

DAME ALLAN'S Digest

MAY 2015



A welcome from the Principal

This latest newsletter again reflects the hard work and achievements of our pupils at Dame Allan's. I am sure similar hard work has been put into preparation for the forthcoming A Level and GCSE/IGCSE examinations and trust it will result in similar achievements. We wish all involved the very best of luck.

It's been another exciting half term as you will read, not least because we launched our new uniform. Over the last year we have been consulting about, planning and designing our new uniform and we are pleased to have received positive feedback on the designs. We also enjoyed another spectacular dance show and we are delighted to have been awarded the prestigious Green Flag following a successful Eco Schools inspection. Our links with St Nicholas Cathedral in the city were further strengthened when the chapter decided to name the Canonry for education 'Allan' in honour of our founder, Dame Eleanor Allan, thereby highlighting the importance of her work to the city and the church. We hope your half term holiday is enjoyable and we look forward to seeing you for the start of the final half term of the academic year on the first of June.

Dress to impress



thoughts and ideas. The result is that we have a new uniform which uses hardwearing fabrics, is smart and will suit a range of body shapes. Since our launch at

As you may be aware, we reviewed our uniform last year for both the Boys' and Girls' Senior Schools. We have had the current uniform for almost 50 years, and as you would expect after this length of time, it needs to be updated. We held consultations with staff, parents and pupils to hear their

thoughts and ideas. The result is that we have a new uniform which uses hardwearing fabrics, is smart and will suit a range of body shapes. Since our launch at the start of term we have received a lot of feedback on the new uniform, most of which has been overwhelmingly positive. One current parent Mrs Hutton said: "I really like the new uniform and think the change is a really good move. I think they look smart and reflect the Schools in a positive way."

Another parent, Mrs Robinson, said: "It's great to see the new uniform for the Senior Schools. It is smart and professional and reflects the high standards set by the Dame Allan's. Alongside this it gives Dame Allan's a real sense of identity which is not reflected in the current uniform." We were also pleased that our students have responded well to the new uniform. Year 9 student Emily Bell said: "I really like the new design. It's much smarter than the one we have at the moment, it's more flattering and I like the colours, they tie in with the school colours."

The new uniform will be phased in, with a staggered introduction to give parents the ability to plan ahead and to avoid spending money unnecessarily. For more information visit the uniform section of our website where there is a handy FAQs section on the new uniform.



Charity 'rugby' ball

We came together in a special assembly this half term to present Marie Curie Care with a cheque for over £3,000 in memory of Allanian Richard Holmes. We presented an impressive £3,409.87 much of which was raised through rugby matches in memory of Richard who was a keen sportsman, playing rugby for Dame Allan's, Northumbria University and Northern FC, and was sadly just 24 years old when he died of a brain tumour in 2013. The matches have been a huge success over the last two years, with Allanians coming together to play an Under 25 v Over 25 match to

remember Richard and raise money for Marie Curie, which looked after him in his final days. Dr Hind, Katie Searles, Marie Curie Community Fundraiser and Richard's mother, Mrs Linda Holmes all spoke at the assembly, both on how the money will be used and to pay tribute to Richard. A further donation of over £3,000 is to be sent to South Africa for Pecanwood College and its partner outreach school Re-e-lwele. We have supported the schools for a number of years and Richard visited them on a rugby tour with Dame Allan's.

Wastwater visit

This term our Year 5 children went on a residential trip to Wastwater in the Lake District. They had a fantastic time, with activities including open canoeing, ghyll scrambling, orienteering, team building and bushcraft activities. The aim of the residential trip is to help prepare Year 5 children to take on more responsibilities in their role as senior pupils in Year 6 of the Junior School.



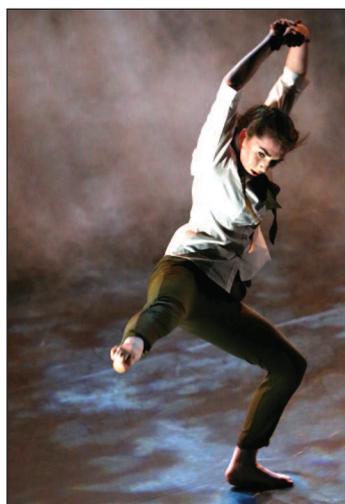
Not just a Spectator

It was with great pleasure that we welcomed former pupil and managing editor of The Spectator, Sebastian Payne to the Schools. Seb spoke to some of our Sixth Form politics pupils, offering advice and answering questions on his time working for The Washington Post. Seb also spoke to our debating club about his work on The Spectator and launched the Schools' Mock General Election 2015, really inspiring our pupils to engage in politics.

