

DAME ALLAN'S Digest

DECEMBER 2014



A welcome from the Principal

This latest newsletter reflects on another busy and successful half term which has included our remembrance activities, a field trip to Iceland and of course our Christmas events.

Our recent 'taster week' in the senior schools saw many prospective students in Dame Allan's. Thanks are due to all the students and staff who helped with this and also to all those who continue to recommend the Schools to other families. The new year and new term will bring their own challenges, not least the examinations taking place in January. We know students have been working very hard in preparation for these and we will continue to support them through the exam period.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year and we look forward to sharing more success together in 2015.

Christmas at Dame Allan's

Christmas has been a special time in the Schools this year with a range of events and performances throughout December. At the Junior School and Nursery there were traditional nativity plays performed by the children in Early Years, a carol

service at the Church of St James and St Basil and a brilliant production of Peter Pan. A lot of hard work went into each performance and it certainly paid off. The Junior School choir also performed a range of festive songs at the Newcastle

General Hospital, Eldon Square and to our neighbours at the St Mary Magdalene residential home. This year the carol service will be in aid of Eating Stones, a charity set up by an Allanian which supports projects in Kenya which combat poverty.



Minnie's Mini



Pupils at the Junior School were given a Mini Countryman for a week after Year 6 student Minnie Place won the Lloyd Newcastle colouring competition. Minnie's winning design followed the 'School's out for Summer' theme, with a group of friends playing in the sun.

MINI Brand Manager, Kevin Johnson,

said the design won because "Minnie did an excellent job of creating a simple but stunning design which would catch the eye of anyone who saw the car." Minnie's family also took the Countryman for a spin for a day courtesy of Lloyd Newcastle and had a brilliant time - well done Minnie.

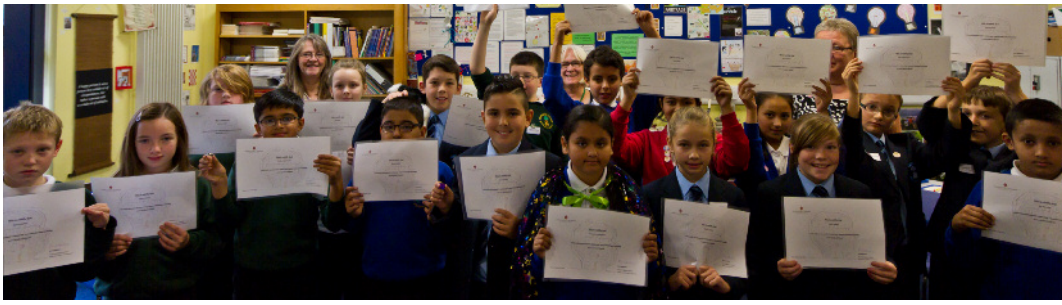
Remembrance Day, 100 years on

November 11 marked Remembrance Day and was particularly poignant in this centenary year. We held special assemblies throughout remembrance week both to pay our respects and to educate pupils of all ages.

We know that 652 Allanians served in the First World War, and to mark the centenary our WWI research club has been tracing the history of the 84 boys who died in the war. The club has discovered some really interesting information from the school records such as which Dame Allan's sports teams the boys represented. The club aims for special Dame Allan's

memorial crosses to be placed on the memorials of the 84 who died in the war by staff, pupils and friends of the school. If anyone plans to visit a war cemetery or memorial please get in touch - we may have a cross for one of our Allanians to be placed there. We have also launched our Lest We Forget project, which offers prizes for poetry and art and which will run across the next two years. We hope all our students will be involved.





Inspiration for future philosophers

Philosophers of the future were given the opportunity to question moral and ethical dilemmas in a lesson with a difference at Dame Allan's. Year six students from Knop Law Primary School,

Wingrove Primary School and Stocksfield Avenue Primary School explored what makes something right or wrong and questioned their own actions during the interactive lesson, using the Ring of Gyges as a

case study. The session is part of a series of master classes at Dame Allan's, held to introduce children to different subjects and technologies they may not have at primary school.

Rozita takes her seat



We are thrilled that our Year 12 student Rozita Leetham has been elected to the Newcastle Youth Council. The purpose of the Youth Council is to represent the views of young people aged 11 to 18 who live, study or work in Newcastle upon Tyne. Rozita has attended her first meeting and hopes to focus on child poverty during her year on the council. Rozita will be holding regular surgeries in school so that students get their opportunity to voice what is important to them, and these views will be passed on to the Youth Council. We wish her the best of luck in the role, and congratulate her on this brilliant achievement.

Who's been to Iceland?

GCSE Geography students were treated to some spectacular sights on their trip to Iceland over October half term. 28 year 11 students went on the week-long trip which involved them climbing a dormant volcano, taking the Golden Circle tour and visiting geothermal pools. They were even lucky enough to see the Northern Lights on their first night.



