

Digest

DAME ALLAN'S

DECEMBER 2016

Great North achievement



We were delighted to present the Great North Children's Hospital with over £1,000 following a fundraiser with a difference to support our Year 8 pupil Dylan. We gave a cheque for £1,135.77 following a Wear a Hat Day which was organised by Dylan's form to support Dylan after he lost his hair whilst going through chemotherapy and radiotherapy.

All staff and students from Nursery to Year 13 raised the money which will go to the Children's Cancer Fund at the Great North Children's Hospital which is a specialist patient-centred hospital

for children.

Janet Price, Fundraising Manager for the North of England Children's Cancer Research said: 'The money that is donated to us makes a huge difference to children living with cancer. It means we are able to provide gifts, toys and equipment to celebrate milestones, the end of their treatment or to help distract them whilst they are undergoing therapy. We also put on parties, for example one at New Year which Dylan went to last year. This money will do a great deal to support children at

the Great North Children's Hospital.' Dylan also raised £2,000 for the hospital earlier in the year through a JustGiving page after being admitted to hospital with an infection mid-way through his treatment. Dylan's mum gave him the project of raising money to keep him occupied during his time in hospital and he was thrilled to

raise so much, which will go towards supporting children of his age in the hospital who are too old for the play room and too young for the teenage room. Speaking of his experience at the Great North Children's Hospital Dylan said: 'The care I received on wards 4 and 14 was fantastic; no child should go through so much pain, but there the staff make your life better, they make you smile and feel protected. I want other sick children to continue to receive the same care I have enjoyed.'



A welcome from the Principal

This Christmas edition of the newsletter is, as you will see, packed full of the activities and achievements of our students and alumni. We enjoyed a fantastic and haunting performance of *The Crucible* at the Senior Schools, whilst the Junior School really got into the festive spirit with the Nativity and a fun and lively performance of *Peter and the Wolf*. Many thanks to everyone who supported our students in their performances. DASPA held a wonderful Christmas Bazaar again this year, it was great to see the Dame Allan's family coming together for this - many thanks to everyone involved. We launched the new website this half term, we hope you like the new look - please let us know if there is anything that you feel we could add to it. I hope you enjoy a peaceful festive period and that the Joy of the Christmas story will find its way into your homes. Many thanks to all those of you who have supported the Senior School house captains in their collection for Making Winter Warmer.

The New Year will see some of our students sitting exams in January, we know how hard everyone works when preparing for these exams and we are sure that all of the hard work will pay off.



Good reads

Congratulations to our Year 8 students Lucy, Maya, Anya and Annabel who competed in the Kids' Lit Quiz, beating some tough competition to win the regional heats and making it to the National Final in London. The annual literature quiz is for students aged 10 - 13 years and

heats are held across the globe, including in Hong Kong, New Zealand, South Africa and the United States. The quiz tests students on a range of subjects all based on books children may have read. Well done to our team for reaching the national finals - what a brilliant experience!

All heart

Well done to our Year 12 students who raised £140 for the Children's Heart Unit at the Freeman Hospital. Our student Radya has a part time job at the unit so the form arranged a cake sale in school to raise the money and presented the charity with a cheque. The unit is one of the world's leading specialist centres for children and babies with heart conditions and is one of just two in the UK, meaning it treats critically ill babies and children from across the country.

We were also delighted to raise £1,451.86 for Children In Need through a non-uniform day, cake sale and other fundraising activities.





Much missed

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of Allanian Jack Castling this half term.

Jack was a treasured part of the Dame Allan's family and his life was remarkable.

In 1939 Britain declared war on Germany and Jack was a 12 year old boy attending Dame Allan's Schools. What was to follow proved Jack's ceaseless positivity and his ability to make the best of any situation.

Jack was first evacuated from the North East to Cumbria in 1939. Eight months later the threat to the North East appeared to have receded and so Jack returned. However, Newcastle was a centre for heavy industry and was a key target during the war. In July 1940 a German raider attempted to drop a bomb on the high-level bridge between Newcastle and Gateshead. It missed, but struck Spiller's Mill nearby, at the time Dame Allan's Schools were holding an evensong service at St Nicholas' Cathedral in the city centre. The bomb, which killed 13 people and injured 100, caused the whole cathedral and the vicinity to shake so violently that three-quarters of Dame Allan's parents decided to evacuate their children to the safer countryside.

