Boarding at

# DOLLAR ACADEMY

*Ian and Catherine Munro (and Darwin!)*

# Welcome to Dollar

Our boarding community is at the very core of Dollar Academy, and it has been for over two hundred years. We are rightly proud to be the world's oldest co-educational day and boarding school, and we like to think that we have learnt more than a thing or two about looking after our boarders over the years. As such, boarding at Dollar Academy looks and feels different to many other schools.

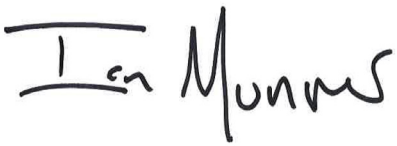
As you will see from this prospectus, our boarders live in period houses that balance traditional charm with modern comfort and style, providing welcoming bedrooms, stimulating work spaces and contemporary social rooms. Moreover, our Houses are run by Houseparents who absolutely view the young people in their care as an extension of their own family. They keep a close watchful eye over the academic and pastoral development of every pupil in their House, supported by Assistant Houseparents, House Tutors and a team of pastoral specialists.

Our Houses are home to boys and girls aged 10 to 18, with juniors and seniors mixing together, this again adding to the family atmosphere. With hundreds of day pupils living in Dollar itself, our boarders also make strong friendships outwith the Houses and are very well integrated into the fabric of this rural town. With Edinburgh and Glasgow less than an hour's drive away, our boarders can also enjoy all that these vibrant cities have to offer. The airports in both these cities also provide excellent transport hubs for our pupils.

Dollar Academy is known as one of the top performing academic schools in the UK, and we think you will struggle to find a school with a wider range of subjects on offer. We strongly believe, however, that some of the greatest lessons our pupils learn take place outside of the classroom, and our vast co-curricular programme plays out across a range of cultural, service and sporting opportunities. All our pupils have access to first class teachers, coaches, instructors and facilities, which our boarders can benefit from additionally during the evenings and weekends.

Scotland is known for its open outlook and good hospitality - I can assure you that a very warm welcome awaits all visitors to Dollar Academy. Our school has a rich heritage, and I am very proud to be the Academy's fourteenth Rector. I hope you find this prospectus useful and that I will have the opportunity to meet with you in person in due course.

Kindest regards



Ian Munro

# Well connected country living

Our inspiring 70 acre campus nestles at the foot of the stunning Ochil Hills in the attractive small town of Dollar. The quality of the surrounding countryside is outstanding and the town itself has considerable scenic charm. It is well provided with local amenities including a supermarket, cafes, delicatessen, art gallery, doctor, dentist, optician and a beautician. The town is also surrounded by numerous cycling trails and walks.

*Our historic A-listed Playfair Building*

*Bridge Street, Dollar*

*Bridge Street, Dollar*

# Our Location

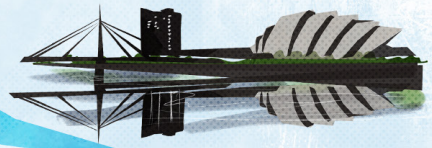
Whilst we may call the green open spaces of Dollar home, Scotland's major cities and their airports are within easy reach. Dollar is only 20 minutes' drive from Stirling, 30 minutes from Perth and under an hour from Edinburgh and Glasgow. The school is a 25 minute drive from the world-renowned Gleneagles resort and an hour from the famous beaches and golf courses of St Andrews.

