I escaped to northern Italy on our honeymoon on this day fifteen years ago.*

*** listen here: [SAINT-SAENS "ORGAN" SYMPHONY - FINALE \(ARR. JONATHAN SCOTT\)](#)*