

Rector's**DOLLAR**
ACADEMY

Newsletter

Dear Pupils, Parents, Guardians and Friends

It is not uncommon for schools to say they are trying to produce children who are confident, but not arrogant, and this certainly applies to Dollar. My belief is that most parents who chose Dollar feel the same way. Between us we seem to do a pretty good job and I am very proud of the likeable young people we turn out. Our Form VI pupils are responsible for conducting school tours and the comments I receive afterwards about the wonderful job they do in this respect are really quite inspiring. I also frequently receive praise from members of the public who have met our youngsters on schools trips and a few years ago I received a letter out of the blue from a letting agent in a university city in Scotland who told me that he generally offers his best student properties to Dollar pupils because they are usually so reliable and respectful!

The writer Habeeb Akande has neatly described arrogance as thinking others are below you, whereas confidence is knowing no-one is above you. I was reminded of that when listening to our pupils asking questions following an excellent address by Sir Paul Grice, the Chief Executive of the Scottish Parliament, when he visited Dollar to talk to our Politics and International Relations Society. The questions were challenging and our pupils were not afraid to express a (well-considered) opinion. Just as importantly, they were not dogmatic either and were prepared to revise their opinions having listened to other views. And when Dr McConaghy from the St Andrew's University International Relations department visited in October to talk about responses to terrorism, he suggested afterwards that our pupils asked better questions than many of his undergraduate students.

In the light of an uncertain political future, it was encouraging to see Dollar pupils demonstrating political engagement and intellectual curiosity. I will not pretend that every question was equally brilliant, but I thought every questioner showed the right mix of confidence and respect. I have commented on this in assembly and have linked this to what I consider to be our essential values: "work hard, be kind, and get involved". These are straightforward and easily understood, but no less powerful for that.

Kindest regards



David Knapman
Rector



National Invitational Tournament Win

The 1st XI hockey squad took the trophy after hard-fought matches against teams from across the UK and Ireland.



Scots Trad Music Awards 2017

The Pipe Band have been shortlisted for the Scottish Pipe Band of the Year. Cast your vote by 24 November.



CCF First Aid



Celebrate Dollar's

Nationals

Dollar have retained the national title after achieving a clean sweep of trophies at the competition in Northampton.

200th Anniversary

Tickets for the black-tie ball on 23 June 2018 can be bought online from 8 January.

Pupil Achievements

Academic

Ellen Wight (FII) is one of 50 pupils from across Scotland chosen to attend a 2-day engineering experience at the University of Strathclyde. The course, funded by Weir-Wise, aims to increase awareness of careers in the sector.

CCF

Naval Section

Dollar won the CCF Royal Navy and Royal Marine National Sailing Regatta at Southport after winning both their Gold and Silver class races. Congratulations to Catriona Laing (FVI), Bente Kieckhofel, Charlotte Johns (both FV) and Anisha Burgul (FIV). [Read more.](#)

Piping & Drumming

National Mòd at Fort William

Exceptional performances saw Finlay Cameron (FV) win all three U18 piping classes, Archie MacKechnie (FIII) take the U19 Contemporary Accordion class and Dugald MacKechnie (FI) finish second in the U13 piping. Archie also placed third in the March, Strathspey and Reel class. [Read more.](#)

Scottish Schools CCF Quartet and Trio Piping Competition

Dollar's A and B Trios placed first and second respectively while the B Quartet took first and the A Quartet fourth place. Congratulations to all four teams:

A Trio - Craig Sharpe, Cameron Denham (both FIII) and Ruaridh Blyth (FI); B Trio - Iain Harkness (FV), Max Williamson (FIV) and Dugald MacKechnie (FI); A Quartet - Katy MacDonald (FVI), Finlay Cameron (FV), Andrew Ferguson (FIV) and Ruairidh Brown (FIII); B

Quartet - Blair Dickinson, Murray Biggart (both FVI), Robbie Martin (FV) and Gilleasbuig Peterson (FIV).

