



DOLLAR ACADEMY

Prospectus

Welcome to Dollar Academy

A legacy for generations

Once below the Ochil Hills there was a broad meadow (Doll – ar in Gaelic). Then, through the final gift of one man, and the imaginative vision of some very determined men and women two hundred years ago, a great school took distinctive shape in the landscape.

Dollar Academy now provides children with an education that is second to none. Captain John McNabb's ship is the symbol of his Academy, and "Juventutis veho fortunas" – I bear the fortunes of youth – is its motto. Since 1818 countless young people have joined this community and discovered just how far they have been able to go.

In the following pages a brief tour of the Academy is offered, but by far the best way to learn more is to visit the school itself. You will experience first-hand how the school and its landscape work in harmony to the benefit of the current generation of pupils.

To arrange a visit, contact rector@dollaracademy.org.uk

Dollar Academy: HMC Co-Educational, 5–18, Day and Boarding.



About us

A statement of our vision

The school:

Dollar Academy is a 5-18 school accepting both boys and girls as day pupils or boarders. The school is set in beautiful grounds, at the centre of an attractive country town located within easy reach of the university cities of St Andrews, Edinburgh and Stirling.

The strengths of the school lie in high-quality teaching, a wide range of subject choices and exceptional opportunities for participation and excellence in sport, music and the arts. Pupils can choose from over seventy different clubs and activities. Together with the excellent resources and facilities available, this enables the provision of a unique educational experience for every pupil.

Dollar Academy specialises in bringing out the best in young people. Dollar pupils have a reputation for combining a quiet confidence with enthusiasm and ambition. They are well balanced and down-to-earth: the school is very proud of their achievements.

Aims:

- + To provide an excellent academic education
- + To provide an extensive range of co-curricular activities
- + To provide a friendly, positive and supportive environment
- + To provide high-quality facilities on an attractive campus
- + To develop academic skills and life skills
- + To encourage individual talents, interests and ambitions
- + To encourage a positive attitude to learning
- + To encourage self-confidence, self-respect and consideration for others



“Dollar Academy provides pupils with a very high standard of educational experience.”

HMIe Report



The balance of life in Dollar

Variety and excellence in beautiful surroundings

Open space – and accessibility

The first impressions of Dollar today are of a small country town community, set among wide green spaces and the Ochil Hills. Dollar, nevertheless, is within easy reach of major cities in the centre of Scotland: only 20 minutes from Stirling, 30 minutes from Perth and comfortably less than an hour from the cities of Edinburgh and Glasgow, with their international airports, rail and road links and their many opportunities.

Community – and individual growth

Dollar welcomes new pupils at all age groups from 5 to 18 years. The community thus becomes an extended family in which the younger pupils are, in part, cared for by seniors, who are themselves given increasing personal independence. Many former pupils retain close links with the school and with each other – an invaluable network of friendship and experience.

Challenge – and support

The Academy is a big school, but newcomers are soon aware of the very human scale of the Dollar community: pupils and staff work in a calm and friendly atmosphere typical of a smaller school. Everyone here quickly comes to appreciate the opportunities that a large school offers: the breadth of academic subjects and activities, and the variety of pupils and staff. Dollar has something for everyone.

“Pupils enjoyed the sense of belonging - everyone knew each other and was very friendly and people got on well together.”

Care Inspectorate report

Tradition – and innovation

Founded in 1818, Dollar Academy is the world’s oldest co-educational day and boarding school – and the fruits of our history are seen everywhere. The school is, however, also renowned for its innovative approaches to teaching and learning, with cutting-edge developments in Art, Technology and Sound Engineering. Continuous development of staff and facilities is paramount at Dollar.

Participation – and excellence

Dollar offers opportunities to all pupils to try a very wide range of both academic subjects and co-curricular activities. We believe that every child can be enthusiastic about something and Dollar’s aim is to build on and shape that enthusiasm; many will go on to achieve international standards.

