



A welcome from the Principal

The pace of purposeful endeavour over the first seven weeks of this term can be breathtaking at times - and this year has been no exception. With the huge range of learning and co-curricular activities that have taken place, there has been something for everyone and all have played their part.

Our biggest careers event, the biennial Futures Fair, returned with a splash. It was amazing and inspiring to see so many organisations here to talk to young people and show them the richness and diversity of experiences and opportunities that life might hold for them, and to welcome our Year 6 pupils to attend this event too.

Year 7 girls and boys got the year off to an adventurous start with their residential trip to Newby Wiske in North Yorkshire. It was wonderful to hear the reports of friends made, skills learned, and great bravery on the giant swing.

Shakespeare was also in the spotlight this first half term, with Year 9 pupils enjoying a dedicated Shakespeare Festival, immersing themselves in the Bard's great works to bring them to life with their peers.

Sport has restarted the year with a bang, with a challenging fixture list across year groups and many great experiences, winning and losing, to take away with them. It has also been exciting to see our rowing club building in numbers and skills under the expert guidance of our new coach, Miss Mileham.

This term has also seen amazing fundraising efforts to support our local community, visits both near and far for the Junior and Senior Schools, and the prospect of trips and tours over half term to Spain, Iceland, Netherlands, Dubai and USA - all-in-all, a great start to the academic year!

May I wish all our families a happy half term break.

Equality-themed Futures Fair sparks Career Inspiration

A powerful celebration of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in education and employment took centre stage at the Schools' biennial Futures Fair, with over 20 higher education institutions and 30 companies and apprenticeship providers in attendance. The event emphasised the importance of ensuring opportunities for all, regardless of background, ability or neurodiversity.

Open to all pupils from Year 6 to Year 13, as well as visiting children from Wingrove Primary School and Percy Hedley College, the fair provided them with an opportunity to explore career paths that align with their talents and aspirations, while also meeting employers who actively support diversity in the workplace.

Special Education Needs Co-ordinator Mrs Lowery, who led the Schools' SEND stand, perfectly encapsulated the theme of the Futures Fair: "The message is clear - having a learning difficulty or disability doesn't limit someone's value in the workplace or stand in the way of higher education. In fact, neurodiverse individuals often bring unique strengths, like creativity and problem-solving skills, that can be a real asset.

Year 8 pupil Rory, an advocate for neurodiversity, attended the fair and shared his experience of living with ADHD, autism, dyspraxia and dyslexia. "I see it as having a superpower that no one else has! I look



at things in a different way," he said. "It makes me happy that lots of people now understand more about neurodivergence."

Higher education representatives from institutions such as Durham University, Newcastle University, and Imperial College London were in the Sixth Form centre, the Queen's Building, while a diverse array of organisations showcased opportunities across various sectors - including education, finance, law, the armed forces, healthcare and STEM - in the Newsom Hall.

Event organiser Mrs Whitehouse, the Head of Careers at Dame Allan's, said: "Once again, the Futures Fair has been a fantastic success, bringing together pupils and professionals from all backgrounds in a vibrant celebration of opportunities. It's inspiring to see our pupils engage with a diverse range of career paths and recognise the power of inclusivity in shaping their futures."

Award Winning Playtime



Our Junior School OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) programme has been rated platinum in a recent inspection by our OPAL Mentor! This means that only 0.5% percentile of primary schools in the UK provide the quality of play times we do. Well done to Mrs Barlow and Miss Mullen for making OPAL such a success.

Year 7 Residential Trip

Our new Year 7 pupils enjoyed an exciting start to the academic year with a residential trip to Newby Wiske, an adventure centre in North Yorkshire. Supported by staff and volunteer Sixth Form Officers, pupils enjoyed paddleboarding, archery, a silent disco, laser tag, and the giant swing! Not only was it lots of fun, it was the perfect way to bond with their new classmates.

"I liked the giant swing because you worked together as a team." - Elspeth

"I liked the silent disco because it was very lively and fun with my friends." - Emma

"My favourite activity was the paddleboarding because it was a great team effort." - Ayaan



Shakespeare Festival inspires Year 9



On Friday 4 October, all of our Year 9 pupils enjoyed a day dedicated to the Bard, as they worked with highly skilled actors to interpret and perform their own piece inspired by *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Pupils enjoyed group workshops to perfect their performance, studying the text, exploring movement and learning to be brave and embrace clowning. It was fantastic to see all pupils getting outside of their comfort zone and giving Shakespeare a go.

