

DAME ALLAN'S Digest



JULY 2020



Supporting our pupils through difficult times

Please help us keep all of our current pupils in school during and beyond this crisis by donating to our COVID-19 Bursary Appeal.

Sadly, the COVID-19 pandemic sees many families within the Schools facing real issues. Alongside serious health implications, many of our families are facing financial difficulties as their livelihoods suffer from the impact of the coronavirus lockdown restrictions.

As always, our pupils remain at the centre of what we do. Their emotional well-being and education are our primary motivation and have guided our actions during the pandemic.

The school is fully committed to playing our part financially. We have pledged substantial funds to provide hardship support to those existing fee payers who find themselves in difficulty so that we can enable their children to remain in school until this situation is resolved. The governors have agreed that money set aside for planned, major building developments may also be used to support this fund, given that this project is now on hold.

However, even with this investment, our resources are not infinite. We should be clear that the Schools' financial situation is not, at present, critical but we simply cannot know exactly what the short term future holds. We already have over seventy requests for full or partial support from families in financial difficulty.

The cost per child who requires a full bursary is in the region of £4,000 per term. That, and the uncertainty around how many families may require hardship support, makes planning ahead challenging. It also means that we need all the financial resources we can muster if we are to achieve our twin objectives of ensuring continuity of education for as many Dame Allan's pupils as possible whilst ensuring we can continue to grow and survive in our fourth century.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Please know we are keenly aware that you may yourself be finding the current financial situation challenging. Yet, if you are able, any help you can give towards supporting the wider Dame Allan's family would be much appreciated. Your donation will help us to ensure that all our pupils can remain at school beyond this crisis.

Whatever else they may lose because of the pandemic, together we can help this generation of Allanians maintain their friendships, their sense of belonging and the opportunities that come from an exceptional education.

Thank you.

*Dr John Hind,
Principal of Dame Allan's Schools*

Are your details up to date?

GDPR rules have changed the way we can interact with our database.

Sadly, we now have a large list of Allanians for whom we have either limited contact details or none at all and we would like to get in touch with them.

If you would like to check whether or not we have your contact details on file, please contact the Development Office.

t: 0191 275 1500

e: alumnirelations@dameallans.co.uk

We are also on Facebook, find us The Allanian Society

Similarly, if you are in touch with any Allanians that might be interested in hearing more about the COVID-19 Bursary Appeal Fund or other development news and school events, please pass on this newsletter or urge them to get in touch with the Development Office.

Thank you for your help.

To learn more about our appeal, please visit www.dameallans.co.uk/covid-19-bursary-appeal
Alternatively, please contact us on alumnirelations@dameallans.co.uk



Building the Future

In November 2019, the Schools put forward an application for planning permission to develop the north end of the Senior Schools - originally the Girls' School.



The aim of the new development is to create a modern and more cohesive space which would provide a new Arts centre, three new science labs, several additional classrooms, a new Bursary suite and updated OLED facilities as well as various spaces for pastoral offices, a new School Archives store and a small quad area with netball hoops for our Girls' School pupils.

We're pleased to announce this has recently been approved by Newcastle City Council.

Whilst great news for us, the timing of this does coincide with the unforeseen complications brought by the global coronavirus pandemic.

The original timescale for the new project would have seen phase one of the development begin in July 2020, with major demolition of existing buildings taking place throughout the summer holidays. This would have been followed by building work throughout the 2020/21 academic year and 2021 summer holidays with affected classrooms rehoused in temporary accommodation on our grounds. All of this would have seen us open the new buildings in September 2021.

However, our priority at this time is to ensure the safety of our students and work towards returning to some form of normality come September following the extended period of distance-learning during the 2019-20 academic year.

As a result, the senior management team and governors have agreed it is best to put these plans on hold temporarily. We will monitor the situation over the coming months and reschedule when we feel it is safe to do so.

This is the latest in a long line of developments we have undertaken over the years as we have looked to develop and modernise the facilities of the Schools whilst preserving the original features.

In 2005 we built the Queen's Building; our next big project was the relocation of the Junior School and Nursery to the purpose-built site on Hunter's Moor in 2012; this was followed by several developments of facilities at the Senior Schools - we installed new and state-of-the-art design technology workshops with the aid of funding by the Reece Foundation and also updated our physics labs in 2016; food technology facilities were updated in 2017, and similar work followed in drama in 2018 and music in 2019.

A message from our Chaplain...

It will soon be two decades since the Independent Schools Inspectorate wrote, 'The Dame Allan's Schools constitute a civilised and civilising community'. This was of course before any of our current student cohort were even born. When you're in school, 20 years is a lifetime away, never mind the 315 years since Dame Eleanor Allan first established the plans that led to a new school in Newcastle Upon Tyne with, we might say, a vision to bring about social change to the civil community. How life changes in even just a few months, never mind the years that roll by when you're a parent (or perhaps seemingly drag on where you're a teenager eager to be free) but some things remain sure and steadfast.

Mahatma Ghandi is famously misquoted as saying 'a civilised society is measured by how it treats its most vulnerable', the correct quote is thought to be 'the true measure of any society can be found in how it treats its most vulnerable members'.

The difference is perhaps a matter of semantics, but the meaning remains virtually unchanged. One of the great characteristics of our school community is that shared culture of nurture and care whatever our start in life; a vision that aims for excellence so that

our students might reach their full potential as responsible, confident and 'civilised' members of a local and global community.

We look towards a new school year, new leadership, new projects and efforts to include, welcome and embrace those who might need

that little extra help in their early years as they journey to adulthood, vocation and purpose in life, and we give thanks for all that has been in these past generations.

As the inspectors noted all those years ago, as Dame Eleanor hoped when she established her endowment, we look forward with hope remembering that our community seeks to uphold those great foundations in which every Allanian might not only have aspirations of personal success, but in which they might also keep watch for those to whom they might be a blessing on the journey through life as the decades roll by.

Reverend James McGowan
Chaplain



DAME ALLAN'S SCHOOLS
building the future