

*Rector's*  **DOLLAR**  
*Newsletter*

Dear Pupils, Parents, Guardians and Friends

Our SQA examination results this year were very pleasing and our pupils and teachers deserve great credit for all their hard work. Given our very high A-grade rate, readers may be surprised to learn that more Advanced Highers were taken at Dollar Academy than at any other school in Scotland this year, bar one, reflecting our determination to encourage ambition and to ensure the best possible outcome for each individual pupil. A copy of Leavers' Destinations over the last three years is linked [here](#) and I am sure you will agree that the results are remarkable.

A Dollar education is, I hope, about much more than academic performance. It has been encouraging this term to receive some wonderful comments from members of the public on the qualities of Dollar pupils. A number of our youngsters seem to have been particularly adept at recovering lost dogs and helping pensioners find their possessions. One Form III boy even helped catch a police suspect and shortly afterwards a letter of thanks from *Police Scotland* arrived on my desk. Five Form VI pupils were invited to attend a conference with some of Scotland's top business leaders: one wrote to me afterwards to say how inspiring the Dollar pupils had been and said he felt he could now sleep more soundly, knowing that the country's future is in safe hands. Such feedback reflects well on Dollar's ethos, but it is never wise to be complacent and recent assemblies in all parts of the school have focused on leadership and on values. It is vital that all pupils understand the importance of good character and that they seek opportunities to develop their personal qualities.

With that in mind, I have been impressed by pupil presentations in assembly this term. For example, over the summer, 14 senior pupils

accompanied Mr Burbury and Mrs Gibb to Romania where they helped run an arts-based summer school for underprivileged children, many of whom have physical and mental disabilities. The assembly presentation was skilfully delivered and very moving: it was clear that the pupils had gained a great deal from their experience. In similar vein, there have been presentations by pupils who have been supported in overseas volunteering by the Cameron Travel Trust. This has included teaching youngsters in a deprived Cape Town township, providing medical support in the Philippines, and helping in hospitals in Nepal.

Finally, it will not have escaped your notice that this edition of the newsletter is, experimentally, only available electronically. This is a result of discussions with various groups within the school community, including the Pupil Council. Please reply to the very short survey below to let us know what you think!

Kindest regards



David Knapman  
Rector

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### **Date for your Diary**

On 3 November, the Royal Institution of Great Britain is bringing its family science show 'Explosive Food' to Dollar Academy. Our J1 and J2 year groups will see the show during the day, along with children from local primary schools. If you would like to come along to our evening show, open to families with primary and secondary school-age children, find out how to book [here](#).

### **Term Dates**

You can find a definitive list of [term dates](#) on our website. Please refer only to the dates that we publish and not to those on other websites, as these may be incorrect.

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### **Whole School Photo**

1500 pupils and staff gathered together on 7 September for the whole school photo, taken once every four years.



### **Boarders' Day**

On 11 September, the annual whole-school boarding event provided a fun opportunity for boarders from every house to get together, along with staff, for some team-building challenges.



### **SQA Results**

Dollar pupils are celebrating another year of outstanding SQA examination results.



### **Open Day**

Dollar opened its doors again for the annual Open Day on Saturday 10 September. Visit our website for information on January entrance assessments.

## **Bisley**

Dollar Academy CCF Shooting Team saw individual and group success at Bisley this summer. Dollar was ranked an overall second by one point and retained the London Scottish Vase. [Read more.](#)

## **Duke of Edinburgh's Award**

Fourteen Dollar pupils were recently awarded their Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award, a number of whom attended a special ceremony that took place at Holyrood Palace in Edinburgh.

Over 100 Form III pupils also completed their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh training expeditions in September, undertaking their overnight expeditions in the Ochils.

## **Hockey Success**

Two Dollar girls have been selected for the Futures Cup Scotland Team and a total of 15 boys and girls have made the cut for the U16 & U18 Midland District squad. [Read more.](#)

## **ICF Canoe Championships**

Former Head of Biology, Andrew Morton, returned home victorious after winning a gold medal at the ICF Canoe Marathon Masters Cup in Brandenburg. [Read more.](#)

## **Institute of Physics Excellence in Physics Student Award**

Sam Ward (FP 2016) scored the top mark in the 2016 SQA Advanced Higher Physics examination. He has, as a result, won an Institute of Physics Excellence in Physics Student Award. Sam has also been invited to the SQA Star Awards Ceremony as a finalist in the Academic Excellence category. [Read more.](#)

## **Music Examinations**

Congratulations to the 61 Dollar pupils who sat their ABRSM music exams, the 12 who sat the Trinity exams at the school in May and to those who sat these examinations externally. [Read more.](#)

## **Pipe Band World Championships**

Both Dollar Pipe Bands put in strong performances at the World Pipe Band Championships on 13 August; each band took second place in its category.

## **SAGT Award for Excellence**

Tommy Henson (FP 2016) has achieved the highest grade in the AH Geography course in 2016. As a result he will be presented with the SAGT (Scottish Association of Geography Teachers) Award for Excellence in Advanced Higher Geography.

## **Scottish Military Skills Competition**

Dollar Academy's CCF team won the Scottish Military Skills competition, receiving the Piper Laidlaw VC Commemorative Trophy in recognition of being named the overall competition winners. [Read more.](#)

# **Pupil Achievements**

## **CCF**

Andrew Myles (FV; RAF) obtained a strong pass at the Air Cadet Leadership course in July and Amy Pope (FVI; Infantry) passed with Merit. At the RAF Summer Camp in Cumbria, Ailish McKinlay (FP 2016) was awarded best NCO and Cameron Robertson (FP 2016), Eduin Aitchison (FV) and Calum MacPhee (FV) were winners in the Inter-Flight Competition.

