

DAME ALLAN'S Digest



JULY 2018

A true legend

Every time we use the new yurt at the Junior School and Nursery, we will be permanently reminded about our founding Head Teacher, Mr Edge. Staff at the Junior School and DASPA Junior, the parents' association for the Junior School which donated the required funds for the yurt, dedicated the outdoor facility in Mr Edge's honour in tribute to the service he has provided to our schoolchildren for the past 17 years.

A plaque naming the yurt 'The Edge' was unveiled at the Junior School as teachers and pupils joined in a whole school Royal Tea Party to mark the occasion of Mr Edge's retirement this week. It was a joint celebration as another pivotal member of staff at the Juniors, Mrs Pollock, similarly called it a day after two decades of serving the Schools. Mr Edge's involvement with Dame Allan's Schools started way back in 2001 when he was appointed as Head of the Junior department. Ever since then, he has been a



big hit with students, parents and colleagues, his infectious positive attitude and gregariousness rubbing off on everybody and brightening up their days. Mr Edge took on responsibility for Linden School for a period of time and was then appointed Head of the Junior School in March 2008. His biggest achievement was undoubtedly overseeing the move to the current Junior School and Nursery in Hunter's Moor six years ago. He will be a huge miss around school and the pupils all had touching tributes to pass on to their funny, pleasant and kind Head Teacher. We would all like to thank him for his fantastic work at the Junior School and Nursery,

and we wish him and his family well in his retirement.

We now look forward to the next chapter when we welcome Mr Laidler, his replacement, in September.

Mrs Pollock has close to 40 years of teaching under her belt and she joined us at Dame Allan's following the acquisition of Linden School 21 years ago. She has held a number of roles throughout her time, serving as Deputy Head Teacher, Head of Early Years, Nursery Class Teacher and Special Needs Co-ordinator.

She has been indispensable to the Schools and hundreds upon hundreds of children have benefitted from her teaching. Another big thank you to such an important member of staff.



A welcome from the Principal

The end of an academic year provides an opportunity to celebrate everything which has happened at Dame Allan's Schools. It has certainly been a busy and exciting year, and a very successful one too. We are thoroughly proud of all students who have worked so hard throughout the year and they richly deserve all their success, both inside and outside the classroom. Many of our students have coped very well with an intense exam period and they can now enjoy a deserved rest in preparation for the next chapter in their lives. We wish all the very best to our Year 13 students as they leave for university, or set off on their travels or pursue other adventures: we also look forward to celebrating with them and our Year 11s when they open their results in August. The end of this term also signals the end of an era at the Junior School as Mrs Pollock leaves her teaching role in Early Years having done so much to set up the successful provision for our youngest pupils first at Linden and then Dame Allan's Junior Schools. Mr Edge's retirement brings his very successful and fruitful spell as Head of the Junior School to a close. Mr Edge has been such a popular figure at the helm of the school and he will be sorely missed by pupils, parents and teachers alike. We wish him and Mrs Pollock all the best in their respective retirements and I would like to put on record my thanks for all they have done for the Schools. Likewise, I would like to pay thanks to our long serving Head of Sixth Form Mr Henry for his sterling work over the years. As both a pastor and a teacher he has done much to shape the success of the Sixth Form and I am delighted that he will continue to be an important presence around the Senior Schools in a part time teaching capacity next year. Our final thanks goes to all the students, parents, teachers and support staff and governors who have helped make it another year to remember at Dame Allan's. We hope you all have a very enjoyable summer.

Stepping down



There was a special presentation to Mr Henry, our long serving Head of Sixth Form, as he stepped down from the role. Mr Henry has been a dedicated member of staff for so many years and Sixth Formers at the recent Year 13 Leavers' Ball were keen to show their appreciation with a signed framed photo of the school year.

All at the Schools wish to thank Mr Henry for all of his hard work in the role he has put in over the past 12 years, and for ensuring a smooth hand over for his replacement in September, Mr Terry.

We can't get rid of Mr Henry that easily though and he will remain involved with the Schools working as a part time biology teacher!



