

DAME ALLAN'S Digest



JULY 2019



A welcome from the Principal

The end of the summer term is upon us, leaving us inspired, entertained and, of course, feeling a little bittersweet as we say goodbye to staff and pupils.

The outcome of the inspection is still fresh in our minds, its publication full of excellent comments and observations which I see as confirmation of the good work done by the whole school community - pupils, parents and staff. Since then, the Senior Schools have benefited from the work of our chaplain in creating an imaginative quiet space within the Jenifer Cole Room - a direct response to points raised by our pupils in the inspection.

We celebrated another year of achievements at this year's Junior School prize giving - this time under the new leadership of Mr Laidler. The end of the summer term also saw the excellent Year 6 production of Hamlet, the Junior School concert and the innovative Lower School Musical, each of which has ensured we end yet another successful school year on a high.

As ever, the end of the summer term sees us say a few farewells. Along with our class of 2019, this year we say goodbye to a number of staff. Miss Hudson and Miss White, two members of the support team, move on to new challenges. We wish them well in their future endeavours.

We also say goodbye to various teaching staff. Dr Moscardini, Mr Ogg, Mrs McGough, Mrs Brown, Dr Fraser, Mrs Gillott and Mr Henry have each made a huge impact on the Schools' community. We shall miss the dedication and professionalism of all and wish them all the best for the future.

Looking ahead, we hope to see the fruits of our Year 11 and 13 pupils' work as GCSE and A Level results are published on 15 and 22 August respectively. The 2019-20 academic year will start on Thursday 5 September and we return to the Sage, Gateshead for our annual Speech Day on Thursday 19 September. I hope many of you will join us to celebrate another successful year and to hear our guest speaker, Professor Russell Cowburn. Finally, I hope the summer leaves you all refreshed and ready to face the challenges and excitements of the 2019-20 academic year!



An excellent school report

The term has seen an excellent inspection report following a recent visit from the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI).

Key findings from the report show that both the quality of pupils' academic and other achievements and of their personal development is excellent. It also highlights pupils make rapid progress in the separate Boys' and Girls' Schools and thrive in our family atmosphere.

In the assessment of academic and other achievements, the report observes that pupils of all abilities achieve very well. It recognises that the academic and pastoral benefits of separate Boys' and Girls' Schools in Years 7-11 and a co-educational Sixth Form:

"Pupils in years 7 to 11 make rapid progress in the single-sex environment of their separate schools, where the differentiated styles of teaching enable them to achieve their potential."

An example of this is acknowledged in the report. In design and technology (DT) *"boys gain a clear understanding of their task through additional demonstrations, while girls become more confident in their use of machinery through the active encouragement of their teachers."*

These comments support the Schools' belief in the 'Diamond Structure' of education it has followed for the past thirty years - a co-educational Junior School, single-sex Senior Schools and a co-educational Sixth Form.

North East Book Award

During the summer term, Year 6 were given the opportunity to take part in the North East Book Award. They had to read six books during this time. At the end of the reading period, they attended a party

at the Centre for Life to meet the authors. Year 6 Viraj said: "It was a great night and my favourite book, 'The Girl in the Window', was announced as the winner. The story is about a girl called Kaisa who has M.E. (which stands for Myalgic Encephalomyelitis). Late one night, Kaisa and another unknown person witness an abduction. Was it a ghost? What was Kaisa looking for? I loved how she worked her way to find out. Unfortunately the author Penny Joelson couldn't attend the party, as she has M.E. I recommend this book to anyone looking for a new mystery book to read!"

Juniors

Dippy

As part of our "Dippy School" work Year 1 and 2 have been to the Great North Museum - Hancock to see the "Dippy the Diplodocus" exhibition. We participated in an observational drawing workshop as part of our work for the "Art Award". We sketched animals that can be found in our local environment and looked at how scientists record findings and drawings in field books. We went to the Dippy gallery where we were all amazed at the size of the skeleton! We then spent the afternoon exploring the different galleries in the museum. We were looking for inspiration for our own art work which we will be completing and presenting in school. We all had a great day culminating in all the children making their own Dippy the Diplodocus hats!



