

DAME ALLAN'S Digest

JULY 2023



A Picture Perfect Event



Artwork from our talented GCSE and A Level pupils shone in our Senior School Art Exhibition, the first to be held in our dedicated exhibition space in the Jubilee Building.

The exhibition, held on 22 June, was attended by pupils, parents, friends, staff and governors and was hailed as a huge success by all. Exhibited work included large scale oil painting and conceptual installation work, alongside sketchbooks and A1

boards exploring contextual links, development of ideas and creative responses in a broad range of media - presenting a stellar example of our students' creative talents.

Mrs Allonby, Head of Art at Dame Allan's said: "It was a fantastic night and a real credit to our A Level and GCSE pupils. It was wonderful to celebrate with the students, to see so many art Allanians, and to see the exhibition space bustling."

The Year 6 Final Show

Our Year 6 pupils put on a magical final show this half-term, as they prepared to wave goodbye to the Junior School. Their performance of Aladdin was a smash hit, with every pupil taking part with enthusiasm. Pupils also turned their hand to making props and painting scenery for the production.

Olive, who played villain Jafar, said: "The show was a lot of fun, from auditioning right up to the night of the performance, I was very excited to take part! The whole year has been involved and it has been great seeing it all come together."



Music and Drama Coordinator Mrs Brinn said: "This is the second year of our Disney shows and we've all had so much fun putting Aladdin together! Interspersing rehearsals amongst their busy school life, the children have worked incredibly hard learning the songs, words and dances. The results have been spectacular, I'm sure you'll agree. It has been a real team effort between staff and children. Mrs Ellis, Mrs Waters and I are very proud of our wonderful Year 6 pupils!"



A welcome from the Principal

As we come to the end of another academic year, I must take this opportunity to say how proud we all are of our pupils. Over a busy exam period for seniors, with some scorching hot days, and much activity throughout the Schools in recent weeks, pupils have involved themselves in their various pursuits with infectious enthusiasm and dedication that is endlessly rewarding for us to observe and be involved with.

This summer marks the end of my third year at Dame Allan's, three very different years with unfolding opportunities as we have moved ahead in our thinking about what children need from their school. Our pupils have shown passion in both academic and co-curricular spheres. Initiatives like our Principal's Breakfasts have allowed senior leaders and governors to hear about school life from our most important people - our pupils.

The end of the summer term is a period of celebration, with pupils enjoying fun-filled sports days, the excitement of trips, inspiration from careers events and so many other activities, including our first ever rowing regatta.

We've also enjoyed the Senior Schools' prize giving ceremonies, opportunities to highlight the achievements and endeavours of so many who have shone this year. These were the first part of our series of celebration events, with the conclusion taking place on the 13th September at The Sage for our annual Speech Day. The Junior School also held their own special year-end celebrations and our Reception classes enjoyed a Woodland Ways event, bringing together younger pupils and their parents to share positive experiences in learning outdoors.

This half-term we have also had the pleasure of welcoming back Allanian David Ward, a diplomat who has spent the last few years as the British High Commissioner to Samoa. He took part in fascinating political discussions with Year 12 politics students.

Once again DASPA, our parents' association, has played a key role in helping to make the end of the term extra special with parties, colouring competitions, and much more. I am enormously grateful for their support.

May I wish all our families and friends a lovely summer break, to do some playing and planning, dreaming and exploring. And I look forward to welcoming pupils back for the new school year on Monday 4th September.

The Allanian Society



Allanian David Ward and Imogen

Return and Inspire

Return and Inspire saw us welcome back a group of Allanians, who very kindly gave their time to offer career advice to current Year 12 students.

The event is a speed-networking event where students rotate around different tables to chat to Allanians. Subjects covered included student life, top tips for life after Dame Allan's, Gap Years and apprenticeships. Megan Ellis (Class of 2022) returned to talk about her physics degree at the University of Edinburgh. Speaking about the event, she said: "It was lovely to come back to Dame Allan's, it feels like just yesterday I was in the shoes of these Year 12 students! They asked great questions and it was rewarding to chat about choosing the right university course. I was glad I was able to give them a little bit of insight."

It has been another busy period for our Allanian Society! This half-term we welcomed diplomat David Ward to the Senior School, where he spent time in a Sixth Form Politics class, visited Modern Foreign Languages, and spoke to members of our Model UN. We also enjoyed an Allanian vs 1st XI cricket match - with victory going to the 1st XI - as well as a fantastic event for recent leavers.



