

DAME ALLAN'S Digest

FEBRUARY 2016



A welcome from the Principal

I am pleased to send this newsletter at the end of another busy half term at Dame Allan's. The focus was very much on academic matters at the start of term, with mock exams for Years 11 and 13 and we were pleased to welcome lots of new families to the Schools for our entrance exams.

We were of course saddened by the news of the closure of Sunderland High School and, as you will be aware, we are assisting in helping pupils, particularly those mid-way through their GCSE and A Level courses, as befits our Christian foundation. Please be assured this will in no way impact on our commitment to excellent teaching or our class sizes. Alongside the hard work we also enjoyed lots of extra-curricular activities including skiing, theatre workshops and much sporting success. We were also honoured to have a visit from the Right Reverend Christine Hardman, Bishop of Newcastle upon Tyne. We hope you will enjoy reading our latest Digest which celebrates the rich tapestry of activities at the Schools.



Heavenly choir

We were honoured to welcome the Right Reverend Christine Hardman, Bishop of Newcastle to the Schools this half term. The visit was part of Bishop Christine's tour of the City's West Deanery and it was arranged through the Schools' chaplain Canon Nick Darby who is Vicar at St James' and St Basil's church in Fenham. Bishop Christine enjoyed a harmonious rendition of the Spanish hymn Riu Riu Chiu by our chamber choir on

arrival, she then spent some time speaking with students and members of staff, including members of the Christian Union, before having a tour of the Schools. Year 7 student Fareeha Ahmed then presented the Bishop with a basket of flowers on behalf of Dame Allan's. Bishop Christine was inaugurated in December 2015, she is the 12th Bishop of Newcastle and is the first female to hold the post. We were incredibly lucky to have a visit from Bishop Christine as the Diocese of Newcastle covers a large area in the North East, stretching from the Scottish borders, to Newcastle and Northumberland and into parts of County Durham and Cumbria.

Get in the net!



Our Year 7 and 8 girls were very lucky to have a netball training session with team Northumbria Super league player Tuaine Keenan this half term. Super League is the highest level of netball competition in the country and Tuaine, who is from New Zealand, has represented her country at U21 level so our students were very lucky to have a session with such a talented player.

Additionally, well done to our U19 Netball squad who qualified for the finals of the National Schools Competition at the end of this half term, playing five

matches to qualify. They will travel to Brighton in March to compete in the finals – good luck! Finally Nick White in Year 13 has been selected to represent the North of England in the U18 rugby squad and Toby May in Year 8 has been selected for the U15 England fencing squad. These are brilliant achievements and we look forward to following their progress. Well done!



It's a hard knock life

The Years 4, 5 and 6 Combined Arts performance this year is a production of the hit musical Annie. Rehearsals have been going well this half term and have included filming using the green screen. The combined arts performances include music, dance and drama and give our children brilliant experience of putting on a production from both on stage and behind the scenes perspectives. We are really looking forward to seeing the final performances in March!

Stage schooling

Our Year 7 boys and girls enjoyed a Musical Theatre day this term. The aim of the day was to explore presentation and performance skills as well as helping to improve confidence. Both the girls and boys learned, staged and performed a song from Matilda after a series of workshops, giving them a taster of the world of musical theatre. Many thanks to Miss Chave, who previously taught LAMDA at the Schools, for running the day.





During the Christmas break a group of over 50 students and staff went on the ski trip to Les Menuires in the Belleville valley of Les Trois Vallées, France. The week-long trip was a huge success, everyone's skiing improved and the conditions were perfect thanks to a fresh snow fall the day the group arrived. As well as skiing, our students enjoyed 'bum boarding' races, bowling and pool.

Water success



Year 10 student Annalea Davison enjoyed a fantastically successful swimming meeting at the end of last term. Over the Christmas break Annalea travelled to Sheffield where she competed at the ASA National Swimming Winter meet. She took part in a number of races including the final of the Women's Open 800 metres. Competing in the

open category was a real achievement for Annalea, who was two years younger than the other finalists, as it means she was competing against the best in the country including Olympic swimmer Aimee Wilmott. Annalea also won gold in the 400 metres junior category setting PBs in both races – a brilliant achievement – well done!

Out of Africa

We are extremely proud of four of our students who have raised a significant amount of money for charities in South Africa. Year 12 students Aoife, Beth, Lizzie and Olivia raised almost £500 through cake sales and raffles, inspired by their friend and former Dame Allan's pupil Hestia, who recently relocated to South Africa. The girls have kept in touch and at Christmas went to visit Hestia and her family, donating the money they raised to two charities whilst they were there. The money raised by our students was very much appreciated and went towards a local community project which offers a holiday

programme for under-privileged children, keeping them out of danger. The girls' funding paid for a much enjoyed outing for 60 children to the swimming pools at Victor Verster. The rest of the money was donated to the Thembinkosi day care centre in Paarl, which offers a safe haven and stimulating education for children while their parents are at work. The centre is in a shipping container in the small backyard of Mrs Patricia Vuka who saw the desperate need for schooling in her community. Our students visited the school



and took gifts with them, including fans for the container which gets very hot during the summer and blankets for the babies in the crèche during the winter. Aoife, Beth, Lizzie and Olivia undertook this fundraising of their own accord, epitomising the values of looking out for others which we see as an integral part of life in the Schools.

DASPA

DASPA made a substantial contribution to the arrival of a brand new mini bus for Dame Allan's which arrived in January. Students and staff will be able to travel in style and comfort to the many sporting and extra-curricular activities on the Schools' calendar. The 50/50 club's first monthly draw has taken place and we are delighted to announce that Dame Allan's projects will be funded by a further £465 as a result of income from participating parents and friends. Thank you!

Tickets for the Spring Ball on May 7th will be going on sale very soon. Please remember to save the date and keep an eye out for further information.

Allanian Society

The annual Allanian Society dinner is going to be another brilliant event this year. The dinner is taking place on 12 March and will be a celebration of modern languages at Dame Allan's. The evening will have a European flavour, with specially selected food and wines from the continent. Tickets are available from the development office and are £25 (£20 for students in full time education). Please let us know by 1 March if you would like to attend by emailing t.elandar@dameallans.co.uk – we hope to see you there!



Looking to the future...

Monday 22 February – School resumes
Thursday 25 February – Year 12 Parents' Evening, 4pm
Sunday 28 February – School production rehearsal, 9am – 5pm
Tuesday 1 March – DABS Year 9 Parents' Evening

Thursday 3 – Saturday 5 March – School production, 'Little Shop of Horrors', 7pm – 10pm
Monday 7 March – DABS Year 9 Parents' Evening, 4pm
Saturday 12 March – Allanian Society Dinner, 6.30pm
Tuesday 15 March – Public Speaking

Competition, 7pm
Wednesday 16 March – DABS Year 8 Parents' Evening, 4pm
Wednesday 16 & Thursday 17 March – Years 3,4 and 5 Combined Arts afternoon, 1.45pm
Saturday 19 March – Junior School Open Morning 9.30am – 12.00

Sunday 20 March – Spring Concert, Newsom Hall, 7pm
Tuesday 22 & Wednesday 23 March – Junior School and Nursery Parents' Meetings, 3.30pm – 6pm
Thursday 24 March – Term ends



DAME ALLAN'S SCHOOLS
 building the future

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

