

DAME ALLAN'S Digest



APRIL 2017



A welcome from the Principal

This newsletter comes to you at the end of a varied and successful term at Dame Allan's. Aside from the routine business of school life, we were delighted to host a business breakfast which saw businesses based both regionally and nationally meet representatives from North East schools and universities to discuss the careers agenda and how we can work together to help our young people prepare for the world of work. It's been a busy time at the Junior School. As well as our compliance inspection - the official outcome of which we shall share when it reaches us - this month has seen a very successful Open Morning. Many thanks to all of our students who helped to guide prospective families around the school, they showed perfectly how happy, polite and confident children at Dame Allan's are. Children in Years 3 – 5 have also performed an excellent version of Mary Poppins, which not only showcased their talents in music, drama and dance but also made use of the Junior School's latest technology such as the Green Screen. Similar artistic strengths were on display in the recent Spring Concert which featured excellent performances by choral groups from the Senior and Junior Schools and by several hugely talented soloists. The evening was also notable for the first performance by Dame Allan's symphony orchestra, an exciting new departure in the recent history of the Schools. I was also very pleased to present one of our Sixth Form students with a gold certificate for her success in the UK Chemistry Olympiad. This is the first gold certificate in the Schools' history of taking part in the notoriously difficult competition. I hope you have a relaxing and enjoyable Easter holiday. We look forward to seeing you at the start of our summer term.



The Sound of Spring

Our Spring Concert was an excellent event again this year. Over 100 students from across Dame Allan's took part in the

performance at St James' and St Basil's Church with the Junior Choir and African style music proving especially popular. The new Dame

Allan's Symphony Orchestra premiered at the concert with over 45 members coming together to perform some beautiful music.



Red nose building

We had a brilliant time raising money for Comic Relief again this year. We had a non-uniform day across the Junior and Senior Schools and held a students vs. staff volleyball match which helped us to raise over £1000 for the charity. Even the Junior School building joined in!

Best foot forward

We have been involved with Project Front Foot which supplies donated cricket kit to children in slums and refugee camps. It also arranges coaching sessions and matches. We have recently donated several

bags of old cricket kit which will go to Afghan refugees in Germany and to slums in Mumbai. Project Front Foot believes that sport is a key component of children's education and can help to break

down barriers, improve discipline and respect, offer leadership opportunities and offer an escape for a while for these children. This is an excellent cause and we are delighted to support it.

Chim Chim Cheroo



Our Year 3, 4 and 5 children put on an excellent performance of Mary Poppins at the Combined Arts Afternoons at the end of term. They included song, dance and drama – plus

Green Screen technology – to put on a brilliant show which helped our children to learn about how to put a show together and also to practise their performance skills.



Business breakfast

We were delighted to host a business breakfast which saw over 150 representatives from businesses in the region meet with over 20 North East schools and colleges and the region's five universities to discuss the North East's careers advice agenda. The morning, which focussed on the Good Career Guidance Benchmarks pilot, was delivered by the North East Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and funded by the Gatsby Charitable Foundation. The pilot aims to offer solutions to ensure that young people have the skills to meet the needs of employers and, therefore, support the economy.

The breakfast event was arranged by Head of Careers Mrs Whitehouse alongside the LEP and Ryan Gibson, National Facilitator for the Good Career Guidance Benchmarks pilot. Mrs Whitehouse was nominated for the UK Career Educator of the Year at the Career Development Institute awards. Dr Hind said: 'It was a privilege to host this event which will go on to shape the future of careers guidance across the region. We were delighted to welcome representatives from such a large range of businesses to work collaboratively with schools from across the North East for the benefit of our young people.'



Children in our Junior School took part in a Parliament Outreach programme this term where they learned about how Parliament works and how laws are made.