On 7th July 1940 Jack and 150 other children from Dame Allan's Boys' School took the train to Windermere, carrying a few possessions and a gas mask. Jack's sister Sheila followed the day after with the Girls' School. They spent the next four years living in Windermere.

In 1944 Jack returned to live in Newcastle, he met his wife Ann and they went on to have two sons who they sent to Dame Allan's. In 1984 Jack retired to

Cumbria having had a deep love of the area since he was an evacuee.

In 1990, fifty years after the evacuation, Jack decided to honour the journey they had taken as young children and arranged a reunion with fellow evacuees to re-run their first evacuation. The reunion, which departed from Newcastle Central Station, was a great success and showed the positivity Jack had. Dr Hind said: 'Jack's story is remarkable. For a child to have to live away from home twice under such circumstances must have been frightening. However Jack was a very positive person. He clearly made the best of his time in Cumbria and to arrange a re-run of the evacuation is a lesson to us all to make the best of whatever life gives us. It was a pleasure to know Jack and he will be missed very much by us all at Dame Allan's.'

Jack continued to be involved with Dame Allan's Schools and attended the tercentenary event in 2005, where he met the Queen. Dame Allan's Schools' history club has extensively researched the history of the old boys who went to war. In the First World War 652 boys served and 84 died. In the Second World War 411 served and 43 died.



Sport

Roman the eagle

Congratulations to our Year 9 student Roman who has been selected for the Newcastle Eagles U14 basketball team. Roman had to go through a number of selection trials and a squad selection process

to gain his place on the squad. He is now very happy to be on the team, playing basketball for them each week in the point guard position, a very specialised role. Well done Roman!



To the Max!

We are very proud of our Year 10 student Max who is now the British U15 squash champion! Max competed in the British Junior Championships in Manchester, the four day event saw nearly 300 junior players battling it out for the title of Junior Champion and Max snatched victory from the jaws of defeat in his final game. Max's opponent took

the first and third games, meaning Max had to dig deep to come back with a win. We are thrilled for Max who has worked really hard to achieve this, along with our squash coach Mrs Dennis. In addition Laura Neill was placed first and Lowri Waugh came third in the U17 NE Regional Squash Championships. Well done!

Champion!

Well done to our Year 7 student Charlotte who has been named the U14 county badminton champion! Charlotte won her title following six straight wins at the Tynedale Badminton Centre in November and she has been nominated for Tynedale Sports-woman of the Year. Congratulations!





Peter and the Wolf

Our Junior School put on some brilliant shows again this year. Children in Years 1 and 2 put on a fantastic musical performance of Peter and the Wolf, whilst Nursery and Reception classes each

performed the nativity. It is lovely to see our children having such a good time on the stage, thank you to everyone who came along and supported them, we hope it got you into the Christmas spirit!

Lots to sing about

Our Year 7 student William has been promoted to Deputy Head Chorister at St Nicholas' Cathedral in Newcastle. William has been part of the choir since he was in Year 4 and has been promoted because of his singing capability and for his loyalty. Well done!



Spellbinding

The Senior School performance this year was The Crucible by Arthur Miller which was performed by students from Year 10 to Year 13. The Crucible is a dark, and sometimes scary, play about witchcraft in the town of Salem. Our students did a fantastic job performing this challenging play, well done to everyone who took part. Students were also involved

behind the scenes which gave them an insight into all the elements that are needed to produce a play. Our Head of Drama Mrs Clark put a huge amount of work into the show again this year and we are very grateful to her. Thanks also to everyone who came to see the show and supported our students.



Nativity snaps



Allanian Dates

Dame Allan's Founder's Day Service and Allanian Society Lunch

Join us for Founder's Day Service in St Nicholas Cathedral at 10am on Friday 17 February 2017, followed by the Allanian Society lunch. The lunch is held at the Northern Counties Club, at 12.30pm. If you would like to attend, please send a cheque for

£26 (payable to the Allanian Society) to the Development Office at the Schools, by Wednesday 8 February 2017.

Dame Allan's Schools North East Alumni Event

On Thursday 16 March 2017 between 6pm and 9.30pm we will be holding an alumni networking event at the Northern Counties Club. Join us for some food and drinks, and the opportunity to meet up with Allanians and school staff.

