



# **DOLLAR ACADEMY**

## **SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

**2011- 2012**

### **In the last twelve months...**

...the new Sixth Form Centre; the Heyworth boarding development; upgrading to Argyll House; new playgrounds in Prep and Junior schools; a new Music Technology facility; new parking facilities; new steps and stonework around the Playfair Building; the restored entrance to the school on West Approach.

### **Looking forward...**

... a new Science and Technology building; new IT infrastructure; new social spaces around the Gibson building; a new Reception area in the Playfair building; redevelopment of the old Sixth Form centre.

**Rector: David Knapman, BA, BSc, MPhil**

## 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 in recent years which have ensured that the Academy remains at the forefront of Scottish education. In 2005, the Maguire Building was completed, rehousing Art and PE in purpose-built accommodation, and providing a new drama studio, gymnasium, fitness suite and conference facilities. As a consequence of the vacated space elsewhere in the school, other academic departments have benefited from enhanced facilities, besides further IT suites and the Support for Learning and Classics centres. Further 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. 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 House in 2010. 2009 brought a synthetic turf surface at the centre of the Academy grounds – ideally suited for both hockey and tennis - and 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. 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 2010-2011.

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 competitions, in musical and dramatic performance, in CCF, in the Pipe Bands, in the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme 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 four IT suites, besides access to computers in all classrooms and laboratories. Dollar also runs its own distinctive courses from the earliest stages and introduces the European Computer Driving Licence from Form III.

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 to enable pupils to be supported as required in their studies. Pupils' progress is regularly monitored, and parents are kept fully informed on progress through regular meetings and reports. Further careers and higher education support is provided, when required, after a pupil has left Dollar.

Dollar provides expert career and university guidance, and ensures that choices are based on clear knowledge and on open channels of communication. We retain the services of a professional careers adviser, and there is a library of Higher Education resources, backed by a team of experienced staff advisers.

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 and to this end Governors agreed an extensive refurbishment of Heyworth House in the summer of 2010.

Dollar currently has links, most involving exchanges, with schools in Russia, Germany, France, Spain, Kenya and Japan. 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 have set up Creativity Awards for staff projects, and these funds have enabled a number of new components to be introduced to the curriculum.

The Parents' Association Committee meets regularly, liaising closely with the Academy. The Association is involved particularly with the Careers Convention, Sports Weekend and departmental Open Evenings – at the most recent in 2011, £800 was donated to the Mathematics department. In addition, the Thrift Shop, selling good quality items of uniform and staffed by parent volunteers, greatly benefits the school community.

At present, 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 2010 – 2011

A number of developments have been completed in line with last year's Development Plan, or are now in hand:

### Buildings / Facilities / Grounds

- The provision of a new Sixth Form Centre in the Playfair Building, providing state of the art social and study facilities, besides a range of related support offices; this was officially opened on the day of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Great Fire in the Playfair Building.
- The major refurbishment and development of Heyworth House to enhance the living and study facilities for boarders.
- The renovation of significant aspects of Argyll House.
- The refurbishment of the steps and sides of the Playfair Building, beneath which a "Time Capsule" was buried containing 100 objects that capture the spirit of 2010.
- The restoration of the gates and railings at the entrance to the Academy on West Approach.
- The provision of a new room for Heads of Year and meetings with parents and pupils.
- The development of playgrounds in the Prep and Junior schools to provide opportunities for children to relax, interact and explore in varied ways.
- The creation of a new parking area / turning circle on the "swimming pool triangle" in Mylne Avenue, to improve safety and relieve pressure on parking in other areas.
- The creation of a new Music technology facility to allow enhanced sound production and recording, and to support the teaching of technology in music in both classes and co-curricular activities.