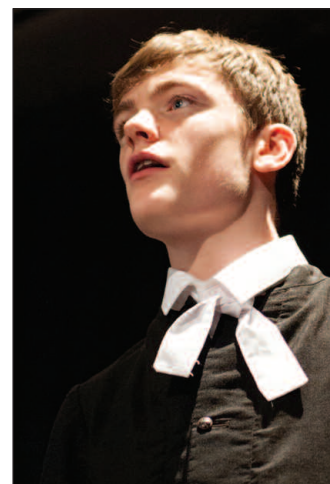


Olympiad

Well done to our Year 12 and 13 students who took part in the British Biology, Chemistry and Physics Olympiads. These international competitions consist of examination questions taken under exam conditions which push and stretch students' knowledge beyond what they are taught in their A Level studies. Lots of our pupils achieved silver, bronze and highly commended certificates which is a brilliant achievement. Hannah is one student who took part in the Chemistry Olympiad and she achieved the first ever gold certificate in the Schools' history. Over 5000 people took part in the competition and only 419 were awarded a gold, which puts Hannah in the top 7.8 per cent nationally. We are really proud of everyone who took part. Well done!

Will the Kid

We are delighted for our Year 10 student Will who has been cast in the National Youth Music Theatre production of 'Billy the Kid'. Will had to attend an audition in Manchester and then a second audition in London, before being selected as a member of cast in the musical which is an adventure story and comedy, set in a colourful world of cowboys and bandits, cactus trees and caballeros. Alumni of the National Youth Music Theatre include Eddie Redmayne, Matt Lucas, Sue Perkins, Sheridan Smith and Tom Chambers to name just a few. The production will be performed in August at the Curve theatre in Leicester.



Huge congratulations to our students Zoe, Charlotte, Legend and Jonathon who won the inter-schools Maths Challenge competition this term. The event saw 16 teams work on different rounds of maths challenges which required them to

work together. Our team did particularly well on the relay round in which they scored full marks, they had been training for the event since January and we are delighted that their hard work paid off. Well done!

Banning homework?

They then thought about laws that they would like to introduce (such as banning homework!) and debated them. The children were joined by Chi Onwurah, MP for

Newcastle Central, for some of the session and they were able to ask her questions about her job and about life as an MP. The children had a brilliant time and learned a lot!

Sport

Jolly hockey umpires

We are very proud of a group of our Year 9 Girls' School students who have been training to become hockey umpires. The girls each completed training in how to be an umpire and have been

overseeing some of our Junior School matches. They also umpired at inter-county quick-sticks matches and the final of the competition. Well done!



Holly, Abigail and Kieron



Well done Holly in Year 6 who represented Tyne and Wear in the National Cross country competition, competing against counties from across England. Abigail in Year 5 also represented Tyne and Wear at the Regional Indoor Athletics Championships and won the Under 11 standing



triple jump with an impressive jump of 5m 98cm. The Tyne and Wear team were overall winners of the Under 11 competition. Our squash teams have also been busy with the Under 15 girls coming runners up in the national trophy competition, the Under 15 boys came 5th in the main national



event and the girls came 4th. Laura Neill, in Year 12, won the Girls Under 17 category of the Scottish Open. Year 8 student Kieron was named the Under 13 Biathlon GB champion at the National Schools Biathlon Championships which was held at Crystal Palace National Sports Centre in March.

Rising stars

Congratulations to our students Toby May and Max Forster who have been awarded Newcastle Rising Stars of Sport awards at Sport Newcastle's annual dinner at the Newcastle Civic Centre. Toby was recognised for his success in fencing; he represented Great Britain four times at Under 17 level in 2016, was North East Under 14 epee champion and will represent England at the Challenge Wratsilava competition in Poland in March alongside another of our students Poppy Chennells. Max has been given the award for his success on the squash court. He is the Northumbria Junior champion at Under 15 and Under 17 level, was British Under 15 champion and Irish Junior Open title winner at Under 15 level in 2016. Huge congratulations to both boys, this is an excellent achievement that takes a lot of hard work and dedication.

Double double



The Under 18 and U16 rugby teams have had a brilliant season, resulting in a 'double double' with both teams winning the County Cup XV aside and seven aside Cups for their age group. The Under 18 sevens team had a particularly fantastic season and are undefeated, winning all 15 of their matches which saw them also win the Keswick and NSB Sevens tournaments.

Rugby stars



Well done to 11 of our Year 11 boys who recently represented Northumberland County in the Under 16 rugby squad. The team played Cumbria and Durham twice, winning three of their four games against Cumbria and Durham and a number of the boys have now been put forward for the Newcastle Falcons Academy.