In the evening, actor and producer Ben Crystal held a special 'On Shakespeare' event for parents and pupils. Part talk and part performance, Ben wowed audiences with his exploration of Elizabethan theatre, Shakespeare's poetic style, and even his accent.

OLED Awards

The OLED awards were once again held at Wylam Brewery, with almost 400 pupils joining Outdoor Education staff for a celebration of all things outdoor. Awards were given to pupils of all ages, for success in



climbing, archery, CCF, Duke of Edinburgh, John Muir, and more.

Guest speakers on the night included former Dame Allan's pupil RAF Group Captain Lindsay, who spoke about his life of service and



leadership in the RAF, plus Rhys Jones from Campfire Wild Adventures, who spoke about his triumph of being the youngest person to climb the Seven Summits (the highest mountain on each of the World's seven continents).

Year 4 - Kielder Residential

Our Year 4 pupils took to nature in their residential trip to Kielder, enjoying campfires, climbing, canoeing and more.

"I really enjoyed jumping into the freezing lake and I was proud of my friends too!" - Minnie

"Kielder was the most fun thing I have ever done, especially the orienteering which I loved the best because we were working as a team and using a map." - Lily

"Archery was my favourite because I had never tried it before and I managed to get two bullseyes!" - Harveer



In Conversation with... Miss Dodgson, Art Technician



You've just joined us in September, welcome! What were your first impressions of Dame Allan's?

The facilities for the art department are amazing, it feels akin to my university experience with the kiln and screenprinting.

For those who may not know, what does the role of an Art Technician involve?

The role of an art technician is incredibly varied. I work behind the scenes prepping materials and resources for the lessons, work one-to-one with Sixth Formers on specific projects, and help with troubleshooting equipment.

What is your favourite part of your role?

Working with the Sixth Formers to understand the vision for their work, using my knowledge and experience to find practical ways to make it a reality.

What's your preferred form of art? Do you paint/draw/sculpt etc?

I am a mixed media artist and enjoy working between several mediums, but my two specialties are ceramics and screenprinting.

Which artist do you most admire?

An artist I have always loved is Frida Kahlo, whom I learnt about when I was in school and always found very inspiring. A more

recent favourite is Nancy Spero, who works in mixed media and print, I resonate with her love of Greek mythology.

What would you say to someone who thinks they are 'rubbish' at art?

No one is bad at art, everybody has their own style of creating and that's what makes it so fun and interesting. For technical art like drawing, it is just a matter of practising, practising and more practising!

What do you do outside of Dame Allan's?

I actually have another job where I work for the charity Tynedale Hospice at Home as a Retail Supervisor. I am based in Hexham but work across all six stores including ecommerce (eBay) and furniture. The team is amazing and I love the variation in the job; it can be a real treasure trove. For example we recently received a donation of antique coronation cups that are now on eBay and are hoping to sell for over £400.

Five Stars for Food Hygiene

A huge well done to Catering Manager Mrs Anderson and her team, who have secured two five star hygiene ratings for their catering facilities across Dame Allan's. Encompassing the main kitchen and Dining Hall, plus the newly added Sixth Form cafe, Café 1705, this impressive accolade is a reflection of the hard work our catering teams put in every day.



Charity Champions

Our community has made us proud with charitable endeavours this half term:

- our Sixth Form Charity Officers, Marina and Aaron, organised our annual Senior School Harvest Festival collection, with more than half a tonne of food donated to Newcastle Foodbank
- Senior School staff brought out their baking skills for the Macmillan Coffee Morning, organised by Miss Hetherington, which raised £223.50. At the Junior School, their Macmillan Coffee Morning raised an incredible £1072, bringing our grand total to £1295
- a cake and sweet stall was organised by form 8VV, with the boys raising more than £100 for Cancer Research UK and the Newcastle Dog and Cat Shelter - well done all!



