



DOLLAR
ACADEMY

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

2019 – 2020

Rector: Ian H Munro, BSc, MEd, FRSB

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, with a second one added in 2018. 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, and road and garden development in 2018/19, restoring original features.

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.

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 as part of this service after a pupil has left Dollar, if required.

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 provide 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, newly established sports and the boarding Houses.

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 2018 - 2019

Dollar 1818/19 - 2018/19: Bicentenary

Dollar celebrated its two hundred years with a varied programme of special activity, including:

- A Bicentenary Historical exhibition in the Library Corridor
- The commissioning of further research into links between the school's founder and the C18th slave trade
- Sports Weekend with 200 Pipers & Drummers, Prep 1 to Form VI events and a Family Fun Day
- "Dollar Creates" – an exhibition of past and present Dollar artists' work; a Prep School Art exhibition
- "13" – a musical performed by Form III at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe
- A Festival of Rugby and Hockey for all year groups and invited schools
- A whole school Sponsored Walk, with 50th anniversary FPs included, raising over £62,000
- The 1000 ceramic poppies (made by staff and pupils) installation at the school War Memorial
- Two whole school outdoors Assemblies, for Founder's Day and for Remembrance
- Services of Thanksgiving in St Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh, with newly commissioned works of music and poetry
- The whole school day of 1819 lessons, assemblies and activities in costume and in character
- The first combined Prep & Junior School musical produced in the Assembly Hall
- The launch of Bicentenary fundraising for more bursaries to widen access to the school

Learning and Teaching

- This year the pass rate at Advanced Higher rose to 98%, with 63% at A grade. The ambition of Dollar pupils continues to be evident from the fact that over 300 AH examinations were taken in total, a notable figure in the context of Scottish education and an increase on last year. In Form V, results at Higher equalled the previous year's record with a 98% pass rate, and 63% of these passes at Grade A. 45 pupils achieved a clean sweep of five A grades at Higher, whilst six pupils went one step further, achieving six A grades. Pupils in Form IV sitting National 5 examinations surpassed the feats of previous years, achieving a remarkable 99% pass rate, 77% of these at grade A.
- A pupil gained 100% in the Higher Mathematics final exam and came first equal in the Higher Physics exam. For the latter she won the Institute of Physics Excellence in Physics Student Award. Another pupil gained the highest score in AH Chemistry in Scotland. Four pupils were awarded 100% in Advanced Higher Art & Design.
- 21 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 to which all members of the teaching staff are committed. This system ensures that teachers have the best opportunities to share good practice and develop further classroom and wider educational skills.
- The introduction of six professional learning strands for staff to follow over the course of the year, covering assessment, cognitive psychology, leadership, mental health, e-learning and coaching.
- 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 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. 260 attended from across Scotland.
- Three members of staff completed the Responsive Teaching diploma from the Education Fellowship Scotland, thus adding to the school's research into best practice in learning and teaching (alongside Practitioner Enquiry).
- 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.
- The trial of a timetable shift in Form IV into Higher classes in Term 3, after the end of the SQA exams.
- The full FI to FVI Mandarin curriculum has been established this year, with nine pupils sitting Advanced Higher, making Dollar the largest AH presentation centre in Scotland. Three FVI leavers will be heading to mainland China/Taiwan in September to take a linguistic gap year. Following last year's success, two FV pupils will be doing desk-to-desk work experience with our exchange school in June. 23 pupils sat HSK level 1 - 4 exam certifications.
- Development of the tracking and monitoring system of pupils' academic progress has taken place, using MIDYiS and CAT 4 testing.
- The collaboration of departments in cross-curricular activities.
- The involvement of members of staff in undertaking "Open Doors" activities, and undertaking activities contributing to the educational community beyond Dollar, including local schools.
- The extension of the SQA Scottish Baccalaureate qualification into the Arts, 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 Prep School Exhibition for parents was mounted.

