

Rector's



Newsletter

Dear Parents and Guardians

Last week I attended the Junior Science Fair and, as always, some brilliant projects had been undertaken. One J2 girl researched whether lavender helps you sleep (apparently not) while another investigated the emotional intelligence of ten different breeds of dog by seeing how they reacted to the various emotional states that she personally demonstrated (a Labrador was the winner, beating even her own dog who presumably knew her too well to be taken in).

The winning project was undertaken by a boy who decided to try to evaluate the relative trustworthiness of the inhabitants of five different towns. He hand-addressed 50 envelopes, added a stamp, put a code on the back in minuscule writing, and then dropped them all on pavements in the vicinity of five different post-offices to see how many he would get back, if any, from each location.

His results were entirely inconclusive because almost all of the letters were returned unopened. One envelope had clearly, from its markings, become stuck to a car tyre and had been transported to a new location some distance from a post office. A kind soul had picked it up, put a fresh stamp on, and had written on it: "this envelope was found in the road in Ludgate, Alloa."

In an era when we seem to hear little but bad news, this is an inspiring story. I talked about it in assembly, concluding that, at the most basic human level, most people will go out of their way to help others if they find them in need. That is something worth remembering.

On a completely different subject, since the late 1990s honey bees have been in serious decline in the UK, largely due to both increases in the use of pesticides and habitat

destruction. Bees play an essential role in natural ecosystems and a third of all our food depends on bees pollinating our crop plants. A world without bees would be devastating for food production and, of course, they are our only source of honey.

In response to this problem, we are trying to launch a bee keeping club for interested pupils. Working with local professional bee keepers, our aim is to establish two hives of endangered, native black honey bees near Dollar. This is not an easy thing to do, but we will try.

After mentioning this new club in assembly, a Form I pupil light-heartedly suggested to me that I should consider changing one of our school values to “bee kind.” That made me smile, not least because it showed he had internalised the message about helping others. One way or another, children never fail to surprise and that is one of the joys of working with them.

Kindest regards



David Knapman
Rector



Bicentenary Service of Thanksgiving

To celebrate 200 years
of Dollar Academy, the



Dollar Academy Instrumental Music Concert

Parents, guardians and
the wider Dollar
community are invited to

school is holding a Service of Thanksgiving in St Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh on Wednesday 13 March.

attend our Instrumental Music Concert in the Gibson Auditorium on Wednesday 6 March 2019.



Summer Dance

The Dollar Academy Summer Dance will take place on Saturday 22 June.

Tickets will be on sale from 1 April.

For further information, please contact Kirsty Molnar:

dollarfp@dollaracademy.org.uk

Pupil Achievements

Academic

Magdalena (Maya) Smolkova (Form VI) received the top mark in the country in the 2018 Higher Physics exam.

Senior pupils Kirsten Oag and Runa Jarjour (both Form VI) were selected as members of the Scottish delegation to the European Parliament for the [Euroscola convention](#).

Athletics

Three Dollar pupils performed very well in the recent Scottish Schools' Athletics Association's indoor championships. Nana Akuoko (Form V) and Sarah Coutts (Form IV) won bronze during the O/16 Triple Jump and the O/16 800m respectively. Paige Stevens (Form II) accumulated three 4th places in Long Jump, High Jump and Shot Put in the U/16 age group.

Badminton

On 12 December, the Dollar Badminton Squad competed in the Central School's Final. The Junior team performed very well and progressed to the national final in April. Commendations go to Olivia Smart (Form III) who came runner-up in the Singles final, Siobhan Moore and Gemma Thain (both Form II) who were runner-up in the Junior Girl's Doubles.

CCF

Shooting

The following Dollar Academy pupils have been selected for the British Cadet Rifle Team (The Athelings) Tour to Canada 2019:

Olivia Hutt (Form V)

Finlay Johnston (Form V)

Callum Chen – Reserve (Form V)

Chess

Ross Warcup (Prep 5) won the 2018 UK Delancey Chess Challenge. This is the world's largest children's chess tournament. Following this success, Ross qualified for the Delancey North of UK Gigafinal in Manchester where he won four games out of six. Ross also came 41st out of 68 during the British Chess Championship Under 9s in Hull.

Enterprise

The Junior Enterprise Club took part in the Micro Tyco Competition during November, raising money for the Wildhearts Foundation.

Six groups each received £1 per group to turn it into as much money as possible for the charity. Dollar raised a total of £1096.

Fencing

Dollar Academy won four bronze medals at the Youth Development Scotland Series:

U11 Foil – DJ Bates (Junior 2)

U13 – David Kelly (Junior 2)

U15 Foil and U15 Epee - Angus Scott (Form II)

Angus Scott and David Kelly also have been selected to represent Scotland at the Challenge Wratistavia Tournament in Poland during March. Both pupils will compete in the U13 Boys' Foil.

