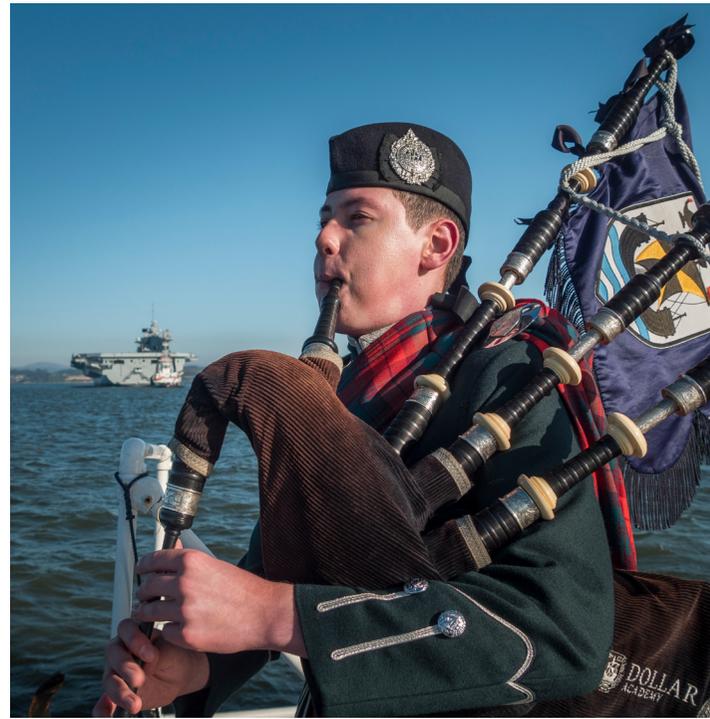




Piping and Drumming at Dollar Academy





Our Piping & Drumming Programme

Dollar Academy was founded over two hundred years ago in 1818, making it the oldest co-educational day and boarding school in the world. The Dollar Academy Pipe Band was then formed in 1912, with strong connections with the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. Archived photos of the band in those early years show a small handful of pipers and drummers. Over the last 20 years, thanks to a tireless and inspirational leader (Mr Craig Stewart, Master i\c Pipe Band) and a school that pours wholehearted support into its pipe band programme, the Band has thrived.

Today, over 200 pupils study piping or drumming at Dollar Academy. Four bands (Juvenile, Novice A, Novice B and the Pre-Novice Bands) work with six world-class instructors. Our Juvenile Band has held the Champion of Champions title four times in the last five years. The title Champion of Champions is bestowed upon a band that performs most consistently in all five 'Majors': the Scottish, British, UK, European and World Championships. Roughly 180 bands are eligible to compete at this level, putting Dollar's unrivalled success into perspective.





The Novice A Band has, likewise, been Champion of Champions for two years in a row and, in 2018, for the first time ever, the Juvenile Band Drumming Corps also won the Champion of Champions trophy.

The Band regularly receives invitations to play at prestigious events in the UK and as far away as Germany, Japan, Switzerland, Jakarta and France. They perform for charitable functions and weddings; for local Highland Games, galas, youth festivals and military functions. Every year, the senior players accept a longstanding invitation to travel to Sri Lanka to play for its High Commission.

Band members take their first lessons at age 6 or 7, and many become exceptional solo players over the years. Andrew Ferguson (current Form VI), for example, has been so successful that he competes at the more competitive adult solo grade, rather than his age category, for the sake of his own progress and challenge. Every child has a weekly 30 minute private lesson and practices four times a week, on average. Lunchtimes are given over to individual or band practice. In the summer term, our pipers and drummers practice every morning before school, whilst the winter months are spent working in smaller groups.



Our Instructors



Craig Stewart

Mr Stewart, an alumni of Dollar Academy, has been in charge of the school's Pipe Band programme since he joined the staff in 1991. At that time, the Band didn't even have enough players to compete in the Scottish Schools Championship event it was hosting. Since then, he has worked hard to recruit the best instructors in the world and inspired thousands of pupils. The strength and success of the current Pipe Band is very much down to his leadership.