Dance class

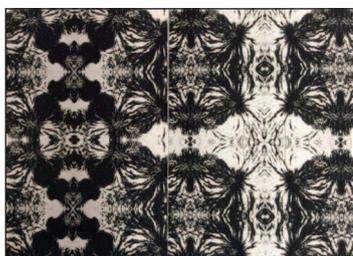
Our school dance show saw mesmerising performances including powerful choreography from a member of the nationally renowned BalletBoyz at Newcastle's Dance City. Edward Pearce is in his fifth season with the innovative ballet troupe and choreographed a piece for Jeune which explored different kinds of love and enabled the young dancers to express themselves through a series of solo performances. Other pieces performed included 'Birds of Paradise', which Jeune will perform alongside VizaVis, the Schools' senior dance group, as one of only four groups in the UK at the U.dance

National Festival later in 2015. Providing yet more inspiration for our young performers, Allanian Ellis Saul returned as a guest choreographer. Ellis began her dance career at Dame Allan's, going on to achieve a scholarship at the London Contemporary Dance School where she created choreography which has been performed at the Royal Opera House. The spectacular show was named Visjeun89, after the Schools' principal dance companies, VizaVis and Jeune, and the year that Head of Dance Lynda Clough joined Dame Allan's. The show was the last one Mrs



Clough will choreograph for the Schools, as she retires in the Summer after 26 years.

Saatchi & McBride



We were thrilled that Sixth Form student Niamh McBride was shortlisted for the 2015 Saatchi Gallery / Deutsche Bank Art Prize for Schools. Niamh's piece, 'Order from Chaos' was selected from over 20,000 art works and was on display in the Saatchi Gallery in London between April and May. 'Order from Chaos' is a collection of 96 photographic images

presented as an A5 concertina style book. iPad manipulated images illustrate the magnetic properties and resulting pattern values in iron filings and explore the interface between science and art. The piece is inspired by the work of contemporary artists Richard Wright and Stefan Kurten. This is a fantastic achievement for Niamh – well done.



We are very proud of our Eco-Panel. As a result of their work, and after a successful inspection, we have been re-awarded the prestigious Eco-Schools England Green Flag for a further two years. Well done to them all – keep up the good work!

Showing their respects

Over the Easter break a group of around 40 DABS and DAGS students visited St Omer in Northern France. Our pupils enjoyed a busy trip, including a visit to a chocolate factory, snail farm, theme park and aquarium. They also went to Hill 62 and Tynecot Cemetery. Here they

found memorials for fallen Allanians and laid a wreath at the Menin Gate where they attended the daily parade. The pupils had many opportunities to practise their French skills, including asking for food and shopping at the St Omer market.



Looking to the future...

Thursday 21 May – Lord Mayor visits the Junior School

Monday 25 – Friday 29 May – Half Term Holiday

Tuesday 2 June – DAGS New Parents' Evening, 7pm

Wednesday 3 June – DABS New Parents' Evening, 7pm

Monday 8 June – EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 Sports Day, 1pm

Monday 8 – Friday 12 June – Senior School Exam Week

Friday 19 June – Year 13 Leavers' Buffet, 5.30pm

Monday 22 June – Years 3 – 6 Sports Day, 1pm

Monday 22 – Friday 26 June – Year 11 Work Experience and Opportunities Week

Wednesday 24 and Thursday 25 June – Year 6 performance of Hamlet, 6pm

Wednesday 24 June – Years 1 – 6 New Parents' Meeting, 10am

• Junior and Senior School moving up day

Friday 26 June – Reception 'Graduation'

Friday 26 June – Sports Day: DABS am / DAGS pm

Wednesday 1 July – Junior School Summer Concert, 6pm



DAME ALLAN'S SCHOOLS
building the future

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DASPA

DASPA Junior: The Year 1 and 2 Easter party took place in April and Mr Edge's job to judge the fantastically decorated Easter items proved a very difficult task! Plans are being made for the upcoming Summer disco for Years 5 and 6, a cartoon night for Reception and a colouring competition for Nursery. The Summer Fair last weekend was a great success and raised £2,822.06.

DASPA looks forward to welcoming the new Senior School parents on the 2nd and 3rd of June at the New Parents' Evenings where we will be giving information on how to get involved with the team and a parent's perspective of the schools. The new parents will be invited to attend our first meeting for the next academic year in October where new friends and new ideas are always welcome.

Allanian Society



A group of recent leavers have set up an Allanian Football Society since leaving the Schools. The Society is in its first few months and came about after a reunion of friends during the Christmas holiday. The group of friends, who are third year university students studying across the country, meet and play football when they are in Newcastle and further afield. The Football Society has invested in a Dame Allan's flag which they have flown in Scotland and South America to date! The Society has an extensive calendar of socials in place for Summer 2015 and we wish them the best of luck!