



DAME ALLAN'S SCHOOLS
building the future

Weekly Update

Thursday 7 May 2020

Key information

Update on uniform

Schoolblazer and SquadKit have now confirmed they are able to fulfil online orders for uniform and kit.

They have also confirmed the majority of Dame Allan's Senior Schools' uniform is currently in stock with the remaining items due to arrive before the end of June; they are not anticipating any major issues in supply over the summer.

However, in light of guidelines issued by the UK government and the British Retail Consortium (BRC) with regards to social distancing and minimising product handling, they will NOT be able to apply name-tapes for you. Until such time as their operations are able to return to normal, Schoolblazer will include loose nametags free of charge with any purchase.

John Lewis are processing orders for the Junior School and Nursery uniform, but Emblematic are not yet open for business.

We will communicate any further updates about the uniform as and when we receive them.

Surviving lockdown

As we come to the end of our sixth week of remote learning, you might be running out of ways to keep the children focused during school hours or entertain the entire family during down-time.

The latest issue of Families magazine is all about 'surviving lockdown' and is full of resources and ideas to help with home learning, pre-school play and has dozens of ideas for family activities and entertainment .

[Click here](#) to read the digital copy of the magazine.

Keeping your child safe online

Northumbria Police have shared some really useful online safety links and advice. We've added this to the safeguarding section of our dedicated Coronavirus page on our website, where you can also find key correspondence from the Schools and previous weekly updates.

www.dameallans.co.uk/coronavirus



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NURSERY

This half term, Nursery are learning about Minibeasts. Recently, they looked at 'What The Ladybird Heard' by Julia Donaldson. The children have been sent lots of challenges to complete at home and these are just a snippet of what they have been doing at home.

Isabella and Evan enjoyed the challenge of designing their own garden on the ICT programme Mini Mash and drawing their own ladybirds in their garden, too!



Francesca has enjoyed joining in with Miss Milburn's videos and especially phonics with Daisy the Dragon. She also enjoyed making her own story map and helped to think of rhymes for her own version of 'What The Ladybird Heard'.



GEOGRAPHY

Children in Year 5 are currently learning about coastlines and were tasked with creating a 'coastline' from sand or soil, as shown here by Lorena in 5CH. The models are then going to be 'weathered' with water to see the effects of erosion. Great job, Lorena!



POETRY BY HEART

Following success in the regional heats of the Poetry By Heart competition held earlier in the year, Tabitha (Year 5) was due to attend the national finals in London in April. This sadly didn't happen due to the ongoing lockdown measures. However, we're thrilled to say that the finalists were judged virtually and Tabitha received a Special Commendation from the judges putting her in the Top 10 nationally.

Judges warmly praised Tabitha's "lovely rendition...capturing the listener's attention" of 'Instructions for Growing Poetry' by Tony Mitton and "expressive gestures and... confident style of performance" for 'Bed in Summer' by Robert Louis Stevenson.

This is a truly outstanding achievement - congratulations Tabitha!



CHEMISTRY

Check out these incredible 'chemistry cakes'!

In honour of their last ever GCSE chemistry lessons, Mrs McDougall asked her Year 11 DAGS classes to 'bring a cuppa and a cake' with them to the lesson for a virtual tea-party.

The periodic table of cupcakes was made by Isobel, the larger cake (representing caffeine) by Grace and the colourful cupcakes were Mrs McDougall's own offering. What a fantastic way to celebrate even in these socially-distant times!



COMPUTER SCIENCE

This year, students in Year 7 and Year 9 have all been working through iDEA, Inspiring Digital Enterprise Award. This is the digital equivalent to the Duke of Edinburgh Award. We have 43 students who have now achieved the 250 points required to complete their Bronze award; one student has completed their Silver award, which requires 400 points.

A special mention for Amelie in 7J, who has completed 517 Bronze points since September and has therefore been awarded her Bronze Champion badge, as she has completed 50+ Bronze badges. She is the only student in the Schools to have completed the Silver Award and is now working towards her Silver Star Award, where 450 silver points have to be achieved.