### Dollar Curricular

- Further funding for projects to develop creativity in the classroom.
- The development of links with local Primary schools in science.
- Open Doors initiatives to share approaches that encourage innovative teaching and learning.
- The introduction of Dollar's fourth Modern Languages *assistente*, teaching Italian to pupils and staff.
- An audit of Numeracy throughout the 5-18 range.
- The appointment of Literacy and Numeracy co-ordinators in the Prep & Junior school to develop these vital areas further.
- The development of opportunities following the creation of a new cross-disciplinary department, that of Engineering, Design and Technology (EDT).
- A collaboration of the Biology, Junior Science and EDT departments with Modern Languages in the *Tricky Decisions* project, to encourage more discursive styles of scientific learning.
- Design events including the Technology Challenge Day and the work of the Young Engineers.
- A trial scheme, led by Dollar Academy in partnership with Clackmannanshire Council and local organisations, to extend the provision of IT resources and training to young people in care.
- The granting of 9 Harry Bell Awards to support pupils wishing to undertake literary research and travel projects in the UK and internationally; the granting of a Harry Bell Scholarship to the pupil whose subsequent work was adjudged outstanding.
- The Form III team won the *Stock Market Challenge* at Edinburgh University; the Form IV *Student Investor* group qualified for regional finals as 70<sup>th</sup> out of 7000 UK teams; and the Form V *Shares for Schools* team is fourth in Scotland.
- Two pupils have continued Dollar's involvement in the Auschwitz project.
- A pupil gained a certificate of distinction and a Bronze medal in the 2010 Junior Mathematical Olympiad against significant national competition
- Dollar pupils were placed third in the national *Top of the Bench* Chemistry competition.
- The Junior Science Fair again attracted wide praise for its innovation and excellence. From this, a Form I boy was selected to represent Scotland at the *Big Bang* event in London, winning two major prizes for his project out of 165 regional entrants, in front of an estimated 17,000 visitors.
- 160 pupils joined pupils from 217 other counties in the annual World Day of Maths.
- Six pupils were prizewinners in the annual Royal Society of Arts art competition, and one achieved equal first placing in the RSA Senior award.
- The use of webcams / Skype in Geography to communicate with earthquake-hit Haiti and Japan.
- The introduction of the "*flickr*" site to give more publicity to Dollar's artists.
- Four pupils in Form II won the University of Dundee's Strathmore Computing trophy.
- The successful introduction of a Music Technology option at Intermediate 2 and Higher levels.
- National Poetry day was celebrated by, among other things, a literary tea party in the library.

### Information Technology

- The Cyber Safety committee has been set up to research and advise on improved approaches to educating pupils how best to use their IT resources; senior pupils have a prominent role in this group.
- The development of virtual servers, storage area networks and their associated technology.
- The introduction of Sharepoint 2010 to link the school through departments and pupils.
- The establishment of Mini-labs in two more Modern Language classrooms.
- Further "Flip" video cameras have been introduced and are being used throughout the school for creative new approaches to teaching.

## Communications

- The introduction of a web 'diary' facility to the website enabling school trips to post daily materials.
- A map of the school to take account of new developments and buildings.
- A display of items in the Time Capsule, buried under the front steps of the Playfair Building.

## 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 principal assessors, markers; moderators, visiting examiners, question setters and vetters, qualifications development specialists, and members of curricular development groups.
- The major linkage of members of staff to educational organisations such as and Learning and Teaching Scotland, ASE, SSERC, AstraZeneca Teaching Trust, Gengage, RSC Education Committee, Global Schools Partnerships and HMIe
- The running of in-service training for Scottish teachers in Dollar's Outreach programme and in forums across Scotland, covering subjects from the sciences to guidance and pastoral work.
- The development and delivery of the Science and Languages Baccalaureate qualifications by Dollar staff, who have taken on national roles in their development, delivery and support.
- The links between members of the Science 5 – 13 staff and local schools.
- The production of text books and other on-line and print materials, contributing to national resources.
- Organisation and coaching in sport at community, regional and national levels.
- Teacher training (in selection, lecturing and direct support of students and new teachers).
- The active membership of professional associations in disseminating good practice and innovation.
- The involvement of staff in judging panels for national competitions, particularly in the literary world.
- The production of creative writing, reviews and criticisms for subject-related publications.
- Contributions made to educational and academic conferences, both nationally and internationally.
- The mounting of an exhibition celebrating the work of the sculptor George Henry Paulin.
- Involvement of staff in other activities supporting young people outside the Academy, including the Children's Panel system, uniformed youth organisations and Sunday School leadership.