Sporting our new kit

Our pupils look the part in their new sports kit according to Olympic gold medallist Hollie Pearne-Webb! The new sportswear for Senior School pupils was shown off in a fashion show at Kingston Park

with Hollie, the scorer of the winning penalty in the Rio Olympics 2016 final, the special guest. In addition to casting an eye on our pupils strutting their stuff on the catwalk, she also talked with some promising

hockey players and passed on expert advice during a training session. The new sportswear will be phased in at the Senior School with it being compulsory for those entering Years 7 and 12 in

September. It will then be rolled out to children entering Years 7, 8, 9, 12 and 13 in September 2019, with all year groups requiring the new kit in 2020. The kit is available to purchase via the Schoolblazer website.



Gold medal master class

Hollie wasn't the only Olympic gold medallist to visit us this term as her Team GB teammate Crista Cullen also headed to the North East to meet our pupils. Similarly to Hollie, Crista gave a hockey masterclass to the hockey squad about to head off on tour to

South Africa with some Year 9 players also taking part. It was an incredible session and our girls picked up so many useful tips to take on tour with them. We wish the hockey, netball and rugby teams all the very best in South Africa this summer.

Sporting achievements

Well done to our sports teams and individuals throughout the year who have achieved great results. Recent successes for our students include:

- Year 7 Boys won the Northumberland Athletics team championships.
- Minnie in Year 9 won gold in the high jump in the Northern Schools' Inter-County Athletics Championships.
- William in Year 9 has qualified for the National Tetrathlon Championships after finishing second in the area final.
- Anna in Year 9 will compete in both the British Nationals and ASA Summer Nationals Swimming Championships.
- Haylie in Year 8 won the first Northumberland Junior Golf Tour event of the season and then went on to win the Northumberland Smith Herbert County Trophy with her mother.
- Thomas in Year 7 featured on the Tennis Foundation website for his excellent voluntary service to the sport.
- On the back of three victories in the Durham Regatta and two at Hexham Regatta, Jamie in Year 9 helped his rowing club to be ranked ninth out of 60 crews as they competed at the Eton Dorney Olympic venue.
- Year 8 pupil Charlotte's fantastic season in badminton saw her end with Northumberland titles in the Under 15 singles, doubles and mixed doubles and the Under 17 mixed doubles championship.

Outstanding contribution

We would like to take this opportunity to thank PE teacher Mr Benn for all he has done for the Schools through his role. Mr Benn's hard work in promoting sport, particularly cricket, was recognised by the English and Welsh Cricket Board when they presented him with an

outstanding contribution award for his long service promoting the sport to schoolchildren. He received his certificate during the recent One Day International match between England and Australia at Durham County Cricket Club from none other than England coach Trevor Bayliss!



Sports Day



The sun was shining bright as we held our annual sports day competitions. They were

split into four groups: Early Years to Year 2; Years 3 to 6; DABS; DAGS.



Leading the way



Well done to the 12 Sixth Formers who gained the Level 2 Sport Leaders UK Award by coaching juniors on a voluntary basis. As part of the award, they

delivered the PlayMaker course to the majority of our Year 5 students to help them gain a qualification of their own. A great success all round.



NUSTEM success



Striking the right note

Two of our students' creativity has been rewarded. Zoe in Year 11 has been nominated for a Youth Award in the National Operatic and Dramatic Association (NODA) and Year 10 pupil Peter has been awarded a Robert Lewin

Scholarship to go towards purchasing a new piano. Zoe's talent was spotted by a NODA official who attended the Ponteland Repertory Society's production of the King And I in which she played Tuptim, and she will be judged

further in a performance award evening in September. Peter's excellent music talent earned him the prestigious scholarship which will be formally presented at the Awards for Young Musicians ceremony in London in December.

Well done to Year 10 pupils Tess and Jack who picked up prestigious School Physicist of the Year prizes at Northumbria University's NUSTEM Awards. The awards recognise exceptional physics students across the North East, and we're proud their hard work has been recognised.