- The annual Advanced Higher Statistical conference based in Dollar Academy, and the second national conference for the Scottish Association of Geography Teachers.
- The inspiration to Junior 2 pupils provided by the Junior Science Fair, in which 100 pupils were involved.
- In the Royal Society of Biology: Biology Challenge four Silver and twelve Bronze medals were gained. In addition to this, 17 pupils were Highly Commended and 13 were Commended.
- Four FVI pupils achieved a Gold CREST award in the sciences this session.
- 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.
- 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.
- A group of 20 Form II Physics pupils visited the European Space Centre in Brussels.
- 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 Dublin, Paris, Nigeria, the Amalfi coast, Moscow, York, Barcelona and the Outer Hebrides; 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. This saw Dollar pupils teach science and i-pad technology in three local primary schools as well as in our Prep School.
- There were three 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.
- The Junior Enterprise Club raised a total of £1690 in the Micro Tyco competition, while the Dollar shares4school team won their regional competition and attended the winners' event in London.
- Two senior pupils were selected as members of the Scottish delegation to the European Parliament for the Euroscola convention.
- Prestigious Art School places have been awarded to Form VI pupils, including Edinburgh College of Art, Dundee, Manchester and Abertay.
- Computing: 176 pupils, including all of Form II, completed the UK Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge. 16% of these pupils were placed in the top 10% nationally and qualified for the TCS Oxford Computing Challenge (TCSOCC). 22% of the participants in the TCSOCC earned a merit and another 22% earned a distinction.
- Photography: two pupils were selected from over 2300 SQA Higher Photography submissions to exhibit in the 'Higher Vision' exhibition in the main hall of the Scottish Parliament.

Guidance

- The development of an online tracking and monitoring module for pupil Well-Being.
- The establishment of a pupil focus group to consider policy on mobile phone usage, complementing the work of Pupil Councils and establishing a new model for 'pupil voice'.
- 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.
- 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 and the training of members of staff in Mental Health First Aid.
- The monitoring, analysis and targeted intervention of academic-related anxiety.
- The audit of Dollar's Child Protection and Safeguarding procedures by the NSPCC.

Co-curricular

- The extension of the SOCS on-line system to the co-curricular programme, to improve the communication, management and understanding of our provision in this area.
- The provision of new club activities in line with pupil and staff skills and interests.
- New overseas trips, including visits to China, Dubai and Vietnam.

Health & Safety

- The completion of a campus security review.
- Improvements to the traffic flow and parking within the school grounds.
- 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 tenth year running. Dollar is now also a member of the Scotch Beef Club.

Communications and Information Technology

- Development of a new school website.
- The use of the IT Strategy group to pilot staff use of portable devices in classrooms.
- Development of the use of MS Office 365 to support teaching and learning.
- An upgrade of classroom facilities, including projectors and touchscreen monitors.
- The upgrade of presentation facilities in the Assembly Hall and Captain's Room.
- The continued work of the a team of staff and pupils on the two year Erasmus+ PUBLiSH project which focuses on the development and use of "digibooks" in schools.

Buildings / Facilities / Grounds / The Environment

- The addition of a second artificial hockey and tennis playing surface beside the Prep School.
- The replacement of leadwork in the Playfair Building.
- Further development of the area bounded by the Playfair, Dewar, Younger and Gibson Buildings.
- The next phase of the campus lighting upgrade.
- The continuing restoration of Academy Place.

Boarding

- The 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 link with the UK's Lawn Tennis Association leading to the recruitment of a number of elite tennis players to Dollar's boarding Houses.

Access

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

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, researchEd, Global Schools Partnerships and Education Scotland.
- Contribution to the Science Baccalaureate by Dollar staff, who have taken on national roles in the development, delivery and support of this qualification.
- Staff involvement in the HMC UCAS group to provide further support for 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 international 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 involvement of staff members in study for further qualifications in education (eg MEd and Fellowships.)
- 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, charity work, legal and social services and arts-based workshops.

