



**DOLLAR**  
ACADEMY

## **SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

**2018 – 2019**

**Rector: David Knapman, BA, BSc, MPhil**



## CURRENT POSITION

Dollar Academy, founded in 1818, is the oldest co-educational, day and boarding school in the United Kingdom. Whilst it is clearly rooted in a living tradition, Dollar has never been afraid of development and innovation. To that end, there have been major financial outlays which have ensured that the Academy remains at the forefront of Scottish education. Developments have included the Gibson Music Building – where extensive work was completed to provide Music Technology facilities in 2010, the Home Economics Iona Building and the Younger Building's Business, Computing and Mathematics centre; the Maguire Art, Drama and PE complex was added in 2005; further IT suites and a Support for Learning centre have also been created. Work was undertaken to amalgamate McNabb and Tait Houses in 2008, and significant developments made in the other boarding Houses, with a complete refurbishment of Heyworth in 2010 and developments in Argyll in 2011/12. 2009 brought a synthetic turf surface at the centre of the Academy grounds – ideally suited for both hockey and tennis - and the playgrounds of both Prep and Junior schools were redesigned in 2010. A new Sixth Form Centre was opened in 2011, combining social and study areas in a strikingly innovative development. In 2016, the award-winning Westwater Building was opened, a 10-room classroom block to house Modern Languages and Economics. The focus of the Governors is not only forward looking, however: they pay great attention to their responsibilities for the maintenance of the principal Grade A Listed Playfair Building, its grounds and the other listed properties in their care; all steps to the Playfair Building were restored in new matching sandstone in 2011, and the Academy Place and main gates and entrances refurbished in 2016, along with further period-featured street-lighting in 2017.

The campus, situated beneath the sweep of the Ochils, is sufficiently compact to allow indoor and outdoor activities to be timetabled throughout the school day. The senior school timetable - based on five single hours of timetabled teaching per day - allows enough time for every subject and activity, without a feeling of stress. The Prep and Junior School is a friendly, welcoming environment where an emphasis on traditional disciplines sits alongside innovative learning in attractive classrooms. Schemes of work are based largely upon the Scottish Curriculum for Excellence and link fully with those of the senior school, many of whose specialist staff teach in the Prep and Junior School. Senior pupils help to support younger children both in and out of the classroom.

The extensive co-curricular life of Dollar is not compulsory, but is viewed by all pupils and staff as being fundamental to the full Dollar experience; this brings real satisfaction to the lives of many pupils and staff. Dollar's achievements on the games field, in debating, in musical and dramatic performance, in CCF, in the three Pipe Bands, in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and in charity work are remarkable. Each year, new activities are added to the range of what is on offer, according to enthusiasms of staff and pupils.

The development of IT in the Academy ensures that every pupil has the opportunity to gain the necessary experience in communication technologies – there are three IT suites, besides access to computers in all classrooms and laboratories, and mobile suites of laptops. Dollar also runs its own distinctive courses from the earliest stages and introduces the European Computer Driving Licence from Form III.

The high academic attainment of many of our pupils guarantees that almost all leave Dollar for higher education. Good academic results are seen in Dollar as the bedrock on which everything else depends, and the pastoral system in the senior school operates closely with subject departments and the Support for Learning department to enable pupils to be supported as required in their learning. Pupils' progress is regularly monitored, and parents are kept fully informed on progress through regular meetings and reports.

Dollar provides expert career and university guidance, and ensures that choices are based on clear knowledge and on open channels of communication. Further careers and higher education support is provided, when required, after a pupil has left Dollar.

Dollar has two girls' boarding houses and one for boys, with a spread of ages in each. The needs of our boarding community are viewed as central to the overall development of the Academy.

Dollar currently has links, most involving exchanges, with schools in Germany, France, Spain, the United States, Australia, New Zealand, Uganda, Kenya and Taiwan; Florence was added in 2018. The linkage of language programmes with work experience continues to be developed.

The Governors have established a procedure for awarding means-tested bursaries, and continue to concentrate on increasing invested funds to support this. They have also allocated significant funding for staff development in recent years. Dollar also mounts its own in-service programmes in, for example, Guidance, IT, the Curriculum for Excellence, sports coaching and outdoor education, First Aid and a number of subject areas. Regular staff in-service days are built into the calendar. The Governors have set up Creativity Awards for staff projects, and these funds have enabled a number of new initiatives to be introduced to the curriculum.

The Parents' Association Committee meets regularly, liaising closely with the Academy. The Association is involved particularly with New Pupil events, Sports Weekend, departmental Open Evenings and a choir. In addition, the Thrift Shop, selling good quality items of uniform and staffed by parent volunteers, greatly benefits the school community: it provides significant extra funding for items such as equipment for Duke of Edinburgh's Award expeditions and football kit.