Scottish – and international

Dollar is firmly grounded in the strengths of a broad Scottish education, and our pupils undertake Scottish examination courses – in so doing, they gain internationally recognised qualifications giving access to a wide range of universities. Furthermore, overseas links and regular foreign exchange opportunities encourage an outward-looking approach; Dollar offers work experience, curricular and sporting trips and tours, and numerous staff and student exchanges.



Learning & teaching

Foundations of the best fortune a child can be given

Enjoyment of learning lies at the heart of the Dollar world – and the aim is for all pupils to gain satisfaction from a real commitment to study. It is natural in Dollar to take a pride in your work and to do well at it.

Our young people also learn how to go beyond their comfort zones. Year on year, levels of attainment across the school are consequently high. Dollar therefore features highly in exam league tables; more importantly, children learn to enjoy learning and gain skills for life.

High expectations at Dollar

We believe that young people rise to a challenge and flourish in a culture of ambition. This is a view shared by pupils and parents, who value the professional support given to enable all children to recognise their potential, and frequently to surprise themselves.

Foundations for learning

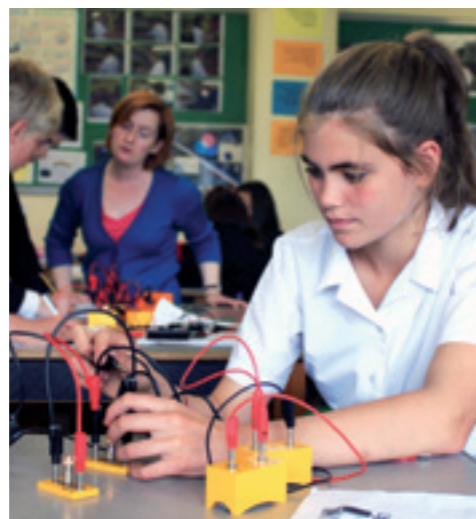
Strong foundations are laid in the Prep and Junior School for independent work habits and the exploration of personal enthusiasms. In this 5 – 18 school many subject specialists from the Senior School enjoy the opportunity of inspiring younger children, while senior pupils also have the opportunity to help support junior pupils' learning. The pupils who join Dollar early flourish in a creative and stimulating environment that ensures they gain the essential skills.

Broad education

In the early years of the Senior School, pupils continue to receive a very broad general education, offering the chance to experience the spectrum of academic subjects and to develop their varying talents. All pupils study Latin and Classical Studies, for example, with three sciences for everyone in Form II and a choice of modern foreign languages. Home Economics, Business Education and Sound Engineering are just some of the other seventeen subjects 12 - 13 year olds will take on. Because of the convenient closeness of the games facilities, opportunities in Physical Education lessons and games sessions are maximised for all.

Investment

We invest continually in our staff and facilities to ensure the most productive learning experiences for Dollar pupils: the budgets for staff training and academic departments are significant.



“Dollar gave him a direction. He found something he never expected to enjoy and he flourished in it. Now he has made a career out of it.”

Parent of Former Pupil

Choice and challenge

From the age of 14, Senior School pupils choose their subjects with the minimum of restriction. Only then, each year, do we build the curriculum and then the timetable.

By the end of their time at Dollar, young people will have had a broad education with opportunities to explore widely, as well as the chance to pursue real depth in their chosen areas. We aim to ensure that each pupil leaves with the best academic qualifications of which he or she is capable – and a great deal more.

Sixth Form

In the Sixth Form young people have the choice of studying their preferred subjects intensively, guided by highly qualified and experienced academic staff, as well as of taking up new subjects and extending their interests. They also have their own social and study centre offering a degree of independence in their final year. In preparation for Higher Education and their careers, they are supported by specialist advisers through the university application process.

