

Rector's



Newsletter

Dear Pupils, Parents, Guardians and Friends

As I write, I have just returned from the Auditorium where I was fortunate to be able to listen to some of Dollar's best musical talent taking part in the Young Musician of the Year competition, a new and very successful initiative introduced last session by our Director of Music, Mrs Fitzpatrick. Competition is not a dirty word at Dollar. I agree that incessant, unrelenting competition is not always right for everyone, and I have no wish to produce self-interested individuals with sharp elbows, but some experience of risk and reward, of daring to commit to excellence, and particularly of learning to perform under pressure, are essential in helping to produce resilience. They are good preparation for life.

While the Young Musician event is for our strongest performers, I also enjoy our Friday lunchtime series of concerts for players of all standards. There is usually an audience of around 30 in attendance; a mix of friends, fellow musicians and teachers. This is a great way to gain some performance experience in a less pressurised, but nonetheless challenging, environment. It is important to create opportunities at all levels.

On the subject of performance, I should commend those involved in the [Fashion Show](#) organised by the Art Department just before Christmas. The costumes and level of catwalk bravery were impressive and I can say with some certainty that either element would have been a challenge completely beyond me.

At Dollar we are always looking for new ways to stretch our pupils, both in and out of the classroom. I am delighted with two new

initiatives for younger pupils. For the first time we will be sending a junior team along with the senior team to the Schools National Rugby Sevens at Rosslyn Park. Over 700 sides take part in this renowned event; it is the largest sevens competition in the world and a wonderful experience for those who take part. Secondly, again for the first time I believe, a Dollar Academy musical will be performed at the Edinburgh Festival this summer. The musical is being directed by Mr Burbury, Assistant Rector, and is called '13'; that is approximately the average age of the cast. It will be a nice piece in the jigsaw that is our forthcoming Bicentenary Year, running from June 2018 to June 2019. I am already looking forward to it.

Kindest regards



David Knapman
Rector



Bicentenary Celebrations

In June, we launch our Bicentenary year. Take a look at some of the events planned to celebrate this special chapter.



Careers Convention on 28 February

Join us for lectures and meet delegates from professions including Law, Medicine, Business, Engineering and Finance.

Pupil Achievements

Academic

Business Management

Rachel Pollock (FVI) achieved the highest mark for Higher Business Management in the 2017 diet which saw some 9,116 candidates sit the exam. [Read more.](#)

Geography

The Geography Worldwide Quiz team are through to the Scottish Finals. Well done to Siobhan Moore, Morag Peterson (both FI), Ross Bathgate and Stuart Farmer (both FIII).

Maths

Sophie Ferguson (FVI) was one of nine pupils in Scotland who received the Edinburgh Mathematical Society award for achieving full marks in the 2017 Higher Mathematics examination. [Read more.](#)

Modern Languages

Finlay Beattie and Dugald MacKechnie (both FI) were prize winners in the SALT Modern Languages National Poster Competition with their poster which highlighted the importance of language learning.

Athletics

Nana Akuoko (FIV) took bronze at the FPSG Indoor Senior and Under-17 Championships with his long jump of 6.24m. [Read more.](#)

Sarah Coutts (FIII) won silver in the U/16 1500m at the Scottish Schools Indoor Athletics Championships with a time of 4m38.23s in the fast-paced final. [Read more.](#)

Badminton

Four players will compete in the national finals after performances at the Central Schools qualifying event. Siobhan Moore (FI) was runner up in the Junior Girls Singles and in the Junior Girls Doubles with partner Hannah Williamson (FII). Matthew McGarva (FV) and Angus Macleod (FVI) won the Senior Boys doubles.

Both the Junior and Senior teams played well at the Central Schools Quaich Competition, with the Juniors successfully progressing to the National Finals in March.

At the Clackmannanshire Open Tournament event, Gemma Thain (FI)

won the U14 girls singles title, Sunny Qiu (also FI) won the U16 category and Angus Macleod finished as Runner-up in the Senior boys event.

