

# DAME ALLAN'S Digest

MAY 2016



## A little bit of politics



Politics has been brought to life for our students after the Shadow Home Secretary, the Right Honourable Andy Burnham, visited the Schools.

Mr Burnham was speaking to students as part of our mock EU Referendum, and also gave a broader insight into political life. The Shadow Home Secretary began by telling the young audience about his own path into politics following the 1980s miners' strike, which inspired him to become politically active at the age of 16,

the same age as many of those listening to him.

Mr Burnham also expressed his frustrations that young people won't get a say on 23rd June, as they did in the Scottish referendum, saying: 'I am frustrated that young people, 16 and 17 year olds, aren't able to vote. The outcome of this vote will affect your lives far more than those much older than you who are able to vote. But you can still make a difference, research the arguments and campaign for

what you believe in.'

As well as commenting on the EU, Mr Burnham answered a host of questions on a range of subjects from the audience, many of whom study politics at A Level.

Mr Burnham ended his talk by reminding our students that they are the future of politics. He said: 'It worries me that young people are disillusioned with politics. For all the flaws in the political system it does help those in need. You can change the world through politics; get involved, if I can do it, you can do it.'

Dr Hind, Principal of Dame Allan's Schools said:

'Mr Burnham's visit is a real honour for us and his presentation proved to be inspirational for our young people. We are proud that we are engaging our students in politics through this mock referendum, as we did with the General Election, and Mr Burnham's talk has added greatly to this process.'

The mock EU Referendum included speakers from a range of political viewpoints.



### A welcome from the Principal

This half term has seen some truly remarkable people visit Dame Allan's Schools, as you will see. As we look ahead to the forthcoming A Level and GCSE/IGCSE examinations we hope they have been a source of inspiration for our young people. Professor Danielle George spoke to the Girls' School about tenacity and imagination, whilst Shadow Home Secretary, the Right Honourable Andy Burnham, delivered an inspirational talk to our young people, encouraging them to get involved so as to make a change in the world. These are valuable lessons which will help our students both whilst at Dame Allan's, and in the wider world.

Of course, we were extremely pleased to have passed the ISI regulatory compliance inspection which took place this half term, as you will know, and once again thank you to those of you who responded to the ISI survey. I hope you enjoy this snapshot into life at Dame Allan's Schools. We do wish you all an enjoyable half term holiday and we look forward to the start of the final half term of the academic year in June.

## Imagine that

We were lucky enough to welcome Professor Danielle George to Dame Allan's in April. Professor George spoke to our girls from Years 7 to 13 about her career, the world of STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) and about the importance of ambition and having goals, no matter how far in to the future the realisation of these goals may be. Professor George works at the University

of Manchester as a Professor in Microwave Communication Engineering and is an Associate in the Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences. In 2014 she became the sixth woman in 189 years to deliver the Royal Institution Christmas Lectures. The theme of her talks at Dame Allan's was 'Engineered in your Imagination'. She explained how all the greatest engineering and scientific inventions began in

someone's imagination long before the technology was available for them to be built. She told the girls we are all born scientists, because we all ask questions and that asking questions leads to imagining solutions.

Professor George is an excellent role model for the girls at Dame Allan's. As well as speaking about her work with the European Space Agency, where she worked on the Planck space craft which mapped the universe after the 'Big Bang', she inspired the girls with her words about tenacity, the benefits of failure and seeing

the bigger picture. 'I fail a lot', she told them, 'The trick is to embrace these failures; we don't have to succeed the first time, we learn from our mistakes and move forwards.'





# Let's dance



This has been a busy half term for the dance department. Vizavis took part in the Pulse regional final at Dance City in April and we also enjoyed the company's leavers' show. The show was emotional for those who are leaving Dame Allan's for university or further study at the end of the summer term, but it was a fantastic showcase of their incredible dancing abilities of which we are very proud. Jeune also enjoyed much success, having been selected to take part in the final event of Rambert Elements, a nationwide

choreography challenge for schools and colleges. Over 70 groups from across the UK applied for the project and 36 were selected to take part. Each group choreographed and performed their own short work using music, themes and creative tasks and six schools have been selected to perform at the final Rambert Elements showcase. We are the only school in the North East to have been selected and we are of course extremely proud of our students and staff who worked hard to achieve this. Jeune also impressed when they performed at the DASPA Ball.