## International and other links

- Further trips and external events related to academic work have taken place: the Geography staff ran their first trip to the Grand Canyon, San Francisco and Death Valley in the USA. and the History & Modern Studies department again visited China and the WWI battlefields in Belgium. The Biology department mounted its ninth expedition to Malaysia; the Art & Design department visited galleries in Paris; the Classics staff led a trip to Hadrian's Wall, while Modern Languages staff ran a wide variety of exchanges, "desk-to-desk" initiatives, trips, internet links and work experience in Spain, France and Germany; a new exchange was also set up in 2010 with Amberg.
- 11 pupils have successfully applied for grants from the Cameron Trust to support foreign and adventurous travel.
- The World Studies initiative has been consolidated, with further exchange visits arranged between Dollar and schools in Russia and the United States.
- The Prep School has developed the link with the St Francis Small Home in Malindi, Kenya which caters for children with a wide range of disabilities. Two Dollar FPs worked there for some months, and two members of staff spent part of the Spring holiday exploring further linking opportunities.
- We have received visits from exchange and work experience pupils from the USA, Germany, France, Spain and Japan.
- We have continued to welcome the linguistic support of Assistants from three European countries. In addition, an Italian *assistente* was appointed to extend the number of languages on offer.
- Members of staff are working with schools in Germany, Belgium, France and Italy in the Comenius project, with a focus on renewable energy. Pupils and staff have visited Italy as part of this project.
- The Stars and Stripes were flown over the school for a day, after being presented on loan by the surgeon father of two Dollar pupils; it had recently flown over the US hospital base in Helmand, Afghanistan
- Dollar has been visited by Michael Russell, Cabinet Secretary; Keith Brown, MSP; Frank Macaveety, MSP; The Earl of Mar & Kellie; and Dr Janet Brown, Head of the SQA.

## Access

- The creation of a new post of Community Services co-ordinator to facilitate and extend the involvement of Dollar Academy pupils in the local community.
- The provision of wider access for public use to appropriate school facilities, including sporting, cultural and social locations; the swimming pool has been used by more outside organisations; pitches have been loaned; the Dollar Drama Club regularly performs its two annual productions in the Studio Theatre; new exercise and Karate groups have been using the Maguire Gym, and charities have been running fund-raising events in the Captain's Room.
- The development of databases in Support for Learning to enable fuller and more consistent support for pupils.
- The introduction of a Pupil Council in the Junior School.
- The extension of the UCAS team to provide fuller support for pupils making applications to university.

## Health & Safety

- The further installation of security locks on outside doors around the campus.
- The paving of areas around the school to provide safer surfaces underfoot.
- The introduction of "finger scan" and advance ordering technology in the Dining Hall.
- The "Scotland's Healthy Living Award" won by Dollar's Catering Manager and Head Chef.

## Boarding

- A programme of “Taster days” to give day pupils the chance to experience the wider opportunities that boarding offers.
- The provision of in-service training for staff in Houses covering a range of interests, and the recruitment and induction of new members of staff.
- The provision of weekend activities by teaching staff not directly involved in boarding, including cookery evenings, book clubs and outdoor education.
- The consultation of parents and boarders through questionnaires and meetings, and their responses followed up; these questionnaires add further to the insights gained into pupil views through House meetings, suggestion boxes and senior pupil consultation groups.
- The running of the first boarders’ Dining-in night following the Crieff Hydro adventure day

## Co-Curricular Achievements

- Internationalists: more than 90 current and former pupils are wearing the tie to signify their representation of their nations in a wide range of sports and activities.
- Another “Activities Fair” at the start of session to encourage pupils to try new activities.
- The development of the website information area, giving a page to each activity.
- The development of more whole year group based activity events.
- The introduction of new activities in response to pupil and staff enthusiasms.
- The introduction of elite training sessions in sports activities.
  