Sports Updates

Athletics

The boys and girls Year 7 and 8 combined cross country teams ran in the first event of the year on 5 October, hosted by Mowden Hall. The boys team finished in second place in the team event, with a special mention to Dexter and Joe (both Y8) who finished second and third in the individual event. Our top female finisher was Hattie in eighth position. Brilliant running by everyone who attended!

8 October saw the first round of the National Schools Cross Country Cup and also the Northumberland Schools Cross Country Event for Year 7s. We entered eight teams in total with very good results.



Netball

It has been a strong start for netball this half term. Our Senior netball team triumphed over RGS and NHSG to win the Senior TWSSA Netball Tournament, and were also runners up in the City Tournament, losing by just one goal in a very close final. Additionally, our U12, U13, U14 and Senior teams are all through to the second round of the 'Sisters in Sport' national shield competition - great work girls. Special mentions as well to Iris, Layla and Lola for making county squads this year!



Hockey

Our U14 girls won the county round tournament at the start of October, marking an excellent start to the season, whilst our U13 team triumphed against Yarm to progress to the next round of the ISHC competition.

Cricket

Our squad is hard at work ahead of their upcoming tour to Dubai. A big thank you to Lowes Financial Management for very kindly sponsoring our cricket team kits, ahead of their tour, our pupils were thrilled with this generous support!

Rugby

Our first XV have shown great teamwork as they progressed to round four of the National Vase. Our U12's have been busy with the Tait 10's and a triangular with Aysgarth and Woodhouse Grove. It has been fantastic to see such a great crowd at the Friday Night fixtures for the U16s and 1st XV at Darlington Arena, with a number of Sixth Formers coming to support. Our U16s also welcomed an Argentinean Touring side for both rugby and football, a brilliant experience for all. We also welcomed ex international rugby player, Lome Fa'atau, who is running our Senior rugby strength and conditioning training this season.

Introducing... Miss Mileham, Rowing Coach

We are delighted to welcome Miss Mileham to the staff team at Dame Allan's as our new Rowing Coach! She is already hard at work in streamlining and growing our rowing provision - watch this space.

Miss Mileham said: "I am very excited to be building a new rowing programme in the North East! There's so much untapped potential for junior rowing in this region, and Dame Allan's is well placed to raise the standard of junior rowing across the region. Our rowers have already been working hard this year, so I am looking forward to continuing building this momentum in the coming months."



Rowing

Dame Allan's Boat Club have had a great start to the season! Rowers have been working hard at Indoor Rowing Club, with many also honing their skills on the water after school and during games. In September, two Sixth Form students attended a GB Rowing Development Day, where they worked with coaches from around the region to deepen their technical knowledge and learn about the high-performance pathways available to them.

During October, many Dame Allan's rowers have been racing the Long Distance Sculling series, representing their local clubs in the process. Most notably there were 15 pupils racing at Tyne Long Distance Sculls, representing local clubs such as Tyne United Rowing Club and Tyne Amateur Rowing Club.

The Allanian Society

Futures Fair

It was a pleasure to welcome back so many Allanians to Futures Fair this half term, including Ella Hughes and Sadaf Chaudry (pictured). Overall, there were 13 Allanians who attended the Futures Fair. Thank you to everyone who gave their time and expertise to help bring careers to life for pupils of all ages.



Welcome back...!

Allanian Hazel returned to Dame Allan's this half term for a very special tour; she was shown around by her grandson, and current Sixth Former, Toby! Hazel (class of '58) then enjoyed a look into the archives, with photos from her time at the schools. It was wonderful to welcome her back and see the strong generational bond between these two Dame Allan's pupils.



Dates for your Diary

Sat 9 November	Reunion Groups Afternoon Tea & Tours, 11.30am - 2.00pm at Dame Allan's Senior School
Thurs 28 November	London Drinks 2024, 6.30pm - 9.00pm, Lansdowne Club, Mayfair, London
Fri 13 December	Carol Service, from 10.00am, Newcastle Cathedral. Refreshments provided, please RSVP to ke.leonard@dameallans.co.uk or call 0191 275 0608.

Richard Holmes Memorial Match

Allanians, parents, pupils and friends of Dame Allan's are warmly invited to watch Dame Allan's 1st XV vs Durham Cathedral Schools Foundation play for the Richard Holmes Cup on Saturday 7 December at 10.30 at Dame Allan's Senior School.