## A Goblin car's made

Children in Year 6 have been taking part in an exciting engineering project. The Institution of Engineering and Technology's 'Greenpower Formula Goblin' project aims to inspire children to take an interest in engineering in a fun and innovative way. The project sees children build their own functioning and drivable

electric car from a flat packed kit. The Junior School car has been built and is ready to be tested at the Nissan Test Track in Sunderland. The build has been fun and educational for our children, who have learned about friction, electricity, materials, maths and design technology through the project.





# Biology silver

Four of our students took part in the British Biology Olympiad and we are very proud of their success. All four of the Year 13 A Level Biology students were entered into the competition by Head of Science Mr Downie, who saw their potential to shine. Each of them achieved awards ranging from Highly Commended to the Silver award. The British Biology Olympiad challenges and stimulates students

with an interest in Biology to expand and extend their talents. It enables students to demonstrate their knowledge and to be suitably rewarded and publicly recognised. The Olympiad is notoriously difficult, consisting of two one hour papers taken under exam conditions and only the top 15 per cent of applicants nationally are awarded medals. We are really proud of our students' achievements. Well done!



# Great lakes

Children in Year 5 enjoyed their residential trip to Wastwater in the Lake District this term. This is an annual trip which the Junior School runs to help prepare the children to take on more responsibilities in their soon to be new roles in Year 6 at the Junior School.

The children took part in a range of activities including ghyll scrambling, bushcraft, orienteering and team building activities. Well done to all of the children for their brilliant behaviour, and many thanks to the staff who took them away.

# BFG@DAS

We were very lucky to welcome actor Anthony Pedley to the Junior School where he performed The BFG from his one man show 'A Taste of Dahl' to all year groups. During the performance our children were taken on an adventure through Giant Country, where they found out about Whizzpopping and frobscopples and caught dreams to take to the Queen. The performance was a fantastic experience for our children,

the aim of 'A Taste of Dahl' is to inspire and encourage children to read books and Anthony Pedley certainly achieved that at Dame Allan's!



# Sport

We have really enjoyed re-starting a range of new sports for the summer term. Our students have been taking part in cricket, tennis, athletics and rounders alongside their other sports. The Schools have been particularly successful on the athletics field, we competed in the North of England HMC Schools athletics meeting where our Junior boys came first, and the Tyneside Schools Championships where the intermediate team came first. We were also delighted to host

an invitational tennis and rounders tournament at the Schools. Dame Allan's is now part of the Sky Sports Living for Sport initiative which uses sports stars and skills learnt through sport to build confidence and develop life skills. We have been lucky enough to be paired with Craig Heap, a retired professional gymnast who competed at the Commonwealth and Olympic Games. We will keep you updated on the project.



## Junior Sports

This half term some of our Junior School children participated in Healthy Hearts day at Northumbria University. They took part in workshops including throwing and catching, nutrition, team building, balance and posture and jumping and landing. The day was targeted towards children aged 7 – 9 and looked at long term development skills.



## Football

Our U9 football team won the Newcastle City Championships this term. They played brilliantly throughout the competition, it was a real team effort with each

member working hard in their position. Well done! The U11 team also made it through to the National Schools Finals – a brilliant achievement.



# Rocket to the Moon?

Our Junior School children are taking part in an out of this world nationwide science experiment. In September 2015 2kg of rocket seeds were flown to the International Space Station on Soyuz 44S with British Astronaut Tim Peake. As part of an experiment, run by the Royal Horticultural Society, Dame Allan's Junior School has been selected to receive and grow some of

these seeds. We were given 100 seeds that have been on the ISS and 100 seeds that remained on Earth. Our children will observe the differences, if any, in the plants as they grow. Only when the national results have been published will we know which seeds went in to space, and which stayed on Earth.