- Athletics: 2 pupils took 1<sup>st</sup> 2 places in O-17 javelin event at the Scottish Schools’ competition, where another took 800 and 1500m titles. Dollar also won the Forth Valley championships.
- Ballroom dancing: significant numbers of senior pupils received the highest school award, Level 3, for Latin American dance.
- Badminton: Dollar teams at all levels won a range of personal and paired titles in the Central Schools’ competition.
- Burns: a Junior school pupil won the annual Dollar competition with a full recitation of *Tam O’ Shanter*, emulating her sister who performed the same feat the previous year. There were 59 entrants.
- Charities: in the region of £10,000 has been raised this year through pupil-run activities, in this interim year between whole school Sponsored Walks (which generally raise over £57,000 biennially.)
- Chess: the school team not only won the Regional Chess jamboree, they also won every game they played in so doing; they reached the semi-final of the Scottish Schools championships.
- Combined Cadet Force: cadets attended 44 different courses over the year, from gliding to sub-aqua.
- Clay Pigeon Shooting: Dollar won their section at the Scottish Schools competition.
- Cricket: two pupils have been selected for Scotland U-17 trials, and many more are involved at regional level. Wide links with local clubs have been developed.
- Curling: the Dollar team won the Perth League competition.
- Dance: a pupil has been selected for the Scottish School of Contemporary Dance.
- Duke of Edinburgh Award: numbers involved are the highest ever, with 132 in Bronze, 75 in Silver and 41 in Gold. 11 are to receive their Gold awards at Holyrood in June 2011.
- Debating: two Dollar debaters have won the competitions at Glasgow, Dundee and St Andrews Universities, and were finalists at Aberdeen and Durham and semi-finalists at Oxford. They won the Scottish ESU Mace competition and are now two of the five Scottish team in the forthcoming World Championships. One of the two was in the winning pair in the St Andrews debate in the Scottish Parliament. The Dollar junior team retained the Glenalmond trophy this year. 60 pupils competed in the internal school competition.
- Equestrian: one pupil was named Best Individual at the Kilgraston combined competition; another was selected for Scotland against England in the British Show Pony Society championships; another represented Dollar in the Scottish Schools Show jumping championships; another has been selected for Scotland for the Home pony International event
- Falconry: pupils are working towards their LANTRA award in Falconry, working both in Dollar and at the falconry centre.
- Fencing: a pupil took silver for Scotland in the foil event at the UK School Games; she is now part of the GB U-20 team that will be competing in Croatia and France in the summer of 2011.
- First Aid: The four man Dollar team beat competition from 120 other CCF, ATC and AFC cadets to take the Best Overall Team prize as well as the Best CCF team. They won the CCF Scottish title for the 5<sup>th</sup> year in succession, and the UK national title at Sandhurst, among other national distinctions.
- Football: 5 members of the senior girls’ team played in the SISFA international against England. Two boys are currently training with professional sides.
- Golf: the Forth Valley Girls team, comprising two Dollar girls, came third in the Scottish School champs; a range of other titles, including Open championships, have been taken locally by Dollar pupils. A pupil qualified for the Faldo Series World Final in Ireland.
- Highland Dancing: a pupil has won the Scottish Senior, and the British Junior, Championships.
- Hockey: the Independent Boarding Schools Girls Hockey tournament was hosted for the first time at Dollar; the 1<sup>st</sup> XI were the winners. A number of players have been selected for Midlands representation.
- Journalism: this session *The Galley* was shortlisted in 5 categories for the Scottish Schools Magazine awards.
- Karting: Dollar entered the youngest team in the regional finals of the UK championships for the first time and came 4<sup>th</sup> out of 10 schools; the activity was set up in 2010 by Form III pupils.
- Karate: A Form II pupil has been awarded his Black Belt, and a Form I girl has taken gold in the English National Championships and bronze in the Scottish International Championships, among other awards.

