

DAME ALLAN'S Digest

MAY 2017



A welcome from the Principal

We have enjoyed a busy and successful half term, as you will read, and we are once again incredibly proud of what our students achieve both in school and beyond.

The official launch of the Royal Marines Combined Cadet Force with St Thomas More School was a brilliant event and marked the start of an exciting journey for the cadets. The CCF provides a host of opportunities and training in leadership, teamwork, problem solving and perseverance, skills which are essential in all walks of life. Some of our cadets have been active in other excellent areas of school life this term - the recent jazz concert being an obvious example. Leavers' events are always tinged with a degree of sadness, but there can be no doubt that the leavers' music and dance shows once again showcased the remarkable talents of many Allanians - and the first rate guidance and support provided by our dedicated staff team.

Both of those will be vital to success in the forthcoming GCSE/IGCSE and A Level examinations. Our students have been working extremely hard and I hope this half term break gives them the chance both to revise effectively and also to relax ahead of the busy exam period and the final half term of the academic year.



Pupils on parade

We were delighted to host the opening parade of our Royal Marines Combined Cadet Force this May, which is made up of cadets from Dame Allan's and St Thomas More School, Blaydon. We welcomed a host of dignitaries, including the second most senior Royal Marine in the country, Brigadier Richard Spencer OBE, the Lord Mayor of Newcastle, the Deputy Mayor of Gateshead and the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Tyne and Wear to the parade, which included formal drill by the cadets, an inspection, raising the CCF flag and unveiling a commemorative plaque.

The majority of CCF contingents are formed in one school which may then invite students from another school to join it as a

partner. However, this North East contingent was set up from scratch by both schools, Dame Allan's has not had a cadet unit since 1959 and St Thomas More has never had one. In addition, Royal Marines CCF contingents are rare and this is the only one in the North East, offering its 30 cadets an insight into the elite amphibious corps.

Speaking at the parade, Brigadier Spencer said: 'This is the first time an independent school and state school have set up a joint CCF RM and it will offer cadets some brilliant opportunities. The CCF can change young people's lives for the better. They will learn about self-discipline, resilience, leadership and many more valuable life lessons. It is a privilege to launch

this contingent.'

Diya Varghese, 15, a cadet from Dame Allan's said: 'I feel really privileged to be a part of the Royal Marines CCF. I see myself as a leader so it's brilliant to be able to develop my leadership skills. There are so many opportunities as a cadet, I'm really looking forward to making the most of the opportunity!' Perhaps what was most remarkable about the day is that it took place 104 years to the day after the first ever Dame Allan's Cadet Corps was formed. As the cadets posed for their official photographs in July 1913 there is no doubt that the world with which they were confronted was very different to that which faces those photographed over 100 years later.

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Ctd... The Dame Allan's Cadet Corps was active from 1913 – 1960, but for reasons unknown it dwindled after this date. There were several interruptions due to the two World Wars, however cadets made the most of their experiences including helping the war effort when they were evacuated to Windermere, which included searching the woods for escaped German prisoners. Dr John Hind, Principal said: 'No one could have known what our cadets would have gone through when the cadet corps was first launched. I hope that none of our

cadets have to experience much of what those before them did. However, the CCF offers young people a broad range of challenging, exciting, adventurous and educational activities. The aim is to enable the development of personal responsibility, leadership and self-discipline, all valuable tools for life and which are attractive to employers. We are delighted to have worked together with St Thomas More to launch this CCF contingent which will have a hugely positive impact on those cadets who choose to be a part of it.'

Unusual visitors

Children in Years 1, 2 and 3 had a visit from some furry friends this term. Year 1 enjoyed a workshop on pets, Year 2 had a workshop on habitats and Year 3 learned about rainforest creatures with For Paws

Animal Shows. The visitors included a giant rabbit, a snake, blue tongued skink and a hedgehog. The children had a brilliant time and learned lots!



The great outdoors

We were delighted to welcome children from Lingey House Primary School, Gateshead, to our Junior School Woodland Way on National Outdoor Classroom Day. The children learned about the life cycle of a frog and were able to play and explore in our own outdoor classroom. We were able to share our Skogsmulle programme with

the children, this programme sees Early Years pupils introduced to outdoor learning by befriending 'Mulle', a creature of the forest in puppet form who accompanies the children into the woods and teaches them about nature through songs, play and stories. Many thanks to Mrs Williams for her hard work in sharing our outdoor learning provision.



Let's dance

This year's leavers' dance show was 'Relinquo', which was held at Dance City. The show was a superb final showcase of the talent and enthusiasm of our students. It was very emotional for those who are leaving Dame Allan's for university or further study at the end of the summer term, we are incredibly proud of them all.



