

Rector's  **DOLLAR**
Newsletter

Dear Pupils, Parents, Guardians and Friends

Last week I visited an excellent Modern Studies lesson in which pupils were examining health inequalities across Britain and making comparisons with other parts of the world. Not only was the content topical and interesting, but the political implications underlying some of the potential solutions were thought provoking and challenging. For example, a full understanding of the American attitude to welfare perhaps requires an appreciation of pioneer traditions and evangelical Protestant influences. It would have been easy for the class to have made rather lazy political generalisations, or for the teacher to have allowed simplistic soundbites to dominate the discussion, but that did not happen. The quality of debate was impressive and contrasted sharply with the binary thinking in evidence on television programmes such as Question Time – unless it has improved considerably since the last time I watched at least. The communication skills on display, of which listening is one that should never be underrated, will stand pupils in good stead in the future. Indeed, in assemblies recently I have talked a good deal about the concept of future-proofed learning. Content may change, but crucial skills such as problem-solving, communication, creativity, planning and organisation will not go out of date. It is not enough to be spoon-fed into passing examinations; engagement is essential. I think the vast majority of our pupils understand that very well.

With that in mind, it has been pleasing to see high numbers of pupils attending lunchtime talks given by visiting speakers. A lecturer in Terrorism Studies from St Andrews University proved particularly brilliant and all present, including yours truly, were spellbound. Not everyone approved of George Galloway's visit, but he expressed his views very cogently and, pleasingly, was robustly questioned by pupils who listened and then challenged. And two Dollar parents, one a news correspondent

and one working in counter-terrorism, also expertly entertained and educated young listeners.

All this came to mind this morning when I received an email from the Electoral Commission reminding me that 16 and 17 year-olds are eligible to vote in the upcoming local government elections in May. Like most emails it brought extra work, by requesting, not unreasonably, that we run a Registration Day event to help encourage youngsters to register and vote. This we will no doubt do. I am far from the first to say it, but the ability of our young people to contribute to decision-making and democracy should not be underestimated.

Kindest regards



David Knapman
Rector

Last Call for Cameron Travel Trust Applications

The Cameron Travel Trust offers Dollar pupils the opportunity of overseas work experience. The deadline for this year's scholarship applications is Thursday 16 February. Find out [how to apply](#).

"Out of all of the amazing experiences that I have had in India, nothing compares to the incredible times I've had with all of the children in the school... I cannot emphasise how important this year has been to me in terms of my personal development". **Iona Fotheringham (FP 2014), English Teaching in Bangalore, India**



Oxbridge Offers

The Universities of Oxford and Cambridge made their admissions decisions in January and three Dollar pupils have been successful in gaining an offer this year.



Burns Supper

Toasts, recitals, laughter and more - Dollar Academy held its annual Burns Supper to celebrate the life and poetry of Scotland's Bard.



Judo for Rugby

To increase competence in contact situations, Dollar has introduced judo sessions to its young rugby players.



Winter at Dollar

Snowfall made for some wonderful images of Dollar, including this one from Airborne Lens.

BBC Scotland Young Traditional Scottish Musician of the Year

Congratulations to Charlie Stewart (FP 2013) whose 'spirited' fiddle performance won him the prestigious title of BBC Scotland Young Traditional Scottish Musician of the Year. [Read more.](#)

Bebras Competition 2016

Thirty-three pupils entered the 2016 UK Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge last term. Four pupils - Murray McKenzie and Max Williamson

(both FIII), and Lucas Parkins and Aidan Humphrey (both FIV) - achieved in the top 10%, making them eligible for entry into the TCS Oxford Computing Challenge in March.

Junk Kouture Scotland

Art & Design pupils Deborah Deekae, Ruby Simpson and Nadia Smith (all FIII) are through to the Scottish final of the Junk Kouture Recycled Fashion Competition 2017 with their dress design, 'Crystallization'. [Read more.](#)

Schools Pentathlon International

Making her international debut for Scotland, Lucy Smith (FIII) helped her team score victory over Ireland and Wales to take silver medal at the Schools Pentathlon International. [Read more.](#)

Scottish Schools Hockey Cup Final

In girls' hockey, the Form 3As are through to the final of the Scottish Schools Cup. In a riveting semi-final, the Dollar team won 2-0 against Loretto School.

Work Placements Needed

We are keen to hear from parents who might be able to provide work experience in or related to the Finance, Accountancy, Psychology, Engineering, Design and Computing fields.

Ideally, placements are undertaken during the 3 weeks commencing 5th June 2017. They can involve one day shadowing an MEP, for example, to a full week in a food industry laboratory.

Please click [here](#) if you can help in any way and we will be back in touch with you in due course.