Save the Date!

To find out more and book your place on any of these events, please visit our website: theallaniansociety.co.uk/events or contact the development office at development@dameallans.co.uk or 0191 275 1500.

Author Talk by Phoebe Walker

Tuesday 26 September

Allanian Society AGM

Tuesday 7 November

Richard Holmes

Memorial

Rugby Match

Saturday 16 December

Christmas Lunch

Tuesday 19 December

Allanian Dinner 2024

Saturday 23 March

North East Book Awards Judging



Kate (L) and Scarlett (R) enjoyed judging the book awards

Year 7 and 8 pupils came together to vote on their favourite books for the North East Book Awards, choosing from a shortlist of five contenders. Pupils praised *Resist* by Tom Palmer - which was voted their overall winner - as well as *The Haunting of Tyrese Walker* by J P Rose. Year 7 pupil Kate said: "I love reading because it lets you get a different view of the world, and helps you to be more empathetic."

School Trips

The end of the Summer term is always awash with trips, and this year has been no exception. Our Year 3 class enjoyed an educational trip to the Hancock Gallery, learning about the different artists on display there and comparing their styles. Year 10 Historians also visited the Thackray Medical Museum in Leeds to bolster their knowledge of the Medicine 1848-1948 topic.



Principal's Breakfasts

A new addition to Dame Allan's, the Principal's Breakfasts are regular breakfast events, where students can meet with members of Senior Management and chat about school issues in an informal environment. Pupils from across the Senior School are invited, particularly those who have had notable successes or made particular progress within school.

Principal Will Scott said: "These events give us an opportunity to listen to pupils, whilst celebrating many different kinds of success in their school lives. It has been so valuable to hear feedback directly from our pupils."



Junior Masterchef

A highlight for our Food Studies students, Junior Masterchef returned this half-term, pitting talented young chefs against each other to create a delicious and creative two-course meal from scratch - in just 90 minutes.

Seven teams took part in this culinary contest, which was judged by Allanian Graham Watson. Graham said: "This year, pupils had to create meals based on their favourite takeaway. I have been so impressed by the ambition and organisation of these young chefs, as well as the high level of presentation on the finished dishes. It was a very tough one to judge!"

After lots of taste testing, Grace and Xavier (Year 10), were crowned as winners, with their impressive menu of Butter Chicken, garlic naan bread and mango chutney, followed by traditional Gulab Jamun.



THE LECTURES



DAME ALLAN'S SCHOOLS

Save the Date!

We are delighted to announce that our milestone lecture series, is back!

Next academic year, we have an inspirational speaker and best-selling author, two exciting foodie entrepreneurs, and a renowned historian taking part. Save the dates for these events now, they are sure to be popular.

Thursday 19 October 2023

Thursday 7 December 2023

Thursday 15 February 2024

Thursday 21 March 2024

In Conversation with... Mr Aitchison, Head Science Technician

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

I look after the Science Technician team, we're responsible for preparing the materials and solutions needed for practical science lessons, as well as testing experiments in advance to make sure they will work correctly in lessons (and in the time allocated). We often help with suggestions for practical demonstrations and experiments that will fit a lesson theme. I also look after budgets and health and safety for the department, as well as care for our resident spiders!

As well as your role as Head Science Technician, you lead the World Challenge event that is happening over the Summer - can you tell us a bit more about that?

World Challenge happens every two years, and it is a trip for our Year 11, 12 and 13 students in various countries around the world - this year we are visiting eSwatini and Mozambique. World Challenge is not just a regular school trip; one of the things I like about it is that it is completely student-led. They are entrusted with every aspect of their trip, from fundraising for the trip itself, to budgeting once they are there, and even planning meals.



Once they are on location, the students embark on a community project - this year they are working on marine and savannah conservation projects - as well as taking part in some fun and challenging excursions. This will be my ninth World Challenge!

What would you say to any pupil who is considering taking part in World Challenge?

I would say definitely do it! It's a great experience, everyone who has taken part

has really enjoyed the experience and got a lot out of it. Even though you might be nervous at the start, you will soon find you grow in confidence and make some amazing memories.

What part of your job do you like the best?

Aside from World Challenge, I love when I get to take classes, such as microbiology, and enjoy working as a team with the teaching staff. It's such a nice feeling to see a theory click in a pupil's mind.