Hamlet

This term saw two fantastic performances of Shakespeare's 'Hamlet' by Year 6; this was the culmination of this term's learning in drama and dance. I'm sure all who attended would agree that they did an absolutely splendid job with a very challenging project. The standard of singing, acting, dancing and speaking was a credit to all involved and the teamwork running through the production was wonderful to see. Many thanks to all who helped and supported the children and, of course, to the children themselves for bringing such energy and enthusiasm into the performances.

Early Years and Key Stage One Sports Day

The children competed in houses in a variety of different events, including some of the old favourites, such as the sack race, relay and egg & spoon race. Conditions were a little blustery out there on the MUGA, but it was dry and the sun made a welcome appearance!

It was wonderful to see all of the children taking an active and enthusiastic part, with such lovely smiles on their faces. In the end, the scores were very close, with Tweed and Aln houses tied in first place and Coquet and Wansbeck very close behind.

Quote of the day went to Hana, who said that it was the "best day of my life."



Green Goblin

An enthusiastic group of Year 6 pupils have been working hard on the Green Goblin project for several months, working together to design, build and race two kit cars; a wonderful project which is inspiring children to excel in science, technology, engineering and maths. The project ended with a race at Gateshead Stadium. Everyone managed to drive and we even came home with a trophy for recording the fastest slalom time! There were 40 cars competing in what was an excellent event.

You're indestructible

The Senior Schools have seen a great Duke of Edinburgh Award season. The Gold assessment took place in the Yorkshire Dales, walking from Malham to Kettlewell, then completing the Yorkshire three peaks over the following three days. The walk included many of the well-known sights in Yorkshire, including Malham Cove and Gaping Gill. It was a real challenge carrying heavy packs over the mountains and was made harder by members of staff breaking into song when they saw the groups. The favourite (amongst the staff) was Spandau Ballets "Gold" for obvious reason and the singing encouraged the groups to move on quickly!

Well done to everyone who took part and good luck in finishing your Awards!



Spring Concert

This term saw a fantastic Spring Concert held at St James and St Basil's Church. Inspired by the Last Night of the Proms, performers included the Junior Choir, Intermediate Choir, Senior Choir, Intermediate Wind Band, Senior Wind Band and Symphony Orchestra. A particularly special performance saw Peter Qiang performing an excerpt from Rachmaninov's 'mvt. II' Piano Concerto No.2 with the Symphony Orchestra. The evening finished with the orchestra performing Pomp and Circumstance and the audience joining in with Land of Hope and Glory.

A Coat of Many Colours



"Taking part in 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat' was an incredible experience. When I auditioned, I honestly never thought that I would be lucky enough to be chosen to play the role of Joseph. I enjoyed every rehearsal and one of my favourite parts was the feeling of teamwork within the cast. Everybody looked after each other and helped if people forgot their lines. Both performances went really well and were great fun. I'd like to thank Mrs Blazey and Mrs Taylor on behalf of the whole cast for organising the play."



Astounding Readers

Our Junior School has some fantastic readers. This year two pupils, Year 6 Rachel and Year 5 Miriam each borrowed and read over 100 books. This fantastic achievement was rewarded by Mrs Oakley and Mrs Giddings, who gave the girls special book sweets and book tokens which were presented to them in the library by Mr. Laidler.

Athletics

This term, 16 students from Year 7 and 8 represented Dame Allan's in the County Minors Athletics Championships. We were thrilled with their efforts, especially the Year 7 girls. Abigail took the Gold medal in the 100m, Amelia also took Gold in the 200m and Lucy took Gold in the Javelin. Will (Year 7 DABS) won Gold in the 1500m. Well done everyone!



