

# DAME ALLAN'S Digest

MARCH 2016



## A welcome from the Principal

This newsletter comes at the end of another varied and successful term at Dame Allan's and I feel this edition reflects the tapestry of activities and opportunities we offer our students. National Careers Week was marked with a full week of activities, talks and workshops for all students in Years 1 – 13. I am most grateful to all the parents, Allanians and employers who gave up their time to come into the Schools in support of Mrs Whitehouse's initiative. The drama, dance and music departments worked collaboratively to put on the spectacular performance of 'Little Shop of Horrors' this term. The performance won great critical acclaim from those who came along – a big thanks for your support. As you will also see, our sports department have been enjoying much success across a variety of sports. As ever, I am delighted to see so many of our students involved in a range activities alongside their academic work. I hope you have an enjoyable and relaxing Easter holiday and that those preparing for examinations have a profitable time too. We look forward to seeing you at the start of our summer term.

## Little school of horrors



Dame Allan's students brought the house down this half term with a fantastic production of the hilarious musical Little Shop of Horrors, in the 30th anniversary year of the original Frank Oz film.

In all more than 70 pupils from Year 7 to Year 13 took part in the comedy horror rock musical, which features a man-eating plant, Audrey II, whose spectacular transformation on stage thrilled the audience. Little Shop of Horrors is set in the 1950s in Mushnik's Skid Row flower shop, where

hapless florist Seymour Krelborn cultivates the blood-thirsty plant which turns the shop into a horticultural hot spot, and Seymour into a national celebrity.

The lead role of Seymour was played by Nick Warneford in Year 9, who, aged 14 years old, was the youngest to play one of the main characters. However Nick's performance of the improbable hero captivated the audience. Nick, who is a member of Dame Allan's Schools' choir and drama clubs said: "We rehearsed the play

for months and it was a lot of hard work, but it was all worth it in the end. The reaction of the audience was brilliant, and I really enjoyed acting with the huge, man-eating plant!"

The cult musical classic was jam-packed with talent from Dame Allan's and really showcased the huge array of talent we are lucky to have at the Schools. Students performed song, dance and drama on our own stage, the music was live and was also performed by Dame Allan's students and staff.

## Careers Week

As part of National Careers Week 2016 we ran a bustling careers week which our pupils from Year 1 to Year 13 were fortunate to benefit from. Over 40 employers attended the event during the course of the week, taking workshops and holding stalls at the lunchtime careers fairs where our students were able to ask questions and hear advice.

Pupils took part in Speed Careers Networking allowing them time to meet each of the guests in small groups to discuss their career paths and ask questions. The week also gave our students a taste of things to come as we will be running our biennial careers convention again on October. A huge thank you to all those employers, Allanians and parents who helped.





# Dame Allan's playing their part

A number of members of staff at Dame Allan's have been involved in a very special project with the Schools' parish church, St James' and St Basil's. For nearly four years they have been working

alongside the church and its vicar, Canon Nick Darby who is also the Schools' Chaplain, and successfully applied for funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund to restore the organ, a £150,000

project. The organ restoration is now complete and a celebratory concert took place this half term, which included performances from students and staff from Dame Allan's.



## St Oswald's

We are very proud of our charitable work at Dame Allan's and were thrilled to be able to donate money to charities again this half term.

Following an assembly by St Oswald's Hospice earlier in the year, one of our Senior School forms, 8Y, raised £170 for the hospice by baking bread. Every boy in the form played a role in the fundraising, whether that was helping to make the bread, bake alongside members of staff or to sell it around the Senior School. Two of the boys have been so inspired to raise funds for the hospice that they will be taking part in the Junior Great North Run in September and hope to raise lots of money for the hospice via sponsorship. Our Junior School children are excited to be taking part in St Oswald's Great North Snow Dog project later this year. We also donated over £300 to Marie Curie Cancer Care which was raised at the Richard Holmes Memorial rugby match. Many thanks to all those involved!

## When Irish dancers are smiling

Three of our Junior School children, Amelia, Tabitha and Isabella, competed in the All Scotland Irish Dancing Championships this half term. This is a major competition and dancers from all over the world travelled to compete in it. Amelia took part in the U10 competition and managed to 'recall', this means that she was able to compete in the final round as her marks for the first two rounds were high enough, a huge achievement. Amelia was placed 32nd in

the championship overall and 2nd in her prelim championship. There were more than 90 dancers in the competition so she did extremely well, and was a medallist for each of her solo rounds. Tabitha took part in the U6 competition and was placed 6th out of 17 dancers, this was Tabitha's first major event and was a brilliant achievement. Isabella did amazingly well and won the U7 competition for the second year. Well done to all the girls!





# Sporting success

This half term has seen a jam packed sporting calendar, and a great deal of silverware to go with it.

