

Rector's

Newsletter

Dear Pupils, Parents, Guardians and Friends

The summer of 2018 proved to be unusually sunny but it was a delight to return to school and sense again the enthusiasm of the children. Every session is different, just as every class we teach is different, and one of the pleasures of teaching is that much as we miss those who leave us to go off to university, they are constantly replaced by bundles of energy lower down the school. Their enthusiasm certainly helps keep us young in spirit.

Dollar was blessed with wonderful weather for our Sports Weekend, which this year included many special events to launch our Bicentenary year. The celebrations were very well attended by pupils, parents, FPs and friends of the school and the sense of quiet pride in the school was very evident. This term started with a Bicentenary Festival of Rugby and Hockey and there will be many other events to look forward to over the course of the year.

One of these is our Bicentenary Sponsored Walk which will take place on Friday and we hope to raise a substantial sum of money for seven different charities. This is always a wonderful whole-school event, bringing the community together to help others in need. The first such walk at Dollar was held 50 years ago, in 1968, for Shelter UK, who are again one of our nominated charities, and we are pleased to welcome back a number of the original walkers to take part once again. With the school roll at a record level, this will be the biggest Sponsored Walk we have ever held.

Last Saturday Dollar Academy hosted [ResearchED](#), one in a series of conferences around the world focusing on the latest research in education. Over 250 teachers from all over Scotland attended, including dozens of our own Dollar teachers. There were some brilliant speakers and much of value was learned by all who took part. It is important

that, as a school, we focus sharply on the quality of our teaching. We emphasise evidence-based methods rather than the latest fads.

Following the conference, I received several emails complimenting the cheerful approach of our pupil helpers and already this term I have had several other letters along the same lines. One of these was from a family who felt lucky to have shared a flight from South Africa with our 63-player rugby squad! Another, listed below, praised a CCF group:

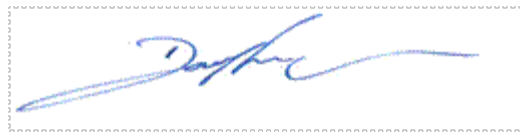
I was at the National Watersports Centre this past weekend as a residential guest.

I thought I should tell you what a nice experience it was meeting such a group of pleasant, thoughtful, polite and well-behaved young people. It was particularly good to watch them in the evening organise and willingly participate in their own activities and games. There was so little attention to their mobile phones that I was very surprised to discover that there was not a ban in operation. One young lady came over to offer me a slice of her birthday cake as I sat quietly in the far corner of the room. I doubt that I would have had that thought or confidence at that age.

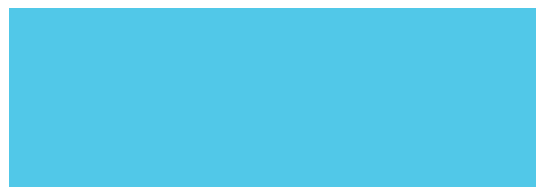
One sees so much negative press commentary about the young and their education that it's always uplifting to be reminded that there are plenty of well-educated, positive young people who will go on to achieve worthwhile things. The group I met reflects well on themselves, their teachers and leaders and your school.

Our children are not perfect of course, but it is pleasing to receive such comments so frequently. I wish everyone an enjoyable term.

Kindest regards



David Knapman
Rector





SQA Results

Pupils set new school records as A-grade passes increased by 8% for Advanced Higher and 4% for National 5 exams.

Sports Weekend

Over 3,000 current and former pupils, parents and friends celebrated sport at Dollar and the launch of our Bicentenary year.



World Champions!

Outstanding performances saw the Juvenile and Novice A pipe bands win the World Champion and Champion of Champion titles.



Dollar at the Fringe

'13' The Musical marked the school's first appearance at the Edinburgh Festival, with 5 sell-out shows over 5 days.



Les Misérables

Months in the making, the cast, crew and orchestra drew standing ovations at



National Cricket Wins

Both the Colts and U18 teams finished the season as Scottish Schools

sell-out performances of this epic musical.

Champions after U15 and T20 competition success.