Cricket

Five boys have been selected for the Caledonian Highlanders: (U14s) William Silcock (FI), Alex Turlik and Daniel Pearson (both FII), and (U16s) Harry Jaffrey-Smith and Robert Disborough (both FIII). [Read more.](#)

Jamie Cairns (FIII) has been training with the Eastern Knights U16 Squad and was recently selected for the Scotland U15 level Training Squad.

Gymnastics

Lucy Macrae goes on to the National Finals after taking gold in Floor and Vault at the National Level 4 Qualifiers. [Read more.](#)

Numerous Primary and Secondary level gymnasts competed in the Regional Finals for Floor and Vault gaining gold, silver and bronze medals. [Read more.](#)

Hockey

Alex Wilson (FIV) captained the Scotland U16 boys to a victory over the UK Lions, winning 5-2 in the final; Dan Pearson (FII) was also in the squad.

Judo

Cameron Reid-Thomas (FV) is a British Judo Champion after winning the U81kg category at the 2017 Pre-Cadet and Cadet British Judo Championships. Cameron has also been awarded his black belt. [Read more.](#)

Hamish Gardiner (FII) won a gold medal at the British HMC Independent Schools Judo Tournament.

Music

Pupils have enjoyed a variety of music successes in recent weeks:

ABRSM

Thirty-two Dollar pupils sat and passed their ABRSM examinations, 14 passing with distinction. [Read more](#) on this and find out why

Conor Philip (FVI) will sit the new post-Grade Eight performance diploma for free.

Fife Young Musician Award

Chloe Burbury (FII) won the Fife Young Musician Award at this year's Fife Festival of Music after winning the Open Recital Class in heats. Chloe is also through to the Semi-Final of the national 'Rotary Club Young Musician' competition after competing successfully in the Area heats and District final. The 'Scotland and North of England' regional final will take place on 15 April at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

National Youth Orchestras of Scotland

Hannah Middleton (FV) and Emma Macrae (FVI) join the Senior Orchestra, and Isabella Schmidt-Cornelius (FII) and Alexander Schmidt-Cornelius (J2) the Junior Orchestra after successful auditions.

National Youth Choir of Scotland

Archie Jaffrey-Smith (FI) and Brogan Law (FII) will sing with the Boys' Choir, and Duncan Kay (J2) with the Boys' Training Choir.

National Youth Jazz Orchestra of Scotland

Chloe Burbury has been accepted on the NYJOS Summer School.

Royal Conservatoire of Scotland

Rebecca Middleton (FVI) successfully auditioned for a place in the Junior Conservatoire Chamber Choir.

Trinity Exams

Congratulations to the 13 pupils who passed, which included four distinctions and four merits.

Piping and Drumming

At the Winter Storm Contest in Kansas City, Caitlyn Malloy (FIII) took the gold medal in Grade 3 snare drumming while Fiona McCall (also FIII) played in the Over-18 Intermediate Grade, winning bronze.

[Read more.](#)

Rugby

Congratulations to John Barclay (FP 2004) who lifted the Calcutta Cup after captaining Scotland to an outstanding victory over England

at Murrayfield on Saturday.

Barclay was not the only Dollar boy to lead his team to success at the weekend. Gus Warr captained the Scotland U19 side who won 31-29 against Scottish Students in preparation for games against Romania and France. Warr was joined by Ben McIlwraith (FP 2017) who made his international debut.

Elsewhere, Tom Morris was with the Scotland U18 team preparing for fixtures against Wales and England in two weeks' time.

Finn McIlwraith and Jamie Cruickshank were also both training at the weekend with Scotland U17.

The national squads:

- Scotland U19 Training Squad – Gus Warr (FVI)
- Scotland U18 Training Squad – Tom Morris (FVI)
- Scotland U17 Training Squad – Finn McIlwraith and Jamie Cruickshank (both FV)
- Scotland U16 (Blues) – Ross McKnight, Michael Gray, Max Williamson and Dougal Sands (all FIV)

Shooting

Jamie Gibson, Nikita Safonov (both FV), Hamish Durkie, Alex McConnell and Sandy Steele (all FVI), will represent Scotland at a forthcoming home international, the Smallbore Shooting Competition.