Literature Festival

Dame Allan's Schools competed in the Kids Lit Quiz again this year. This is an international children's literature competition which involves teams answering a number of literature questions. We sent Year 7 and 8 pupils

from the Boys' and Girls' Schools in two teams to take part and they came 8th and 9th out of 35 teams competing. This was a very impressive result – congratulations to both teams!

Taking history to the Max...imus

Year 3 had an exciting lesson with Maximus the Roman Centurion this half term. Children learned about Roman

language, dress and the army in the energetic session which formed part of their history curriculum.



Shakespearean success

This term Dame Allan's Schools took part in the Shakespeare Schools Festival for the first time. It is the UK's largest youth drama festival, offering students the opportunity to perform Shakespeare on a professional stage. In November 18 year 7 and year 8 students, both boys and girls, performed an abridged

version of Romeo and Juliet at the Whitley Bay Playhouse. It was the culmination of eight weeks of rehearsals and our students did an excellent job. Kristy Clark, Head of Drama said: "Our students did a fantastic job and had a brilliant time performing at the playhouse. I'm so proud of them all."



Czech rugby tour

The Dame Allan's Schools U13 rugby team had an excellent time on a week-long tour in Prague over

October half term. A fantastic time was had by all 27 boys who went. They played some excellent rugby

and our A team came 3rd overall out of 12 teams playing in the Pico Cup at RK Petrovice, a super result.

OLED celebrations

Our Outdoor Learning Education Awards Evening was a brilliant opportunity to celebrate the many successes in the department. Over 80 students received awards for their achievements and performance during OLED activities, including the Expedition award and the Duke of Edinburgh award. The OLED shield was

presented to Matthew Anderson for outstanding performance and commitment to leadership, and the OLED award for leadership went to Alexander Taylor for outstanding contribution to coaching. Congratulations to everyone who won an award.



National rugby call-up

Allanian and talented rugby player Johnny McPhillips has been selected for the England u18 squad. Johnny left Dame Allan's Schools in 2010 and has been selected to train with the national team after successful trials. Speaking of his selection

Johnny said: "I'm very excited and can't wait to get playing and training. It has required hard work and many hours of dedicated training to get here." Dame Allan's wishes Johnny the best of luck in the England Squad.

Looking to the future...

Friday 12 December – Carol Service 10.00am St Nicholas Cathedral (Term ends after service)

Friday 12 December – Allanian Society Christmas Lunch

Saturday 13 December – Richard Holmes Memorial Game - Old Boys' Rugby Match and after match function: 11.00am KO

Tuesday 6 January – School Resumes at 8.30am

Thursday 8 January – Life in the Middle School for Year 9 parents: 6.30pm

Tuesday 13 January – DAGS Year 7 Parents' Evening: 4.00pm

Wednesday 21 January – DABS Year 7 Parents' Evening: 4.00pm

Wednesday 21 January – Year 7 DABS visit to Synagogue

Wednesday 21 January – Year 1 – 3 Film Night

Wednesday 28 January – Year 5 residential activity days at Wastwater presentation to parents

Tuesday 3 February – DAGS Year 11 Parents' Evening: 4.00pm

Friday 6 February – Visit of Hutcheson Grammar School Choir

Saturday 7/Sunday 8 February – School Dance Show

Wednesday 11 February – Year 8 PSHE Day

DASPA

The DASPA Christmas Bazaar and uniform sale was one of the busiest in recent times. A fantastic £2700 was raised to fund the many school projects that enrich the lives of the students.

This year's charity stall was in aid of Ebola and it raised a magnificent £781.

There were also World Challenge and Young Enterprise stalls run by our Sixth Form students.

As well as stalls selling a range of products, the senior and junior choirs performed some beautiful Christmas carols.

The DASPA team would like to thank everyone who was involved in the Bazaar for making it such a happy event.

DASPA Junior have decided to fund 10 new chess clocks for the chess club this quarter, as well as outdoor games and two Christmas trees.

Future fundraising events include movie nights, discos, colouring competitions, a cartoon night and much more.

Allanian Society

The Allanian Society is looking forward to catching up again over the Christmas period.

The society is holding a Christmas lunch on 12 December at the Northern Counties Club, and a Young Allanian drinks reception on 28 December at the Northumberland Tennis Club. We're sure they will have a brilliant time.

Thursday 12 February – Choral Evensong – St James' & St Basil's Cathedral

Thursday 12 February – Half term starts for Nursery to Year 5

Friday 13 February – Founder's Day Service at St Nicholas Cathedral (Half term holiday starts after service)



DAME ALLAN'S SCHOOLS
building the future