Ballet brilliant

We are delighted that two of our students, Kate in Year 6 and Kirsten in Year 9, have been offered a place with the English Youth Ballet for their production of Swan Lake at the Sunderland Empire. The English Youth Ballet presents

full-length classical ballets in the regional theatres across England, Scotland and Wales for dancers aged 8-18 years. There is a rigorous audition process to complete before being offered a place so Kate and Kirsten have done brilliantly.



Irish feet are dancing

Four of our students have had great success in Irish dancing this term. Amelia Sherlock, Tabitha Sherlock, Isabella Zibe and Minnie Place competed at the Irish Dancing World Championships in Dublin over Easter. Amelia and Tabitha's Under 11 group won

their category and were crowned world champions, Minnie was placed 5th in her Under 14 category and Tabitha's team did brilliantly, just missing out on the recall. This is a fantastic achievement for all of the girls, well done!



Music to our ears

The music department has had a busy half term at our Junior School. Fifteen children took grade 1 – 3 exams in a range of instruments, including the trumpet, violin, clarinet, cornet and voice. This is the largest number of Dame Allan's juniors to take examinations in one season which shows the great breadth of musical talent and ability in the school.

Easter Party

At the end of last term we were delighted to welcome senior citizens from local care and residential homes to Dame Allan's where they enjoyed an Easter party. The party was organised by our officers and

included lunch, a raffle, bingo and music from our choirs. We've had some brilliant feedback and hope to make it an annual event.



The Allanian Society

The annual Allanian Society dinner took place at the end of last term in the Newsom Hall. Almost 100 people attended the medical themed dinner, many of them are medics themselves, along with the Lord Mayor

of Newcastle. Dr Hind, the Head Boy and Head Girl gave speeches, along with five guests who spoke about their route into medicine and how Dame Allan's had helped. The evening finished with a brilliant speech

about the future of medicine from special guest Professor Chris Day, Vice Chancellor of Newcastle University. A minutes silence was held for Ted Baldry former Head of Biology in the Boys' School.

Safeguarding at Dame Allan's

Video Games – advice for parents

Children love to play video games, but there are some risks involved. The two main areas of concern are:

- Children experiencing violent or sexual content beyond their age.
- Children playing online with strangers and either experiencing inappropriate language, or being groomed.

The PEGI ratings should help you decide what is appropriate for your child.

Further advice is available from:

<http://www.askaboutgames.com> which will also provide advice on setting parental controls on games consoles to help ensure that play is safe for children.



DASPA

This term we have been delighted to provide funding for two new outdoor table tennis tables which will be installed in 2018 – we are sure that they will be a very popular addition to Dame Allan's sporting facilities.

With the approach of the holiday season, please remember that you too can support our initiatives without costing you a penny by making holiday purchases, flights, hotels, train tickets and much more through the [giveasyoulive](http://giveasyoulive.com) website. Details of this are available on the Dame Allan's website under DASPA.

As this school year draws to a close, a reminder that we are always grateful for any donations of school uniform that has either been outgrown or is no longer needed and we thank you in advance for anything you can provide.

DASPA Juniors

We would like to give our heartfelt thanks to the Dame Allan's community for their support of our Summer Fair on 13th May. It was well attended and we were overwhelmed with the help given by parents and staff on the day. Everyone had great fun and we raised over £3400, which will be used for purchases that will enhance our children's lives in the Junior School.

The Reception children thoroughly enjoyed their cartoon night in early May and we are now beginning to prepare for the Year 6 leavers' disco in June. With this in mind the committee would like to take this opportunity to thank our members with children in Year 6: Jenni John, Shona Burrows and Deborah Golding for all their hard work with DASPA Junior.

Looking to the future...

Monday 29 May – Friday 2 June
– Half Term Holiday

Monday 12 – Friday 16 June
– Senior School exam week

Monday 19 June – Early Years, Year 1 and Year 2 Sports Day, 1pm

Monday 19 – Friday 23 June

– Year 12 opportunities week

Wednesday 21 – Sunday 25 June – Gold D of E practice expedition

Thursday 22 – Sunday 25 June – Silver D of E practice expedition

Monday 26 June – Years 3 – 6

Sports Day, 1pm, Senior Schools

Wednesday 28 – Thursday 29 June – Year 6 Shakespeare production, 6pm

Friday 30 June – Woodland Ways parents' workshop

Friday 30 June – Sports Day

– DABS am, DAGS pm

Monday 3 July – Junior drama club performance

Monday 3 July – Junior prize giving (Years 3 – 6), Newsom Hall, Fenham, 6.30pm

Thursday 6 July – Term ends 12 noon



DAME ALLAN'S SCHOOLS
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