



Dollar Academy

PROSPECTUS



Welcome to Dollar

Since 1818, Dollar Academy has been a place where young people have come to realise their potential fully.

Here we offer the kind of education that equips pupils with academic skills whilst developing the personal qualities that will serve them throughout their lives, whichever path they choose. Our inspiring campus nestles at the foot of the Ochil Hills. Our extensive choice of subjects and co-curricular activities, suite of first rate facilities and welcoming community form the perfect learning environment for day pupils and boarders alike.

With such a rich culture encouraging individual passions, it is no surprise that each pupil enjoys a unique experience here. We believe this approach brings out the best in our pupils and engenders enthusiasm, ambition and quiet confidence – qualities that we recognise in those in the Prep School all the way up to Form VI.

Striking a Balance

WELL CONNECTED COUNTRY LIVING

We like to think that Dollar offers a well-rounded way of life. For example, we may call the green open spaces of Dollar and the Ochil Hills home, yet Scotland's major cities and their airports are within easy reach. Dollar is only 20 minutes' drive from Stirling, 30 minutes from Perth and under an hour from Edinburgh and Glasgow.

A SMALL SCHOOL FEEL THAT'S BIG ON VARIETY

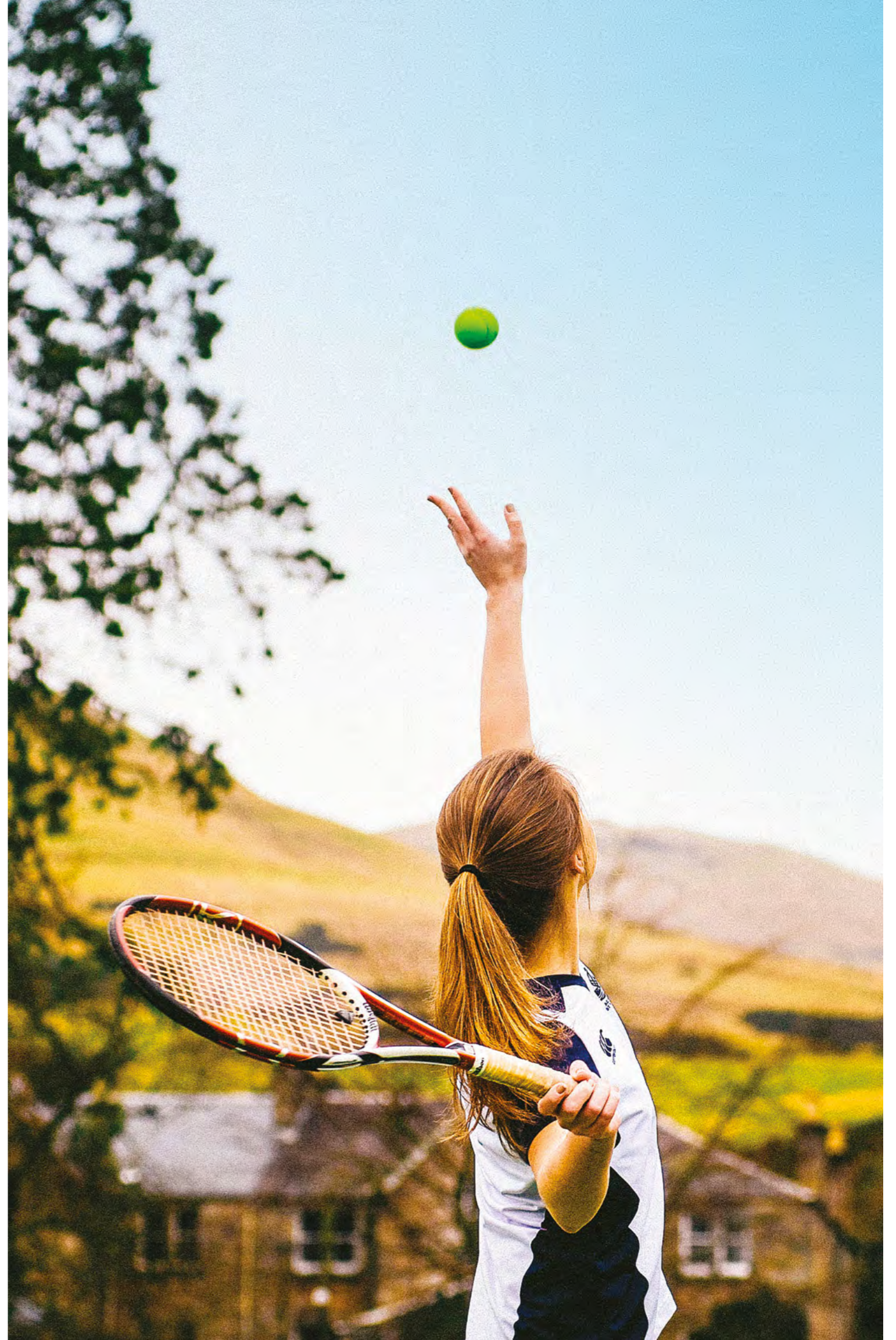
Our pupils embody a wide range of ages and backgrounds (from 5 to 18 years). There's an understanding that the senior pupils look out for their younger counterparts, making our community feel more like an extended family. This creates a calm, friendly atmosphere typical of a smaller school; however, our pupils benefit from the range of resources that a large school can offer. We believe that every child can be enthusiastic about something and the wide choice of academic subjects and co-curricular activities on offer here is unrivalled.

