

DAME ALLAN'S Digest

MARCH 2023



A welcome from the Principal

What an action-packed term, from careers week and the upper school musical, to great sporting successes across the board and the start of our work on the sixth form centre, the Queen's Building. There has been a huge amount of activity in lessons, the co-curriculum and development as we have moved through the term.

Some highlights include the U15 boys rugby team who reached the semi-finals of the national schools vase, the girls and boys who left nothing on the ergo and took away an armful of medals at their first national junior indoor rowing championships, and the U11 footballing boys who won their first HMC football competition. There is far too much to mention here, of course, but watch out in future editions also for the rise and rise of Dame Allan's basketball.

We all love to see children engrossed in a book and it was tremendous to have so many pupils across the Schools getting involved in World Book Day and sharing their recommendations. Junior School pupils dressed up as their favourite book characters and were delighted to welcome author Abi Elphinstone to speak about her books which are full of magic and adventure.

The whole school musical performance of 'The Addams Family' has been a particular highlight for me this term, with pupils showcasing their impressive talents in drama, dance and music. As the first full scale musical production since my arrival, it was a pleasure to see the sheer quality and exuberance of the performances - well done to all of them. Fame undoubtedly awaits.

May I wish you a peaceful Easter holiday.

The Addams Family is a hit!

Talented upper school pupils delighted audiences three nights in a row with their brilliant production of The Addams Family with pupils showcasing their impressive acting, singing and dancing skills. The comical feast that embraces the wackiness in every family, adapted from the original Off-Broadway production was a huge success amongst our

audiences, with the Lord Mayor and the Deputy Lord Lieutenant in attendance too! Head of Drama, Mrs Clark said: 'The Addams Family has been a delight to work on and we are all incredibly proud of what has been created. Our performers have shown unwavering commitment and talent in every rehearsal and they are an absolute credit to the Schools.'



National Careers Week



In March we celebrated National Careers Week with a range of events to help pupils explore their career options. Work experience clinics, mock interviews and careers talks took place across the week. Pupils could meet people from across a range of careers at our Futures Festival, Year 9 were off timetable all day for a News Day and we had a 'working in wellbeing' event to round the week off.

The Junior School had plenty going on too with a 'day in the life of' talks from parents working in a range of careers, from dentists and pilots to barristers and electricians.



International Women's Day

For International Women's Day on 8 March a group of Year 10 girls attended the Women and Girls in Engineering event hosted by Newcastle University. They took part in a range of engineering activities and spoke to current undergraduates about the variety of engineering courses available. They heard from four guest speakers about their journey into engineering: Priscila Melo who specialises in the development of biomaterials for regenerative medicine and tissue engineering, Victoria Liddle who works for Envision, a world leading battery technology company, Sharon Velasquez-Orta who researches novel microbial waste transformation, and Tessa O'Hara who works around the world as a lead engineer to provide shelter and sanitation following environmental disasters or warfare.

Charity and Fundraising

To mark one year since the start of the conflict in Ukraine and one month since the devastating earthquake in Turkey and Syria, we had a non-uniform day at the senior school on 3 March to raise money for Save the Children.

Each pupil and staff member donated £1 to wear their own clothes and we raised £1027.43.

We also had a non-uniform day at our Junior School on 17 March in aid of Comic Relief and raised £991.80.

Sports round up

In rugby our U15s played brilliantly in the National Schools Cup Vase competition, reaching the semi-final. Dame Allan's hosted the U18 Dame Allan's 7s for the second year running with 12 schools attending the event. Our U12 girls team played their first ever fixture and won the inaugural girls 7s tournament. Plus, the very first Dame Allan's rugby team played in the Rosslyn Park National Schools 7s tournament and our U14 team managed to reach the Rosslyn Park Plate Final! An excellent effort from all.

Well done to our Dame Allan's rowers who took part in the National Junior Indoor Rowing Championships in Leeds this half-term. Oscar and Jamie in Year 13, won Gold and Silver, Leah in Year 7 and James in Year 11, won Bronze. Tom in Year 9 and Isabel in Year 10 came a close fourth place and our Year 9 relay team gave a great performance to achieve second place. Well done everyone!