All aspects of Dollar Academy life are regularly evaluated: targets are set annually; and parents, staff, and Governors work closely together to ensure that the Academy's aims and achievements are clearly communicated to all involved in the wider world of Dollar. Above all, the Dollar experience, based securely on friendship, courtesy and respect for others, develops the right kind of self-assurance in our pupils.

## DEVELOPMENTS IN SESSION 2017 – 2018

### Teaching and Learning

#### School Improvement: “How Good is Our School?”

Following the audit of teaching and learning in 2016-2017, using the principles outlined in the Scottish Government's “How Good Is Our School?” version 4 (HGIOS?4), the academic departments have been focusing on five areas of particular interest this year. They comprise: pupil choice; tracking and monitoring of pupils' attainment, and use of statistical data; peer evaluation; cross-curricular literacy and numeracy; and lesson structure. This has involved every member of the teaching staff contributing to an analysis of current practice in these areas, with a view to identifying target areas for future development.

- The pass rate at Advanced Higher was 97%, with 55% at A grade. The ambition of Dollar pupils is evident from the fact that over 290 AH examinations were taken in total, a notable figure in the context of Scottish education. In Form V, results at Higher set a new record with a 98% pass, and 68% of passes at Grade A. 55 pupils achieved a clean sweep of five A grades at Higher – up from 32 last year - and a small number even exceeded this by adding an extra Higher taken out of timetabled classes. Pupils in Form IV sitting National 5 examinations matched almost exactly the exceptional results of last year with a pass rate of 98%, 74% of these at grade A.
- A pupil gained the highest mark in Scotland in the SQA Higher Mathematics exam, out of a total of 18,861 candidates; another pupil achieved the same in Higher Business Management, beating 9,115 others. A Form VI pupil was awarded the Beazley Prize, given for earning the highest result across all of the UK's History A-Level and Advanced Higher exam boards.
- 25 members of staff have this year undergone the Professional Update process of the General Teaching Council of Scotland, certifying their involvement in the developmental system that all members of the teaching staff are committed to. This system ensures that teachers have the best opportunities to share good practice and develop further classroom and wider educational skills.
- The development of a staff CPD library to facilitate professional learning and dialogue. This has been used to establish a Professional Learning Reading Group in which over thirty staff have participated.
- The continued development of lesson observation has led to the production of an 'observer reflection form' that is designed to enable observation to have a greater impact on evolving teaching skills.
- Further research into the tracking and monitoring of pupils' academic progress has taken place.
- There has been a focus on the points of transition over the age range 5 – 18, to include infant entry and senior leavers' departure; managing continuity, progression and the streamlining of communication at these points.
- Research into wider study / employment options for school leavers, such as degree apprenticeships.
- The collaboration of departments in cross-curricular activities.
- The involvement of members of staff in undertaking “Open Doors” activities; the application for Creativity Award funding; and undertaking activities contributing to the educational community beyond Dollar.
- An updating of National 5 courses following changes to unit assessments by the SQA.
- The continuation of the SQA Scottish Baccalaureate qualification in Form VI, supporting the development of research and project management skills that are critical in Higher education and the workplace.
- The record numbers in attendance at the Christmas Art and Design Show; the accompanying Fashion Show included Juniors along with Form VI Art School applicants. An additional Form II Exhibition for parents ran alongside an open Form VI Studio in January. A new Junior 2 - Form II Exhibition for parents ran at Open Days and Entrance Examination day.
- The Bicentenary *Dollar Creates* exhibition showcasing the work of eminent FPs from the Art and Design department in a variety of industries and Fine Art, initially shown at the MacRobert Theatre in tandem with the school musical.
- The annual Advanced Higher Statistical conference based in Dollar Academy, and the first national conference for the Scottish Association of Geography Teachers.
- The inspiration to Junior 2 pupils provided by the Junior Science Fair, in which 103 pupils were involved.
- Further funding for staff to develop creativity in the classroom, over and above the department budgets.
- In the Biology Olympiad, three Gold, five Silver and three Bronze medals were gained. In addition to this, nine pupils were Highly Commended and 18 were Commended.
- The Dollar team came third out of 24 in the regional final of the UKMT Team Mathematical Challenge. One pupil gained a Merit certificate in the invitational Intermediate Mathematical Olympiad.
- Mandarin studies continue to grow in popularity and success, and this year 23 and 20 candidates will be sitting SQA National 5 and Higher exams respectively, making Dollar one of the largest presentation centres in Scotland. FV desk-to-desk work experience has been established with our link school in Taiwan, in addition to our FIII school exchange trip. More pupils are sitting for HSK certification, with 30+ taking the qualification this year.
- Short taster modules in French, German and Spanish have been integrated into the normal classwork of pupils in Prep 4 and Prep 5.
- Our tradition of sending pupils on linguistic gap years continues. Well over 30 Dollar FPs have developed their language abilities over the past decade through similar projects. At the end of this session, a pupil plans to precede her University studies with a year working in Germany.
- The Geography Worldwide Quiz team reached the Scottish Finals of the competition.
- Two Junior 2 pupils won the French SALT poster competition, and seven Mandarin and German pupils got through to the Beginner and Intermediate Semi-finals in Edinburgh of the SCILT Word Wizard competition.
- Physics: a group of 20 Form II pupils visited the European Space Centre in Brussels.
- A representative from the Royal Institution delivered a science show for all Dollar Junior School pupils and P6 / P7 pupils from neighbouring schools; parents and local residents were also invited.