Gleneagles

St Andrews

Dollar

Stirling



Glasgow

Edinburgh

*Edinburgh's historic castle*

*St Andrews: 'The home of golf'*

*The famous Kings Course at Gleneagles*

# Our approach to boarding

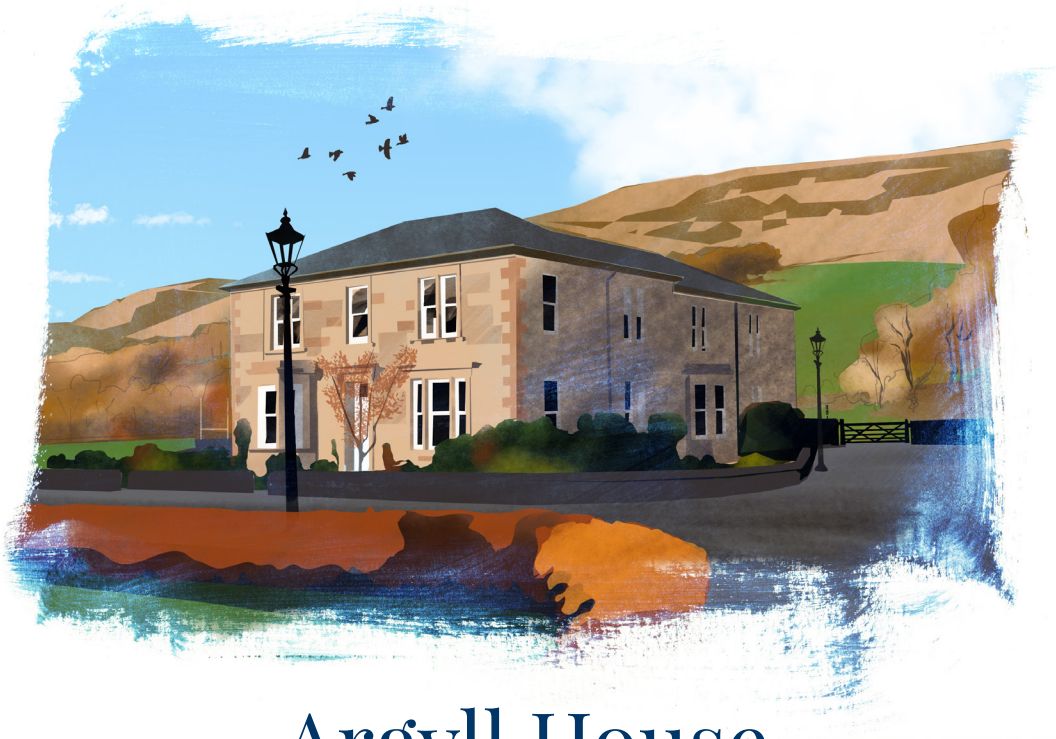
We feel our boarding provision replicates a family environment better than anywhere else you'll find. We have three Houses where around 90 boys and girls come to learn new skills, make lifelong friendships and do as much 'growing up' as they would at home – but with many more 'brothers' and 'sisters' to help them on their way.

*"It's great that the Houses all have House Tutors, from a variety of academic disciplines, on site throughout the week to help us with homework."*

Senior Boarder

*"We saw highly sensitive and caring attitudes from Boarding House Staff, which helped them to clearly establish the ethos of home from home in a family atmosphere in the Houses"*

Care Commission 2017



# Argyll House

Sitting right at the school gates, overlooking the lawns and playing fields, Argyll House is home to an enviable living space that brings together delicate period design with the cosy familiarity of a real family home. During term time it comes alive with up to 21 girls, from ages 10 to 18.

All of the facilities of the school, including the gymnasium, swimming pool, tennis courts and the school art studios are virtually on the doorstep, ready for the girls to make the most of. The property itself boasts a movie and games room, a large common room, study areas, an ample number of individual shower rooms and baths, as well as a kitchen-diner (ideal for snacking and socialising in the evening).

Not forgetting the computer suite, of course. This room is well equipped with high-speed internet access and video calling facilities – meaning that keeping in touch with relatives is easy. Younger girls can look forward to sharing a bedroom with one or two others, whilst older girls can take advantage of a private single room that is ideal for studying.

*Houseparents David and Sarah Johnston*

# Heyworth House

With space for up to 23 girls, Heyworth House offers a fantastic environment for boarders to socialise and study in. Located just on the edge of our campus' verdant lawns, this beautifully restored example of Victorian architecture is just a short walk from the school's ample range of facilities, not to mention the cafes and shops of the local village. The House itself has extensive gardens, ideal for the summer weekends when the BBQ comes out, and the books get put away for a while.