Dollar Academy Annual Christmas Concert Thursday 13 December

In this Bicentenary year, our festive concert returns to the Usher Hall. Book tickets [here](#).

Pupil Achievements

Academic

Daniel Robins, Daniel Valles, Euan MacPherson, Andrew King, Rob Alexander, Abdur Cheema, Sarah Dewar, Thomas Greer and Carrie Baxter (now FVI) attended the [shares4school winners' event](#) in London after coming top in the Regional leg.

Art

Eilidh Scheuerl (FIV), Claudia Citro (FIII), Caitlin Lowry (FI), Laura Nicol (J1) and Tomas Nicolussi (Prep 3) all received awards at the [National Gallery of Art annual school competition](#) which attracted over 7,000 entries.

Athletics

Emma Mailer (FV) and Sarah Coutts (FIV) ran for Scotland at the Scottish Schools' International against England, Ireland and Wales. Meanwhile, Paige Stevens (FII) took silver in the 800m at the U15 Northern Ireland & Ulster Combined Events

Championships. [Read more.](#)

Scott Huntly (FII) took bronze at the [U14 Scottish Schools' Pentathlon Championships](#).

Brothers Cameron (FI) and Ben MacMillan (FVI) represented Scotland at the British Triathlon in Leicester, helping the team secure the top regional prize for the first time.

Boys' Brigade

Greg Johnston (FVI) has [received the Queen's Badge](#), the highest award achievable in the Boys' Brigade.

CCF

After three days of challenges on the field, cadets brought home the cup from the [51st Infantry Brigade Military Skills Championships](#).

At the National First Aid Competition, Dollar's team of four - Captain Sgt Beth Logan (FVI), Cpl Clara McHardy (FV), LCpl Ellie Trace (FIV) and Cdt Eva Campbell (FIII) - achieved a clean sweep of First Aid trophies for the third year in a row. In the Young Adult Category, Zoe Price and Nikitia Safonov (both FVI) were runners-up in the National Interservices Competition.

Sailing

The Dollar team - Bente Kieckhofel, Claire Jack, Charlotte Johns and Kirsten Oag (all FVI) - regained their trophy at the Scottish Schools CCF Sailing Regatta.

Shooting

18 cadets competed at [Bisley NRA](#), bringing home the London Scottish Trophy for the 21st consecutive year.

Canoeing

Ellen Peden (FV) has been promoted to the UK Premier division in K1W canoe slalom.

Cricket

Over the summer months, [Jamie Cairns](#) (FIV) gained five caps for Scotland U17s and eleven for the U15s.

Daniel Pearson (FIII) joined the Scotland U15 team in their match against Worcestershire.

Dance

Millie Wright (FIV) competed for Scotland at the Dance World Cup in Spain.

Highland

Riona Clifford (FV) performed at the The Cowal Highland Gathering, placing 6th in her age group. Riona also represented Scotland at the Canadian Highland Dancing Open Championships, achieving 2nds, 3rds and 4ths in individual results.

Equestrian

Elsbeth Bryce (FV) and Katie Scott (FP 2018) represented Scotland at the National U18 Championships.

Girlguiding Scotland

Allana Pollock (FVI) is one of six girls from across the UK selected to shadow a Female Peer for a day in the House of Lords, as part of Girlguiding UK celebrations marking 100 years since some women gained the right to vote and 60 years since the Life Peerage Act was passed.

Golf

Josh Pert, Toby Smith (both FIV), Jamie Fulton (FV) and Alex Turlik (FIII) competed in the Alfred Dunhill Schools Challenge played over the Duke's Course, St Andrews. Alex and Toby secured top 20 finishes in a strong field.

Hockey

Eve Pearson (FVI), Amy Salmon and Lucy Smith (both FV) were on the Scotland U18 squad that played at the Futures Cup in August. In men's hockey, brothers Alex (FV) and Ollie Wilson (FII) were on the national team at the Futures Cup in St Albans. Alex also went on to play for Scotland U18s at the Sainsbury's School Games in Loughborough.