TRADITIONAL YET INNOVATIVE

Our long-held values are the foundations upon which we base our vision for the future. Founded over 200 years ago, we're the UK's oldest co-educational day and boarding school – you can see a proud history everywhere you look. We keep a keen eye on 'what's next' though and are proud of our innovative approach to learning, teaching and the continuous development of our staff and facilities.

ROOTED IN SCOTLAND, INTERNATIONAL IN OUTLOOK

Dollar's academic success is rooted in the Scottish education system and our pupils gain globally recognised qualifications that open up a world of choice in terms of higher education. Our international element is reinforced by regular trips, sporting tours and an exchange programme that's hugely varied in destination and theme (in 2018 alone Dollar pupils visited 10 countries across 3 continents). And we're proud to welcome a range of nationalities amongst our boarders and day pupils alike.





Teaching & Learning

Our pupils' impressive results feature high on the exam league tables each year

We teach not only facts, theories and skills – we encourage a love of learning that we hope stays with our pupils for life. It's an approach that fosters a real commitment to study, the drive to go beyond the 'comfort zone' and take pride in everything they do.



STRONG FOUNDATIONS

The Prep and Junior Schools lay the foundations for success by developing independent work habits and the exploration of personal interests. This varied, creative and stimulating environment offers a solid grounding in the essential skills which helps our young pupils flourish. Both our Prep and Junior Schools sit within the school campus

and our younger pupils have regular access to Senior School teachers, expertise and facilities in areas such as Art, PE, Music, Modern Languages, Science and EDT.

A TASTE OF WHAT'S TO COME

The early years of the Senior School continue this general education by providing pupils with a huge range of subjects. From sciences to sound engineering, our academic offering includes all the subjects you'd expect and many that you might not.

PUPIL CHOICE

From Form III, pupils get to choose which subjects they would like to study at National 5 level and beyond. While most schools stick to a rigid 'superstructure', we give this important decision the considerable regard it deserves by only building the curriculum and timetable after pupils have chosen their subjects. This way, we put the pupils' needs first and foremost. Experienced academic staff support and advise pupils when it comes to subject selection. Following on from National 5, Scottish Highers and Advanced Highers are highly regarded both nationally and internationally and there are over 35 subjects to choose from at Dollar.

FORM VI AT DOLLAR

In their final year, pupils have the choice to study their preferred subjects intensively and can also expand their interests by taking up new subjects. They're also prepped for the world of higher education by specialist advisors who will help them navigate the university application process.

ONWARDS AND UPWARDS!

Senior pupils go on to study at leading universities across Scotland and the UK, as well as at a variety of excellent American, Canadian and European institutions. Our network of support is even available to pupils for years after they have left – we are always happy to welcome former pupils back for further careers and education guidance.

“The building is magnificent, the setting is wonderful, the facilities are second to none, but it is the teachers, and indeed all the staff, who make Dollar special.”

Former Parent





Boarding

Boarding has been a feature at Dollar since we opened our doors in 1818. With 200-plus years of experience in this arena, it's perhaps not surprising that both the Care Inspectorate, and our pupils and parents, rate our standards of care very highly.

The supportive environment, well-designed living quarters, beautiful surroundings and proximity to high-end facilities create the perfect conditions for learning and for building lifelong friendships.



Our boarding houses can be found just outside the main gates to the school. With around one third of our day pupils living in the town itself, our boarders are part of a community beyond that of the school too. We welcome those from all over the world and relish the richness this international dimension brings. Some pupils choose to board only during the week, but most are full-time.

We accept boarders between the ages of 10 and 18. All newcomers are welcomed with a programme of team-building events and are paired with a 'buddy' to help them settle socially. Boys and girls live in separate houses but are, of course, free to mix and enjoy the same freedoms as day pupils. Seniors usually have their own rooms, while younger pupils share. Meals are taken in the Dining Hall or within the houses themselves and our catering service regularly wins major national awards for quality and healthy eating.

There's always something to keep our boarders entertained at weekends. Dinners, dances, paintballing, cinema and theme park trips, surfing and cooking provide just a few examples. Boarders can also make use of our sports and recreational facilities including the pool, the gym, the strength and conditioning suite and the sports hall.

We know how important it is for you to stay connected, too. Each house is equipped with high-speed broadband, meaning that everyone has easy access to WhatsApp, Skype and FaceTime for calls home. Parents can also stay in touch via the usual means. Houseparents keep in close contact with parents too, making sure they are up to date with their child's wellbeing and progress.