This is a very friendly House and the girls get on well in an environment of interdependence, understanding and mutual respect with a keen understanding of the strengths of those around them. There is a distinctly modern feel to Heyworth with its range of double and single bedrooms, dining kitchen and communal spaces. Wi-Fi access is available throughout the House and there is also a computer suite with high-speed internet access and video calling facilities – so there is no excuse not to call home, no matter how much they're enjoying things!

*Houseparents Robin and Hossa Macpherson*

# McNabb and Tait House

Warm, welcoming and situated on one of the oldest, fully restored Georgian streets in Scotland, and just a stone's throw from the main Playfair building, McNabb & Tait House is home to all the boys of the Dollar boarding community. The caring, family ethos of the House means no boy is ever forgotten and all are encouraged to aim high in whatever they choose.

Consequently, there's a strong focus on the pursuit of each boy's co-curricular interests, alongside their academic demands and, as with the girls' Houses, the wide variety of campus facilities are all within close distance. McNabb & Tait House, and the boarders who call it home, have built a reputation for making a big impact within the school.

The rooms make for a comfortable and practical place to balance life's personal and academic sides. There is room for up to 47 boys in McNabb & Tait and rooms are comfortable, modern and colourful. Younger boys share, usually two to a room, while most of the older boys have single rooms, some with en-suite facilities and all recently refurbished in the last few years. Outside, the House boasts its own floodlit 5-a-side football pitch and a terraced BBQ area, perfect for our numerous communal get-togethers.

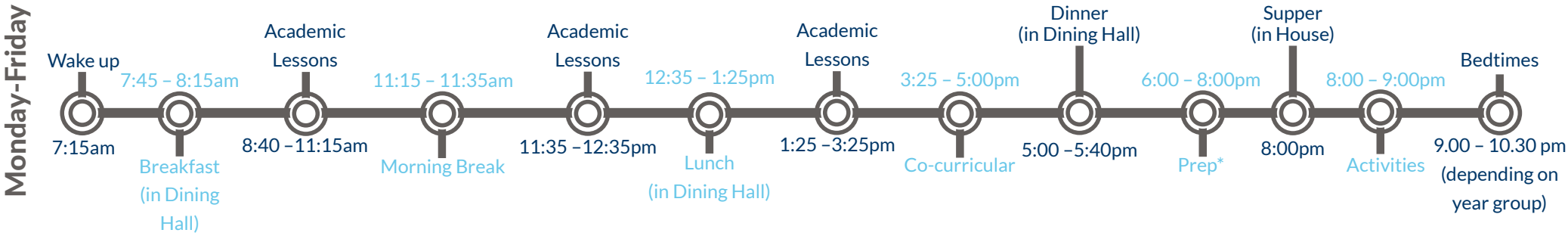
*Senior Houseparents Gill and Neil McFadyean*

