



Futures Institute at Dollar Academy - February 2025 Update

After a short break, we're delighted to bring you the latest FIDA newsletter.

You may have noticed in previous editions that each month we highlight the UN's Sustainable Development Goal of the month, and this month's - *SDG 4: Quality Education* - couldn't be more aligned with our mission.

As UN Secretary-General António Guterres reminds us: "Education is a fundamental human right, central to the dignity and empowerment of individuals, to driving sustainable development, and to building peace." At FIDA, we believe that access to quality education is essential for shaping a more sustainable, equitable future. From our work on the International Sustainability Diploma to our partnerships with schools, colleges, universities and industry, we remain committed to innovating and expanding learning opportunities for all.

Read on for updates, and as always, we hope you find this edition informative. We welcome any questions or feedback. Please feel free to [contact us](#) at any time.

Final Global Challenge launched



In January, we were delighted to launch the final Global Challenge Project for our Diploma students. The project tasks them with designing a computer game or app to tackle the growing problem of climate anxiety and helps to develop digital skills as well as the core skills of problem-solving, creative thinking, collaboration and communication. We're really looking forward to seeing what they produce and hope to share some examples of their work in future newsletters.



Partnerships in Practise

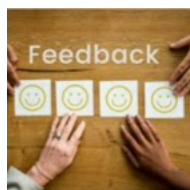
Plans are in full flow with our partner institution, the University of Stirling, to develop the materials for the third and final Unit of the Diploma, *Entrepreneurship – Ideas Into Action*. We are looking forward to hearing our students' enterprise pitches later in the year.



2025/26 Diploma Roll-out

FIDA is set to expand its reach across Scotland in the upcoming academic year, following the ongoing success of the initial pilot. We're delighted to report interest from a diverse selection of schools, eager to implement the Diploma's approach to learning and assessment. This expansion represents an exciting next phase in our mission to make quality education available to all, teaching sustainability in meaningful ways, and offering alternatives to traditional classroom learning and assessment.

Hearing from our Diploma pioneers

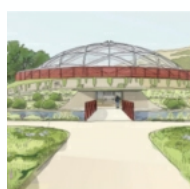


As our Diploma pilot progresses, we're actively listening to the voices that matter most - our students! Their insights provide valuable perspective on the Diploma's impact and effectiveness. The feedback has been predominantly positive, with many students finding the course both engaging and intellectually stimulating. Here's what some of our participants have to say:

"I particularly enjoyed doing research on the 17 SDGs. I liked becoming more familiar with ways to be more sustainable in life, as I am a part of my school's Eco committee."

"I enjoyed the design process because it allowed me to think creatively"

"I find portfolio-assessment better because I feel as if I don't need to prove how capable I can be based on a grade. I find it more enjoyable as well, being graded by working in groups and finding out valuable information that broadens my horizons."



Fundraising appeal receives a further boost

We are delighted to have received £81,350 in donations since our last newsletter. These, along with all previous donations, represent a significant investment in the future of education in Scotland, and we continue to be deeply grateful for the support. Find out more about how you can support us by clicking below.

UNSDG - Goal of the Month

SDG 4: Quality Education: From early childhood development to lifelong learning, access to quality education is essential for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The world has made progress in increasing school enrolment rates and improving literacy levels, but significant challenges remain. Progress towards Goal 4 has been slow since 2015, with only 58% of students worldwide achieving a minimum proficiency in reading by 2019.

[Click here to find out more](#)

What our donors say...

"I was prompted to donate to FIDA as I am impressed by the purpose and objectives of the Futures Institute and the potential for inclusive involvement of students beyond just those at Dollar."

[Donate Here!](#)

That's it for now, we'll be back in your inbox next month. In the meantime, to view all previous newsletters and updates click on the FIDA News icon:

[FIDA News](#)

Let us know what you thought of this month's issue by clicking [here](#).

Have a question about something in the newsletter? Get in touch [here](#).

To find out about FIDA collaboration and corporate sponsorship opportunities, click [here](#).

Been forwarded this newsletter? [Sign up here](#).



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