
Dollar Academy Newsletter May 2018

Dear Pupils, Parents, Guardians and Friends

Last year I asked over 900 of our pupils to complete a survey in Registration period. The first question asked why they thought their parents sent them to Dollar Academy and the second asked what they considered to be the values of the school. I did a similar exercise with teachers and even with some Former Pupils at their annual dinners. And finally I looked at the (anonymised and aggregated) answers given by several hundred Dollar parents when completing last year's ISC survey on behalf of the school.

The answers to the first question congregated around three different areas that can be simply summarised as excellence, opportunity and community. Given the excellence produced by pupils in so many different areas, along with the wide choice of academic subjects and huge co-curricular programme, perhaps the first two are no surprise. I have said before, and will say again, that it is not a sin to be ambitious. I have said even more often, however, that a happy child learns faster than an unhappy one, so the very high frequency of answers relating to a positive and supportive environment was very pleasing.

As far as the values question was concerned, the answers distilled into three areas which I have turned into imperatives: "work hard", "be kind", and "get involved." This, as your children will probably tell you, is my regular mantra delivered in assemblies, so to what extent they simply repeated my terminology I cannot know. That's the thing about pupils – they like to come up with the right answer!

The more I looked at the replies to the questions, the more apparent it became that there is a natural symmetry. If you work hard you can achieve excellence, if you get involved you will make the most of the opportunities available, and if you are kind then we will have a stronger and better community that works well for everyone. I think

Of course, logos and mottos are all very well, but actions are more important. I am running out of space, but I cannot complete this newsletter without mentioning the excellence of the 1st XI hockey team this season who did not lose a match, winning both the Scottish Schools Cup and League and three other trophies besides. They could not have worked harder, they had tremendous team spirit, and it was wonderful to see so many pupils turn up to support them in such a noisy but good-humoured fashion at the Cup Final.

This newsletter contains photos taken at our annual cross-country championships: several hundred pupils decided to "get involved" and took the opportunity (in glorious weather for once) to run in the Ochils. Large numbers also took part in our pair of excellent Spring Concerts and in the annual Gymnastics display and well over 200 pupils took part in various trips and activities over the Easter break.

Of the three imperatives, the most important to me is "be kind" and there are many daily instances of this at the school. Kindness sometimes seems to be in short supply in other walks of life (especially to erring young Australian cricketers) but more of that on another occasion. Kindness works at all levels and when I was visited yesterday by Prep 1 pupils they brought a present with them; a rather rudimentary picture that they had painted of me. It has to be admitted that the image is younger, slimmer and has more hair than the reality. In dim light, I think it looks rather like George Clooney. Now that really was kindness.

Kindest regards



David Knapman
Rector

Sports Weekend 2018

This year's event marks the
launch of our Bicentenary

three days.



Senior Cross Country Championships

Weather conditions were near perfect for the 400 runners who took to the Ochils.



Scottish Schools Hockey Champions

The 1st XI of 2017-2018 finished the season with a remarkable five titles to their name.



Careers Convention 2018

Over 80 representatives were on hand to share career journeys and advice with pupils.

Pupil Achievements

Academic

Art

At the Royal Scottish Academy's 2018 Schools Art Award Competition, Angus (FII) received third prize, Caitlin (FIII) was named regional winner in the Intermediate Category, and Yisi (FIV) and Emilie (FVI) received commendations. [Read more.](#)

Debating

Maythu (FII) and Fraser (FIII) reached the regional finals of the ESU Juniors Competition.

Inter-Schools Challenge Quiz

[Read more.](#)

Badminton

Clackmannanshire Open Tournament

Gemma (FI) won the U14 girls' singles title, Sunny (FI) took the overall title in the U16s category, and Angus (FVI) was runner-up in the senior boys' singles. [Read more.](#)

National Schools Final

The Dollar Junior Quaich Team have enjoyed their best result to date in the National Schools Finals, gaining third place. Congratulations go to Siobhan, Sunny, Bryony, Gemma (all FI), Glen, Alex, Rohin, Hannah, Evan (all FII) and Katie (FIII). [Read more.](#)

CCF

Piping & Drumming

Scottish Pipe Band Championships

The Juvenile band were named overall Scottish Schools Champions while the Novice Juvenile band took 2nd place and Novice Juvenile B band 3rd place in their respective categories. Archie (FIII) was also announced as the winner of the inaugural Piping Hit 2018 Competition. [Read more.](#)

Glasgow Highland Club

The Juvenile Band finished in second place and our soloists performed extremely well:

- Senior Piping - Katie (FVI; 3rd)
- Senior Drumming - Rory (FVI; 4th) and James (FVI; 5th)
- Intermediate Piping - Ruairidh (FIII; 3rd) and Robbie (FV; 6th)
- Junior Piping - Ruaridh (FI) won the Glasgow Highland Club Junior Piping Cup

Cross Country

Both the Boys' U14 and Girls' U14 teams won bronze medals at the SSAA Senior Schools Cross-Country Championships. Well done to Luke, James, Matthew, Maya Millar, Arwen, Rebecca, Megan, Alexandra (all FI) and Cameron (FII). [Read more.](#)

Dance

Charlotte, Hannah, Sam (all FV) and Rebecca (FVI) received awards following successful performances in Latin American and/or Rock 'n' Roll exams. Congratulations to Rebecca who achieved Honours in her Rock 'n' Roll exam.

Fencing

David (J1) is Boys' U11 Foil Series Champion after winning gold in round four of the Foundation for Scottish Fencing Youth Development Series. [Read more.](#)

Golf

Toby (FIII) represented Scotland in the inaugural ISGA Scotland v England international golf match in Northampton.