Gymnastics

On Saturday 15 December, Dollar pupils competed against some of the top gymnasts in the country at the [National Level 4 Qualifiers](#). Lilia Warden (Prep 5), Lucy MacDonald and Laura Nicol (both Junior 1) performed with real poise and control winning Team Gold. Lucy MacDonald also won the Individual Gold medal. All three girls qualify for the National Finals in March.

Hockey

In October, Dollar Academy's 1st XI hockey squad competed with schools from across England, Scotland and Ireland to win the [UK Topflight National School's Tournament](#) for the second year in a row. The squad was captained by Evie Wills (Form VI).

Four pupils from the 1st XI Hockey team have been named in the [Scotland U18 training squad](#): Amy Salmon, Lucy Smith and Rhiannon Carr (Form V) as well as Eve Pearson (Form VI).

Alex Wilson, Form V, has been selected to play in the indoor European Cup in Oslo, Norway for Inverleith's Senior Men's first team.

Judo

Hamish Gardiner (Form III) won a Gold medal at the British HMC Secondary Schools Judo Competition in High Wycombe on 23 February.

Karate

Tom Macfadyen (Form V) won the Senior Kata category at the East of Scotland JKA championships. At 16, he was the youngest competitor in the senior age group.

Music

More than 300 singers and musicians of all ages took part in the [The Dollar Academy Annual Christmas Concert](#) on Thursday 13 December at the Usher Hall in Edinburgh.

After successful auditions at the National Youth Choir of Scotland, Duncan Kay (Form I) has been accepted into the National Boys Choir and Sarah Corr (Form II) has gained a place in the National Girls Training Choir.

Millie Dillon (Form III) was chosen to sing in the Glasgow Royal Concert hall with Collabro.

Rugby

Five players have recently been involved with the National U18 Training Squad in preparation for their forthcoming internationals:

Max Williamson (Form V)

Cameron Purdham (Form V)

Finn McIlwraith (Form VI)

Michael Gray (Form V)

Ross McKnight (Form V)

Five players have been involved with the National Training U17 Squad:

Max Williamson (Form V)

Michael Gray (Form V)

Ross McKnight (Form V)

Gabriel Smith (Form V)

Dougal Sands (Form V)

Two players have been selected for Scotland Blues (U16's):

Ben Salmon (Form IV)

Ethan Parkins (Form IV)

Ben Buchanan-Smith (Form IV) has been selected on standby.

Dollar Academy's Form I rugby has been invited to represent Scotland at an international rugby tournament in Yokohama, Japan. One team has been selected from each of the following countries: Australia, England, Ireland, Hong Kong, New Zealand, Samoa, Scotland and Tonga.

Dollar Academy's rugby U18, U14 and U13 teams have been invited to play at the highly prestigious Rosslyn Park national schools sevens which will be held from the 26 March to the 29 of March.

Skiing

The Prep and Junior A & B ski teams performed well in the [Scottish Schools Snowsports Association \(SSSA\)](#) Autumn Dual Slalom Series finals, held at Snow Factor. The Junior A team triumphed, winning gold for the second year in a row.

On 18 November, Dollar Academy competed in the annual [British Schools Dry Slope Championships at Hillhead](#). Lauren Rae (Form II) came 23rd out of 100 racers for the girls teams, and Archie Mackenhnrie (Form IV) finished 28th out of 100 racers for boys.

Swimming

On Wednesday 7 November, Grace Stirling (Form IV) won the bronze medal in the 50 meter Freestyle Back Stroke (Class 3) during the National Junior Championships for Sensory and Physically Impaired Swimmers.

Squash

Ollie Hunter (Form II) competed in the U15's Scottish Junior National Squash Championships in Aberdeen on 1 February. Ollie has been challenging himself with additional training, supported through Dollar Academy's Talented Athletes programme.

Tennis

Laura Koechlin (FII) became the Bridge of Allan Girls Junior Tennis Champion.



Two Dollar Academy hockey squads secured places in Scottish Cup Semi-Finals

Two of Dollar Academy's hockey squads secured places in the Scottish Cup Semi-Finals.

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



Dollar Academy's Form I rugby team will represent Scotland at The Heroes Cup - an international rugby tournament in Yokohama, Japan.

Former Pupil Achievements

The work of two Former Pupils, Carenza Dickens and Megan Leask (both FP 2018) featured within the [photography exhibition, 'Higher Vision'](#), which was on display in the Scottish Parliament's Main Hall until Friday 8 February 2019.

Angus McLeod (FP 2018) achieved the highest national score in the 2018 Advanced Higher Chemistry exam.

Gus Warr (FP 2018) has been named in the England U20s Men Elite Player Squad for 2019.



Dollar Academy's First Winter Cricket Trip

The first ever overseas cricket trip took place from 7-12 February 2019.



Dollar Academy partners with Tennis Scotland and LTA on GB National Tennis Academy

Dollar Academy is partnering with Tennis Scotland and the LTA on the new GB National Tennis Academy at University of Stirling.



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