Netball

Congratulations to our Under 19 netball team for competing in the National Schools Final this March. The competition is the biggest schools competition in the netball calendar and this year the finals were held in Welwyn Garden City. It was a fantastic opportunity for the girls to compete amongst the best school netball teams in the country. Well done!



Networking Event

Lively conversation filled the room at our recent informal alumni event, held at the Northern Counties Club in Newcastle on 16th March. Retired and current teachers mingled with Allanians, exchanging stories and memories of their time at Dame Allan's Schools over drinks and canapés.

Many of the attendees had not been back to school since leaving and they enjoyed the event so much that they promised to contact their old school friends for the event next year. Thanks to all those who joined us and we hope to welcome more of our alumni in 2018.



Rory for PM

We are always impressed by the active role many of our students take in the community beyond Dame Allan's Schools. Rory in Year 12 has recently been elected to the Youth Parliament, a national elected body which represents young people in the UK. Only two candidates are elected to the Youth Parliament so this is a huge achievement for Rory. Part of the role includes going to the House of Commons in July where he will take part in a televised debate on issues that have an impact on young people. Representing the North East, Rory will raise issues such as transport, mental health and work experience during his time on the Youth Parliament.



Allanian friends

Recently we were contacted by two Allanians who have just celebrated 60 years of friendship. Lyn Browne (nee Oxborough) and Judy Norman (nee Jackson) made friends on their first day at Dame Allan's in 1956 after discovering that they shared the same birthday. Lyn and Judy's lives have followed very similar paths, for example both have lived in South Africa and they even have children who share the same birthday! When they were both back in the UK they got



together to celebrate their friendship and had a brilliant time remembering their time at Dame Allan's, including their teachers and other friends. It is always wonderful to hear from our Allanians and this story in particular was lovely for us to hear.

DASPA

Students have been enjoying the benefits of some of our past funding such as the solar telescope and the beautiful spring weather has allowed the Girls to be out in the DASPA Garden. This term our committee begins advance planning for next year. We have now set the date for our 2018 DASPA Spring Ball Saturday, 12 May 2018. Save the date and more details will be out in the coming months.

After the success of our second hand uniform stall at the Christmas Bazaar, we are very pleased to say that we are planning to hold more sales throughout the year, as our stocks permit. Any donations of uniform would therefore be very much appreciated!

DASPA Junior

DASPA Junior is in full preparation for the Summer Fair which will be on 13th May, between 12 noon and 2pm at Dame Allan's Junior School.

Everyone is warmly invited to attend this fun afternoon, which includes family activities, fantastic tombola stalls, an amazing raffle and delicious refreshments.

We are currently collecting raffle prizes (gift vouchers, hampers, etc.) and will be collecting tombola prizes after Easter.

Many thanks to Rachel Bowey Bland who has updated our notice board next to the flagpole, where parents will find lots of useful DASPA J information such as forthcoming events, uniform sales and contact information.

Safeguarding at Dame Allan's

The Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) at Dame Allan's are Mrs P. Ferguson (EYFS); Mrs D. Farren (Junior School); Mrs E. Fiddaman (DAGS) and Mr P. Wildsmith (DABS). Any concern about any child should be passed to the DSLs without delay. You can also call social services to report any concerns. The important message to remember is that concern for a child must lead to help for that child.

Looking to the future...

Monday 10 – Monday 24 April – Holiday

Tuesday 25 April – School resumes

Monday 1 May – May Day holiday

Wednesday 3 May – Jazz concert, Newsom Hall, 6pm

Saturday 6 May – Leavers' dance show at

Dance City, 7.30pm

Monday 8 May – Leavers' music concert, Lumsden Music Centre, 6pm

Saturday 13 May – DASPA Junior summer fair

Wednesday 17 – Friday 19 May – Year 5 residential activity days at Wastwater

Saturday 20 – Sunday 21 May – Year 9 Expedition Award qualifying weekend

Thursday 25 May – Choral Evensong, St James' and St Basil's Church, 5pm

Monday 29 May – Friday 2 June – Half term holiday



DAME ALLAN'S SCHOOLS
building the future

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