- The Creative Industries Day for Form I was repeated to promote creativity in Film, Architecture, Ceramics, Fashion and Photography with guest speakers and FPs – supporting curriculum developments in these areas.
- The Harry Bell Awards to support pupils wishing to undertake literary research and travel projects in the UK and internationally, including Namibia, Glencoe, Oxford, the Lakes and Sicily; the award of a Harry Bell Scholarship to the pupil whose subsequent work last year was adjudged outstanding.
- The ongoing development of links with local primary schools in Science. The Form VI Volunteering Module ran for the second time, in which Dollar pupils taught science and i-pad technology in two local primary schools as well as in our Prep School.
- There were six awards in the National Gallery of Scotland Art Competition, and four awards at the Royal Scottish Academy, highlighting success from the Prep School through to Form VI.
- Prestigious Art School places have been awarded to Form VI pupils, ranging from Edinburgh College of Art to Duncan of Jordanstone. A pupil has been awarded one of only four places awarded nationally at the Royal Conservatoire to study Theatre and Costume Design.
- Computing: 128 Form II and 34 Form III to V pupils completed the UK Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge. 28 of these pupils were placed in the top 10% nationally and qualified for the TCS Oxford Computing Challenge.

#### **Buildings / Facilities / Grounds**

- Improved lighting provision around the campus.
- The development of a new classroom in the Junior School complex, converting the old Sixth Form Centre.
- The planting and grassing of an area in front of the Gibson Auditorium.
- Repointing of the façade to the Playfair Building.

#### **Communications and Information Technology**

- The extension of remote access facilities to pupils, through the Firefly platform.
- The provision of further Wi-Fi facilities in appropriate areas of the school.
- The running of another “Dollar Unplugged” week in the Prep & Junior School, to encourage younger pupils to find enjoyment in widely varying activities that do not require electronic input or support.

#### **Staff – wider curricular contributions in Scottish education**

Members of staff have been involved a number of initiatives outwith Dollar, including:

- The work of examination boards (including the Scottish Qualification Authority) as external and internal assessment managers, team leaders, markers, moderators, visiting examiners, item writers and question paper reviewers, qualifications development specialists, and members of curricular development groups.
- The linkage of members of staff to educational organisations such as ASE, BSA, SALT, SCIS, HMC, SSERC, GTCS, Global Schools Partnerships and Education Scotland.
- The development and delivery of the Science Baccalaureate qualifications by Dollar staff, who have taken on national roles in their development, delivery and support.
- Staff involvement in the HMC UCAS group to provide further support for our pupils applying to Higher Education.
- The links between members of the Junior Science staff and local schools.
- The production of text books and other on-line and print materials, contributing to national resources.
- Organisation and coaching in sport at community, regional and national levels.
- Teacher training (in direct support and the organisation of work experience for students and new teachers); involvement in the development of a new form of teacher qualification through GTCS and UHI.
- The support offered to pupils of other schools in SQA examination preparation and university applications.
- The active membership of professional associations in disseminating good practice and innovation.
- The production of creative writing, reviews and criticism for subject-related publications.
- Contributions made to educational and academic conferences, both nationally and internationally.
- Involvement of staff in other activities supporting young people outside the Academy, including uniformed youth organisations, music workshops and Sunday School leadership.

#### **International and other links**

- Our linguistic visits, exchanges, “desk-to-desk” programmes and work experience initiatives with France, Germany and Spain were continued and developed. 25 pupils will be in Fellbach this summer for Work Experience or a conventional exchange visit. We are also looking forward to our third Form III exchange with Zhongping Junior Middle School, Taiwan, with Work Experience for older pupils included this time. Two new Spanish links have been set up: Toledo for younger pupils, and Majorca for older Hispanists, with work experience a feature of the latter.
- Over 80 exchange pupils and nine members of staff from different European and Taiwanese schools visited us during the course of the year.
- We have continued to welcome the linguistic support of Assistants from four European countries, and one from China. All five have been giving language lessons to adults in the local community, free-of-charge.
- As part of a two-year Erasmus project coordinated by Dollar staff, 15 teachers from five European schools were taught how to make digital books and “widgets” in Dollar. Three pupils from each school then spent a week in Spain being trained by the teachers and creating resources for use in textbooks and revision materials.
- In our US schools exchange programme, nine boys and girls from two different schools on the Eastern Seaboard are visiting Dollar for two weeks in June. It is planned to send a return trip of boys and girls to a school in Delaware for the third time in the autumn along with, for the eighth time, a group of girls to our partner school in Connecticut.
- A community-based project to support the work of a Romanian home for disadvantaged children, inaugurated in July 2016, will continue this summer, with 14 pupils returning to Romania to run an arts-based Summer Camp.

