

DAME ALLAN'S Digest

JULY 2016



New Chair of Governors



We have recently announced the appointment of a new Chair of Governors, Mr Brian Adcock, after Mr Elliott Ward stepped down following a decade of service to the Schools.

Mr Ward has shown tireless enthusiasm and support for Dame Allan's over the last ten years. With a background in property development he was instrumental in supporting our building work including a purpose built Sixth Form block, the state-of-the-art Junior School and the Dr Alan Reece Design Technology Centre.

Mr Ward is an alumnus of Dame Allan's, having joined the Schools in 1946. As well as having a keen interest in education he is also a notable North East businessman. In 2013 Mr Ward was awarded an MBE for his

'hands on' services to education and the community.

We were delighted to present Mr Ward with a stunning piece of artwork showing the Senior site, drawn by Year 13 art student Fergus Nicholson, at a small reception to celebrate his time as Chair.

The new Chair of Governors Mr Brian Adcock is also an alumnus of Dame Allan's, he left in 1969 and also sent his two children to the Schools.

Mr Adcock served as Vice Chair of Governors for 10 years and the Schools are thrilled to welcome him to his new post. Speaking about his appointment Mr Adcock said: "I am of course thrilled to be the new Chair of Governors and am in a very fortunate position as Elliott Ward has left the Schools in such a healthy condition. I am looking forward to carrying on

his work and making sure that Dame Allan's continues to be innovative and challenging."

The Schools have now appointed Mrs Deborah Cunningham as Vice Chair, she has a background in HR, sent her children to Dame Allan's and is a member of DASPA.

Dr John Hind, Principal, said: "Dame Allan's Schools are indebted to Elliott Ward for the work he has done. He has given his constant, unwavering support and helped with a vast range of projects. His vision and drive have been an inspiration to us all and he will always be an important member of the Dame Allan's family.

We are however thrilled to welcome Brian Adcock and Deborah Cunningham as Chair and Vice Chair and we know they will show great enthusiasm and passion in their roles."



A welcome from the Principal

As we reach the summer it is a time to reflect upon the events of the last academic year and to celebrate the successes we have enjoyed. It has been a very busy year at Dame Allan's, we have a great deal to be proud of with both academic and extra-curricular achievements for our students. As always, our success comes as a result of the support and hard work from every member of the Dame Allan's family and now is a good time to thank you for your continued support and enthusiasm; it is much appreciated.

Many of our students have just finished an intense exam period and we hope the summer break will give them the opportunity to relax and refresh themselves before preparing for the start of term in September.

This is also a time when we say goodbye to our Year 13 students who are going on to university, travelling and other endeavours, we wish them the very best of luck and we look forward to celebrating with them on results day in August.

Year 6 in tragedy

Our Year 6 Shakespeare production this year was the tragedy Macbeth. All the children did a fantastic job of performing the play. From the witches, to the army, to Macbeth himself, the costumes, acting and dance were all fantastic. Well done to all the children who



took part and many thanks to those members of staff who produced another fantastic Shakespeare play.



Dance classic

One of our dance companies Jeune had the amazing opportunity to collaborate with Britain's oldest dance company, Rambert, this term. Dame Allan's was the only school from the North of England to qualify for the experience of a lifetime after they made it through to the final performance of a newly-launched national dance choreography challenge, 'Rambert Elements'. The scheme aims to raise the profile of choreography and performance

in secondary schools and colleges across the UK. Jeune, a group of 11 girls in Years 8 and 9, was selected to perform at the national showcase at the Peacock Theatre in London, accompanied by the Rambert orchestra, following a rigorous selection process involving six regional performances. 36 groups took part in the regional heats, which took place earlier in the year, with just six being invited to London. Well done!



Animal magic

Years 1 and 3 had an exciting workshop this term. As part of their work on animals and the rainforest they had a lesson with For Paws, Gosforth. They met a

range of animals including insects, crabs and snakes and learned lots of interesting facts, including what they eat and where they like to live.

Friends from down under

We were thrilled to forge links with schools in Australia this term as we hosted three Head Teachers for a day. Karen Spiller from St Aidan's Anglican Girls' School (Queensland), Michelle Carroll from St Catherine's School (Melbourne) and Ros Curtis from

St Margaret's Anglican Girls' School (Queensland) spent some time at Dame Allan's finding out more about our education and, more specifically, our examination systems. It was great to learn more about the education system in Australia and we hope to keep in touch.



Sport

On the athletics field Dame Allan's have had much success. The Junior boys won the HMC North team championships and the Intermediate and Junior boys are the Tyneside champions. Also the Junior and Senior boys won the inaugural Durham School biathlon team championships.

Well done to Allanian Miles McGrady who has been selected to represent Northumberland in the hurdles in the ESAA national championships. This is a huge achievement for Miles and we are excited to watch his progress in the championships!

We are thrilled for Allanian Johnny McPhillips whose rugby career is going from strength to strength. Johnny, who left Dame Allan's in 2010, was selected to play for Ireland in the U20 Rugby World Cup. Johnny studies politics at Queen's University and is able to represent Ireland as both his parents are Irish. The Ireland team did incredibly well in the U20 World Cup, finishing second, beating teams such as Wales and New Zealand and Johnny has also had a chance to train with the senior team. We are all very proud of Johnny and wish him the best of luck in his studies and rugby career!

