

Dollar Academy Newsletter December 2016

Rector's
 **DOLLAR**
Newsletter

Dear Pupils, Parents, Guardians and Friends

Last week was certainly an eventful one at Dollar and there is so much to be proud of. Pride of place must go to our gallant 1st XV, who played brilliantly at Murrayfield and who lost so dramatically in the final seconds. Their contribution on the field to what has been described by many as the best game of schoolboy rugby ever played in Scotland was heroic, but the stoicism with which they responded to the final twist of fate was perhaps even more impressive.

I have received letters and emails from a wide variety of people praising the team's sportsmanship and grace in adversity. Unusually in modern life perhaps, they sought no-one to blame. They thanked the referee, the opposition, the organisers, and each other. Just as admirable has been the reaction of the rest of the school, who supported the team impeccably on the night and who have shown tremendous solidarity with the boys since. Yes, it was only a game of rugby, but no-one can say that this community is not committed or does not care. I should not miss the opportunity to point out that our girls have also been excelling, and the 1st XI and Form III hockey teams have both reached the semi-final stage of the Scottish Cup. There is therefore more sporting excitement to look forward to next term.

Those who attended the excellent Christmas Concert at the Usher Hall on Tuesday also enjoyed some impressive entertainment, with around 350 pupils performing confidently and expertly in front of a delighted audience of 1600. The range of pieces proffered was testament to the huge amount of high-quality work undertaken by teachers and pupils so far this session. The highlight was perhaps the excellent performance of *Carmina Burana*. The opening and closing *O Fortuna*, about the fickleness of fate, turned out

to be a relevant *motif* this week, but I must *not* dwell on the rugby! What was certainly apparent in the concert was the joy the youngsters were taking in their musical performances. I congratulate all involved.

Whether or not the experiences provided by our co-curricular programme help to encourage good performance under pressure in examinations I will leave you to decide, but it has been pleasing to receive positive comments from parents regarding Dollar's ranking in *The Sunday Times* league tables a few weeks ago. Like many Heads, I pay little attention to such statistics - unless they are working in our favour! They are an imprecise measure and, as I have said before, I am more interested in leavers' destinations and in encouraging ambition: Dollar pupils generally take on a challenging programme of study. It may be a trite cliché but, whether you are playing in a cup final or sitting an examination, the long-term journey is more important than any single result.

I wish everyone a very happy Christmas.

Kindest regards



David Knapman
Rector

The Cameron Travel Scholarship Trust One Dollar pupil called it, 'a life-changing experience'. Applications are now open for the Cameron Travel Scholarships in 2017. Find out more [about the Trust](#) and applying for overseas work experience.



Scottish Rugby Schools' Cup Final

Dollar's U18 team faced Stewart's Melville College in what was a riveting Cup Final match at BT Murrayfield.



Usher Hall Christmas Concert

A sell-out audience at the Usher Hall was treated to an uplifting festive performance from Dollar's choirs and instrumental groups.



Prep School Panto

Prep school pupils took families and friends 'All Around the World' in their magical Christmas show.



On Track for Success

A season of wins makes Dollar hockey teams title contenders for regional and national cups.

Royal National Mòd

Archie MacKechnie's (FII) accomplished accordion performance won him the U13 Accordion category at the National *Mòd* for the second year. Archie also finished 2nd in the U19 MSR category and 3rd in the U19 Contemporary category. [Read more.](#)

Top of the Bench

Dollar have reached the national final of the 'Top of the Bench' Chemistry Competition for the third time in five years. Toby Douglas (FIV), Colin Bonner (FIII), Dominic McGinley (FIII) and Stuart Farmer (FII) will

compete in the final next April against heat winners from around the UK and Europe.

World Solo Drumming Championships

A fine performance from Archie Jaffrey-Smith (J2) saw him take 3rd place in the Juvenile Section 1 contest. Dollar Academy Pipe Band Instructor Steven McWhirter also excelled, winning the Adult event for the seventh time. [Read more.](#)

Entrance Assessments

Entrance examinations and Prep school interviews for the August 2017 intake will take place in January. Find information and dates [here](#).

Health & Safety

The school grounds are very busy during the school day, and parents are reminded that they should not drive into the grounds until 5.00pm when the school is in session. On an additional health and safety note, please take a moment to read the school's [Concussion and Return to Play Policy](#).