- Further trips and external events related to academic work have taken place: the Art & Design department went to London and Florence; the Biologists visited Costa Rica; the Geography department returned to Malham and Aberfeldy; the Physics department visited the Euro Space Centre in Belgium, and CERN in Geneva; there was a science trip to London; and the History & Modern Studies department were at the WWI battlefields in Belgium again, and Liverpool.
- 13 current pupils and former pupils have successfully applied for grants from the Cameron Travel Trust to support foreign and adventurous travel that has an interest in community development. Pupils will be travelling to places as diverse as Costa Rica, Cambodia, Ecuador, Vietnam, Fiji, Ghana, Madagascar, Sri Lanka, South Africa and Nepal.

### Access

- The wider provision of access for public use to appropriate school facilities, including sporting, cultural and social locations; the swimming pool has been used by outside organisations; pitches have been loaned for groups including Scotland rugby squads; a wide variety of local sporting groups have been using the Games Hall, Maguire Gym and pitches, and charities have been running fund-raising events in the Captain's Room, Library, Auditorium and Dining Hall.
- Continuing development of approaches to the uploading of departmental resources to shared areas on the school intranet, to allow greater ease of access to materials for remote teaching and learning: Firefly is now the medium through which homework is set for all pupils.

### Health & Safety

- Further emergency planning exercises to test Dollar's contingency procedures.
- The work done by the Health and Safety Working Group, representative of all areas of the school community, regularly meeting to consider matters of H & S interest.
- The advanced "Scotland's Healthy Living Award Plus" won by Dollar's Catering Manager and Head Chef for the ninth year running.

### Guidance

- The successful trial of a Form VI Peer Mentoring group to provide a further channel for pupils to seek appropriate support and guidance.
- The continuation of parent information evenings to discuss current pupil well-being issues.
- The further development of Dollar's Child Protection and Well-Being policies and practices, taking account of the direction given by HGIOS?4.
- The extension of parent information evenings to discuss current educational issues; broadening their outreach to the local community and to teachers from local schools.
- The introduction of a Mental Health working group; the training of members of staff in Mental Health First Aid.
- The monitoring, analysis and targeted intervention of academic-related anxiety.

### Boarding

- The introduction of regular Governors' visits to the boarding Houses.
- The introduction of GIRFEC-related discussions for every boarding pupil with senior management.
- The provision of further in-service training for all staff in Houses covering a range of interests, and the recruitment and induction of new members of staff at all levels.
- The encouragement of more inter-house activities at all age levels.

### Co-Curricular Achievements

- "Get Active" - the co-curricular fair at the start of session – to encourage pupils to try new activities.
- Internationalists: 170 current and former pupils are wearing the tie to signify their representation of their nations in a wide range of sports and activities.
- **Athletics:** A Form IV girl gained international team selection in hurdles, while a Form III girl achieved a silver medal in the 1500m at the Scottish Schools Indoor Championships. A Junior 2 4x100m relay team won bronze medals at the Scottish Primary Schools Relay Championship. A Junior 2 Girls Cross Country team won a team Gold and a Form I girls team achieved team bronze at the Scottish Schools Cross Country Championship. A Form III girl was placed No. 1 in the Scottish Schools rankings, and 5<sup>th</sup> overall in the UK. A number of Dollar pupils competed for Scotland in various disciplines in the UK School Games.
- **Ballroom Dancing:** 34 pupils took the dancing tests, and all passed, with most Highly Commended. One pupil received an Honours award in Rock 'n' Roll, the first Dollar pupil ever to pass at this level.
- **Badminton:** Dollar pupils gained a range of gold and silver medals in the Central Schools Tournament in Junior and Senior events, thus qualifying for the National finals. The 10 pupil Junior Badminton Quaich team had their best ever result, winning the Central Schools tournament, qualifying them for the National Final. In this event, they finished third, winning Bronze, their highest result ever. In individual Open Competitions, two Form I pupils won the Clackmannanshire Open Junior event and one Form VI pupil was runner-up in the Senior Category.
- **Burns:** a Junior School pupil won the annual competition with a recitation of "Tam O' Shanter"; there were 35 entrants. In the Senior School the annual Burns Supper filled the Dining Hall with the largest recorded audience of Form VI, Staff, Governors and guests.
- **Canoe (Slalom):** a Form IV girl competes for Scotland in the U16 team.
- **Charities:** a number of events have been organised over the session to raise money for eight local and national good causes, including SEAMAB, The Newman Holiday Trust, Children in Need and Play Alloo.. Over £2000 has been raised, and Charities week is projected to raise a further £2000 for Maggie's.
- **Chess:** Dollar won the Fife Schools' Chess Shield for the second year running.