At the Juniors our U11 boys put in a great performance on 1 March to win the HMC football competition. They defended superbly throughout the tournament and kept their composure to win the final on penalties. They are the first Dame Allan's team to win this competition. The U11 Girls football team also took part and finished second place overall. At the Seniors, our U15 and U16 teams reached the semi-final of the city cup, showing great resilience and spirit throughout. Our U18 boys football team reached the cup final vs Jesmond Park Academy.



The whole school house cross-country tournament took place in a chilly Healey with Brewers and Bede coming out on top with a score of 621. Well done to all who took part! Congratulations to Year 10 pupils Annie and Poppy who represented the North East at the Inter Counties British Cross Country Championships in Loughborough this term.



Lots of netball fixtures were played this season with fantastic performances across the school. Our U12s won the TWSSA tournament, our U14s came third in the City Tournament and Year 13 Evie represented the U19 regional team playing against Scotland.

Our squash teams are doing really well too, with our KS3 boys and girls teams as well as KS4 boys qualifying for the National Plate Finals. In addition to this KS5 girls have qualified for the National Schools Cup Finals.

Finally, our basketball teams have done really well this half term with our U14s joining our U13 and U16 teams in becoming Tyneside Cup Champions in their category.

In conversation with... Lyndsey Anderson, Catering Manager.

Tell us about your role and the wider department...

I head up a team of around 21 staff who cook and serve a selection of balanced, healthy meals to pupils and staff every day. I create a two week rolling meal plan as well as themed meals for key times of year including Burns' Night, Chinese New Year and Valentine's Day. All our produce is locally sourced and we recycle our food waste too.

Tell us more about your locally sourced ingredients...

Our eggs come from Lintz Hall in Burnopfield, less than half an hour from school. They are free-range and RSPCA assured. The fish for our popular 'Fish & Chip Fridays' come from Collingwood Seafood on North Shields fish quay and our chips come from a farm in Wooler, just 46 miles from field to door. The meat we use is reared in Northumberland and County Durham and the bread we use is baked daily at an artisan bakery just 12 miles away. It's important for us to use locally sourced produce to support local industries and reduce our carbon footprint. It's inevitable we produce some waste and we tackle that by recycling it to become renewable resources, animal feed and fertiliser.



How many meals do you need to prepare each day?

Around 1,200. There's lots of hungry mouths to feed across the senior and junior school. We also make bacon butties at breaktime which are a popular choice amongst our Year 10 and 11 boys.

Are there any special meals you need to prepare?

We are a nut free school so all meals are nut free. We have pupils with an array of allergies, intolerances and diabetics which

we create bespoke meals plans for to accommodate. I contact pupils directly with their meal plans so they are aware of what they will be eating throughout the week.

Any challenges?

Gaining a constant level of supplies this year has been a challenge, just as supermarkets have struggled to stock their shelves we have found it a daily battle to get any sort of consistency when ordering goods in.

Your favourite meal?

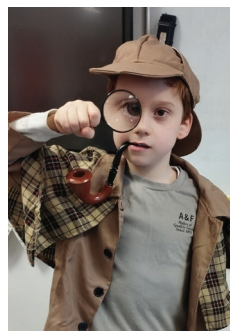
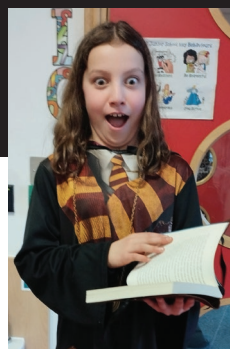
Pie day has to be my favourite!

World Book Day

On 2 March our Junior School dressed up in an array of book characters as we celebrated our annual World Book Day, an international celebration of literature.

Children took part in a variety of different book-related activities, including 'Bringing Books to Life' dance workshops for Years 3 and 4, featuring Alice and Wonderland and Coraline. Meanwhile, Years 1 and 2 enjoyed their story journeys: Magical Airways workshops. Pupils in Years 3-6 were thoroughly entertained and inspired by author Abi Elphinstone in what was a super end to a busy week.

At the Senior School, some of our teachers transformed into book characters for pupils to guess. World Book Day was integrated into most lessons too, with pupils listening to recordings of Nobel Prize winning poet, Seamus Heaney in their English lessons, exploring Richard Dawkin's book *Science in the Soul*, in science lessons, and hearing Hilary Mantel speak about her recreation of a 16th century world in her novel *The Mirror and the Light*. Many thanks to Head Librarian, Mrs Joicey for sharing these fantastic resources.