Prize Giving

A real highlight of this half term was our Senior School Prize Giving Ceremony, where pupils from Years 7 - 10 and students from Year 12 in the Sixth Form were rewarded for their exceptional hard work and successes, both inside and outside of the classroom. Additional prizes will be given out at our annual Speech Day, in September. The Junior School also enjoyed their own End of Year celebrations, which were a wonderful milestone for our younger pupils.



Woodland Way Celebrations



The Reception class enjoyed a fantastic celebration in the Woodland Way, which was made even more special by the attendance of some of our parents! During the afternoon, parents and children completed a set of outdoor, hands-on experiences, before the children were awarded a certificate to congratulate them on exploring, enjoying and respecting our outdoor area.

A Celebration of Sport

For many, the end of the school year means one thing - Sports Days! Competition began in the Junior School, with the Early Years taking part in egg and spoon races and sack races, and the older pupils enjoying hurdles, the long jump and a relay race. Every pupil showed brilliant enthusiasm, cooperation and kindness.

The Senior Sports day is due to take place just before the end of term, where older pupils can try their hand at football, rowing, tug of war competitions and even dance-offs! It is sure to be a great end to the term, with lots of fun and some healthy competition!

A visit from British Triathlon

Our Year 6 pupils enjoyed a fantastic workshop this half-term, run by British Triathlon. As part of the launch of British Triathlon's 'Active Skills' campaign, our pupils got to practise some essential triathlon skills - and have fun too! They practised running, biking, and transitions - the part where a triathlete needs to change outfit or equipment (it's a skill putting on a vest and goggles mid-run!). This was arranged with the help of our own Geography teacher and paratriathlete, Mr Salisbury.



Success for our first ever Regatta!

Groups of keen rowers took to the Tyne on 28 June, for Dame Allan's first ever house regatta! The event, organised by our Director of Co-Curriculum Mr Wildsmith, was a chance for both seasoned rowers and those new to the sport to try their hand at competitive rowing. After some gruelling time trial events, Bede and Brewer were declared the winners! Watch this space for future rowing events.



DASPA

As the summer term draws to a close, DASPA are delighted to have facilitated lots of fun activities this half term including uniform sales, an Early Years colouring competition, Year 6 and Year 7 parties, and even ice cream vans!

This term, DASPA has agreed to fund snails for the Biology Department, games for use in form group sessions for the lower Senior School classes, a start up fund for the Enterprise groups, and the disco for the Year 13 Leavers Ball. We look forward to supporting more new and exciting additional projects in the new school year.

DASPA would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a fantastic summer. Please get in touch with us via



daspa@dameallans.co.uk if you would like assistance being added to year group WhatsApp groups, if you have any questions for or if you would like to get involved with DASPA. We look forward to seeing many of you next year at school and DASPA events.

Well Done Averil!



We are very proud of our IT Technician Averil White, who throughout June was 'Crafting for Cancer Research' to help raise funds for Cancer Research UK. Inspired by colleagues and family who have sadly been impacted by cancer, Averil handmade wax melts, hats, scarves, cross stitch, book marks, soap and more. She managed to raise an incredible £757.81!

Safeguarding at Dame Allan's

As the summer approaches, parents can be faced with the dilemma of appropriate supervision for their children during the holidays. Whilst there is no minimum legal age for a child to be left home alone, it is illegal to leave a child alone if it puts them at risk. As all children mature at different rates, the NSPCC has a helpful tool to help parents decide when the time is right for a child to be 'Home or out alone'.

The charity advises that children under the age of 12 should not be left home alone for a long period of time and that those children under the age of 16 should not be

left alone overnight.

The summer holiday also provides an opportunity for teenagers to have more freedom and 'let their hair down', but this age group is prone to risk taking behaviour, especially when egged on by their peers. It is important to speak to your child about the risks around alcohol and substance use, particularly near water as alcohol consumption reduces coordination, impairs judgement and affects the body's ability to regulate temperature. Open water swimming can pose further risks from harmful bacteria, pollution, strong currents, submerged rubbish and cold water

shock. The RNLI guidance for open water swimming encourages swimmers to prepare thoroughly, 'respect the water' and 'know your limits'. More information on water safety, including 'float to survive' can be found here. <https://rnli.org/safety/choose-your-activity/open-water-swimming#>

As our teaching staff prepare to enjoy the summer break, please note that we will have limited access to emails from July 6 until August 31. If you have any concerns about a child over the summer holidays, contact the NSPCC Helpline on 0808 800 5000 or email help@nspcc.org.uk and if a child is in immediate danger, phone 999.



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