“We saw highly sensitive and caring attitudes from boarding house staff, which helped them to clearly establish the ethos of home from home in a family atmosphere in the houses.”

The Care Inspectorate, January 2017



“Pupil wellbeing is extremely important to us. We have a team of specially trained Guidance Staff, along with a pupil counsellor, who are always on hand to support our pupils.”

—
Simon Burbury, Assistant Rector



Out of the Classroom

“In that sombre changing room after the game, we felt our disappointment keenly. But we also felt incredibly proud of what we had achieved. And we were already aware of the most important things that emerge from being part of a team such as this one: friendship, happiness and lifelong memories.”

Harry, FP 2016

There's classroom-based learning... then there's learning by doing, playing and having fun. We believe in both.

That's why our outstanding academic offering is complemented by an equally strong and varied co-curricular programme. We know from experience that pupils who take an interest in out-of-school activities tend to perform well inside the classroom too. Finding something to keep pupils active, engaged and challenged is part of the all-round experience we offer here at Dollar – and with such a long list of activities to choose from, there really is something for everyone. Please visit the 'Activities' section of our website for full details of our 70+ co-curricular activities.

SPORTING ACTIVITIES

Dollar pupils get involved in a huge range of sports from an early age – from firm favourites such as rugby, hockey, cricket and tennis to more unusual options like sub aqua diving, ultimate frisbee and yoga. Sport is deeply rooted at Dollar, with much of our 70-acre campus dedicated to grass and all-weather playing surfaces. Teams and individuals from Dollar regularly win national competitions. That said, our primary goal is to encourage involvement and participation at all levels.

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Cultural activities are equally well represented with stimulating art, drama and music activities. Our aim is for pupils to learn new skills, face new challenges and broaden their horizons. Pupils can choose from guitar building, photography and various dramatic and musical productions, to list just a few. Piping and drumming has a strong tradition and heritage at Dollar, with the school regularly winning World Championship titles.

SERVICE ACTIVITIES

Looking out for the needs of others, while developing their own skills, is high on the activity agenda for our pupils, too. National and local charity work, Combined Cadet Force involvement and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award are just a few examples of the way in which pupils can broaden their horizons and give something back to the community.

Beyond Dollar

BROADENING HORIZONS

As proud as we are of our offering here on campus, we know that horizons should not be limited by the school gates. At Dollar, there are many opportunities to get out and see the world on trips, visits and exchanges. These have recently included cultural visits to places like Cuba, Russia, China and Morocco; scientific field trips to the Alps, the USA and Malaysia; arts trips to London and Paris; and a plethora of sporting tours to countries such as Canada, Japan and South Africa. There are also a number of more local ventures including biology field trips to Loch Lomond, Duke of Edinburgh Award expeditions to the Ochils and Wester Ross, and theatre visits to Glasgow and Edinburgh.

FORMER PUPIL NETWORK

Our pupils carry a lasting connection to Dollar once they leave the school. As well as reunions for Former Pupils here on campus, there are a number of clubs for Dollar alumni to join within the UK and throughout the world. Our FP community is full of opportunities to network, socialise and nurture those valuable links to the school.

“We cannot tell where we will be in one year, let alone one hundred. What I do know is that the impact of Dollar, the lessons we have learned here, will stay with us – just as they have for every pupil over the last 200 years. We are a community founded on the pursuit of knowledge and a belief in the power of education.”

Sandy, FP 2018

“For over 200 years, Dollar has been helping young people make the most of their potential. We believe that happy and engaged children learn most quickly and our ethos of “work hard, be kind and get involved” helps to create a very positive environment where everyone can give their best.”

The Rector



Notable Alumni

“I arrived in Dollar at 15 with little clue about anything, and with some trepidation. I had to think quickly on my feet, make new friends, catch up academically and learn new skills. I left four years later having had the time of my life.... the camaraderie, the sport, living away from home and, of course, the wonderful education was the making of me, for sure.”

John McAslan, CBE

Award-winning architect whose work includes the western concourse at London Kings Cross and The Roundhouse.

“Thanks to a bursary, I was able to attend Dollar Academy. Having completed a BSc at The University of Edinburgh, I am studying a fully-funded industrial PhD in Biochemistry at The University of Oxford. I attribute much of my success beyond school to Dollar’s nurturing environment and the encouragement I received.”

Liisa Parts

A former Dollar bursary recipient who is currently undertaking a PhD in Biochemistry at The University of Oxford.

“My time at Dollar, particularly the senior years, provides me with some of my happiest rugby memories. I believe firmly that without the values instilled in me then, I would not have represented my country at senior level. Having respect was key: for opponents, team-mates and the game itself. Honesty and integrity went hand in hand, and I hope I have never strayed far from these values.”

John Barclay

A former Dollar 1st XV Captain who went on to lead the Scotland Rugby team, John made his international debut in 2007 the day before his 21st birthday.