- **Combined Cadet Force:** Cadets attended a wide variety of courses over the year, from dinghy sailing in Portsmouth, and rock climbing in Wales, to skiing in Bavaria. One cadet has been selected to represent the UK cadet force in the Royal Canadian Army Cadets exchange programme this summer. Two cadets attended the Latvia cadet exchange program in August for the first time. Our Military Skills Team won the 51 Brigade Military Skills Competition for a record eighth time.
- **Creative Writing:** a Form I pupil has reached the final of the BBC Radio 2 "500 Words" fiction competition.
- **Cricket:** Over 150 pupils attend cricket practices after school, with 40 pupils attending the weekly Prep 4 & 5 lunchtime club for boys and girls. Several players are involved in Forth Valley and Central district sides and winter training, and a Form III boy has been selected for the Scotland U15 and U17 training squads.
- **Cross Country:** well over 400 boys and girls took part in the annual school events in March. A 20 strong Junior 2 Boys team won gold and bronze at the Scottish Primary School championships, and three girls competed in the national U14 category.
- **Debating:** Dollar teams, both junior and senior, again competed in all the key national competitions. In house debating continues to thrive through weekly lunchtime debates.
- **The Duke of Edinburgh's Award:** the number of pupils involved remains high, with 127 pupils in Form III currently signed up for the Bronze Award (over 97% of the year group); 68 Form IV pupils signed up for Silver; and 45 Form V pupils signed up for Gold. A record number of Form VI pupils have completed their Gold Awards, with several more expected to complete by the end of session 2017-2018.
- **Equestrian:** a Form IV girl competed for Scotland at the U18 Eventing championships in England. Three pupils have been selected to compete in the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual NSEA inter-schools national championship Showjumping competition in England.
- **Equestrian Vaulting:** four senior school pupils are competing nationally and internationally; a Form V pupil competed for GB in the Austrian World Vaulting Championships, and was placed 19<sup>th</sup> in the world rankings.
- **First Aid:** in the annual Scottish competition, Dollar's A team gained first place, winning the Best CCF and Overall Cadet Scottish Champions; the B team came runners up; and the Young Adult team won their event. At the UK National Competition, the Cadet team won the CCF National Trophy, Inter-services Trophy and Combined Services Championship; this is only the second time the Cadet Team has completed a clean sweep of all Scottish and UK competitions.
- **Football:** The Senior Boys' football team finished fourth in their section in the SISFA Cup, narrowly failing to qualify for the quarter finals. The Senior Girls' team played their first challenge match this season against Alva Academy, emerging convincing victors by a score of 13-4.
- **Golf:** the first international golf tour to Dubai took place, and the team won the Scottish Schools Links Challenge. A Form III boy represented Scotland in the Independent Schools international match against England.
- **Gymnastics:** a primary level 2 team gained the top score for vaulting in the Scottish Primary Schools Gymnastics Competitions. A Form IV girl achieved bronze medals at the Scottish Secondary Schools Finals in the floor and overall placing. Three Secondary School teams in Level 1, 2 and 3 qualified for the national finals, having gained gold and two silver medals in the regional floor and vault competition. A Junior 2 boy competed for Scotland at the British Men's Championships, placed 9<sup>th</sup>, and achieving a personal best.
- **Hockey:** The 1st XI won all five major Scottish titles available: the Scottish Schools Cup, the Scottish Schools League, the Scottish Independent Boarding Schools cup, the UK Invitational Tournament and the Midland Knock-Out cup. The Form III side won the Midland District Tournament. 15 girls played for Midland district sides, ranging from U14 to U18. We have four girls in the current U18 Scotland squad and three in the U16 girls squad; there are three boys in the Scotland U16 squad.
- **Journalism:** *The Galley* team travelled to London to collect three prizes in the Shine School Media Awards. A Form II girl won the international *Young Reporters for the Environment* competition with her article "The Waste Food Crisis". The competition attracted entries from 34 countries.
- **Judo:** a Form V boy won the Under 81kg U18 title at the Scottish Judo Championships and is now the British champion, representing GB in European Judo competitions in Spain, Germany and Croatia; he has just been awarded his black belt. A Form II boy took gold at the British HMC Independent Schools' Judo tournament, and gold and bronze in the U16 Grand Prix in Newcastle.
- **Karate:** a Form III boy took part in the Belfast Open Championship. Another Form III boy took part in the European team Kumite competition, taking Bronze.
- **Music:** the annual Christmas Concert took place in Perth Concert Hall: an audience of 1,400 plus watched over 400 pupils from Prep, Junior and senior schools perform a range of items, including Rutter's *Brother Heinrich's Christmas*. Dollar has representatives in both the senior and junior National Youth Orchestras of Scotland and the National Youth Choir of Scotland. In addition, we have students attending the Junior Conservatoire of Scotland. One Form II pupil reached the final of the Rotary Young Musician Competition and one of our pupils won the U19 Accordion class at the National Mod, where a Form V boy also took all three U18 piping titles. Our Senior Wind Quartet won their class in the *Perform in Perth* Festival and there were many solo successes in this and the Fife Festival. A Form II girl won the Fife Young Musician of the Year Award. Dollar will stage a musical show at the Edinburgh Festival for the first time.
- **Polocrosse:** a number of pupils are competitive members of the Scotland team.
- **Pipe Band:** Dollar's A Band (*Juvenile*) won the Scottish CCF Pipes and Drums Competition in June 2017, (now 17 times in the last 18 years). Success followed in The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association (RSPBA) competitions, winning the Champion of Champions title for achieving 1<sup>st</sup> place in all five of the "Five Majors". Dollar was the only band, including adult bands, to produce this consistency of performance in 2017. The Dollar B Band (*Novice Juvenile A*) also became Champion of Champions for 2017 in their class. The other competing Dollar Band (*Novice Juvenile B*) were placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Scottish Schools Competition. In the 2017 Scottish Schools Quartet and Trio competition Dollar was placed 1<sup>st</sup> in both categories. A Form IV and a Form V pupil have enjoyed great success on the Solo Piping circuit, securing many first placings. They are no longer eligible to compete in age graded competitions and continue to enjoy success in the adult grade. Ten band members have again toured in Sri Lanka.

