

Rector's



Newsletter

Dear Pupils, Parents, Guardians and Friends

It is a pleasure having school back in session, as the buildings were far too quiet over the summer break for my liking. An empty school is like a ghost town. The energy and enthusiasm of our pupils is infectious and it is always good to have them safely back after the holidays, ready for the new term. They seem to have settled down to work very quickly. I have enjoyed talking to several new parents recently and by far the most common comment received is that parents have noticed a really positive change in their child since joining Dollar. That is gratifying, and most people find our community very supportive and welcoming. We certainly try hard to make it so. Not everyone finds childhood or adolescence easy all of the time, however, and it seems to me that growing up is not becoming any easier. There is a disconcerting multiplicity of choice. Expectations, both internal and external, are high. Social media can be invasive. I am full of admiration for the way in which, most of the time, our pupils not only cope but excel.

It would be usual at this point to list our summer successes, and indeed there are articles in this newsletter that do exactly that. The exploits of the Pipe Band and CCF were, not for the first time, quite exceptional. The examination results were certainly very pleasing: our A-grade rate at Higher has increased by 14% over the past seven years, in comparison with a national increase of just 4%. The list of university destinations is impressive. So there is certainly plenty of success to celebrate and I am pleased that our pupils aspire to excellence. Ambition is not a sin.

I confess, however, that I could never be happy leading a school that

defined itself purely in terms of academic or competitive success. Like so many teachers, that is not why I entered the profession in the first place. In my assemblies, my prizegiving speeches, and more importantly my daily interactions with others, I hope I make it clear that my highest priority is to encourage young people to be honest, to be humble, to be kind to others, and to act in a way that they, and their parents, and their school can be proud of. I would like them to appreciate their good fortune, to make the most of their opportunities, and to go on to make a positive difference in the world. That is easier, perhaps, if they are also happy, confident, independent and reflective. With all that in mind, if you click on only one link in this newsletter, I hope it is the film of the trip by some of our senior pupils to Romania to help disadvantaged and disabled children at Little John's House Summer School. I think the film says more than I possibly can here.

Kindest regards



David Knapman
Rector



SQA Examination Results

This year's pass rate at Higher level was 98%, with a record 68% at A grade.



World Champions

The Juvenile Pipe Band have regained their RSPBA world title and now hold the Scottish, British, UK, European and World titles.



Bisley Schools Week

Dollar's 18-strong team were the highest-placed Scottish team at Bisley for the 20th consecutive year.



New Online Calendar

The recently-launched calendar can be filtered to your preferences and synchronised with personal calendars.

Honorary Doctorate

John Cameron, the Chair of Governors at Dollar from 1984 to 2014, has been awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of St Andrews. [Read more.](#)

51st Infantry Brigade Military Skills Competition

Dollar have won the Scottish CCF competition for the 8th time in 14 years and successfully defended the Piper Laidlaw VC Commemorative Trophy, awarded to Best Overall Cadet Unit in Scotland. Congratulations to Sandy Steele, Georgia Robertson, Huw Sherrard, James Taylor (all FVI), Katie Robertson, Toby Douglas, Runa Jarjour, Katie Leslie, Euan Bremner (all FV) and Clara McHardy (FIV). [Read more.](#)

Midland District Hockey Tournament

Victorious in their six matches, the Form 3A girls' hockey team have taken the Midland District Hockey Tournament cup for the fourth consecutive year. [Read more.](#)



Education and entertainment in the Westwater Building

On Monday 30 October, all parents are invited to come to the new Westwater Building for a double bill of education and entertainment. At 7.00pm DAPA will be holding its AGM, and at 7.30pm the Modern Languages department will take over, offering taster lessons and activities in all of the five Modern Languages taught at Dollar. There will also be an opportunity to look round the new building. Refreshments and light snacks will be provided.

This event takes place on the same evening as the Hallowe'en Party for the Junior School, run by the Charities Committee. Both events will conclude at 9pm.

