

DAME ALLAN'S Digest

APRIL 2015



A welcome from the Principal

I am pleased to send this newsletter at the end of another busy and enormously positive half term. We have again enjoyed a very successful offer period including another lively Open Morning for our Junior School and Nursery. We very much look forward to welcoming new pupils to the Schools in the coming months and of course the next academic year.

As you will see this half term saw our squash team crowned national champions again and we have embarked on an exciting new venture, Youthlink, with some of our Sixth Form students. We are also making great progress on our Reece Design and Technology project and will keep you up to date on events as they unfold.

I hope you enjoy reading our latest Digest, which celebrates the hard work and achievements of our pupils across all of Dame Allan's Schools.



This year the Dame Allan's Schools' production was Oliver Twist. Clearly a lot of hard work had gone into the performances

and it certainly paid off. The moving tale was portrayed brilliantly by our pupils to an audience of parents, staff and

friends of the Schools. Well done to everyone who took part both on stage and behind the scenes.



Ballet high!

Two of our Sixth Form pupils have been selected to be a part of the Young Creatives scheme at the Royal Ballet School. Niamh McBride has been chosen as one of eight choreographers nationally to take part and Richard Tyson has been selected as an associate, meaning he will be

involved in the scheme as a dancer for the choreographers. Young Creatives is a national programme managed by Youth Dance England in partnership with The Royal Ballet School and the Royal Opera House and supports young people in developing and deepening their choreographic skills.

New venture Youth Link

This term, six of our Year 12 students were selected to join Youth Link, a new venture by Children North East. Youth Link trains volunteers aged 16 – 25 from a range of backgrounds to become peer mentors. Mentors are linked with young people

who they help to explore their difficulties, provide support and identify solutions. Mentors are supported by a co-ordinator from Children North East. This is a fantastic opportunity for our students and we wish them the best of luck.



We've got talent

We were thrilled to welcome former pupil Jamie Lambert, a member of the hugely successful band Collabro this term. Collabro won Britain's Got Talent in 2014 and have enjoyed great success. In 2015 they embarked on a UK tour and, with a date in Newcastle, Jamie very kindly visited Dame Allan's whilst in the city.

During his morning in school Jamie spoke to our lower school students in assembly, speaking of his time at Dame Allan's, life in Collabro and how important it is for them to follow their dreams



and do what makes them happy. He also joined a music lesson, offering tips and advice to students and listening to some of their performances. Thanks again to Jamie for coming into school and inspiring our pupils!



The Sound of Juniors

The Junior School combined arts performance this term was a delight as always. Pupils and staff took on the ambitious project of using live dance, singing, music and drama performance alongside green screen technology to put on an enthusiastic and lively version of The Sound of Music.

Order in court



A lucky group of our Sixth Form politics pupils took part in a mock trial at Northumbria University as part of National Careers Week 2015.

The students were able to make use of the real life courtroom at the university, which has been used as the set for a host of TV programmes, after it was removed from Bedlington

Magistrates Court. The workshop involved students acting out the trial of an assault case by taking on a number of roles including lawyers, clerk, police officers, jury and witnesses. They were also given a talk by Kevin Kerrigan, Dean of Northumbria's Business and Law School, who discussed the wide range of careers which result from a law degree.

Sport



For the second consecutive year Dame Allan's Schools' Under 15 girls squash team has been crowned national champions. The five strong team won the 2015 National Squash Championships in Manchester after beating Kenilworth 3 -2 in the final. The Under 15 boys' team won the trophy competition and the Under 19 girls' team narrowly lost out on a second title to highly ranked British players.

Winning ways!

Dame Allan's have also been enjoying rugby wins including the Under 18 team winning the Keswick Sevens and the shield at Austin Friars, the Under 16 team winning the Northumberland County Sevens and the Under 14 team winning the County Cup against Queen Elizabeth High School, Hexham with an impressive 51 - 0 score. Congratulations to all who were involved!

DASPA

DASPA Junior has been working hard and plans are well underway for the 2015 summer fair to be held at the Junior School on Saturday 16th May. There will be lots of stalls and Splat the Teacher! The raffle has some fantastic prizes this year including complimentary tickets to Alnwick Garden, the Giants Den and Namco amongst others. We'll let you know further details as they are confirmed!

DASPA has secured the Hilton hotel on May 7th 2016 as the venue for the Spring Ball following the highly successful event last year. Please consider saving the date in your diaries! DASPA is also excited about the prospect of being involved in supporting the Reece foundation project in school. We are currently looking at options to complement the project in the most effective way.

Allanian Society

The Allanian Society Annual Dinner was held in honour of the Schools' head of dance, Lynda Clough, who will retire in July. Dame Allan's has a national reputation in dance and this is due to the vision, drive and expertise of Lynda, who has been with the schools or over 25 years, and the team she leads. More than 100 Allanians of all ages attended the dinner held in the Newsom Hall and it was an exceptional evening with the performing arts reflecting the history of Dame Allan's Schools. A number of our talented pupils took part on the celebration as actors, singers, musicians and, of course, dancers.

Looking to the future...

Tuesday 21 April – Start of Summer term

Sunday 26 April – Viz a Viz Dance Show at Dance City, 7.30pm

Wednesday 13 – Friday 15th May – Year 5 Residential activity days at Wastwater
Saturday 16th May

– 12.00 - 2.00pm DASPA Junior Summer Fair

Saturday 16 – Sunday 17 May – Year 9 Hill Skills weekend

Monday 18 May – Year 10 Geography Field Trip

Friday 22 May – Half term

Monday 1 June – Back to School



DAME ALLAN'S SCHOOLS
building the future

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