Pupil Achievements

Art

Heather Dillon's (FII) wildlife drawing was commended in the 13 - 18 years category in the 2016 WildArt competition. [Read more.](#)

Badminton

The Badminton Squad won eleven medals in the Central Schools Tournament. Michael Morrison won the Senior Boys' Singles and the Boys' Doubles with Robbie McNicol (both FVI). Robbie won the Senior Mixed Doubles event with Eilidh Smith (FVI) in an all Dollar final against Angus Macleod (FV) and Helen Jephcote (FVI). Matthew McGarva (FIV) won the Intermediate Boys' Singles and Mixed Doubles with Samantha Eccles (FIII)

and came runner-up in the Intermediate Boys' Doubles with Drew Moore (FIII). Eilidh Smith also won the Senior Girls Singles event.

Basketball

Chloe Dunsire (FIV) has been selected for the basketballscotland U16 Women's National Squad.

Frisbee

The Form VI Ultimate Frisbee Team became the first school team to win the Scottish University Beginners Tournament, a competition for new Ultimate Frisbee players in their first year at University. A great achievement by Katy Robson, Alex Fleming, Jenny Campbell, Ellen Niven, Gordon McGregor, Samuel Shed and Jamie Wills (all FVI).

Hockey

Congratulations to Erin Stevens, Jenny Walls and Georgia Smith (all FV) who have been selected for the Scotland U18 squad, and Eve Pearson (FIV), Lucy Smith and goalkeeper Kara Shiels (both FIII) on their selection for the Scotland U16 squad.

Judo

Hamish Gardiner (FI) was selected for the British Judo Championships in Sheffield.

Karate

Jack Menneer (FII) achieved the rank of Shodan (1st Dan) Black Belt in Karate with the JKS Scotland Karate Association.

Music

Zara Kennedy (FII) was one of six singers from Scotland who reached the area finals of Open Mic UK.

Rebecca Middleton (FV) successfully auditioned for a place in the National Youth Orchestra of Scotland (NYOS) Senior Orchestra for violin, and Hannah Middleton (FIV) successfully auditioned for the NYOS Junior Orchestra for harp.

Piping & Snare Drum

Pupils have enjoyed a string of success in recent piping and snare drum competitions thanks to fine performances from Andrew Ferguson (FIII), Finlay Cameron (FIV), Ruaridh Blyth (J2), Katie MacDonald

(FV), Ruairidh Brown (FII), Archie Jaffrey-Smith (J2), Caitlyn Malloy (FII), Mark Bathgate (J2) and Mark Rodger (J2). [Read more.](#)

Riding

The 'Dollar 1' showjumping team - Jemma D'Ath, Katie Scott, Poppy Baird (all FV) and Pollyanna Smith (FIII) - finished 4th at the Strathallan School Showjumping Competition. The 'Dollar 2' team - Holly Marshall (FIV), Megan Stedman (FV), Anya Penderis (FI) and Hannah Young (FI) - won the 85cm round. Hannah also placed second out of 60 riders as an individual while Trudie Marshall (FVI) won the open class outright. [Read more.](#)

Skiing

Maisie Blyth (J1), Ruairidh Blyth, Freddie Horn and Archie Jaffrey-Smith (all J2) won the title of Scottish Schools Primary Open Champions at the SSSA Autumn Dual Slalom Series Final. [Read more.](#)

At the SSSA Dry Slope Championships, Iona Kelly, Ruairidh Henderson (FIII) and Emma Howat, Archie MacKechnie (FII) won first place in the mixed category. Abigail Douglas, Alexandra Fleming, Christina Callion (all FVI) and Megan Stedman (FV) qualified for the British Championships after placing 6th in the girls' competition. [Read more.](#)

Tennis

Following her success in the Home Nations Championships in Cardiff, Rosie Morris (F1) continued her winning streak, making her the Scotland Number 1 U12 Female.

Wakeboarding

Max Rae (J2) is the top-ranked Scottish junior competitor after winning silver in the Foxlake Boys Open and bronze in the Junior Open of the Grassroots Tour.

Trips



Pipe Band in Sri Lanka

Five Dollar pipers performed to audiences of all ages in a series of charity engagements, finishing on a high note at the Caledonian Society St Andrews Ball.



Paris Art Trip

For four days, pupils immersed themselves in the arts and culture of the French capital, taking in Le Louvre, Versailles and the Louis Vuitton Foundation to name but a few.



FSC Millport

Advanced Higher Biology pupils were given the opportunity to analyse marine life during a four-day field trip.



Battlefields Trip

Form IV pupils travelled to Belgium in October to explore the country's historic battlefields in a year that marks the centenary of the Battle of the Somme.



Aberfeldy

Form VI pupil Matt Laing shared his highlights from the Advanced Higher Geography trip.

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