Further details will be available in the New Year.

The Allanian Society's Annual Dinner

Calling all doctors, nurses, dentists - in fact everyone working, involved in, or interested in all things medical. We have a date for your diary; The Allanian Society's Medics Dinner will be held on Saturday 1 April 2017 at the Schools. Further details will follow in the New Year.

Tony Clough MBE

Congratulations to Allanian Tony Clough on receiving an MBE for campaigning for Changing Places which provides wheelchair accessible toilets, a cause which Mr Clough campaigned for tirelessly, including whilst having treatment for a brain tumour. Changing Places provides toilets that can accommodate the user and their carer. Over 840 Changing Places facilities are now open across the UK, making

them available for up to 5 million people with special needs and disabilities.

Tony is a carer for his severely disabled sister Julie and said: "I am humbled that my work has been recognised with such an honour. Seeing Mum and Julie struggle on a daily basis to do even a weekly food shop, or go anywhere for more than an hour or two, inspires me to keep campaigning."



Allanian awarded

Allanian Professor Russell Cowburn has recently been awarded the Clifford Paterson medal and will give the associated lecture in 2016.

This huge honour was given to Russell for his remarkable academic, technical and commercial achievements in nano-magnetics.

Safeguarding at Dame Allan's

During the holidays pupils may well be spending more time on social media. Please take this opportunity to ensure that all the accounts your child uses have maximum security and that they understand the reasons for this. It is also a good chance for a conversation about rules of good practice on social media and what should and should not be posted.

Looking to the future...

Friday 16 December – Carol service at St Nicholas Cathedral. Term ends after service.

Friday 16 December – Allanian Society Christmas lunch

Saturday 17 December – Old Boys' rugby match, Old Girls' hockey match and after match function. 11am KO

Saturday 31 December – Saturday 7 January – Ski trip to Alpe d'Huez

Tuesday 10 January – School resumes

Thursday 12 January – Life in the Middle School, 6.30pm

Saturday 14 January – DAGS entrance exam

Saturday 21 January – DABS entrance exam

Monday 23 – Friday 27 January – Year 11 trial exams week

Saturday 28 January – Dance show at Dance City, 7.30pm

Sunday 29 January – Dance show at Dance City, 2pm

Friday 3 – Sunday 5 February – Years 10 – 12 art trip to London

Thursday 9 February – Year 11 DAGS parents' evening, 4pm

Monday 13 February – Year 11 DABS parents' evening

DASPA

A huge thank you must go out to all students, parents and staff who have helped to make this year's Christmas Bazaar a great success! The donations of goods and prizes leading up to the fair were so generous and everyone attending on the day helped to raise just over £2,500 - an amazing amount which we will be able to use over the coming year to fund a variety of projects within the Schools. A special thank you to the Junior and Senior choirs who really brought festive spirit with their songs!

It is not too late to join the DASPA 50/50 club. Forms can be collected from the Schools' Office.

DASPA has also set up an account with 'Give As You Live', an online fundraising organisation. When you go through their website to access your internet shopping, a percentage of your purchase will be donated to DASPA at no extra cost to you. All of our fundraising allows us to purchase items that benefit all Dame Allan's students. Once again, a very heartfelt thank you to everyone for your fantastic support, and best wishes for the festive season!

DASPA Junior

It has been another busy few months for DASPA Junior, starting with our annual Halloween party where the Year 3 and 4 students relished their spooky evening, wearing the most incredible costumes and competing for fantastic prizes. Our film night for Years 1, 2 and 3 was also well attended as was the Year 5 Christmas Party. DASPA J have funded both of the Christmas trees in the Junior School and held a Christmas bauble competition. At our AGM Vanessa Morrell returned as Chairperson, Sarah Batey as Treasurer and Rachel Bowey Bland and Sarah Johnson as Joint Secretaries.

Thursday 16 February – Choral evensong – St James' and St Basil's church, 5pm

Thursday 16 February – Half term starts for Nursery to Year 5

Friday 17 February – Founder's Day service at St Nicholas' Cathedral 10am. Half term ends after service

Monday 20 – Friday 24 February – Half term holiday



DAME ALLAN'S SCHOOLS
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