Poetic justice

Five of our Year 8 girls are proud as punch to see their poems in print. Bo, Helena, Haylie, Annie and Lauren were ecstatic when they found out that their work had made it into the Terry Kelly

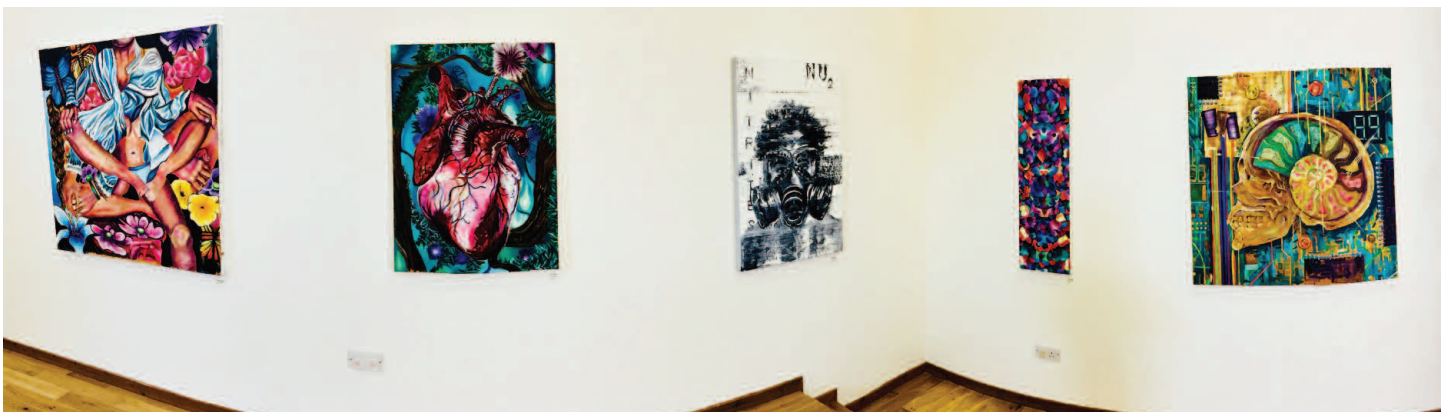
Poetry Prize 2018 Anthology. All five girls were invited to the Terry Kelly Poetry Awards at the Customs House, in South Shields, where they were told of the news. There was another surprise around the corner for

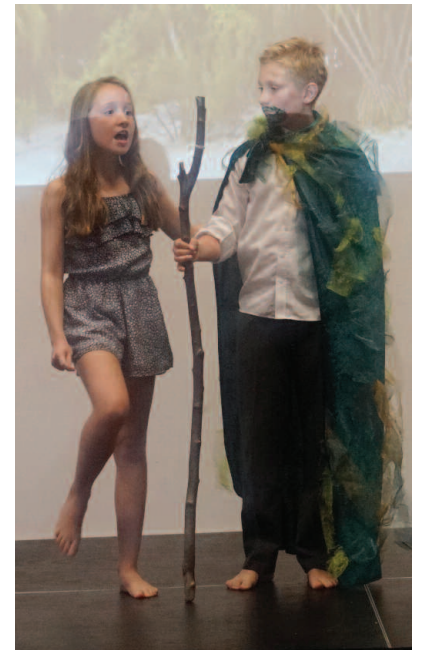
Bo as she was crowned champion of the 11-16 years category for her poem called 'This Too Will Pass.' A big well done girls; keep up the great work.



Takes the biscuit

The work of our art A Level students looked fantastic as it hung on the walls of The Holy Biscuit gallery in Newcastle. Our students were thrilled to show off their work to the public during the special exhibition, and certainly rose to the challenge.





Shakespeare's The Tempest

What better way for our Year 6 students to bid farewell to the Junior School than by giving the performances of their lives. Each and every child involved in the production of Shakespeare's 'The Tempest' was absolutely brilliant, and deserves great credit for their efforts. Our pupils put hours of hard

work into rehearsing their lines and moves, and it all paid off as they showed off their excellent acting skills, beautiful singing voices and impressive dancing. A big well done to all. The staff at the Junior School will miss them dearly, but the Senior School teachers look forward to welcoming them in September.



Prize Day

It is always a thrill to witness pupils in the Junior School rewarded for their hard work. The annual Prize Giving event for those in Years 3 to 6 was again a spectacular evening celebrating the endeavour and achievements of all our students. There was a wide array of prizes and trophies handed out to those who have gone above and beyond, in and out of lessons, with awards for positive attitudes,

progress, citizenship, sporting achievements and promise in art, drama, music and sport among others. The results of Sports Day were revealed with Tweed and Wansbeck joint winners, while Coquet were narrow overall House Trophy champions. Mr Edge introduced a new prize, The Head Teacher's Award – the 'YOU have the Edge' Trophy - which was presented to Olivia in Year 5.