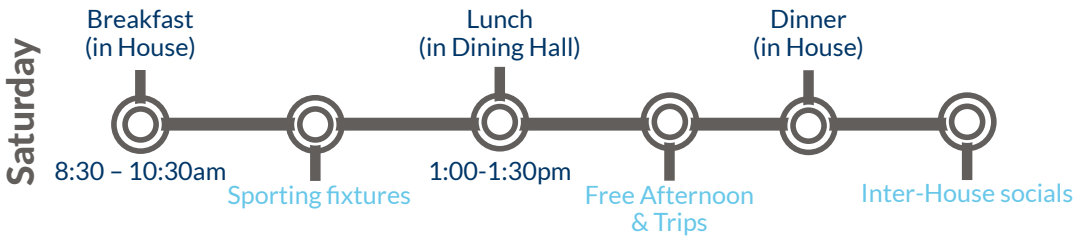
DANGER
HOT
SURFACE

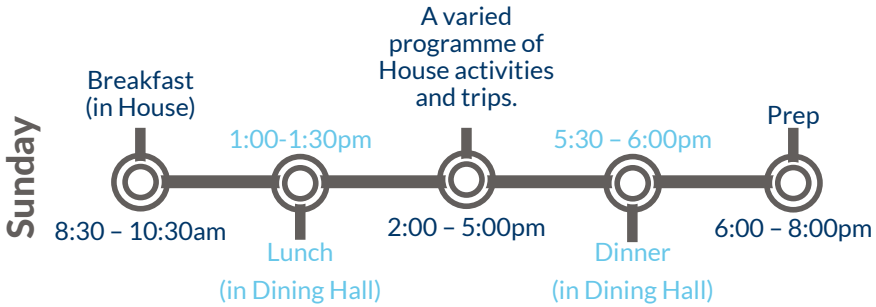
TATE

# Our routine

## A typical week



*No prep on Friday evening

## Food

Our catering staff cook award-winning, healthy, locally-sourced food on site every day. Our boarders each get breakfast, lunch and dinner in the Dining Hall from Monday – Friday. In addition, a snack after school (often delicious, fresh home baking) and a light supper around 8pm are provided in each House.

## Communication

Parents can telephone, text, email, send letters and parcels or contact via Skype/FaceTime/Zoom. While parents are welcome to visit the House whenever they are in the area, lessons and homework times are fixed, so it is best to avoid arriving at those times. Houseparents will also maintain contact with parents (usually by email), with regular updates and academic reports.

## Medical

Our nurses are on hand during term time to attend to the health needs of all pupils. Based in our dedicated and well-resourced Nursing Centre, Nurse Dunnet and Nurse Finnie provide health screening, medical examinations and vaccination programmes in line with National School Health Service guidelines. They also help teach health related topics in the School's PSE programme. In addition, we will register all of our boarders with Dollar Health Centre, the local GP surgery.

## Weekends

There are plenty of activities to keep our boarders occupied at weekends. Many will choose to be involved in sports fixtures on Saturday morning. Every Sunday afternoon there is a full programme of trips to interesting places and fun events, including sporting events, theme parks, paintballing, go-karting, laser quest, treasure hunts, climbing walls, shopping trips, the cinema, shows and concerts. Boarders can make use of the excellent sports and recreational facilities on site including grass and all-weather playing surfaces, a fitness suite, swimming pool, sports halls and music rooms. They can also visit day pupil friends, or go into town, within reasonable limits and with permissions in place. Senior boarders are permitted to visit Edinburgh and Glasgow for the day. All organised excursions are accompanied, and pupils are always given safe and appropriate guidelines for their own activities.

# Getting active

## Our co-curricular activities

The Dollar Academy school week runs Monday to Friday, with class lessons finishing at 3:25pm. Our boarding pupils have plenty to keep them busy, with a huge range of over 70 co-curricular activities on offer, including boarders-only activities in the evening. Among the most popular with the current boarders are:

### SPORT

Rugby
Hockey
Football
Badminton
Curling
Ultimate Frisbee
Basketball
Golf
Tennis
Athletics
Hill running

### MUSIC

Choir
Orchestra
Jazz Orchestra
Pipe Band

### CULTURAL

Duke of Edinburgh's Award
Drama
Boarders' Book Group
Guitar Building
School Magazine (The Galley)

A full list can be found here

# Academic excellence

## The widest choice of subjects in Scotland

Dollar offers the widest range of subjects in Scotland and our super-curriculum includes modules in subjects as diverse as Microbiology, Astronomy, Philosophy and Italian along with opportunities for coding, robotics, debating, cooking and Classics.

Public examinations are regulated by the Scottish Qualifications Authority, and these qualifications are accepted and highly valued by universities around the world. A broad range of subjects is studied until the age of 16, before specialisation in 3-5 subjects.

Pupils at Dollar consistently achieve some of the best results in the country and, in 2019, the Form V pass rate at Higher stood at an impressive 96%, with a remarkable 68% of these at A grade. Pupils in Form VI achieved a 92% pass rate at Advanced Higher, with 73% at A grade. The SQA Advanced Higher qualification is highly regarded internationally, with an A grade being equivalent to an A* grade at A-level.

# Frequently asked questions

## What are the entry requirements?

Entrance is by assessment and parents are encouraged to contact the school to discuss the interests and abilities of their child. Applications are accepted at any time of the year. Scholarships and bursaries are available.

## Are there any ‘weekly boarders’?

We have a few, but most of our boarding pupils are full-time. We can offer flexibility, however, as parents’ and pupils’ needs change over time.