International and other links

- Our linguistic visits, exchanges and work experience initiatives with France, Germany and Spain continue and develop. 18 pupils will be in Fellbach this summer for work experience or a conventional exchange visit. 37 pupils from Junior 2 and Form I along with 2 senior pupils went to Ulmen - the 27th visit. 18 pupils went to Clères this year, the 17th year of this trip. 10 Form III pupils took part in the French Exchange with the Centre International de Valbonne in May/June. We are also looking forward to our fourth Form III exchange with Zhongping Junior Middle School, Taiwan. Two new Spanish links made very successful exchange visits to Toledo and Majorca.
- The Erasmus+ project continues to involve our pupils with other young people from continental Europe in the development of IT-based resources.
- Two Form V pupils will undertake work experience in Taiwan in the summer, and three Form VI leavers visit mainland China/Taiwan for gap years. The Form VI leavers will continue their linguistic studies in a Chinese-speaking university and work as teaching assistants in a local primary/secondary school.
- We have continued to welcome the linguistic support of Assistants from four European countries. Language lessons to adults in the local community continue to be well attended, free of charge.
- A community-based project to support the work of a Romanian home for disadvantaged children will run for the fourth time this summer, with 14 pupils travelling 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, and visited Japan; the Classics department ran a new trip to Greece; there was an ERASMUS+ project visit to Rovigo in Italy; and the History & Modern Studies department went to Vietnam for the first time.
- Current 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 travel to places as diverse as Costa Rica, Cambodia, Ecuador, Vietnam, Fiji, Ghana, Madagascar, Sri Lanka, South Africa and Nepal.

Co-Curricular Achievements

- “Get Active” - the co-curricular fair at the start of session – to encourage pupils to try new activities.
- Internationalists: 180 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 V boy took bronze in the Scottish Schools' Indoor Championships Triple Jump and a Form IV girl won bronze in the 800m. The same Form IV girl represented Scotland in an International Cross Country Championship competition, winning a team silver medal. A Form II girls team was placed 4th in the Scottish Schools' Cross Country Championships. A Junior I boys team won a team bronze and a Junior II girls team also won a team bronze at The Scottish Schools' Primary Cross Country Championships. A Form II girl won gold at the Scottish Clubs U/15 Pentathlon Championships.
- **Badminton:** Dollar pupils gained a range of gold and silver medals in both the Central Schools qualifying event and the Central Schools final in Junior, Intermediate and Senior events; four pupils in the Junior category subsequently qualified for the national finals in Perth. In individual Open Competitions, two Form III pupils were competing finalists in the Clackmannanshire Open Event. A Form II boy won the Junior singles category. Two members of staff successfully completed their Level One Coaching certificates.
- **Ballroom Dancing:** 34 pupils worked their way through various levels of the Amateur Scottish Ballroom Dancing Awards. 28 pupils were examined, all of whom passed, many of them in the Highly Commended category.
- **Burns:** a Junior School pupil won the annual competition with a performance of “*Ae Fond Kiss*”; there were 190 entrants. In the Senior School the annual Burns Supper took place in the Dining Hall and saw over 170 pupils, teachers, Governors and guests enjoy a wide selection of speeches, songs and recitations.
- **Canoe (Slalom):** a Form V girl will compete for the Scotland U18 team in Krakow in summer 2019; she has been promoted to the UK Premier division in K1W canoe slalom.