Dollar Academy Parent & Carer Survey

We are conducting a short survey which will help us understand more about the relationship between the school and our parents, and would be grateful for your input. You can access the survey [here](#).

Pupil Achievements

Athletics

Well done to Jamie Price (FVI), Catriona Laing (FV), Euan Smith and Emma Mailer (both FIII) who each won a bronze medal at the Scottish Schools' Indoor Athletics Championships. [Read more.](#)

Basketball

Chloe Dunsire (FIV) and Emma Dunsire (FII) are enjoying basketball success after winning the U16 Basketballs - Scottish Cup Championship.

CCF Shooting

James Barlow (FVI) and Alex McConnell (FV) have been selected to tour Canada in the summer as part of the British Cadet Rifle Team.

Gymnastics

Twenty-two Dollar gymnasts competed at the Primary Clackmannanshire Regional Floor and Vault Championships. Silver medalists, the 'A' Team - Jess Glasgow, Paige Stevens (both J2), Tyler Hunter and Jamie Scheuerl (both J1) - will represent Clackmannanshire at the National Finals. [Read more.](#)

Hockey

Congratulations to the following pupils whose commitment to boy's hockey has resulted in national selection success: Ben Pearson (FVI) for the Scotland U18 Training Squad, Alex Wilson (FIII) for the U16 Training Squad, and Daniel Pearson (FI) and Ollie Wilson (J2) for the U16 Development Squad.

Music

Choir and Orchestra

Christina Callion (FVI) successfully auditioned for the National Youth Choir of Scotland Senior Choir, Alistair Williams (FI) for the Junior Choir, and Tom Macfadyen (FIII) for the National Boys Choir of Scotland.

Martina Sillence (FV) and Emma Macrae (both FV) have been accepted for the National Youth Orchestras of Scotland, Martina as Principal 2nd Violin in the senior orchestra and Emma as a bassoonist.

Chloe Burbury (FI) gained a place on the National Youth Jazz Orchestra of Scotland Summer School and also won the Area Final of the Rotary Club Young Musician of the Year Competition. Chloe will join Isabella Schmidt-Cornelius (FI) in the Young Musician Class, a final round competition at the Fife Festival of Music following their winning performances in the Open Woodwind Class and Open String Class respectively.

Guitar

Lewis Noble (FIII) reached the final of the SoundWaves Competition at the 02 ABC Glasgow in January. [Read more.](#)

Piping & Snare Drum

Cameron McCall (FV) and Fiona McCall (FII) competed in the North American Piping Championships in Kansas. Cameron took bronze in the Grade 1 solo snare drumming competition and Fiona won gold in the Novice Solo Tenor Drumming competition. [Read more.](#)

Trinity College Music Awards

The following young musicians have gained well-earned recognition from Trinity College:

- Ava Cassidy (FII) - Cello Grade 1 with Distinction
- Daniel Charles (FI) - Guitar Grade 5 with Merit
- Caitlin Fyfe (FII) - Violin Grade 1 with Distinction
- Alison Jack (FI) - Flute Grade 4 with Merit
- Walter Kerr (FIV) - Cello Grade 6 with Merit
- Kimren Kaur Powar (FI) - Violin Grade 2 Level 1
- Ramsay Sewell (FV) - Saxophone Grade 6 with Merit

Rugby

Seven players have now been selected for Scotland U18 national squad training -Jordan Miller, Gus Warr (both FV), Euan McLaren Callum Cruickshank, Grant Hughes, Fergus Fitzpatrick and Ben McIlwraith (all FVI). At U16 level, Finn McIlwraith and Jamie Cruickshank (both FIV) will join a Scotland U16 training camp.

Swimming

Five pupils competed in the Scottish Schools' Swimming Championships last month, including Keir Edgar (FIV) and Kirstin Lawrie (FIV) who each brought home two gold and silver medals respectively. [Read more.](#)

Ten Pin Bowling

Chris Thomson-Nairne (FIV) won two silver medals in the Triple Crown and achieved highest ranking average (Scottish) for U16 and U18 boys. He has also been selected for the U18 boys team and will represent Scotland at the European Youth Championships in Helsinki, and at the World Youths Tournament in Detroit as part of the U21 boys' squad.

Please email news about your child's achievements to rector@dollaracademy.org.uk for mention at Assembly, in our newsletter or *Fortunas* magazine.



Dollar Academy, Dollar, Clackmannanshire, FK14 7DU | Tel: 01259 742511

Email: rector@dollaracademy.org.uk

www.dollaracademy.org.uk

The Governors of Dollar Academy Trust is a charity registered in Scotland, No: SC009888

© 2017 Dollar Academy. All rights reserved.

Would you like to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)