Durham School Biathlon

The Senior Schools saw great success in the Durham School Biathlon in June. Separate swim and run efforts for each pupil were timed and converted into points, which were then added to produce an overall score. Individual medal winners were: Year 8 Ellie, Gold; Year 9 Jaime, Silver; Year 7s Erin and Will, Bronze; and Year 8 Jack, Bronze. In the team results, the DAS teams on all age groups took places on the podium, with the Year 8 girls winning Gold. Congratulations to all of the pupils involved!

Junior Sport

The weather has affected much of the sport this term at the Junior School. However, there have still been many successes and opportunities.

In Athletics, the teams have competed at the City, HMC and Lindisfarne Plate competitions. In the Newcastle City Championships: Martha - Hurdles, Grace - 80m, Milo - High jump and the girls' relay team were crowned champions. While Owen, Daisy and Anais all placed in their events. The U11 girls' relay team then came 3rd overall in the County Championships, the U11 team won the Intermediate Lindisfarne Plate and the whole team performed well at the HMC competition. It is brilliant to see all the pupils compete in so many different events and the behaviour, sportsmanship and effort displayed by all was most pleasing to see. It has just been very unfortunate that the weather put paid to a real celebration of sport with sports day for this year unfortunately being cancelled.

Cricket has been affected greatly by the weather, too, but as many pupils as possible across all year groups have had the chance to play in competitive fixtures against RGS, NSB and Durham. Unfortunately, this year's HMC competition was cancelled due to the weather. The girls have also started to play competitive fixtures this year and it is great to see so many of them learning and enjoying the game. We will look to build on this again next year. Cricket is a very skilful game with each facet requiring practice and perseverance it has been brilliant to see how all the pupils have applied themselves to this process and got lots of enjoyment out of it along the way.

In tennis, the term saw the final games for Years 5 and 6. There has been some fantastic tennis played throughout the tournament. Thank you to all who participated and a big congratulations to the finalists Jack and Marcus, Rory and Will, Rachel and Philippa and Archie and Owen. A huge thank you to Mrs Dennis for all the work and time given to make this tournament run.

Finally, a huge thank you to all the families that joined us for the Children's Cancer Run. All the money raised will make its way to helping to tackle childhood cancer.



The Allanian Society

Dame Allan's and the Allanian Society London Alumni Event

We will be back in London for another informal drinks and nibbles event on Thursday 3 October 2019, so make sure you put the date in your diary. Once the venue has been confirmed it will be advertised on our web and facebook pages, so make sure you check them in a few weeks' time.

The Allanian Society AGM Tuesday 17 September 2019

The Society - the alumni organisation of Dame Allan's Schools - will meet in the Jennifer Cole Room at 5.30pm.

All former pupils and staff are welcome to attend and the board is always keen for new members to join to help take the Society forward.

Contact us

If you are interested in joining the board and helping to shape the future of the Allanian Society, please contact the Development Office:

0191 275 1500

e: alumnirelations@dameallans.co.uk

We are also on Facebook, find us  The Allanian Society



Psychology Masterclass



Eighteen students from Wyndham, Thomas Walling and Stocksfield Avenue Primary schools came along to enjoy an afternoon of psychology. They played a highly competitive round of Psychology Aticulate where the team guessers had to listen to their team describing a psychological word without saying it directly. The students did an amazing job describing quite tricky terms like 'bystander' and 'personality'.

Next we conducted an experiment all about doodling. Would doodling make you learn more? Students found that actually, it didn't affect their ability to learn.

Their second experiment involved standing up or sitting down as the best way to do a time pressurised maths task. Here students also competed against the teachers too! They shared results and concluded that sitting down seemed to be more helpful in this situation.

The students were a credit to their schools! They showed fantastic willingness to learn about a new subject, enthusiasm for all the tasks and were great at mixing with the other pupils straight away. Well done to everyone who came along.



Musical Masterclass

The music department's primary school masterclass was based around the music of Africa. First, pupils discussed what they already knew about Africa, completing mind maps. Afterwards, the group sang two traditional Zulu songs. After a short break, they formed a drum circle, playing rhythm games with djembe before the pupils composed their own rhythms, culminating in a massed group performance, combining all the schools' different rhythms.