- **Charities:** a number of events have been organised over the session. The most notable was the autumn Sponsored Walk that raised £62,500; it included some of the FPs who inaugurated the first Dollar walk 50 years earlier. Other events were organised throughout the year and many other charities have benefited such as Age Scotland, Make a Wish, Mary's Meals and Clic Sargent, raising a total of £66,100 during this session.]
- **Chess:** a Prep 5 pupil won the 2018 UK Delancey Chess Challenge – the world’s largest children’s chess event; he was placed 41 out of 68 in the UK at U9 level.
- **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. Two cadets have been selected to represent the UK cadet force in the Royal Canadian Army Cadets exchange programme this summer. Our Military Skills Team won the 51 Brigade Military Skills Competition for a record ninth time; a younger team also achieved first place at a national competition hosted by Welbeck Defence Sixth Form College.
- **Creative Writing:** in the first year of the Dollar Burns Club-sponsored writing competition, there were entries from over 120 pupils, responding to the theme of “Scotland”.
- **Cookery:** a member of staff was placed in the final three of BBC’s *Masterchef 2019*.
- **Cricket:** the School 1st XI won the Independent Schools 20/20 final in summer 2018 and the School U15 side won both the Glenalmond 6’s competition and the Scottish Schools U15 cup. A Form IV boy gained five caps for the Scotland U17s and 11 for the U15s; a Form III boy joined him in the U15s. The first winter training trip to Spain for Form I players took place.
- **Cross Country:** a record entry of 573 boys and girls took part in the annual school events in March. In the SSAA Senior Schools Cross Country Championships both the Girls’ and the Boys’ U14 teams won bronze.
- **Dance:** a Form IV pupil competed for Scotland at the Dance World Cup in Spain.
- **Debating:** Dollar teams, both junior and senior, again competed in all the key national competitions, the junior team reaching the finals of the ESU competition. In-house debating continues to thrive through weekly lunchtime debates.
- **Dog Shows:** a Form III pupil competed at Crufts 2019.
- **The Duke of Edinburgh’s Award:** the number of pupils involved remains high, with 140 pupils in Form III signed up for the Bronze Award (over 93% of the year group); 64 Form IV pupils signed up for Silver; and 46 Form V pupils signed up for Gold. A record number of Form VI pupils have completed their Gold Awards, with 33 Leavers presented with their Award badges at Prize-Giving in June 2018. 42 Pupils & FPs were invited to Holyrood Palace for the July 2019 Gold Award Presentations.
- **Equestrian:** A Form III pupil represented Scotland in Tetrathlon at the Royal Windsor Horse Show, while two others represented Scotland at the Junior International Tetrathlon in Warwickshire. A Form VI pupil is representing Scotland at the Senior International Triathlon in Kelso in August. Dollar was also represented at the National U18 championships.
- **Equestrian Vaulting:** a number of pupils and FPs are competing at GB level in this discipline, including competitions in Slovakia and Hungary.
- **First Aid:** in the annual Scottish competition, Dollar’s A team gained first place, winning the Best CCF and Overall Cadet Scottish Championship; 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 the third time the Cadet Team has completed a clean sweep of all Scottish and UK competitions.
- **Fencing:** two pupils (Form II and J2) were selected to represent Scotland at the Challenge Wratistavia Fencing Tournament in Poland earlier this year. A J1 pupil is Boys U11 Foil Series Scottish Champion. Three pupils gained a total of four Bronzes at the Youth Development Scotland Series.
- **Football:** the senior boys’ team reached the semi-finals of the SISFA Cup for the second time in three seasons.
- **Golf:** a Form III boy represented Scotland in the Independent Schools international match against England; a school team (Forms I – V) toured Canada for the first time.