Qualifications

The qualifications that senior pupils gain – Scottish Highers and Advanced Highers – are recognised as valid around the world. Pupils therefore go on from Dollar to leading universities such as Oxford and Cambridge, Warwick, Bristol, Durham, and the LSE and UCL in London, as well as US, Canadian and continental European institutions. Dollar naturally has close relationships with Scottish universities, too, and many go on to study at Edinburgh, St Andrews, and Glasgow for example.

Keeping in touch

Former pupils often return to receive further careers and education guidance, years after they have left Dollar – the relationship of support and interest is continuous and long lasting.



Boarding

The community at the heart of Dollar

Over the years since the school was founded in 1818, many pupils from Scotland and abroad have chosen to board at Dollar.

Dollar boarding offers:

- + Access to outstanding teaching and facilities
- + The enjoyment of living in a community of friends
- + The opportunity to gain confidence and independence
- + A beautiful environment in which to grow up
- + Supportive Houseparents and Housetutors enabling children to do their best
- + A wide range of weekend trips and activities
- + The convenience of not having to commute to school
- + Preparation for university and beyond

A focus on quality

Dollar has a thriving community of boarders with a genuine family feel. The key to the success of Dollar's boarding lies not only in the excellent facilities of each House, but also in the particular approach taken to caring for pupils on campus. Significantly, staff in the Houses are known as "Houseparents" rather than "Housemaster" or "Housemistress". The national Care Inspectorate reports very favourably on the high levels of care offered by our staff – as do our pupils. Boys and girls live in separate Houses, but mix as freely as the day pupils and they are allowed to visit each other's Houses. Seniors usually have their own rooms, while younger pupils share. Meals are taken mostly in the Dining Hall; our catering service routinely wins major national awards for quality and for Healthy Eating.

A range of friends

Around three hundred and fifty day pupils live in the small town of Dollar, so the Boarding Houses are an integral part of a much larger community. While the majority of our boarders are of Scottish origin, we welcome a number of young people from around the world, thus adding to the international dimension of the Academy. Many former pupils send their children here. Boarders range in age

from 10-18. There are a handful of weekly boarders, but the vast majority board full-time. New boarders are helped to settle in by a programme of team-building events at the start of session; they are also paired with a "buddy" in the early weeks.

A wide programme of activities

Dollar has a five-day teaching week, so the Houses ensure that there are plenty of opportunities at the weekends. Events are organised for the whole boarding community as well as for specific House groups: dinners and dances, paintballing and theme park trips, surfing and cookery. Individual boarders may also make their own plans for their free time, mixing freely with day pupils. Boarders can use the excellent school sports and recreational facilities, including the pool, the gym, the sports-hall, the fitness suite and the tennis courts.

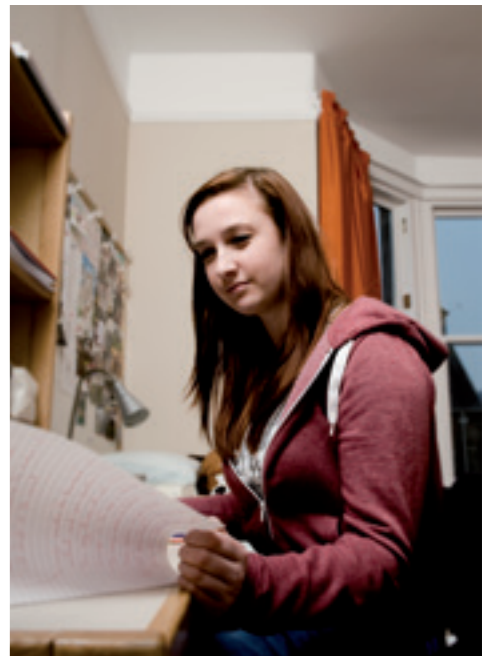
Contact with home


Parents can telephone, text, email, send letters and parcels or contact their children via Skype. Our Houseparents keep in close touch with parents, advising them of general progress and keeping them up to date with the latest news.