- **Politics & International Relations Society:** a number of key speakers have given lectures on topical political matters, including Sir Paul Grice, Chief Executive of the Scottish Parliament. A Form V pupil has been selected to represent Scotland as a youth member at the United Nations.
- **Quiz:** our Senior Team retained the Scottish "Interschools Challenge Quiz" championship, and were only prevented from contesting the UK finals by the bad weather in February/March 2018.
- **Rugby:** the 1st XV team were well represented at International level this year: one member of the side was selected for Scotland U18s and another two were selected for the Scotland U17 squad. Dollar's captain was named as captain for Scotland U19s and was also capped at U20 level, besides signing a 5 year contract with English Premiership side, Sale Sharks. Dollar competed at the Rosslyn Park National sevens for a third year; for the first time, the U14 side also competed, winning three of their four games. The U16 side was also well represented at International level, with four players selected for the Scotland U16 Blues, three of whom were also selected for the Scottish Rugby's Player Development Camp in Valladolid, Spain. A Form V girl has been selected for Scotland U18 and was also capped at U20 level.
- **Sailing:** A team of four Dollar Pupils won both the Scottish and British CCF Sailing Regattas for the first time ever. A Form III boy has competed for Scottish teams against UK competition in Topper classes.
- **Shooting:** the 18-strong Dollar team was placed fourth in the 2017 Ashburton Shield at Bisley, the UK Schools Championship, and retained the title as top Scottish school for the twentieth consecutive year. Five pupils were selected for a Home International Smallbore match, with Dollar producing six of the eight-man team that finished third in the Fullbore International Match. Three pupils were selected for the UK Cadet team and three pupils were selected for the Senior Scotland team against the Army and the Home Countries. A pupil will tour Canada in the summer as a member of The Athelings (British Cadet Rifle Team) and two pupils will tour the Channel Islands in August as members of the UK Cadet Rifle Team.
- **Skiing:** The Dollar Primary level team won the SSSA 2017 Autumn Dual Slalom Series finals at Snowfactor, retaining their title. The Dollar A and B Secondary teams came equal 4<sup>th</sup> in the senior event. Two Prep & Junior siblings won medals in the British Alpine Championships in Tignes. 122 pupils and staff travelled to the French Alps for the Easter Ski Tour, involving pupils from Forms I to VI.
- **Swimming:** Dollar pupils won the Central Schools Swimming trophy for best overall secondary school at the Central Region gala. Five pupils competed at the Scottish Schools Swimming championships; two of them won two gold and two silver medals.
- **Tennis:** we have arguably more girls playing tennis than any other school in Scotland, (over 260 regularly attending practices) and our results in inter-school fixtures continue to be exceptional. Numerous pupils have played at district level, with several competing nationally; advanced players train at Gleneagles all year round.
- **Tetrathlon:** six pupils competed at the national Tetrathlon Championships, after regional qualification.
- **Ten Pin Bowling:** a Form V boy is playing at U16 and U18 levels for Scotland.
- **Ultimate Frisbee:** the school team were runners-up at the indoor Scottish University beginner tournament, and the club undertook its first ever international tour, playing matches in Dublin against Gonzaga College and NUI Galway.
- **Volunteering:** the development of more opportunities for pupils to become involved in the local community.
- **Wake Boarding:** a Form I boy has become the first person in the world to play the bagpipes and wakesurf at the same time.