Musical Theatre Days

Year 7 and 8 have enjoyed two fun-filled 'Musical Theatre Days' in the lead-up to the end of term. In this inter-house music competition, the year group was split into four groups, each comprising of two houses: Hild and Hedley, Bede and Brewer, Cuthbert and Ridley, and Aidan and Plummer. A musical was assigned to each and the groups. Year 7 performed The Addams Family, We Will Rock You, Shrek and Mary Poppins; Year 8 performed Hairspray, Matilda, The Addams Family and We Will Rock You.

The pupils then had the rest of day to learn lines, choreography and a song from their musical

before gathering together in Newsom Hall for a group performance in front of their peers and a panel of judges.

On the day, the Year 7 winners were Cuthbert and Ridley; in Year 8, Bede and Brewer took the top sport. However, in the end, the overall winner of the Musical Theatre Cup was Aidan and Plummer.

Our thanks to the external musical theatre support and student helpers, Year 13 Georgia and Emily, for making these days such a success. Well done everyone!

A message from the School Governors

As we come to the end of another very successful year, I am writing on behalf of the governing body to say how delighted we are that Dame Allan's Schools continues to offer a full and enriching curriculum for our pupils. Following the recent ISI inspection, it is pleasing that the inspectors agreed with this view and rated Dame Allan's as excellent. Such recognition is also a very fitting and a well-deserved comment on Dr Hind's tenure as Principal of the Schools for the last 15 years. The governors are very grateful for his leadership and commitment during this time.

A lot of hard work goes into a successful school and the governors have a lot of people to thank for their contribution - all the teaching and support staff, the pupils who work hard to fulfil their potential and, of course, the parents and carers who do so much to support both.

For some, however, this is not only the end of the school year, but also the end of their time with Dame Allan's and I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our leavers the very best for the future.

I hope everyone has an enjoyable summer,

Brian Adcock - Chair of Governors

Uniform Donations

DASPA and DASPA J resell school uniform and would be grateful for any uniform donations as the used uniform stocks for all Dame Allan's Schools are running low. The sales of uniform help students and parents and the monies raised all go directly to DASPA projects in the schools.

Any donations can be left at the receptions of either school at any time. Many thanks DASPA and DASPA J.

Safeguarding at Dame Allan's

As we head into the summer 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 to help you on the Parent Portal to CEOP and Parent Zone. Pupils can find links on the Pupil Portal to Childline and the NSPCC.

Looking to the future...

Thursday 5 - Tuesday 9 July

Year 9-10 History/French trip to Normandy

Sunday 7 - Saturday 13 July CCF RM Camp

Thursday 15 August A level results

Thursday 22 August GCSE results

Tuesday 3 September Staff training day

Wednesday 4 September Staff training day

Wednesday 4 September

Year 7 induction morning

Thursday 5 September Start of term

DASPA Junior

We would like to take this opportunity to thank parents for their support throughout the 2018-19 academic year and warmly wish all Year 6 parents and students the very best of wishes as they join DAGS and DABS at the Senior Schools.

Our Year 6 party was held on June 28th and had a fun fair theme complete with fairground attractions and candy floss. A big thank you to all Year 6 parents, teaching staff, Mr Horton, Mr Thompson and Mr Hopper for all of their help at this amazing party.

DASPA

As another academic year draws to an end at Dame Allan's Schools, we at DASPA Senior have much to celebrate. Our record breaking financial achievement and phenomenally successful social and fundraising events, including the Vintage Fashion Show, the Christmas Fair and the Ceilidh have enabled us to support variety of departments - refurbishment of the drama studio, upcoming purchase of Celestron Telescope and a Lego Rocket. We also assisted with drink receptions at the splendid Spring Concert and more recently at the outstanding Lower School Production 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat'.

Of course none of these would have been possible without your continuous support and we extend our sincere gratitude for your invaluable help. We wish parents, children and staff members restful and enjoyable summer holidays!



DAME ALLAN'S SCHOOLS
building the future

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