Amelie has worked exceptionally hard on her iDEA badges and the computing department are very impressed with her achievement. She has certainly gone above and beyond her fortnightly homework allocation.

Well done and congratulations, Amelie!

Get involved!

DANCE

Our wonderful dance department has decided to create a remote dance film inspired by [And So Say All of Us \(52 choreographers, 1 dance\)](#) - click the link to see the YouTube video.

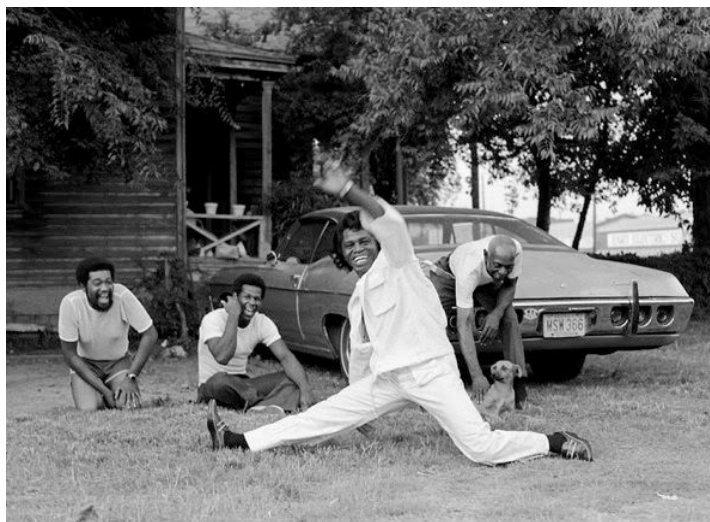
How will it work?

Simply email Mrs Turnbull, our Head of Dance, at c.turnbull@dameallans.co.uk

She will then email you a photo of your start and finishing position - the rest is up to you! Just find a space and create a small phrase of movement, video it and send it back to her.

You do not have to be a trained dancer to be involved, your phrase could involve you sitting down and performing hand gestures. This project is solely about expressing the Dame Allan's community through expressive dance and spreading a little bit of joy along the way.

Oh, and you'll be dancing to '[Get Up Offa That Thing](#)' by the legendary James Brown. What could be better?



FOOD STUDIES

The food studies department invites you to celebrate the 75th VE Day on Friday by hosting your own afternoon tea party. Decorate your home or garden with flags, bunting and VE Day decorations and get creative in the kitchen. Will you make a simple Victoria sponge cake or tackle more challenging patisserie treats such as chocolate eclairs?

Don't forget to share pictures of your afternoon tea creations with Mrs Crawley - virtual certificates will be awarded to students with the best afternoon tea showcase!



MUSIC

The deadline for submission of videos for the Dame Allan's Virtual Choir is Wednesday 13 May.

Email your videos to Mr Smith at NA.Smith@dameallans.co.uk

And finally...

Could you be a friend and bring some happiness to someone in hospital? Not everyone is lucky enough to receive a letter or message from their loved ones while they are in hospital, so NHS Gateshead invites anyone, old or young, to write an anonymous letter to a patient.

Here is some advice for you to follow:

- Address the letter 'Dear friend'
- Share general information such as your hobbies, garden, seasonal anecdotes (the daffodils in your garden, visiting birds etc)
- Offer some reminiscence opportunities – your favourite places, childhood memories, favourite food etc
- You might want to draw a picture of gardens, animals and pets, artworks, coastal views etc – all help to stimulate conversations and memories
- Ask questions to encourage the patient to think about their own lives – for example, 'I always enjoy a Sunday roast. What's your favourite meal?'
- Encourage the recipient to follow government guidance on keeping themselves safe
- Keep your message or letter to a maximum of one A4 side of paper
- Sign your letter with your first name only

Letters will be screened by the Patient Experience team before they are printed and given to a patient, but please don't give any details that will identify you specifically – address, date of birth, age, etc - or be political or share conspiracy theories.

You can email your anonymous letter to a patient to: ghnt.dearfriend@nhs.net

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



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