“I made such close friends and I became far more independent. I feel boarding at Dollar was the best move I have ever made. It sounds a cliché, but I was really so happy in my House.”

Recent boarder





“Dollar has an outstanding academic reputation. Our pupils are highly successful in winning places at top universities in Scotland, other parts of the UK and around the world.

We aim to ensure that our pupils leave here with the confidence, enthusiasm, independence, skills and understanding to meet successfully the challenges of university and beyond.”

David Knapman, Rector

Out of the classroom

Involvement in co-curricular activities is central to Dollar's philosophy

Life skills

Everyone needs to learn leadership, responsibility, time management, organisation, communication skills, the ability to operate under pressure, decisiveness, the competitive edge, strategic thinking, creativity, determination, perspective, and the ability to face the unexpected.

Where can you begin to learn all these? By risking failure, but aiming for achievement; by taking on the challenges of an active life.

All-round experience

Dollar pupils and parents value and enjoy the all-round experience the Academy offers. They recognise that activities out of class time are just as significant in the development of young people as their involvement in the classroom or laboratory. In the same way that studying academic subjects at school opens doors to wider experiences and opportunities in life, so many of our co-curricular activities can link to and support intellectual and personal development. Experience shows that pupils who take an interest in out of school activities tend also to do well academically.

Social events

Pupils and parents also value the wide range of social events at Dollar, from more informal discos, ceilidhs, gatherings and parties to traditional events such as the formal CCF Dining-In night, the Christmas Dances for every year group, the Burns Supper and the Summer Ball. Dollar pupils learn social skills that will benefit them for the rest of their lives. They also have a wonderful time.



Fulfil your goals at Dollar

The enthusiasm of Dollar pupils in taking up sports and activities is second to none.

Dollar's success in competitive environments – sporting or otherwise – lies in the quality of the coaching, the strength of commitment, and the supportive culture that respects genuine effort. Dollar pupils regularly represent Scotland and the UK in sport and other areas. Over seventy pupils currently in the Academy have represented their country in international competition.

Dollar is about more than elite performance, however; it also encourages high levels of participation.

Dollar is a natural base for outdoor activities, with its extensive playing fields and facilities at the heart of the school, and its position at the foot of the Ochil Hills.

Sport

Dollar has many acres of playing fields, both grass and all-weather playing surfaces. The Ochil Hills begin literally at the back of the school, giving opportunities for outdoor expeditions, horse riding and cross-country running. Extensive indoor facilities complement our open-air provision, including the unusually well-equipped fitness suite, swimming pool, rifle range, cricket nets, gym and sports hall. The staff are highly trained and experienced, often themselves being sporting internationalists.

The school is fortunate to be immediately surrounded by its facilities. No time is wasted in travel to and from games; instead, our pupils can head straight from the classroom to the changing room and then out onto acres of beautifully maintained land.

A large number of sports are offered, with a particular focus on rugby, cricket, hockey and tennis. Other successful teams represent the school in athletics, badminton, basketball, curling, football, golf, shooting, swimming and tennis, while individuals pursue many other sports to high levels. Dollar teams often win national championships.



“Dollar pupils seem to volunteer enthusiastically for just about anything – I am constantly amazed by their positive attitude.”

Dollar teacher

Opportunities

Dollar pupils become involved in all manner of activities and experiences.

They could find themselves:

- + Solo at the controls of a light aircraft
- + Debating for Scotland
- + Down at the bottom of the swimming pool in SCUBA gear
- + Racing karts
- + Editing the Student Magazine of the Year
- + Singing in a Scottish premiere to 1700 people in Edinburgh's Usher Hall
- + Crossing a rain-swept assault course
- + Serving an ace in a tennis match
- + Playing jazz on a Glasgow street
- + Facing that notorious second hole on the Dollar golf course
- + Baking fresh pizza
- + Lighting a production in the macrobert arts centre
- + Scaling ice cliffs
- + Catching their first cod off an Arbroath trawler
- + Addressing a haggis on Burns Night
- + Check-mating the opposition
- + Hurling down a zip wire
- + Taking aim on a South African rifle range
- + Helming a Tall Ship through the Pentland Firth
- + Playing rugby in Japan, Canada or Italy
- + Running a Young Enterprise business
- + Camping for five days in a Highland wilderness
- + Man of the match in an international hockey fixture
- + Pipe Major at Edinburgh Castle's Beating Retreat
- + Sliding stones along a curling rink
- + Dancing a minuet in Stuart dress in the ruins of Dollar's castle
- + Doing the rumba at a Friday night Ballroom Dancing class
- + Designing and manufacturing their own electric guitar





“Dollar has given me so many opportunities to develop my talents and my confidence.”

Sixth Form pupil

Focus on

Art

The award-winning Art & Design department is busy throughout the week and into the evening, with many art clubs offering everything from Animation in our Mac suite to Pottery in the Ceramics base; from Life Drawing to Fashion Design. Academic results in the department are outstanding and many pupils go on to Art College from Dollar.

Books

The five book clubs in the school (two of which are especially for boarders) cover a wide range of ages and interests. The visiting author programme brings in further inspiration, as does our beautiful library.

CCF

The Combined Cadet Force, one of the largest voluntary forces in Scotland, comprises the Royal Navy, Infantry, RAF, REME, First Aid and Royal Signals sections. It offers boys and girls a huge range of opportunities, including flying and sailing (but does not expect any kind of commitment to a military career – pupils join just for the fun of it). Shooting is practised on Dollar’s own rifle range and elsewhere, and the school provides significant representation on national teams. Dollar’s shooting results at Bisley over the past ten years are second to none.

Debating

As well as teaching debating in the curriculum, we run debating teams and a school-wide competition throughout the year. Our debating teams are hugely successful and some of the best performing pupils represent Scotland internationally.

Drama

Participation is encouraged at all levels, from the Prep 1-3 Musical to the annual play produced by Form VI pupils. Our purpose-built studio theatre encourages exploration and innovation, while larger-scale productions use the proscenium arch Assembly Hall or take over professional venues outside Dollar. There are many trips to the theatre during the year, and touring companies visit.

Duke of Edinburgh’s Award

Hundreds of pupils every year head into the local hills and beyond to Jura, Caithness and Sutherland on their Bronze, Silver and Gold expeditions. They also take up new personal skills and volunteer for service projects.

Music

Dollar provides a huge range of music-making opportunities: five choirs, three orchestras, two jazz bands, and numerous chamber groups give musicians the chance to learn and develop to professional level. All styles are catered for, from the traditional Scottish clarsach to electric guitar (and pupils set up their own bands for regular Band Nights). Annual musical productions involve the youngest Prep pupils to Form VI, and the Senior Musical is produced in a professional theatre, selling out over four nights; these productions have recently included *We Will Rock You* and *Cats*. The school has its own recording studio, and teaches Sound Engineering as well as making CDs of Dollar’s music. The Christmas Concert has often featured as many as 450 performers, selling out venues such as the Usher Hall in Edinburgh.

Pipe Band

Over the years, the Pipe Band has become a highly valued part of the Dollar culture. There are currently three bands and the first Dollar band is usually the top performing Scottish band and has been World Champion in the recent past. Over 100 pupils operate at performance level in piping and drumming. During the summer term, the sound of pipes and drums as pupils arrive at school each morning is something that will forever live in the memory.

Service

We encourage pupils to look outwards to the needs of others, through direct volunteering and the work of the pupil Charities Committee, and our pupils gain greatly from these experiences themselves. For example, every two years the entire school community, pupils and staff, walks the hills to raise money for local, national and international causes. Community service is a significant feature of Dollar pupils’ lives.

There are over seventy different activities offered at Dollar: discover more by visiting our website.

Beyond Dollar

Wider learning and preparation for the future

Classrooms, workshops and laboratories open their walls to a wider world of learning...