Gymnastics

Lucy (FIV) gained overall bronze and bronze medal in the floor at the Scottish Secondary Schools Floor and Vault Finals in Perth. Three Dollar teams qualified for the event – [read more](#) on individual and team performances.

Hockey

The Form 3A girls are through to the final of the Midland Knockout Cup.

Midland Squad

Riley (J2), Abi, Paige (both FI), Hannah, Gemma, Emily, Chloe, Rachel Lang and Rosie (all FII) have been selected for the Midland U14 Squad.

Scotland Hockey

Six of the 1st XI were in the Scotland teams victorious over Wales during the Easter break: Lucy and Amy (both FIV) played for the U16s and Eve (FV), Georgia, Jenny and Erin (all FVI) for the U18s. The U18s also won their series against Poland.

Alex (FIV) captained the Scotland U16 boys to a victory over the Welsh.

Judo

Cameron (FV) won both the Northern Ireland Judo Cadet Open and the English Cadet Open, taking him to the top of the cadet ranking

represented GB at the European Under Cup competitions in Spain, Berlin and Croatia. [Read more.](#)

Music

Chloe (FII) was runner-up in the Regional Final (Scotland and North of England) of the Rotary International Young Musician of the Year Competition.

Dollar Young Musician of the Year

Over fifty pupils entered this year's competition. Congratulations to winners Kyle (FI; Foundation), Andy (FIII; Intermediate) and Chloe (FII; Advanced). [Read more.](#)

The NYCoS National Boys Choir

Duncan (J2), Archie (FI), Brogan (FII), Ruairidh (FIII) and Tom (FIV) were invited to take part in a one-week NYCoS residential course, and performed in Glasgow the following week. [Read more.](#)

Rugby

Gus (FVI) has signed a 5-year contract with English Premiership side, Sale.

National Youth League Cup

Cameron (FVI) captained the U18 Stirling County rugby team to victory against Ayr at Murrayfield, winning the League Cup. Mattie (FV) also played the full match.

Rosslyn Park National Schools Sevens

The U18 and U14 rugby squads competed at the Rosslyn Park National Schools Sevens in March. The U14s won 3 of their 4 games, while the U18s lost to Cranleigh School who went on to make this year's final.

Sailing

Stuart (FIII) will represent Scotland in the 2018 RYA Eric Twiname Championships. [Read more.](#)

Shooting

Lucas (FV) is one of 18 cadets from across the UK to be selected to compete with The Athelings shooting team this summer. [Read more.](#)

Swimming

Ian (J1) won the U12 Boys event at the Scottish Ski Championships. [Read more.](#)

Squash

Oliver (FI) represented the Central Scotland U13s at the Scottish Squash Junior Inter-Regional Competition in Glasgow; the four-strong team were runners-up. [Read more.](#)

Tetrathlon

Sarah (FIII) will compete with the Scottish team at the Windsor Horse Show following selection by the Scottish Tetrathlon. Sarah also represented Scotland East in the Inter Counties Cross Country (U15 Girls) race at Loughborough.

Waterpolo

Craig (FVI) and Harry (FIV) were both in the Caledonia U19 water polo team that won the ASA National Age Groups Championship (British Cup), the first Scottish club at junior level to achieve this.

Writing

Amelia and Yoanna (both FI) are through to the next stage of the BBC 500 Words competition. [Read more.](#)

Year of Young People

Amanda (FII) is an Ambassador for Year of Young People 2018, a platform giving young Scots a voice and opportunity to get involved in their community and volunteering in Scotland. [Read more.](#)

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

FAMILY CEILIDH

live band ~ family event ~ bring your own drinks & nibbles

Monday 25 June 2018

7.00pm—10.00pm

Dancing to live music from the

Jack Delaney Band

Adults: £10

Children: £5

In the

Marquee



Sports Weekend Family Ceilidh

A fun evening for the whole family, dancing to live music from the Jack Delaney Band. Tickets are available from the School Office.

Former Pupil Achievements

Commonwealth Games

Congratulations to Seonaid McIntosh (FP 2014) on winning two bronze medals for Shooting at the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games. Jennifer McIntosh (FP 2009) also represented Team Scotland in Shooting.



Junior School Science Fair

Our J2 science buffs made their mark on the judges with the impressive standard and range of projects. Find out who this year's winners were.



Make the most of the adventure



The Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Registered for the Bronze Award? Find out more about [preparing for your first expedition](#).

To sign up for Silver or Gold expeditions next June, be sure to complete the previous level and check that your activity log is up-to-date – applications cannot be processed until then.



Clères, France

Visits to iconic Paris landmarks, the Bayeux Tapestry and D-Day beaches brought history and culture to life for our FI and FII pupils.



Costa Rica

Biology pupils took in Costa Rica's nature reserves and coastlines to learn about the microclimates, fauna and flora.



Florence, Italy

Art and Design's first exchange programme took pupils to the birthplace of Renaissance art and architecture.



Les Menuires, France

105 pupils took to the slopes of Les Trois Vallées for a variety of snow sports during Dollar's 41st ski tour.



Motril, Spain

The Dollar team recently met up with Erasmus+ project partners to progress investigation into the use of digital books in schools.



Toledo, Spain

Six days saw pupils explore the diverse history of Spain's former capital and contemporary art in today's capital, Madrid.



Dollar Academy Parents' and Friends' Choir

Come sing with us! Join our new choir for parents and friends of Dollar. No auditions and no experience necessary, only your enthusiasm.



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