Congratulations to the following pupils selected for the district squads to play in the National Inter District tournaments:

U16 Boys Midland: Ollie Wilson (FII) and Hayden Thomson (FIII)

U16 Boys East: Dan Pearson (FIII)

U18 Boys Midland: Alex Wilson (FV)

U16 Girls Midland: Hannah Young (FIII), Rebecca Hogg and Rachel Leslie (both FIV)

U18 Girls Midland: Lucy Smith (FV; vice captain), Hannah Marchant, Evie Wills (both FVI), Amy Salmon and Rhiannon Carr (both FV)

Judo

Hamish Gardiner (FIII) will compete at the British Judo championships in Sheffield later in the year.

Kayaking

Olivia Wears (FI) is Scottish Champion in slalom kayaking for Junior 12 K1 Women after [success at the Scottish Junior Slalom Championships](#).

Music

67 entries and a 100% pass rate - well done to all pupils who sat [external music exams](#): 10 distinctions, 11 merits and 4 passes for Trinity College and 11 distinctions, 14 merits and 17 passes for ABRSM exams.

Rugby

Gus Warr (then FVI) was capped for the Scotland U20s, becoming the first Dollar boy to do so while still at school. Gus has since made his debut in the English premiership for Sale Sharks.

Evie Wills (FVI) earned her [first cap for Scotland](#) after playing in the European 7s Grand Prix Series in Russia.

Shotokan Karate

Benedict Bruce (FIV) is heading to Japan in October with the Scotland shotokan karate squad. He was also in the team that brought home bronze at the recent championships in Belfast.

Squash

Oliver Hunter (FII) competed at the Italian Junior Squash Open in June.

Vaulting / Horse Riding

Emma Leslie (FIV) was selected to compete at Pezinok, Slovakia with the Scottish Vaulting Team representing Great Britain.

Jack Wilson (FVI) placed 16th after representing Great Britain as a junior boy at the European Vaulting Championships in Hungary.

Poppy Drysdale (FVI) was on the Scottish team that won the UK International Tetrathlon. Sarah Coutts (FIV), Anya Penderis and Hannah Young (both FIII) competed in the Junior Regional Competition in June, with Sarah placing second overall. [Read more.](#)

Three pupils gained podium places at the Scottish Equestrian Vaulting Championships:

- Junior 1 * Champion – Sophie Wilson (FIII)

- Junior 1 * 2nd place – Emma Leslie (FIV)
- Junior 2 * 2nd place – Jack Wilson (FVI)

Wakeboarding

Max Rae (FII) placed 3rd at the Foxlake Wakeboarding Junior Open.

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



Bicentenary Festival of Rugby and Hockey

Crowds gathered for a day of match fixtures against The Edinburgh Academy and High School of Dundee to launch the Bicentenary sports season.

Former Pupil Achievements

Megan Leask and Carena Dickens (both FP 2018) have been selected to exhibit works from their Higher Photography portfolio at the Scottish Parliament. The exhibition, celebrating the work of the top Higher Photography pupils from schools, opens in November 2018.

Scottish pianist Fergus McCreddie (FP 2015) has been named [Best Instrumentalist](#) at the Scottish Jazz Awards. Fergus has also released his trio's first album, Turas.

Seonaid McIntosh (FP 2014) is [world champion](#) after winning the prone final at the ISSF World Shooting Championships.



Bicentenary Whole School Photo

Details of how you can buy a copy of the 200th anniversary Whole School Photo will be available shortly. In the meantime, enjoy this time lapse of the event.

Trips

Pupils have travelled far and wide in past months for sport, language and culture. Read

about recent trips below and find more on the school website.



Malaysia Hockey Tour

The tour saw the 34-strong hockey squad play matches against five host teams in four cities over two weeks.



South Africa Rugby Tour

Players headed to Cape Town for two weeks of competition, taking in some breathtaking landscapes.



Taiwan Exchange

For ten days our Taiwanese visitors were treated to a taste of Scotland - culture, education and a spot of sightseeing.



Dollar Exchanges

The official group photo of our 54 exchange pupils from Germany, Italy and Spain with their hosts and teachers.



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