- Music: Dollar won a range of awards in choral, instrumental and vocal classes at both the Perth and Forth Valley Festivals. One pupil has been selected for the National Youth Orchestra of Scotland, and another for the National Youth Jazz Orchestra of Scotland; pupils have also been selected for the National Youth Choirs of Scotland at all levels.
- Pipe Band: the Dollar A Band are the RSPB Scottish, British, European and World Champions, and are thus entitled "Champion of Champions"; they were invited to perform for the Pope at his visit to Edinburgh. They won the Scottish Schools' CCF championships for the 11<sup>th</sup> year in succession, the Quartet and Trio Piping competition, the George Watson's Mini-Band and Glasgow Highland Club events among others. Individuals in the band have gained numerous awards, including the best Piobaireachd player of 2011 (by a Form II pupil.)
- Quiz: the Dollar Junior team won the UK National Junior Schools Challenge, by the largest margin in the 50 years' history of the competition; the Senior team won the Scottish Final of the Schools' Challenge quiz by an equally unprecedented margin.
- Rugby: a pupil played for the Scotland U-17 team, and at district level numerous boys have represented Caledonia.
- Shooting: 4 pupils were selected for the adult Scottish team against LMRA, and were central to the victory. At Bisley Dollar came 4<sup>th</sup> in the overall competition and won a range of awards. The London Scottish vase for the best Scottish shooting school was won for the 15<sup>th</sup> consecutive year. Three pupils have been selected for the GB Athelings team to tour Canada.
- Squash: a pupil has been selected for the Scottish National Talent squad.
- Swimming: Dollar pupils have competed in the finals of the Scottish School Championships and gained medals in many events.
- Taekwon-do: having achieved his Black belt, a pupil has now successfully trained as an early stages teacher in the sport.
- Thai Boxing: a pupil has taken Scottish and British titles in the 50kg section.
- Tennis: the Junior girls team won the Kilgraston Invitation tournament and were runners up in the Aegon Scottish championships.
- Water skiing: a Form I girl is the top Junior Ladies waterskier in Scotland; she also came third in the British Junior Girls National competition.

#### **F P Achievements this year**

**Cricket:** Sanjay Patel (FP 1991) - captain of Grange CC, winners of the SNCL Cup, 2010.

**Equestrian Vaulting:** Joanne Eccles (FP 2006) - World Champion in the Kentucky World event.

**Rugby:** Rory Lawson (FP 1999), Graeme Morrison (FP 2001), John Barclay (FP 2004) – members of the Scottish team; James Thompson (FP 2002), Michael Adamson (FP 2002) – other Scottish representatives.

**Science SQA awards:** Sarah Silk (FP 2010) – the top student in Higher Biotechnology in Scotland 2010.

**Shooting:** Jennifer Macintosh (FP 2009) - 2 Gold medals and 1 Bronze at the Commonwealth Games, Delhi; Craig Stewart (FP 1980); Jacqui Rankin (FP 1998); Elizabeth Barr (FP 2000); Jonathan Borland (FP 2004) and Eilidh Stewart (FP 2009) – members of the Scottish team that won the UK National for the first time since 1965.

### **FUTURE DEVELOPMENT**

Over the course of the next five years, further major developments are planned. Clearly, priorities will change, but the major aims at present are:

#### **Buildings / Facilities / Grounds / The Environment**

- The development of the area bounded by the Playfair, Dewar, Younger and Gibson Buildings to provide new social and educational spaces.
- The improvement of the Reception area in the Playfair Building for visitors and the development of the link corridor to the Sixth Form Centre, thus completing the upgrading of the west-east axis through the Playfair Building.
- The development of the school office and staff administration facilities.
- The development of the courtyard areas in the Prep School.
- The development and relocation of the Bursarial facilities.
- The development of facilities for the teaching of the sciences and applied sciences, Engineering, Design & Technology and Geography.
- The provision of machinery in Engineering, Design and Technology to allow the development of a new generation of projects across the age range.
- The development of the old Sixth Form Centre to provide further Junior and other facilities.
- The provision of more classroom space for a range of departments.
- The extension of music teaching, rehearsal and performance areas.

#### **Boarding**

- The introduction of wireless IT facilities in all Boarding Houses.
- The use of outside agencies to give special guidance in areas such as nutrition.
- The inclusion of training from - and co-ordination with - the School Nurse and the Head of PSE to equip boarding staff more fully to support pupils.
- The involvement of more staff in providing weekend and evening activities for pupils.
- The encouragement of more inter-house activities.
- Provision of more communication facilities for boarders (e.g. further access to Skype).