- **Gymnastics:** a Primary Level 4 team won the National Qualifier in the Scottish Primary Schools Gymnastics Competition; one of the team won individual gold. The Primary Level 4 team thereafter gained fourth place at the national finals. Four Primary teams in the Level 1,2,3 qualified for the national finals, having gained team gold and silvers in the regional floor and vault competition. Four secondary school teams qualified for the Level 1, 2, 3 and 4, having gained team golds in the regional floor and vault competition.
- **Highland Dancing:** taster sessions have been running in the Prep School, with a view to establishing a new activity and a competitive team to perform alongside the Pipe Band. A Form V pupil represented Scotland in the Canadian Highland Dancing Open championships, achieving a collection of silver and bronze awards.
- **Hockey:** the 1st XI are Scottish Champions and Scottish League winners for the second consecutive year. Form III reached the semi-final of the Scottish Cup, and won the Midland District outdoor tournament. We have one girl in the Scotland U16 squad, four in the Scotland U18 squad, and one in the Scotland U21 squad. 14 girls represented the school for Midlands District ranging from U14 to U18, with two boys in the U14 team. A number of boys also play international hockey: two in the Scotland U16 squad and one in the U18 squad. An U16 national squad player was nominated for Scotland Player of the Year. A tour to Malaysia took place.
- **Judo:** a Form VI pupil remains the British champion at 81kg U18 level, representing GB in European Judo competitions; a Form III pupil will compete at the British Judo championships in Sheffield later this year.
- **Karate:** a Form IV boy travelled to Japan with the Scotland Shotokan karate squad.
- **Kayaking:** a Form I girl was selected to represent Scotland at the Pan Celtic Slalom race.
- **Mountain Biking:** a Form II boy has qualified to enter the UCI Mountain Bike World Cup in the summer of 2019.
- **Music:** Edinburgh's Usher Hall was again the venue for the annual Christmas Concert, with an audience of 1600 enjoying music by Bernstein and Prokofiev and extracts from Handel's *Messiah* from 300+ pupils. Choirs from all age ranges were heavily involved in the Bicentenary Service of Thanksgiving in St Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh, performing Handel's *Zadok the Priest* and *Hallelujah Chorus* and a new commissioned work from Euan Stevenson (FP). More than 30 pupils participated in the school's own Young Musician of the Year Competition. This year's senior school musical returned to the Alhambra Theatre, Dunfermline for *Chicago*, while the Prep and Junior schools joined for a performance of *Joseph and his Technicolour Dreamcoat*. A Parents and Friends Choir has been formed and gave its first performance at Sports Weekend. Two girls performed with musicians from all over Scotland in the inaugural concert of the Scottish Clarinet Choir. A Form III pupil was runner-up in the Scottish Rotary International Young Musician of the Year Final. A number of pupils have been selected for Scottish national musical ensembles.
- **Netball:** the Senior Girls' team played its first ever competitive fixture, against Robert Gordon's College.
- **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 2018, hosted at Dollar (now 18 times in the last 19 years). Success followed in the RSPBA competitions, winning the Champion of Champions title for achieving 1st place in four out of the five "Majors". The Dollar B Band (*Novice Juvenile A*) also became Champion of Champions for 2018 in their class, achieving 1st place in all five of the "Five Majors". Dollar was the only band, including adult bands, to produce this consistency of performance in 2018. The other competing Dollar Band (*Novice Juvenile B*) was placed 3rd in the Scottish Schools Competition. In the 2018 Scottish Schools Quartet and Trio competition Dollar was 1st in both categories. A Form IV, a Form V and a Form VI pupil have enjoyed great success on the Solo Piping circuit, securing many first placings. The Pipe Band travelled to Basel in Switzerland to participate in their Christmas Tattoo. Success followed at the Scottish Schools Indoor Competition where first place was secured performing our newly commissioned Bicentenary piece, "Dollar Sunrise".
- **Politics & International Relations Society:** a number of key speakers have given lectures on topical political matters, including Martin Geissler from BBC Scotland; Luke Graham, the MP for Ochil and South Perthshire; and the broadcaster and journalist Gordon Smart.
- **Quiz:** the Junior and Senior Teams reached the final of their respective Scottish Interschools Challenge Quiz tournaments.
- **Rugby:** the 1st XV team were well represented at international level this year: four players were selected for Scotland U17s. Dollar competed at the Rosslyn Park National sevens for a third year with a total of three teams; for the first time, the U13 side also competed. The U16 side was also well represented at international level, with three players selected for the Scotland U16 Blues, one of whom was also selected for the Scottish Rugby's Player Development Camp in Spain. A Form VI girl has been selected for Scotland U18 and was also capped at U20 level. Last year's captain was capped by England at U20, and another FP was capped for Scotland U20. Dollar's Form I rugby players were selected to represent Scotland at the international rugby tournament in Japan. A tour to South Africa took place.
- **Sailing:** Form VI pupils won the Scottish CCF Sailing Regatta for the 2nd year running and a Form IV boy represented Scotland in the Topper class.
- **Shooting:** the 18-strong Dollar team was placed fourth in the 2018 Ashburton Shield at Bisley, the UK Schools Championship, and retained the title as top Scottish school for the twenty-first 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. Two pupils and a member of staff plus a non-travelling reserve will form part of the team that will tour Canada in the summer as members of The Athelings (British Cadet Rifle Team).
- **Skiing:** 105 pupils attended the biennial ski trip to Les Menuires. The Dollar Academy senior team came runner up in the 2018 Autumn Dual Slalom Series finals at Snowfactor in the S1-S3 age group in November. The senior girls team finished 7th overall in the UK Schools Dryslope Championships slalom held at Hillend in November; the boys team finished 11th. The Dollar Primary level team won the SSSA 2018 Autumn Dual Slalom Series finals at Snowfactor, retaining their title for the third year running. A J1 boy won the U12 Boys event at the Scottish Championships.
- **Swimming:** Dollar pupils won the Central Schools Swimming trophy for best overall secondary school at the Central Region gala; several then competed at the Scottish Schools Championships, performing with distinction. A Form IV pupil won two silvers for Scotland at the National Para-Swimming Championships. A Form I pupil is currently the youngest Judge 1 Technical Official in the UK, and officiated at the Scottish National Age Group Championships.