World Solo Drumming & International Tenor Drumming Championships

Six pupils competed at the Championships including Fiona McCall (FIII) who placed first in the Juvenile Section 1 for tenors and Archie Jaffrey-Smith (FI) who finished third in the U15 Juvenile Section 1 March for solos. [Read more.](#)

Equestrian Vaulting

Jack Wilson (FV) represented Great Britain at the FEI Junior World Vaulting Championships in Austria, finishing 19th in the world.

Golf

Toby Smith (FIII) has been selected to represent Scotland at the inaugural Independent Schools Home Internationals series in April.

Gymnastics

Charlie Anderson (J2) competed for Scotland at the British Men's Gymnastics Championships. The team placed ninth overall and Charlie scored a personal best.

Hockey

The 1st XI hockey team have retained their title as Scottish Independent Boarding Schools Champions. The team are also through to the semi-final of the Scottish cup. [Read more.](#)

National Selection

Six hockey players have been selected to play for Scotland: Eve Pearson (FV), Jenny Walls, Georgia Smith and Erin Stevens (all FVI) for the U18 Hockey squad and Lucy Smith and Amy Salmon (both FIV) for the U16 Squad. Sam Robertson and Susie Green (both FVI) have been chosen for the Scotland U18 Academy.

Judo

Cameron Reid-Thomas (FV) won the Under 81 kg Cadet (U18) category at the Scottish Judo Championships and took silver at the Welsh Open Judo Competition.

Politics & International Relations

Ella-Sky Conroy (FV) has been selected to represent Scotland as a youth member at the United Nations. Ella-Sky has already attended meetings in New York and Strasbourg and is an active member of Model UN and the Politics and IR Society.

Rugby

Seven players were selected to play for the West in their October matches against the East, the next step on the road to national recognition: Tom Morris, Lachlan Kelly and Jordan Miller (all FVI) for the U18 team and Michael Gray, Ross McKnight, Dougal Sands and Max Williamson (all FIV) for the U16 team.

Skiing

The Prep & Junior A and B teams reached the SSSA Autumn Dual Slalom Series finals at Snow Factor. Well done to the A team who won gold - Adam Howat, Christina Dow (both J1), Murdo Myles (J2) and Nicholas Dow (P5) - and to Ben Dixon (J2), Fin Patchett, Matthew Riddell-Dillet (both J1) and Harry Dixon (P4) in the B team. [Read more.](#)

Wakesurfing

Max Rae (FI) has become the first person in the world to play the bagpipes and wakesurf at the same time. [Watch the video.](#)

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



Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Pupils in Form III to VI who are registered with the DofE Award can now download the [Expedition Programme for May-June 2018](#).

Former Pupil Achievements

MBE

Joanne Eccles (FP 2006) has received an MBE for services to equestrian vaulting and has also been nominated for an FEI award (Fédération Équestre Internationale), the world governing body of equestrian sport.

Scottish Curling Championships

Jayne Stirling (FP 2012) won the Scottish Mixed Doubles Curling Championships and will compete at the World Mixed Double Championships in Sweden. Jane curled with DACC from FI.

The Royal Historical Society

Jonty Haywood (FP 2017) was awarded the Beazley Prize, given for earning the highest result across all of the UK's History A-Level and Advanced Higher examination boards. [Read more](#).



Dollar Marks Remembrance Day

The Dollar community gathered to remember those killed in two world wars and in more recent conflicts.

Trips



Battlefields Trip

The backdrops of Ypres, Passchendaele and The Somme brought home the harsh brutalities of WWI.



Art & Design in London

Pupils enjoyed the art galleries, museums and architecture of London during a four-day trip.



Dubai Golf Tour

Five iconic golf courses and incredible hospitality made the school's first Dubai Golf Tour one to remember.



Italian Cultural Exchange

Dollar extended a warm welcome to pupils from the Istituto Tecnico per il Turismo (ITT) Marco Polo in Florence.



Dollar Christmas Cards

This year's Christmas card was designed by Deborah Deekae (FIV). Order forms are available from the School Office.

Cost: £3.00 for a pack of ten.



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