## **Curricular**

- Further exploration of the potential for development in Dollar from the Curriculum for Excellence.
- The collaboration of departments in cross curricular activities; for example, the Biology, Junior Science, Geography and EDT departments in the *Alternative Energy* project, to encourage more connected styles of scientific learning; the Classics and Biology departments to investigate Science and Medicine in the ancient world; Classics, Home Economics and Geography; and Mathematics with Business, Science and EDT in a Challenge Day.
- The encouragement of all members of staff to undertake “Open Doors” activities; to consider applying for Creativity funding; and to undertake activities contributing to the educational community beyond Dollar.
- The development of a programme of inter-departmental discussion groups, enabling the interchange of ideas and “Open Doors” approaches throughout the teaching staff.
- Wider research into curricular progression from ages 5 – 18 in Dollar, with a view to optimising personal development and academic results; related to this, further regular peer observation among Prep, Junior and Senior school staff.
- The encouragement of more departments to run curricular events on the lines of the Junior Science Fair and Challenge Days.
- The creation of a new Dollar Academy Form II Classics text book as a companion volume to the Form I textbook recently written and produced by the Head of Department.
- Building on the link with the Malindi school to enable wider educational opportunities for current and former Dollar pupils, including Business Education and enterprise projects.
- A joint project with the local Primary School involving pupils in Dollar’s Junior School.
- An audit of Literacy throughout the 5-18 range.
- Modern Languages teaching in the Junior school spread over more frequent, shorter lessons.
- The extension of teaching in Classical Greek.
- An extension of Art displays around the school, with an expansion of Sixth Year products.
- A Corporate Law module for Form VI pupils, and a business-related school trip abroad.
- The increased use of Form VI pupils to help in the Support for Learning department.

## **Co-curricular**

- The provision of new activities in line with pupil and staff enthusiasms, such as an Astronomy Club and a jewellery making activity.
- The development of opportunities for pupils to become involved in local community volunteering.
- The introduction of an overseas musical tour.
- The change from a biennial to an annual ski tour in response to pupil demand.
- The publication of a pupil-based creative writing publication.

## **Communications**

- Refinement of procedures to alert parents about pupil absences.
- More communication with parents over the academic progress of their children.
- The development of more interactive features of the school website including the use of “blogs” to communicate more fully the school experience.
- Involvement in the wider marketing of boarding, both nationally and internationally.

## **Information Technology**

- The replacement and improvement of the IT infrastructure throughout the school campus, connecting all areas of the school by high speed cabling.
- The introduction of a new management information system from WCBS – “PASS”.
- The upgrade of a significant percentage of school PCs.
- The provision of wireless technology in areas of the school site.
- The installation of further interactive whiteboards as requested by departments.
- The extension of “activote” interactive technology in lessons.
- The extension of remote access facilities to pupils.
- The realisation of the potential afforded by the “Sharepoint” facility

## **Access**

- Continuing development of approaches to the uploading of departmental resources to shared areas on the school intranet, to allow greater ease of access to materials for remote teaching and learning.
- The development of databases in Support for Learning to enable fuller and more consistent support for pupils.
- The continuing programme to develop departments’ ability to support learning across the spectrum of pupils’ needs.

## **Health & Safety**

- The development of further teaching approaches to pupils’ internet safety.
- Further emergency planning exercises to test Dollar’s contingency procedures.
- Increased playground supervision in the Prep & Junior 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 review. 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 (as, for example, the Literacy Working Group, May 2011). 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.uk](http://www.dollaracademy.org.uk)

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 full-size prospectus, and in the prospectuses published in French, in German, in Polish and in Spanish - all of which are available on the website. The distinctive Dollar ethos is captured, to as great an extent as possible, in the words and images there.

There are eleven 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, Child Protection Guidelines*, 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 approximately seven 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](http://www.hmie.gov.uk) and [www.carecommission.com](http://www.carecommission.com) (now *SCSWIS*)

- 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 Jan 2008
- Care Commission unannounced Inspection of School Care Accommodation Services, 17 March 2008
- Care Commission announced Inspection of School Care Accommodation Services, 7 Nov 2008
- Care Commission unannounced Inspection of School Care Accommodation Services, 12 March 2009
- Care Commission unannounced Inspection of School Care Accommodation Services, 10 Dec 2010

and at the Learning and Teaching Scotland website: [www.ltscotland.org.uk/scottishschoolsonline/schools](http://www.ltscotland.org.uk/scottishschoolsonline/schools)

June 2011

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