The Allanian Society

A Busy Reunion Day

We were pleased to have a fantastic turnout of former pupils and staff for their milestone reunions earlier this month. Groups who left in 2013 all the way back to 1963 enjoyed reminiscing over a tour of the Schools and afternoon tea. If you have a milestone year coming up in 2024 and would like help tracking down old friends, get in touch with the Development Office. A date for booking will be on the website soon.



The Lectures - Ruth Gregory

We finished our successful lecture series for the year with speaker Ruth Gregory, who left Dame Allan's in 1981 and is now Head of Department of Physics and Professor of Theoretical Physics at King's College London. Allanians joined parents and pupils who were inspired to consider a career in Physics with her informative and entertaining talk "Boffins, Branes and Black Holes". If you know an Allanian who may like to take part in next year's lectures, contact the Development Office.



Save the Date!

To book your place visit: theallaniansociety.co.uk/events or email development@dameallans.co.uk

London Drinks

11 May 6.30-9:00pm

Allanians v 1st XI Cricket Match

21 June 6:00-9:00pm

Recent Leavers BBQ

29 June 4.30-7:00pm

DASPA

It's been a great half term for DASPA. Our Family Ceilidh proved to be a big success, bringing the school community together and enabling the Schools' Ceilidh bands to perform, while raising some funds. We were delighted to support The Addams Family production with an extensive array of refreshments and raised a lot of funds with this endeavour.

We have also raised money with our 50/50 lucky numbers club. There have been two draws and winners have been contacted. The final draw will take place at our Summer Fair at the Junior School on 20 May at the new time of 11:00am-1:00pm.

We are readily preparing for the Summer Fair, where we are hoping to have a bouncy castle and miniature ponies to make it even more exciting! We will be fundraising for the Junior School OPAL Play & Learning project.

We already have some amazing raffle prizes, including a weekend stay at Samantha's Retreat, meals at Lumley Castle, Six and Lola Jeans, hampers from Rington's and many more! Raffle tickets will be on sale on ParentPay from 1 May. We also have an amazing fishing prize for a sealed bid auction, consisting of a day's fly fishing, with two rods in fishing season (Feb-Oct) on the North Tyne near Barrasford. Please email daspa@dameallans.co.uk with your bid.

Our uniform sales continue to be popular and if you have any unwanted uniform please consider donating it to DASPA, all monies go to the school and there is a real need for it in our community. Please leave any donations with DASPA members or at any of the school receptions. There will be an entire school uniform sale at our Summer Fair alongside our regular senior sale on 18 April, 2 May, 6 June and 4 July at St James' and St Basil's Church 8.45-10:00am (NE4 9XP).

ESU Public Speaking Final

Congratulations to our public speaking team, who represented Dame Allan's in the regional final of the ESU-Churchill Public Speaking Competition on Saturday 11 March.

Having been awarded 'best speaker' in the last round, Issy (Year 11), chose a particularly topical subject, exploring whether trade unions are still important in today's society. As in the previous rounds, the judges were impressed by the depth of Issy's knowledge, which also enabled her to respond to questions thoughtfully and thoroughly. In addition, they were delighted by her ability to diffuse more serious lines of thought with humour.

Erin (Year 11) was praised for her calm, professional approach to chairing. The judges felt she put not only the speaker assigned to her team but the whole audience at ease, preparing us for the talk and summarising it in a way that showed real maturity and understanding.

Likewise, the judges praised James (Year 10) for his calm yet challenging questioning style. They felt that he used his genuine interest in the topic to ask thoughtful questions and follow-up questions which enabled the speaker to develop their ideas further.

We are very proud of the team, the second Dame Allan's team to reach the regional final, having competed against strong teams from other schools in the first two rounds. This is an impressive feat in itself, but is especially noteworthy as only Issy had taken part in the competition before. Our other team members, Masa (Year 9), Seb (Year 10) and Ethan (Year 10) also did brilliantly to reach round two of the competition.



Special thanks must go to Ms Willis and Mrs Harrison for accompanying the team to the regional final and to last year's team (Ben, Imogen, Arwen and Nasif) for their incredibly helpful feedback and coaching.



DAME ALLAN'S SCHOOLS
building the future