Refreshments will be provided and donations to Marie Curie, in memory of Allanian Richard, are welcome.

School Trips

Year 8 - Biology Fieldwork

A little closer to home, our Year 8 pupils from both the Boys' School and the Girls' School took to the Town Moor and the garden of St James' and St Basil's Church to complete hands-on fieldwork using quadrants. Despite the muddy conditions, a great day was had by all.



Year 10 - RPS Trip to Manchester Courts

Year 10 pupils studying GCSE religious and philosophical studies enjoyed a trip to Manchester Metropolitan University Moot Court to enhance their knowledge of their crime and punishment unit. A mock trial - complete with wigs! - really brought the topic to life.



DASPA

CHRISTMAS FAIR

The DASPA Christmas Fair will be held on 30 November from 10.00am to 12.30pm at the Senior School. The fair will include Santa and elves, games stalls (supported by Duke of Edinburgh Award pupils) performances by our fantastic Junior Choir, a uniform stall, tombola, toy stall, raffle, and lots of local craft stalls and refreshments. The success of the fair relies on the generosity of the school community. If you would like to book a stall or would be able to volunteer on the day of the fair please email daspa@dameallans.co.uk. We are also seeking donations for the raffle (please email DASPA if you have a prize you can donate) and for our stalls at the fair, for example for the tombolas (sweets or bottles, toiletries or toys). We will be in school the week beginning 25 November to collect items you are able to donate and we would be delighted to receive them.

CHARITABLE SUPPORT

At the Junior School, amazing community and environmental spirit has been shown by

members of DASPA J. The endeavour has been masterminded by Cath Huntley with support from many other members of DASPA J. She has sourced new homes for former uniform, a huge undertaking in itself, and managed the collection, sorting and distribution of the uniform to various charities. To date, surplus PE uniform (in total 26 boxes) have been donated to KitAid and are enroute to Mfuwe in rural Zambia. KitAid will kindly update us once the kit has arrived.

A local West End school has received donations of unbranded uniform, which according to one staff member "will really help a lot of our families who are struggling financially." Finally, sports bags have been donated to Lord's Taverners and will be making their way to Africa very soon. Thank you to all those who donated their time and uniform and to the ingenuity of the group in ensuring our uniform did not end up in landfill.

UNIFORM SALES

Our monthly Senior School uniform sales continue to be well attended. Thank you to

everyone who has donated preloved clothing, we are grateful for your generosity. We take donations of Senior School uniform all year round, these donations can be left at reception at the Senior School. The next sale is on Monday 4 November in St James' and St Basil's Church, 8.45am-10.00am. We are asking parents not to donate old Junior School uniform at present but the year reps will make you aware once we are able to accept donations.



AGM

The AGM will be held on 4 December at 6pm in the Library at the Senior School. Everyone is very welcome to attend to learn more about our activities and plans for the coming year.

We hope you have had a great half term and look forward to seeing you at the concerts and events we are supporting during the coming half term.

Safeguarding

Prepare for the darker nights

During this half term break, the clocks will go back and the nights will begin to get darker considerably earlier. Whilst this might be an adjustment for your body clock, there are also adjustments you can make within your family to ensure you are keeping them safe during this time of year.

- **Road safety:** the commute home from school or clubs may now be in the dark, making a once familiar journey a bit more challenging. Remind children about basic road safety (looking before they cross, waiting for cars to come to a complete stop, using proper crossing points), and hold the hand of younger children who may be unsure about travelling in the dark.

- **Stranger danger:** remind them about the importance of sticking to well-lit routes and not talking to or following strangers or approaching cars, no matter what they say. Make sure your child knows they can always call you when they feel worried or if they cannot get home safely. If someone or something is making them uncomfortable, advise them to go to a more crowded location, or go into a shop and speak to an adult working there.
- **Mobile phone awareness:** teens especially can easily zone out when using their mobile phone, especially with earbuds in. Remind your child how important it is to be aware of their surroundings as the darker nights come. This could be as simple as only using one earbud, rather than both, especially in areas of traffic or less well-lit areas.

Reminding your child of these common sense safety precautions will set them in good stead as the nights draw in. As always, if you or your child needs any further guidance or support, please do reach out to the pastoral team.



DAME ALLAN'S SCHOOLS
building the future