



## Futures Institute at Dollar Academy - September 2024 Update

September has been an inspiring month, with the spotlight firmly on the International Sustainability Diploma.

We kicked things off with a dynamic session at Dollar, bringing together teachers and learners for lively discussions and enthusiastic exchanges of ideas. In addition, we've begun evaluating the Diploma pilot, aiming to assess how effectively it's meeting its objectives and to gain valuable insights into the experiences of the young people and teachers involved.

As always, we hope you find this month's update informative and welcome any questions or feedback. Please feel free to [contact us](#) at any time.

---

### Our first teacher and learner workshops

At the beginning of September, we were thrilled to welcome to Dollar 12 teachers and 40 pupils (around half of the pupil cohort) from our pilot schools for a Diploma workshop. The atmosphere was energetic, with teachers sharing their excitement about the Diploma. One teacher described it as *"inspiring"* while another remarked, *"As teachers, when do we ever get the chance to think and work like this? It's fantastic to be involved."* A fellow educator added, *"It's great to be part of something that's actually happening, rather than just being talked about."*



Learners were equally enthusiastic; one young person shared, *"I want to learn how to make the world better—it's important for the future."* Another highlighted the Diploma's unique approach, saying, *"It's a different way of learning—engaging through discussions and practical activities to understand problems from multiple angles, giving me a new perspective."*

The FIDA team were so pleased to see such a positive start to the Diploma pilot.

---

### FIDA in the broadsheets

FIDA has recently been featured in The Sunday Times and The Scotsman as part of their Independent Schools supplements.

In The Sunday Times, FIDA was hailed as *'a pioneering initiative offering project-based learning opportunities where students tackle real-world challenges, grounded in the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.'*



Meanwhile, in The Scotsman, Ian Munro emphasised the critical juncture facing Scottish education and the role FIDA can play in its reform, stating, *"We stand at a pivotal moment for education in Scotland. This is a chance to build a lasting framework that empowers learners, amplifies their voices, and equips them to make a meaningful global impact."* We already have evidence that these powerful sentiments resonate deeply with the learners participating in the FIDA Diploma, who are already embodying this vision in their studies (see article below).

---

### Telling the story of the Diploma

We are evaluating the Diploma pilot to help the FIDA team gather evidence and insights on its effectiveness and progress toward its objectives. By inviting feedback from teachers and pupils, we can also share their stories and experiences of being involved. To kickstart the evaluation, through September we surveyed learners from the seven pilot schools to understand their reasons for choosing the Diploma and their goals for the year.



The 59 pupil responses reflected a strong commitment to learning about sustainability, gaining valuable skills and qualifications, and applying this knowledge to create positive change in the world. They also showed a strong enthusiasm for a hands-on, creative, and

collaborative learning experience that will allow them to explore sustainability and develop essential skills without the constraints of traditional examinations.

We also interviewed the teachers - a more detailed report on all the findings will be available in next month's newsletter.



## Fundraising appeal receives a further boost

We are delighted to have received a £23,000 legacy donation from a Former Pupil this month. This donation, along with all previous donations to the appeal, represents a significant investment in the future of education in Scotland, and we are deeply grateful for the support. Our evaluation is already showing us positive outcomes from FIDA, empowering young people to tackle real-world challenges with creativity and confidence.

[Read More](#)

## UNSDG - Goal of the Month

**Special Edition:** With **only 17%** of the Goals' targets on track, progress remains uneven, leaving many behind. The highly anticipated [Summit of the Future](#), held during the General Assembly on 22 and 23 September, underscores the urgent need for enhanced international cooperation to address pressing challenges and forge a collective vision for a better, more sustainable future.

[Click here to find out more](#)

## What our donors say...

*"I have very fond memories of my time at Dollar and would be delighted if my donation can be attached to the school. I look forward to visiting the Futures Institute in the years to come and staying connected with the school."*

[Donate Here!](#)

To view all previous newsletters and updates click on the FIDA News icon:

[FIDA News](#)



Futures Institute at Dollar Academy - Dollar, Clackmannanshire, FK14 7DU  
<https://fida.world/> - [fundraising@dollaracademy.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@dollaracademy.org.uk)

©2024 Dollar Academy. All rights reserved.