## FP Achievements this year

**Athletics: Michael Wright** (FP 2005) won the Stirling Marathon in a time of 2:29.19, which also won him the award for the 2018 Scottish Marathon Championships.

**Cricket: Kari Carswell** (FP 2000) has been inducted into the Scottish Women in Sport Hall of Fame.

**Curling: Jayne Stirling** (FP 2012) won the Scottish Mixed Doubles Curling championships, and will compete at the World Mixed doubles.

**Honours: Joanne Eccles** (FP 2006) received an MBE for services to Equestrian Vaulting, and has also been nominated for an FEI award (Fédération Équestre Internationale), the world governing body of equestrian sport.

**Honours: Sally Arnison** (FP 1990) received an MBE for services to healthcare and the community in Edinburgh in the New Year's Honours List.

**Rugby: John Barclay** (FP 2004) lifted the Calcutta Cup after captaining Scotland to victory over England. On the same weekend, **Ben McIlwraith** (FP 2017) played for the U19 side, captained by **Gus Warr** (Form VI).

**Shooting: Jen** (FP 2009) and **Seonaid McIntosh** (FP 2014) competed for Scotland at the 2018 Commonwealth Games, where Seonaid won Bronze in both the 50m rifle prone and 50m rifle three positions. **Victoria Walls** (FP 2016) received the University of Aberdeen Athlete of the Year award for her success in shooting.

**Triathlon: Susan Nisbet** (FP 1991) has qualified for the GB Age Group team in triathlon and will be competing in the European Standard Distance triathlon in Estonia in July 2018.

## FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

As Dollar reaches its Bicentenary – coinciding with being named *The Sunday Times Scottish Independent Secondary School of the Year 2018* – we are naturally reflective about our current position, and the way forward from here. Over the course of the next few years, further developments are planned. Clearly, priorities will change, but the major aims at present are:

### Learning and Teaching

- A review of the Dollar curriculum and its structure, to consider alternative / additional learning pathways and options to accompany SQA courses, in order to prepare pupils better for life beyond school.
- The implementation of a selection of directions derived from the HGIOS?4 school improvement analysis.
- Further research into the tracking and monitoring of pupils' academic progress, including the merits of WCBS "Hub"; the trial of systems to aid the targeted development of individual strengths in learning.
- A continuing focus on the points of transition over the age range 5 – 18, to include infant entry and senior leavers' departure; managing continuity, progression and the streamlining of communication at these points.
- The examination of ways in which pupil views about their education might best be used, including the use of the Scottish Government's pupil-centred "How Good is **Our** School?" evaluation document ("Wee HGIOS").
- The use of insights gained from the formalised lesson observation system to initiate further school-wide debate on effective teaching strategies.
- The hosting of a national educational event (*researchED Scotland*) open to all Scottish educators, as part of a whole-school move to developing a research-literate culture in learning and teaching.
- A first group of staff will undertake the Responsive Teaching diploma with the Education Fellowship Scotland. This will help to establish a research group to improve the dissemination of literature and best practice for teaching.
- The encouragement of all members of staff to consider applying for Creativity Award funding; and to undertake activities contributing to the educational community beyond Dollar.
- An updating of Higher courses following changes to unit assessments by the SQA.

### Guidance

- The development of an online tracking and monitoring module for pupil 'wellbeing'.
- The further development of the Peer Mentoring Programme, to provide support for pupils across the year groups.
- The consolidation of Dollar's Child Protection and Well-Being policies and practices, taking account of the direction given by HGIOS?4
- A review of the role of the Form Tutor.

### Co-curricular

- The provision of new club activities in line with pupil and staff skills and interests.
- Projected new overseas trips, including visits to China and Hong Kong, Malaysia, India, Vietnam and Canada.

### Health & Safety

- Further emergency planning exercises to test Dollar's contingency procedures, including lockdown scenarios.
- A campus security review.
- The creation of a staff guide for Health and Wellbeing.
- Improvements to the traffic flow and parking within the school grounds.

### Communications and Information Technology

- Development of the use of MS Office 365 to support teaching and learning.
- The use of the IT Strategy group to pilot staff use of portable devices in classrooms.
- An upgrade of classroom facilities, including projectors and touchscreen monitors.
- The upgrade of presentation facilities in the Assembly Hall and Captain's Room.
- Development of a new school website.
- A review of the educational and more general impact of the school's digital media communications strategy.