- **Squash:** a Form I boy represented the Central Scotland U13s at the Inter Regional competition, winning silver; a Form II boy competed in the Scottish U15s Championships.
- **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.
- **Ten Pin Bowling:** a Form VI boy is playing at U20 level for Scotland.
- **Ultimate Frisbee:** the school team made the quarter-finals of the indoor Scottish University beginners tournament and also competed for the first time ever at the UK U20 Indoor National Championships in Wolverhampton.
- **Volunteering:** more opportunities for pupils to become involved in the local community have been sought, including work in the local Museum, fund-raising and helping at the community Gala Day and Fireworks display.
- **Wakeboarding:** a Form II pupil was placed third at the Foxlake Wakeboarding Junior Open competition.
- **Water Polo:** two senior pupils were in the Caledonia U19 team that won the ASA Championship, the first Scottish club to achieve this.

FP Achievements this year:

Academic: **Lorna Milne** (FP 1977) has been appointed Master and Deputy Principal of St Andrews University.

Athletics: **Michael Wright** (FP 2005) retained the Stirling Marathon title in a time of 2:29.32, which also won him the award for the 2019 Scottish Marathon Championships once again.

Military: **Lt Col Graham Sefton** (FP 1995) has assumed command of the Black Watch, 3rd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland, following his deployment as Military Assistant to NATO's Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe.

Music: **Fergus McCreadie** (FP 2015), jazz pianist, won the Best Instrumentalist Award at the Scottish Jazz Awards, following the release of his first album, *Turas*. He has been nominated for two further awards – Best Band and Best Album in 2019.

Public Service: **Gill Imery** (née Gow, FP 1983) was appointed HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary in Scotland. **Steven Mackison** (FP 1978) has been appointed as the Lord Lieutenant of Aberdeenshire.

Rugby: **Gus Warr** (FP 2018) played for England U20s, while **Grant Hughes** and **Ewan McLaren** (both FP 2017) were capped for Scotland U20s.

Shooting: **Seonaid McIntosh** (FP 2013) won the 50m rifle (Prone) event at the World Shooting Championships in South Korea, representing Great Britain; this was in addition to her winning team bronze.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

As Dollar moves beyond its Bicentenary, we are naturally reflective about 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.
- Extension of the Scottish Baccalaureate to include an Art & Design-based programme.
- 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 development of further pupil focus groups.
- 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.
- The hosting again of the *researchED* 2019 conference at Dollar, with more speakers expected to attend from across the UK.
- The development of the staff professional learning strands to include Support for Learning. Strands will be enhanced by leadership from teams of staff who have particular interest and expertise in these areas.
- The development of the Dollar curriculum to include: the introduction of a range of eight new PSE units in Form IV; Advanced Higher Music Technology; A Level in Product Design; National 5 Applications in Mathematics; and a unit in Form I PSE dealing with gambling.

Guidance

- The training of more staff in Mental Health First Aid to add to the numbers already qualified.
- The training of 12 pupil Mental Health Ambassadors to be in place for the next academic session; the recruitment of a similar group of digital ambassadors over the course of the next academic session.
- The consolidation of Dollar's Child Protection and Well-Being policies and practices, taking account of the direction given by HGIOS?4

Health & Safety

- New security features on campus: the replacement of wall railings; the development of the main gate access and the provision of central locking doors to school buildings.
- Further emergency planning exercises to test Dollar's contingency procedures, including lockdown scenarios.
- The creation of a staff guide for Health and Wellbeing.
- Improvements to the traffic flow and parking within the school grounds.

Co-curricular

- The completion of the application of the SOCS on-line system to the co-curricular programme, to improve the communication, management and access to our provision.
- The provision of new club activities in line with pupil and staff skills and interests.
- In our US schools exchange programme the planning to send a group of Dollar pupils to the Tower Hill School in Delaware for two weeks in October 2019, with reciprocal arrangements in 2020.

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.

Buildings / Facilities / Grounds / The Environment

- The refurbishment and development of the Playfair Building including: re-placement and re-modelling of the roof area; redevelopment across the third floor to provide new facilities and rooming.
- The further 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 development scheme.
- The conclusion of the restoration of Academy Place.
- New road surfacing around the campus.

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. 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

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 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 and 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



Dollar Academy
Dollar
FK14 7DU

Telephone (01259) 742511
Fax (01259) 742867
e-mail: rector@dollaracademy.org.uk
Website: www.dollaracademy.org.uk