## Are there bursaries and scholarships available?

Yes. There is more information here

## How are new boarders helped to settle in?

There is a full programme of social and team building events and new pupils are paired with an existing boarder of the same age to help them in the first few weeks.

## Do boarding fees include full board, cleaning and laundry?

Yes. All meals and snacks are provided. A full laundry service is provided on-site, including mending and ironing. Dry cleaning is by separate arrangement. Bedrooms are cleaned daily.

## What does a boarder need to pack?

Unlike some schools, we do not place a limit on the amount of personal belongings that our boarders may bring with them. There are some items that are considered essential, however. These are:

- School uniform (full list here)
- One large suitcase and a smaller suitcase for holidays
- One school bag, rucksack or sports bag for books and equipment
- Sufficient underwear
- One hot water bottle (optional)
- Spare name tapes
- Toilet bag with all toilet requisites
- Alarm clock
- One duvet and two duvet covers
- One pair of polyester cotton fitted single sheets and two polyester cotton pillow cases
- Two bath towels and one sports towel

## Is a guardian necessary?

Boarding pupils from outside the EU will need a visa and are required to have a guardian. Boarding pupils from within the EU are required to register with the Home Office and we also recommend that pupils from within the EU have an appointed guardian within the UK, but this is not essential. The school can provide a list of suggested guardianship agencies if required, however we cannot make specific recommendations.
Guardians can offer a point of contact in an emergency, support during term time and an alternative holiday destination for short breaks. They can be friends or relatives appointed by the pupil's family or a professional guardianship agency.

## Who looks after our boarders?

Being a boarder at Dollar Academy is like being in a large family. Each House has its own live-in Houseparents; significantly they are known as 'Houseparents', rather than House 'masters' or 'mistresses'. They are assisted by House Tutors who are teachers at the school and several Assistant Housestaff. Older pupils support the younger ones, and there are pupil Heads and their Deputies to help run the Houses. The Rector (Headmaster) and Deputy Rector are in overall charge and visit the Houses regularly to meet the pupils and staff.

## What makes boarding at Dollar special?

Boarders are a defining feature of life at Dollar and the school was one of the first day and boarding schools in the world to accept both boys and girls on a co-educational basis. We have three Houses, which are all decorated and equipped to the highest standard and offer pupils access to outstanding teaching and facilities. The boarding community at Dollar is very friendly and our boarding pupils benefit from the enjoyment of living in a community of friends and the opportunity to gain confidence and independence with the support of a large team of Houseparents and House Tutors who enable them to do their best.

## What is the accommodation like?

Boys and girls live in separate Houses, although they mix freely at school and are allowed to visit each others' Houses. Seniors usually have their own room, while younger pupils share with one or two others. Each boarder has their own bed, desk, wardrobe and drawers. There is lots of storage and rooms are all spacious and bright. There are plenty of shower rooms and bathrooms and each House has its own computer suite, living rooms and dining kitchen. Each Boarding House also has its own large, private garden with barbecue and patio areas.

## Why do pupils decide to board at Dollar?

Many pupils board with us because they wish to benefit from the teaching and facilities on offer at Dollar Academy but their family home is too far away for them to attend as day pupils. A reasonable number of our boarders live locally and choose to board in order to maximise their chances in examinations by saving travel time and having specialist teaching staff available to help with homework. Senior pupils often choose to board to prepare for university, to build confidence and independence. Some pupils board because of their parents' work commitments; the family benefit from the caring home-from-home environment offered in our Houses.

# Next steps...

We're delighted that you're considering boarding at Dollar for your child. Our admissions process welcomes children of all backgrounds and stages in their education.

To really get a feel for life at Dollar, we encourage you to get in touch to arrange a visit. Term-time is ideal when you can meet with Houseparents, teaching staff and pupils in order to get a sense of day-to-day life at Dollar. We realise that is not always possible though, and are very happy to welcome you at other times of the year too.

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

Ms Elaine Gallagher, Boarding Registrar and PA to The Rector
Email: rector@dollaracademy.org.uk
Phone: +44 1259 742511

*Elaine Gallagher*

Please view our Boarding video here.

# DOLLAR ACADEMY