### Buildings / Facilities / Grounds / The Environment

- The refurbishment and development of the Playfair Building including: re-placement and re-modelling of the roof area; replacement of leadwork; redevelopment across the third floor to provide new facilities and rooming.
- The development of the area bounded by the Playfair, Dewar, Younger and Gibson Buildings to provide new social and educational outdoor spaces.
- The next phase of the campus lighting.
- The restoration of Academy Place.

### Access

- The use of the Bicentenary as an opportunity to increase levels of bursary funding to widen access to the school.

## REVIEW PROCEDURES

1. By means of Departmental Reviews, each department in the senior school, together with the Prep and Junior School, is carefully monitored on an annual basis. The Review provides the opportunity for targets to be set in each Department, and these provide the aims for the following session. The Departmental Targets are collated in a single document. Each member of staff takes part in the process of PRD review, now developed in line with GTCS Professional Update requirements. A parallel process occurs in the review of Heads of Year, the boarding Houseparents, the School Office staff, the Library and the medical staff.
2. Academic results are reviewed on an annual basis.
3. By means of regular, focused meetings, with tasks specified in each, the major standing committees in the Academy are expected not only to discuss topics, but to ensure that action is taken. Thus, Senior Staff Group, Heads of Department, Heads of Year, Houseparents, Departmental and Whole Staff Meetings have task-based minutes. Short-term working groups are set up as required (as, for example, the Staff Review Update Group). Monitoring is thus more straightforward over the course of each session, and forms the basis of each year's Development Plan.
4. Every year the Deputy Rector monitors the range and scope of Dollar Academy's co-curricular provision. A handbook describing the nature and patterns of each activity on offer is provided for every pupil and parent.
5. Budgeting in departments is subject to careful scrutiny and planning by means of liaison with Heads of Department, the Deputy Rector and the Bursariat.
6. Departmental handbooks are continually revised, as are the departmental leaflets. Full information about Dollar's curriculum is available on the Academy website [www.dollaracademy.org](http://www.dollaracademy.org)

In every area of the Academy, curricular, pastoral and bursarial, there are descriptive position statements available. The aims of Dollar Academy are clearly set out in the school prospectus, and are also published in French, in German, in Polish and in Spanish on the school website, where they appear within the content of resources we provide for international applicants, alongside videos recorded in a variety of languages.

The distinctive Dollar ethos is captured, to as great an extent as possible, in the words and images there.

There are twelve essential guides to Dollar: *Information for Pupils, Information for New Pupils, Information for Form I Pupils, Information for Form VI Pupils, Information for Parents, Information for Staff, Information for Tutors, Information on Co-Curricular Activities, Information on Trips and Tours, Wellbeing and Child Protection Guidelines, the Behaviour and Disciplinary Policy* and the *Health and Safety Manual*. These guides are all updated on an annual basis and give full and readily accessible information to everyone who is involved either in the day-to-day running of the Academy, or in applying for entrance. They include school guidelines and statements on policy in all areas. The Rector issues a number of on-line newsletters each year, with up-to-date information and guidance on specific school issues.

The importance of the linkages of Governors, Staff, Former Pupils and Parents is recognised in the Academy, and much work goes into ensuring the continuing closeness of these connections. Parents are welcome to contact the Academy on any matters involving their sons' and daughters' education. Thus, ultimately, each new generation of Dollar pupils has the opportunity to benefit from a secure, committed environment where the needs and the enthusiasms of the pupils themselves are seen as paramount.

Reports on Dollar are available online at [www.hmie.gov.uk](http://www.hmie.gov.uk) and [www.careinspectorate.com](http://www.careinspectorate.com)

- HMIE Independent School Inspection, 22 February 2005
- HMIE / Care Commission Joint Inspection of School Care Accommodation Services, 9 May 2006
- Care Commission unannounced Inspection of School Care Accommodation Services, 20 March 2007
- Care Commission announced Inspection of School Care Accommodation Services, 22 January 2008
- Care Commission unannounced Inspection of School Care Accommodation Services, 17 March 2008
- Care Commission announced Inspection of School Care Accommodation Services, 7 November 2008
- Care Commission unannounced Inspection of School Care Accommodation Services, 12 March 2009
- Care Commission unannounced Inspection of School Care Accommodation Services, 10 December 2010
- Education Scotland, Quality Improvement through Professional Engagement visit, 28 August 2012
- Care Inspectorate unannounced Inspection of School Care Accommodation Services, 9 January 2014
- Care Inspectorate unannounced Inspection of School Care Accommodation Services, 11 January 2017

and at the Education Scotland website: [www.educationscotland.org.uk/scottishschoolsonline/schools](http://www.educationscotland.org.uk/scottishschoolsonline/schools)



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