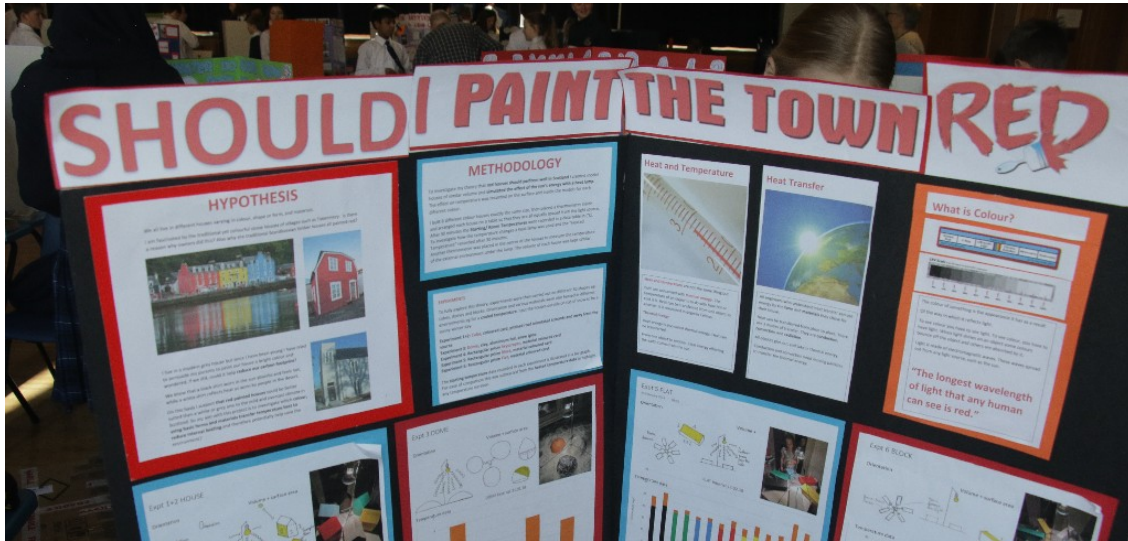
Olivia Hutt, Finlay Johnston and Callum Chen (all FIV) are through to the final stages of selection for the UK Cadet Rifle Team competing in the Channel Islands this summer.

Skiing

At the English Alpine Ski Championships, Maisie Blyth (J2) and Hamish Blyth (P5) both won the Giant Slalom - Maisie in the U12 Females category and Hamish in the U10 Males. Hamish also finished 2nd in the Combi. Ruaridh Blyth (FI) finished 5th in his year group in the Slalom.

Swimming

Dollar pupils won the Central Schools Swimming Trophy for best overall secondary school at the Central region gala.



Junior Science Fair 2018

Judges commended the sheer variety of projects before announcing this year's winners.

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



Harvest Challenge: Mary's Meals

Prep and Junior pupils raised a grand total of £11,378.46 for the children's charity.



'Beginning with "D"'

This year's Forms I and II Art and Design Photography Competition attracted over 130 entries. See the [full list of winners](#).



Looking after the grounds

Parents and friends of the school are reminded that the grounds at Dollar Academy are private property. Neither our pupils, nor members of the public, should be loitering around the school campus in the evenings after dark.

All dogs in the school grounds should be kept on a lead. Many of you will be aware of recent notices which have gone up to reinforce these requirements for all visitors to the school, including those just passing through the grounds. The reasons for this are two-fold; in a school environment it is obviously important that dogs are kept under proper control to prevent nuisance or injury and, in the second place, to prevent fouling which, regrettably, is on the increase and exposes pupils, in particular, to potential contamination and our grounds staff to the undesirable task of having to remove it.



Duke of Edinburgh's Award: Expeditions

Pupils still have time to register for expeditions in May and June - please see Mr Johns, DofE Award Manager, if you are interested.



Christmas Concerts

Over 300 pupils took to the stage each night, entertaining audiences with a delightful mix of festive music. View the photo gallery.





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