Sarah Dewar (FIV) from the Navy section had best shot on the 25mm range, closely followed by Rebecca Manson (FV).

## **Cricket**

William Silcock (J2) won three of the top prizes at the annual end-of-season Kinross-shire Cricket Club Awards.

## **Dance**

Niamh Wallace (FVI) won the Junior Scottish Highland Dancing Championship in addition to winning the Junior British Title this summer.

Millie Wright (FII) represented Scotland at the Dance World Cup in Jersey, winning a bronze in the Children's Solo Acro section.

## **Golf**

Toby Smith (FII) has been allocated a place in Tier 1A of the Scottish Golf Academy.

Toby Smith and Jamie Fulton (FIII) competed in the US Kids European Golf Championships, finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> respectively out of 60 boys in the Age 13 category.

## **Music**

Martina Sillence (FV), Mr Blezard (Chemistry) and Mrs Watson (Music) made it to the finals of the BBC Great Orchestra Challenge with the Stirling Orchestra. [Read more.](#)

## **Piping**

Finlay Cameron (FIV) won first place in the MacGregor Memorial Piobaireachd for junior pipers. [Read more.](#)

## **Riding**

Megan MacColl (FIII), Freya MacColl (J2), John Ferguson (FIII) and Robert Ferguson (J1) won gold at the Polocrosse Pony Club Championships; Olivia Litster (FII) and Isla Hood (FIII) also won bronze medals.

Trudie Marshall (FVI) won the final of the 15th Scottish Working Hunter Pony of the Year Final and went on to take reserve champion at Blair Castle Horse Trials. Holly Marshall (FIV) took 7th place in the final.

## **Shooting**

James Barlow (FVI) and Alex McConnell (FV) were selected for Scottish Schools in the International Match at Bisley; James and Alex were also selected to compete for the adult UK team.

## **Tennis**

Rosie Morris (FI) was selected for the Scottish tennis team in the Home Nations Championships that took place in Cardiff on 10-11 September. She helped Scotland to regain the overall team title when she and her partner finished unbeaten in the doubles. [Read more.](#)

## **Water Sports**

Max Rae (J2) is now the top-ranked Scottish junior competitor for wakeboarding after coming 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Foxlake Boys Open and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Junior Open of the Grassroots Tour. [Read more.](#)

Craig Stewart (FV) was selected for the North Sea Cup, a water polo event that took place in Dublin from 3-4 September 2016.

### **Colours List**

Micah Shepherd (FVI) – Full Colours athletics and cricket  
Bevhan Trevis (FP 2016) – Full Colours athletics (re-award)  
Sean McLaren (FP 2016) – Half Colours athletics  
Ben Pearson (FVI) – Full Colours cricket  
Lachlan Peterson (FVI) – Full Colours cricket  
Harry Warr (FP 2016) – Full Colours cricket  
Lewis McLaren (FV) – Half Colours cricket  
Cameron Moore (FVI) – Half Colours cricket  
Joel Stedman (FP 2016) - Half Colours cricket (re-award)  
Robert Watson (FP 2016) – Full Colours golf (re-award)  
Andrew Johnston (FP 2016) – Half Colours Golf (re-award)  
Alexander Weise (FP 2016) – Half Colours golf  
Christopher Welsh (FVI) – Half Colours golf  
Cameron Blakemore (FP 2016) – Full Colours rugby  
Jonathan Davies (FVI) – Full Colours rugby  
Joel Skipper (FVI) - Full Colours rugby  
Jenny Campbell (FVI)– Full Colours tennis  
Hannah Taylor (FP 2016) - Full Colours tennis  
Isla Keith (FP 2016) - Half Colours tennis  
Mairi Keith (FP 2016) – Half Colours tennis  
Ellie Towers (FV) – Half Colours tennis

### **Internationalists Awards**

Equestrian – Carezza Dickens (FV) and Isla Hood (FIII)  
Hockey – Eve Pearson (FIV), Suzanne Green, Georgia Smith,  
Erin Stevens and Jennifer Walls (all FV)  
Music – Sophie Ferguson (FV)  
Piping - Blair Dickinson (FV)

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### **Your Feedback**

If you would like to give us your thoughts on our first e-newsletter, please complete our [short survey](#).

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# *Trips*



## **Alps Trip**

The Geography Department's biannual trip to the Alps for Forms I and II took place in June with a visit to Chamonix and the stunning Mer de Glace, the Cailler Chocolate Factory near Broc in Switzerland and the Gorge de Fier.



## **Argentina Tour**

Sixty-one pupils and nine teachers headed to Argentina this summer for an intense hockey and rugby training programme and also to soak up some of the country's culture.



## **Romania Community Project**

Over the summer, 14 pupils ran an arts-based Summer School in Romania for underprivileged children and young adults, many of whom have physical and mental disabilities.



## **Fellbach**

In late September, our partner school in Fellbach, Germany made their annual visit. Twenty-two young German guests enjoyed visits to Edinburgh, Glasgow, St Andrews and Stirling, as well as three days in school. This visit marks retirement as organiser of Herr Joachim Eberlen, who has masterminded all 26 previous exchanges from the German side.

We will miss his input.



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