Music to our ears

There is so much talent at our Junior School and the performances at our Summer Concert proved that point. An array of musical styles and instruments were on show

during the event, from recorder players in Year 1 right the way through to Grade 5 violinists in Year 6. It was a great night of music and a great way to end the academic year.



First verse

The quality of entries in this year's Verse Speaking Competition at the Junior School was so high it gave our three judges such a difficult decision to pick the winner. All children in Years 3 to 6 took part in the competition with a selection from each year group going through to the final. And the finalists blew away the judges (Dr Hind, Mrs Ingram and



Head of Sixth Form Mr Henry) with some exceptional recitals of their favourite verses. It was tricky for the judges to come to a decision and a little while was needed before they selected James from Year 4 as champion. Ellie in Year 3 was runner-up, and Sian in Year 6 was third placed.

Class of 1987



Class of 1993



The Allanian Society AGM will take place at Dame Allan's Senior School on Tuesday 18 September. The society, the alumni organisation of Dame Allan's Schools, will meet in the Jennifer Cole Room at 5.30pm. All former pupils are welcome to attend, and the board is always keen for new members to join to help take the society forward. If you are interested in joining the board and helping to shape the future of the Allanian Society, we are keen to hear from you. Dame Allan's London alumni event will take place on Thursday 18 October. Details of the venue

and how to book tickets will be available on the Schools website and on The Allanian Society Facebook page. There will also be a reunion of DAGS Leavers 1968 at the Schools on Saturday 6 October. Anyone wishing for more information about any events should email the Development Office at alumnirelations@dameallans.co.uk. Recent reunions have included 27 Leavers from 1993 getting back together to mark 25 years since leaving, and a group of DAGS Leavers from 1987 celebrating their 30th anniversary (both pictured).

Model pupils



We are looking for female models for our "A Hundred Year Fashion Journey: A Vintage Fashion Show" to be held in school on October 19.

Any girls interested in modelling an outfit from 1890 right through to the present day should turn up to the Senior School try on the dresses on Monday 3 September at 10am. The outfits have already caused quite a stir with some of our pupils...

Safeguarding at Dame Allan's

As we head into the long break please ensure that all privacy settings on mobile devices are set to maximum. Use the start of the holidays to discuss the importance of online safety and make sure your child understands how to report any worrying activity on any social media accounts.

There are useful links on the parent portal to CEOP and Parent Zone and on the pupil portal to Childline and the NSPCC.

DASPA Juniors

The members of DASPA Junior have been busy after our successful fair in May. Since then we have held an eagerly anticipated Reception Film Night, donated prizes for the Nursery Colouring Competition, had a uniform sale for new and existing parents on Move Up Day and a Summer Party for Year 6. This was a fantastic event complete with red carpet, amazing food and music, games and a photo booth.

The members of DASPA J would like to say a BIG thank you for the support that all the staff at Dame Allan's, the students and their parents have given throughout this school year to ensure the success of all of the activities undertaken by DASPA J.

DASPA

Following the huge success of the DASPA Spring Ball, we are delighted that we have been able to contribute significant funds to go towards the purchase of lighting and sound systems for the exciting new drama department upgrade. This is something that will be enjoyed by the whole school, both seniors and juniors.

After a great year, we would like to thank everyone for their support. As ever, it has allowed us to fund some fantastic projects over the last school year, and we very much look forward to your continued support next year.

Don't forget that you can also support us over the summer by using Give as you Live, www.giveasyoulive.com, for any last minute holidays, weekends away or back to school shopping.

Lastly, the next date for your diary will be our AGM which is to be held on Monday 22nd October at 6pm. More information will follow next term and everyone is welcome to attend. In the meantime, DASPA wish you all a lovely summer!

Looking to the future...

Thursday 5 July – End of term, midday.

Friday 6 – Tuesday 10 July – Geography trip to Iceland.

Sunday 15 – Sunday 29 July – Sports tour to South Africa.

Thursday 16 August – A Level results.

Thursday 23 August – GCSE results.

Monday 3 September – Vintage Fashion Show showcase.

Thursday 6 September – Start of term.

Tuesday 18 September – Allanian Society AGM.



DAME ALLAN'S SCHOOLS
building the future

t: 0191 275 1500 e: news@dameallans.co.uk www.dameallans.co.uk