## Rugby

We are very proud of our rugby teams, with two County Cup victories amongst the many achievements. The Y10 and Y11 teams both won at Kingston Park with the Y9 team coming runners up. The Y9 team also participated in the Newcastle Falcons Festival, the boys won the tournament after winning all three of their games. The boys were then lucky enough to watch the U20 RBS Six Nations international between England and Ireland, where they saw All-Ireland Jonny McPhillips play fly half for Ireland and guide

his team to victory.

The Girls' School has also been introduced to rugby, with the PE department introducing touch rugby into PE classes, they hope to hold a charity tournament in the coming weeks. Congratulations also to Luke Newby in Year 10 who has been selected to train at the Newcastle Falcons Academy, alongside the three Year 11 boys who already train there, and to Adam Gurteen and Alex Watson in Year 11 who have been selected to play in three Premiership club festivals for the Newcastle Falcons U16 team.



## Football

Our Junior School saw much success including outstanding win at the ISFA U11 seven aside football tournament (North East

Region) in Leeds.

The team played five matches, Dame Allan's went unbeaten and have qualified for the national finals.

## Squash

On the squash court we are excelling once again.

Both the U15 boys and U19 girls competed in the National School

Squash Finals.

This was the first time our boys team had qualified and they came sixth, the girls team did particularly well, and came second.



## Hockey

The hockey teams are also playing very well this season, the Year 8 team came second in the County Tournament.

Well done also to Annalea Davison and Miles McGrady who have won Sport Newcastle Rising Star awards – we will hear more about their achievements in the coming weeks.

## Cross country

The Junior team also had an enjoyable day at the inter-schools mini cross country competition. Four of the children were placed first to third and they all had a brilliant day running in the muddy conditions! Well done to Senior School students Florence McPate and Dan Melling for being selected to run for Northumberland in the National Finals – they both performed really well and Dan's team came seventh out of 44 counties.





# Techno, Techno, Techno

Our Junior children enjoyed workshop sessions with Technology Tom this half term. Technology Tom works with all age groups to make STEM subjects exciting and interesting and he took sessions with our Year 1 children on their

playgrounds topic and Year 2 children on their winding up topic. The workshops took place in the DAS lab where our children took part in activities such as designing climbing frames and modelling a swing, see-saw and roundabout.



## DASPA

Many of you will have seen the colourful banners with information regarding the forthcoming Spring Ball. Tickets are selling well and we encourage anyone who is thinking of joining us at the Hilton Gateshead on May 7th to please send in your table requests as soon as possible to snap up the places still available! If you have any queries, please contact Mrs Boyle in the Schools' office or email [daspa@dameallans.co.uk](mailto:daspa@dameallans.co.uk). Another great social evening is in the pipeline for April when the Dame Allan's ceilidh band will be joining forces with a visiting school band for an evening of music and dancing. Further information will be announced soon. DASPA is also delighted to provide two engraved plaques to acknowledge the 20 students who painted the wall outside Room 21, commemorating WWI.

## Safeguarding at Dame Allan's

The Schools are committed to the safeguarding of children, our safeguarding leads are:

Pam Pollock – Early Years

Deborah Farren – Junior School

Elaine Fiddaman – Girls' School

Phil Wildsmith- Boys' School

## Allanian Society Dinner

This year the Allanian Society dinner was a celebration of modern languages at the Schools. The evening had a European flavour with continental food, wine and entertainment. Year 13 student Daniel Venning performed songs between courses in English, French and German. Alongside speeches from Dr Hind and the Head Boy and Girl, a number of Allanians who studied languages at the Schools spoke about the success

of languages at Dame Allan's. This included David Ward (Ambassador to Eritrea), Geoff Sockett (Professor of Linguistics at Paris Descartes University), Russell Barnes (Translator with the European Commission) and Richard Harding (works on European projects from Bucharest). The dinner was once again a brilliant occasion for Allanians of all ages to meet up, many thanks to all who attended.



Brian Adcock and Bill Lomas.



Helen Grant, Andrea Fairbairn and Helen Buckley

## Looking to the future...

**Tuesday 12 April** – Start of term  
**Thursday 21 April** – Year 12 Higher Education Evening

**Saturday 23 April** – Leaver's Dance Show  
**Monday 2 May** – May Day holiday

**Saturday 7 May** – DASPA Spring Ball  
**Monday 16 May** – Leavers' Concert  
**Wednesday 18 – Friday 20 May**

– Year5 residential activity days  
**Saturday 21 May** – DASPA Summer Fair 12 – 2pm



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

t: 0191 275 1500 e: [news@dameallans.co.uk](mailto:news@dameallans.co.uk) [www.dameallans.co.uk](http://www.dameallans.co.uk)