The experiment will enable the children to think more about

how we could preserve human life on another planet in the future, what astronauts need to survive long-term missions in space and the difficulties surrounding growing fresh food in challenging climates.



## Safeguarding at Dame Allan's

Take some time over half term to review the parental controls on your home computers. Have a conversation with your child about the social media sites they visit and check the age restrictions for the sites. Your child should be happy to share their activity on social media with you.

## DASPA

The Spring Ball at the Gateshead Hilton raised a record-breaking £7700 which will enable DASPA to support school projects. Many thanks to all who donated prizes and an extended thank you to Signpro for the publicity banners and signage and to our kind sponsors, Brewin Dolphin for the champagne reception and Helen McArdle Care for the table decorations.

The entertainment started with Dame Allan's students performing a stunning piece of contemporary dance followed by a lively show of Irish dancing from Junior and Senior students. The disco provided a break from the tradition of a live band and the crowded dance floor proved the switch to be a welcome change. The ever popular 'heads and tails' and cash and prize raffles added to the guest participation in what was a fantastic evening.

Many thanks to all who attended!

## DASPA Juniors

DASPA J is having an exciting time! We have a new committee with Sarah Elliott and Rachel Bowey Bland joint secretaries, Sarah Batey as treasurer and Vanessa Morrell as Chair. The new committee formed in February and since then we have had an Easter Party for Years 1 and 2, a Reception cartoon night and we have sponsored both the Nursery colouring competition and a decorated egg competition for all of the Junior School children. We also enjoyed our summer fair, it was a fun family day!

If any parents would like to help with DASPA J contact Vanessa Morrell on vmorrell@contactbabel.com

# The Allanian Society

A group of 20 DAGS 1975 leavers visited Dame Allan's for a tour this half term. Not only was the visit itself fascinating, with lots of memories prompting some brilliant stories, it was also a brilliant icebreaker for the evening event, a meal in Newcastle.

The leavers, who left the Schools more than 40 years ago, thoroughly enjoyed seeing what had changed and what was the same at Dame Allan's, as well as hearing how the Schools' culture has evolved.

We were thrilled when two Allanians decided to pop into

Dame Allan's whilst they were in the area. We loved hearing Mr and Mrs Elsdon's story. They met at the Schools almost 50 years ago and left in 1968. After attending university they married in 1972 and moved to America, they now

live in San Francisco and have two children and several grandchildren. We are always happy to catch up with old Allanians so do feel free to pop by if you are in the area, you will receive a very warm welcome!



## Looking to the future...

**Monday 30 May – Friday 3 June**  
– Half term holiday

**Monday 6 June** – School resumes

**Tuesday 7 June** – DABS New Parents' Evening, 7.00pm

**Wednesday 8 June** – DAGS New Parents' Evening, 7.00pm

**Monday 13th June** – EYFS, Years 1 and

2 sports day at Junior School, 1.00pm

**Monday 13 – Friday 17 June**  
– Senior School exam week

**Wednesday 22 June** – Junior and Senior School introductory morning

**Monday 27th June** – Years 3 to 6 sports day at Junior School 1.00pm

**Wednesday 29th and Thursday**

**30th June** – Year 6 production of 'Macbeth' 6.00pm

**Friday 1 July** – Reception Graduation, 1.30pm

**Friday 1 July** – Senior Schools' sports day. DABS am / DAGS pm

**Sunday 3 July** – Music tour to Belgium departs

**Monday 4 July** – Junior Prize Giving Years 3-6 Newsom Hall, Senior School, Fenham, 6.30pm

**Wednesday 6 July** – Junior School Summer Concert, 6.00pm

**Thursday 7 July** – Term ends, 12 noon

**Friday 8 July** – Iceland trip departs



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

t: 0191 275 1500 e: news@dameallans.co.uk www.dameallans.co.uk