Louise Augaitis

Miss Augaitis first competed in RSPBA competitions aged 9 and won her first Grade One Worlds at the age of only 15 with Shotts & Dykehead. Since then she has won a further two World Championship titles with Inveraray & District and three Worlds drumming titles. She is responsible for our Bass and Tenor sections.



Callum Beaumont

Mr Beaumont has won almost every major soloist prize: three-time winner of The Clasp (notably, he is the youngest-ever winner), both Highland Society of London Gold Medals and The Silver Chanter. In addition to this, he has won the World Pipe Band Championships with Simon Fraser University Pipe Band, Shotts & Dykehead Pipe Band and Inveraray & District Pipe Band.



Lee Innes

Mr Innes joined Dollar Academy in 1996 and singlehandedly lifted the standard of drumming at the school. He is the former lead drummer of the Grade 1 Dysart & Dundonald Pipe Band and Fife Constabulary Pipe Band and is now a respected RSPBA Drumming Adjudicator.



Steven McWhirter

Mr McWhirter began drumming in 1993 at the age of 10 and has gone on to win the Adult World Solo Drumming Championships on 10 occasions. He has played with the Cullybackey Pipe Band, Simon Fraser University Pipe Band and is now the leading drummer of the 2019 World Pipe Band Champions, Inveraray & District.



Matt Wilson

Mr Wilson joined Dollar Academy in 2010 and has led the Juvenile Band to win 30 majors; including six Champion of Champions, 6 World Titles and 16 Worlds medals in total. On a personal level, he is one of only two individuals to have won two world titles in the same day. He is the current Pipe Sergeant of Field Marshal Montgomery Pipe Band.



Admissions Process

We're delighted that you're considering Dollar for your child. Our admissions process welcomes children of all backgrounds and stages in their education. To really get a feel for life at Dollar, we encourage you to get in touch to arrange a visit. Term-time is ideal as you can meet with Houseparents, teaching staff and pupils in order to get a sense of day-to-day life at Dollar. We realise that is not always possible though, and are very happy to welcome you at other times of the year too.

Limited scholarship funding is available to support boarding pupils who demonstrate excellence academically, or in areas such as music or sport.



Mrs Elaine Gallagher

To arrange a visit, or for further information, please contact Boarding Admissions directly:

Mrs Elaine Gallagher, Boarding Registrar and PA to The Rector

Email: rector@dollaracademy.org.uk

Phone: +44 1259 742511

Dollar Academy

Dollar

Clackmannanshire

Scotland

FK14 7DU

'Our son is a competitive piper on the US/Canada circuit and we were attracted to Dollar Academy because of its renowned youth pipe band and excellent academic reputation in Scotland. We were initially concerned about him living so far away from home at age 14, but the boarding community was very welcoming and we've seen him develop new friendships as well as independence, confidence, and organizational skills. He loves the rigor of the Scottish education system and his teachers and advisors have ensured a smooth transition to a new curriculum. As a boarder at Dollar, he's able to participate fully in school life; not only is he a Pipe Band member, but he also has time for a weekly sport, the Duke of Edinburgh outdoor program, and various academic pursuits - not to mention weekend sleep-ins!

Lastly, we've seen that the school lives out its values each day: "work hard, be kind, get involved." There's a special mix of productive ambition and supportive camaraderie that comes from the school's ethos and its long history. Role models at Dollar Academy abound and we're grateful that our son can find stimulation and friendship daily in his peers, teachers, and houseparents.'

J & L Mackay – Parents of US piper and current boarding pupil





‘Our pupils receive instruction from some of the best performers in the world. For us, it’s about the music. Our tutors pass on their passion for traditional Scottish music and for playing.’

Mr Stewart – Master i/c Pipe Band



www.dollaracademy.org.uk



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