We like to ensure Dollar pupils get out and about, whether on Biology field trips to nearby places of interest; theatre and film visits to see plays in Stirling, Glasgow and Edinburgh; Duke of Edinburgh Award expeditions to the Ochils and the Grampians; Economics and English trips to London; Art trips to Edinburgh, London and Paris; the history trip to the battlefields of the Somme; cultural trips to Morocco, Russia, Cuba and China; Geography trips to the Alps and the USA; skiing trips to France; diving trips to Malaysia; rugby and hockey tours to Italy, Spain and Japan; piping events in Sri Lanka and shooting competitions at Bisley and in Canada.

International exchanges

Dollar has exchange links with schools across the world - from Spain, Germany and France to Kenya, Russia, USA and Japan - and staff and pupils regularly visit to study. Dollar pupils are uniquely eligible to apply for generous Cameron Trust Scholarships to support overseas adventurous travel projects. Dollar has a Head of World Studies – the only such appointment currently in a Scottish school.

Work experience

Our wide network of contacts can be very helpful in finding placements on our work experience programme. This is an increasingly essential part of university application and career planning.

Applying to university

From guidance and advice regarding institutions and courses, to assistance with making successful applications, Dollar teachers and tutors will help pupils, and former pupils, on their way.

Keeping in touch – friends for life

There are many former pupil clubs within the UK and throughout the world, as well as frequent reunions at Dollar Academy itself, to help maintain the sense of “Dollar family” that is so important to so many people across the generations.



“I loved being at Dollar. Now that I look back on everything, I realise how much I owe the school. I can’t imagine anywhere better to grow up.”

Former Pupil



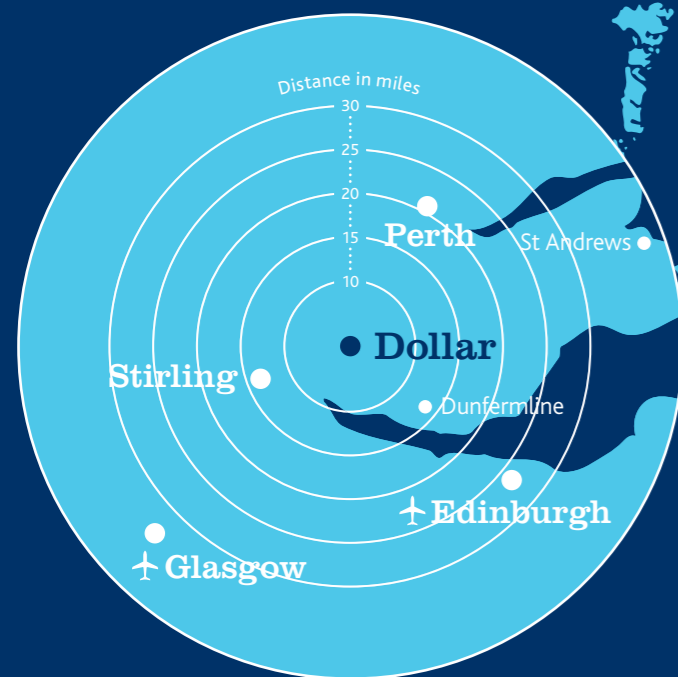
Our location

Visit us and find out more

Dollar is easily accessible by road, rail and air services – just 20 minutes from Stirling, 30 minutes from Perth and 35 minutes from Edinburgh International Airport.

The DVD opposite provides an insight into the school and further information can be found on our website www.dollaracademy.org

Contact us to arrange a personal tour. We particularly enjoy welcoming visitors on working days so they can see the Academy in action. To arrange a visit email rector@dollaracademy.org.uk



+44 (0) 1259 742 511
rector@dollaracademy.org.uk

Dollar Academy
Dollar, Clackmannanshire
Scotland FK14 7DU

www.dollaracademy.org