

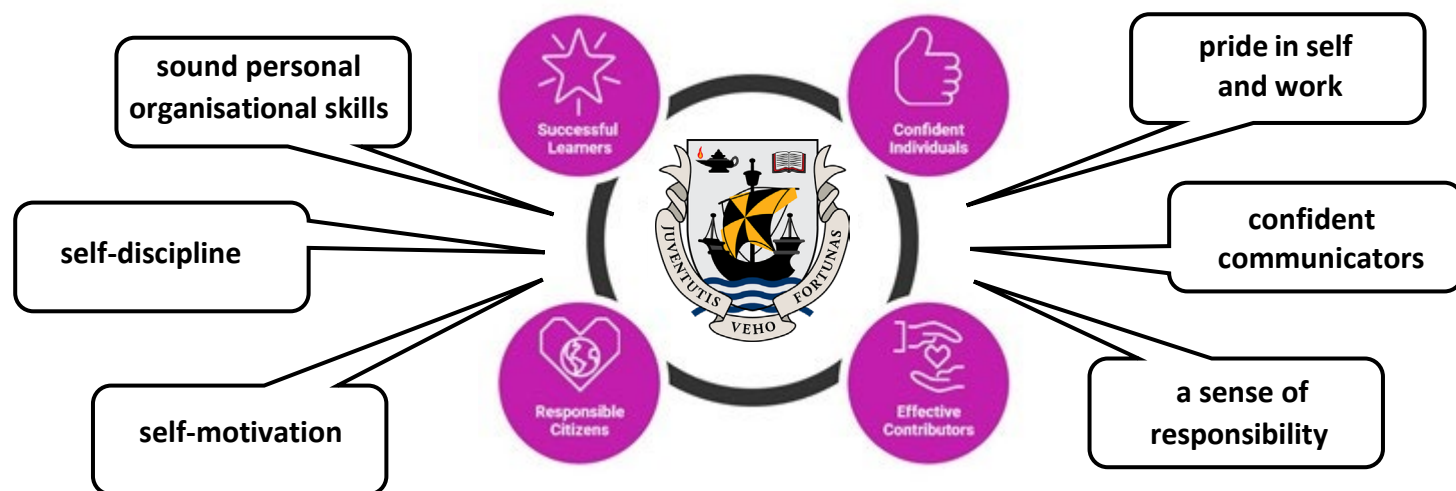


DOLLAR
ACADEMY

**DOLLAR ACADEMY
JUNIOR SCHOOL INFORMATION
2023-24**



The aims of the Junior School take account of its unique position within Dollar Academy for it forms a transitional stage between the Prep and Senior Schools. Increased demands placed upon the children in these stages require a supportive environment in which we seek to encourage:



Above all, we aim to build up self-respect and confidence in an environment which values the contribution of all and encourages children to develop as wide a variety of interests as possible. We actively embrace the school values of work hard, be kind and get involved.

The Junior School spans two age groups – P6 and P7, known at Dollar as Junior 1 (J1) and Junior 2 (J2). There are three classes at J1 and four in J2. All classes are of mixed ability and each has its own class teacher, who has pastoral oversight of the children in his/her care. This includes monitoring each child's academic progress as well as taking an active part in their social development.

Curriculum

The Junior School staff work closely together, and with Senior School colleagues, to achieve a well-balanced curriculum which the children enjoy and from which they learn and make progress. Each curricular area is grounded in the principles and values of the Curriculum for Excellence and taught by primary or subject specialists.

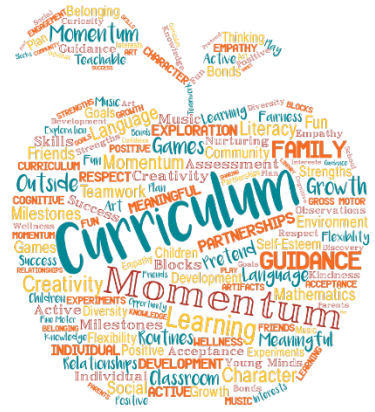
English Language, Religious and Moral Education, Maths, ICT and Health and Wellbeing are taught by all class teachers. For much of the year, History, Geography and Science are taught by class teachers who specialise in these areas. At certain times, a more integrated approach to learning is followed. Both Junior 1 and Junior 2 enjoy a unique Lifeskills programme designed to educate pupils in skills for lifelong learning, covering topics such as financial education, career choices, sustainability, politics, philosophical thinking and debating. Junior 1 pupils undertake the John Muir Award while Junior 2 pupils participate in the Junior Duke.

Music, Art, P.E./Games, Computing, Enterprise, Home Economics, EDT and a Modern Language (French, German or Spanish) are taught by Senior School specialists. This specialist teaching makes use of the outstanding Senior School facilities and aids in the pupils' transition to the senior school.

The Support for Learning Department offers additional help to those children who will benefit from small group or one-to-one assistance, whether it is to overcome a specific difficulty or to provide specific work in Maths or English Language.

Homework is set on a regular basis, often for the following day but sometimes for the following week; in this way, the children are beginning to discipline themselves and organise their time.

Continuous assessment ensures that each child's progress is constantly monitored. Internal assessments are undertaken at appropriate times throughout the year. An informal Information Evening early in the academic year and two, more formal, Parents' Evenings offer opportunities for parent-teacher contact, but parents are welcome to contact the school whenever the need arises. Written reports are sent to parents in mid-June.



Co-Curricular Activities

A wide variety of co-curricular activities takes place during lunchtimes and after school. All children are encouraged to participate to increase their range of skills and interests for the future.

All members of J1 participate in a Cantata in the second term whilst those in J2 take part in a Musical in their third term. Other annual events include a Harvest Assembly, Science Fair, Burns Competition and supper, Carol Service, Cross Country Championships, Swimming Gala and Sports Weekend.

Trips are arranged to a variety of places to support and enhance learning. Children in both year groups have the opportunity to participate in longer visits away from home. In 2023, every child in J1 enjoyed a 2 night residential trip to Largs, incorporating a visit to Cumbrae and the opportunity to use the outstanding facilities at Inverclyde National Sports Centre, whilst our J2 cohort enjoyed a week of outdoor pursuits at the outdoor centre at Loch Insh, Kingussie.

Rugby, Hockey, Cricket, Tennis and Athletics fixtures against schools throughout central Scotland take place throughout the year.

School Equipment

You will need the following items.

- Lead pencils
- Coloured Pencils
- Felt tip pens
- Handwriting pens (ink cartridge or good roller ball – blue)
- Ruler – 30cm clear
- A4 Wallet/pocket file – to keep sheets flat
- Oxford School Atlas (OUP ISBN – 9780199137022)
- Dictionary
- Protractor/Compass
- Pritt stick glue (colourless)
- P.E. kit (see info.booklet) (Not required for the first two days of school)
- Black/navy school bag (rucksack style)

We are here to help. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Mrs Petrie, Assistant Head of the Junior School at junior@dollaracademy.org.uk