

# DAME ALLAN'S Digest



MARCH 2015



## Building the future

We are delighted to announce that, thanks to a very generous gift of £250,000 from the Reece Foundation, we are planning to open a new design and technology centre for Dame Allan's in September 2015. This will be a state of the art facility, which will allow pupils to study Product Design at GCSE and A Level. It will also cater for all pupils at Key Stage 3 and will be available to pupils in Years 5 and 6. All of this work will have a STEM focus (science, technology, engineering and maths) and will, we believe, help us to prepare the designers and engineers vital to the future. Strengthening provision in this area has been a long held ambition and we are most grateful to the Reece Foundation whose gift has given the impetus needed to

start this project. The new building, which will be named in honour of the Foundation's founder, Dr Alan Reece, will help students from across the region as a number of our link schools will also use the advanced facilities, building on our existing master class programme. Anne Reece, the Foundation's Chair of Trustees commented "The Foundation is very pleased to be supporting this development at Dame Allan's and I hope we can make rapid progress on establishing an



engineering and technology centre which will inspire many pupils." Work is due to start on the

facility in the coming months, with a view to it being open for September 2015.

## The focus is on engineering

The donation by the Reece Foundation will allow us to build on the existing technology projects at Dame Allan's. Many of these are focussed on engineering so we are looking forward to extending our offering. Our Year 7 girls will be taking part in a 'Focus on Engineering' day later in the year where they will work with engineering firm

Sevcon, a global company based in the North East, to learn more about the role of an engineer. They will then take part in a hands-on workshop run by TDR Training. We also have a group of four Year 12 students who are working on an Education Engineering Scheme (EES) project with Sevcon. The students have been asked by the company to

redesign packaging for one of their electric motor controllers which are sent across the world.

Unfortunately some are getting damaged in transport and cannot be used, and as they cost about £400 each this costing the company a lot of money! The EES project takes six months and involves researching, designing and testing different options. It also includes a three day residential course at Newcastle University where the students have access to their advanced laboratories, facilities and expertise. The students then write up a detailed report and present it at the final meeting. This project also qualifies students for a Crest Gold award run by the British Science Association.



Dame Allan's has taken part in these projects for a number of years and the experience our young people have gained has been invaluable. One previous project included our students researching lifesaving equipment with Draeger Safety. In addition, five of our students are applying for competitive engineering placement opportunities this year. Clearly our new venture, thanks to the generous donation from the Reece Foundation, will build on these brilliant projects.



# Development Director appointment



Jane Clublely, our newly appointed Development Director joined the Schools in October 2014 with much of her work focussed on the successful Reece Bid. Jane brings with her a wealth of expertise having over 20 years' experience

working in charitable organisations and higher education. This includes seven years as Director of Development and Alumni Relations at Newcastle University. Going forward with the Design and Technology project, Jane will endeavour to secure further funding for the £500,000 project

to enable Dame Allan's Schools to provide these advanced facilities and state of the art equipment. If you have any connections in the engineering and design fields or have an interest in supporting the project Jane would be delighted to hear from you, she can be contacted on [j.clublely@dameallans.co.uk](mailto:j.clublely@dameallans.co.uk)

## Planned timeline of construction

Mar

Apr/May

Jun/Jul

Jul

Sept

Equipment list finalised

Contractors finalised and appointed

Work to commence on site

End of term

Start of new term. New Design and Technology Centre opens for lessons

We're very excited by this new venture and look forward to sharing more information with you, including architects' drawings and new appointments, in the coming months.



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