Sports for a day

We enjoyed four brilliant sports days again this year. We held one for the Early Years, one for the Junior children and another for the Senior Schools. It was great to see all of our students coming together in

friendly competition and cheer each other on. The egg and spoon race was of course a favourite at the Junior School, whilst the three-legged race was particularly exciting for the Senior Schools.



The graduates

Children in our Reception class had a very special graduation ceremony at the end of term. To mark their 'graduation' from the Early Years the children, aged 4 and 5 years donned red academic gowns and mortarboards to receive certificates from Principal Dr Hind. Proud parents watched as they received their scrolls and

sang 'This Is The Time We Graduate' and 'If You're Happy and You Know it' Dr Hind said: 'This is a wonderful time to celebrate all of the achievements for the children in Reception. We are really excited for them to make the move to Key Stage 1; we are sure they will love it just as much as they have Reception.'



Former teacher Ted Baldry

We were saddened to hear the news that former Dame Allan's teacher Ted Baldry died this month. Ted was a huge supporter of the Schools and was Head of Biology from 1957 – 1994, and Boys' School Senior Master from 1990 – 1994. Ted was exams officer for many years and was deeply involved in the life of Dame Allan's, including running the tennis club, ski trips, he arranged

dances with the Parents' Association and was the staff representative on DASPA and the Allanian Society. He continued to sit on the Allanian Society until his death. Ted's wife Shirley, who died in 2013, taught art in the Girls' School. Ted will be sorely missed by us all at Dame Allan's and our thoughts are with his family and friends.



The history boys

In recent years our history club has been discovering some fascinating information about the Dame Allan's Old Boys who fought in both the First and Second World Wars. Their research led them to contact the family of one of the boys, George Thomas Baston, who fought in the First World War. George Baston's relations currently live nearby in Seaton

Delaval and we were thrilled to welcome them to Dame Allan's so they could see our memorial in the Newsom Hall. We thoroughly enjoyed finding out more information about our Allanian's history.



The Allanian Society

Allanian Genevieve Devine is enjoying much success in the world of fashion. Genevieve has just finished a fashion design degree at Northumbria University and as part of her final year she took part in a spectacular fashion show. From this she was selected to show her designs at the Graduate London Fashion Week,

after which she won the 'Graduate Fashion Week 25th Anniversary TU Scholarship Award.' This award is worth £20,000 and will expose Genevieve's work to many big fashion brands. Italian Vogue was also impressed and asked to see more of Genevieve's portfolio. We are thrilled for our Allanian and wish her the best of luck!

Allanian Fiona Mansfield, who left Dame Allan's last summer, was the recipient of the Bulkeley-Evans HMC Scholarship, which provides scholarships for Gap Year projects between school and university for pupils in HMC schools. Fiona's scholarship helped her to spend three months in Nicaragua with Raleigh International as part of the International Citizen Service. Fiona was based in a rural indigenous community in the north of the country where she stayed with host families and worked in the community

on a water sanitation project. Fiona then travelled to Peru where she spent 5 weeks volunteering at a children's home. We are very proud of Fiona and

Dame Allan's London Event – Save the Date

For those of you who like to plan ahead, the date for Dame Allan's Alumni London Reception is Thursday 13 October at 20 Fenchurch Street, also known as the Walkie Talkie building. The event is kindly hosted by Allanian Claire Bowler, Partner at DWF Law. Ticket price, information on how to book and other details for this event will be available on our website and Facebook page later this summer.

the great work she has done this year, we wish her the best of luck as she heads to Dundee University in September to study medicine.



DASPA

Plans are in place for DASPA to support improvements to the girls' quad in the Senior School. Final discussions are taking place to maximise the seating and sheltered space for the girls to be able to have an attractive place to relax and enjoy some quality time together outdoors. DASPA Junior was represented at the last DASPA committee meeting and it proved to be very worthwhile, we found ways of being able to collaborate to the benefit of both schools.

DASPA Juniors

It has been a busy term for DASPA J starting with our summer fair in May. Many thanks to all children, staff and families who supported this event and made it such an enjoyable occasion. The fair raised £3,634 and we are now liaising with staff and children on how to spend the money. We have held a cartoon night for Reception and all of the Nursery children participated in a colouring competition sponsored by DASPA J. Our final event was a Tropical Beach themed party for Years 5 and 6 complete with palm trees, red carpet, photo booth, fantastic food from Mr Horton and a disco from Mr Thompson supported by his colleagues at the Senior School. The children had an amazing time and big thanks to everyone involved. We look forward to welcoming new and existing parents to DASPA J in September.

Safeguarding at Dame Allan's

Please be vigilant over the summer break as to the games children are playing online and on consoles. There is excellent advice available on the NSPCC website - Playing games online: how to avoid risks and stay safe.

Looking to the future...

Thursday 7 July – Term ends, 12 noon
Thursday 7 July – Iceland trip departs
Thursday 18 August – A Level results

Thursday 25 August – GCSE results
Thursday 8 September – Start of school year
Tuesday 20 September – Allanian Society AGM,

5.30pm. Everyone welcome.
Wednesday 21 September – Speech Day, 6.30pm. (Senior School closed all day)



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