NICOLA MORGAN The Teenage Guide to **STRESS**

Understanding 'Stress' and the Teenage Brain

In her talk to parents on 25 October, award-winning author Nicola Morgan will look at what stress is and the issues that affect teenagers. [Find more information and how to book.](#)

Pupil Achievements

Athletics

At the Celtic Games in Dublin, Emma Mailer (FIV) defeated rivals from Ireland and Wales in the U18 400m hurdles. [Read more.](#)

CCF

British Cadet U18 Rifle Team

Alex McConnell (FVI) was one of 18 cadets selected to represent the Athelings in Canada this summer and the top-scoring UK cadet in the National Cadet Full-Bore Championships. [Read more.](#)

Navy

A team of five Dollar cadets took part in the CCF Royal Navy Scottish Sailing Regatta: Bente Kieckhofel, Claire Jack, Zoe Price (all FV), Anisha Burgul (FIV) and Stuart Farmer (FIII). Bente and Claire placed first overall, and Stuart and Anisha second. [Read more.](#)

Cricket

Jamie Cairns (FIII) made it to the final of the ECB U15 T20 National Club Competition with his club Grange CC. The team were only narrowly beaten by Guiford CC. [Read more.](#)

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

A number of pupils, now Former Pupils, travelled to the Palace of Holyroodhouse where they were presented with Gold Awards from the Duke of Edinburgh himself. [Read more.](#)

Hockey

National Inter-District Tournament

Nine of the 1st XI girls' hockey squad will represent Midland District at the tournament in Glasgow. Erin Stevens, Georgia Smith, Jenny Walls, Sam Robertson, Susie Green (all FVI) and Eve Pearson (FV) will play for the U18 squad, and Lucy Smith, Rhiannon Carr and Amy Salmon (all FIV) will represent Midland at U16 level. Rachel Leslie (FIII) is also playing in the tournament, representing the U16 East/West Midland squad.

In boys' hockey, Alex Wilson (FIV) and Arthur Morris (FVI) were

selected to play for the Midland U18s, Hayden Thomson (FII) and Ollie Wilson (FI) for the U16s and Daniel Pearson (FII) for East U16s.

Futures Cup

A number of Dollar hockey players took part in the tournament. Erin Stevens, Georgia Smith, Jenny Walls and Eve Pearson were in the Scotland U17 girls' squad, winning silver after a penalty shootout against England. Lucy Smith captained the Scotland U15 team which came 5th, and Alex Wilson captained the U15 boys' team, playing alongside Daniel Pearson.

Kumite & Karate

Max Dixon (FIII) took bronze in the European team Kumite competition. Max also represented Scotland in Karate in the European Championships held in Belgium.

Tetrathlon

Six pupils competed at the National Tetrathlon Championships in Bishop Burton after qualifying at regional events: Pollyanna Smith (FIV), Poppy Drysdale and Jack Wilson (both FV) in the Open Individuals, Lucy Ross (FV) at Intermediate level, and James Young (FIV) and Hannah Young (FII) in the Juniors. [Read more.](#)

The UK School Games

Dollar pupils represented Scotland in a range of sports at this year's games. Exceptional performances from Kirstin Lawrie, Keir Edgar (both FV), Emma Mailer (FIV), Cameron Reid-Thomas (FV) and Erin Stevens (FVI) in individual and team events helped Scotland bring home gold, silver and bronze medals. [Read more.](#)

Writing

International Journalism Competition

Amanda Amaeshi (FII) won the Young Reporters for the Environment competition with her article 'The Food Waste Crisis'. The competition attracted entries from 34 countries. [Read more.](#)

newsletter or *Fortunas* magazine.



Christmas Concerts

[Tickets are now on sale](#) for this year's Christmas Concerts at Perth Concert Hall.

Trips



Romania Community Project

In July, 14 pupils stayed at Little John's House, a home for six children with various challenging mental and physical conditions, in the village of Cisnadioara in the Transylvanian region of Romania. Thanks to Jennifer Alexander (FVI) who produced this memorable film of their trip.



'Get Active!'

Basketball, chess, film-making, fishing, singing, surfing, skiing ... just a few of the sports and activities that pupils signed up for at this year's Co-curricular Fair.



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