

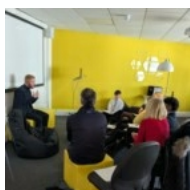


Futures Institute at Dollar Academy - March 2025 Update

March has been a busy month for FIDA! The pilot of our International Sustainability Diploma is nearing its conclusion – and we've been out on the road with colleagues from the University of Stirling to kick-start the final Unit: Entrepreneurship – Ideas Into Action. Along the way, we've captured incredible insights from pupils, resulting in some fantastic short case study videos that showcase their experiences and learning.

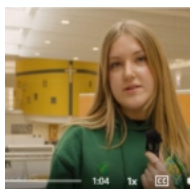
Read on for updates, and as always, we hope you find this edition informative. We welcome any questions or feedback. Please feel free to [contact us](#) at any time.

Diploma - Entrepreneurship sessions



This month, we've been out across the country visiting our pilot schools, alongside the brilliant John Robertson from the University of Stirling's Enterprise Programme. John, together with FIDA Director Jackie Smith, has been introducing the final Unit of the Diploma which focuses on translating ideas into action through entrepreneurship. It's been inspiring to see the young people build on their previous learning, transforming their ideas into viable ventures and honing their pitching skills. Watching their confidence grow as they explore the world of entrepreneurship has been a real highlight!

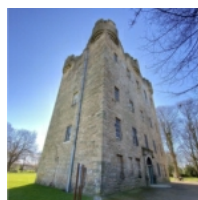
Video case studies



While John and Jackie were working with the pupils, some were invited to take a few minutes to share their thoughts on the Diploma and what they've enjoyed most. From these conversations, we are creating a series of short case study videos featuring their voices and experiences. Their feedback is fantastic, offering real insight into what they've gained from the Diploma this year - truly inspiring to listen to! We are delighted to share the first video, with voices from our pilot school in Dumbarton. More videos will follow in the coming months.

[Click Here to watch video](#)

Employer Engagement Forum



We were delighted to be invited by Clackmannanshire and Stirling Councils to share a project update at their Employer Engagement Forum hosted at Alloa Tower. It was a lively and engaged discussion, reinforcing how closely FIDA aligns with the evolving education, skills, and employment landscape. Speakers from Skills Development Scotland and Progressive Pathways highlighted the increasing demand for exactly the skills FIDA helps young people develop - communication, teamwork, and problem-solving - all with a strong focus on sustainability. We will be continuing these discussions over coming months.

Learners promote gender equality



This month's UN Goal of the Month is Gender Equality (more details below), and we're taking this opportunity to showcase an impressive project output from an earlier unit of the Diploma. As part of their learning, pupils were challenged to develop a solution to a real-world problem using independent research, problem-solving, critical thinking, collaboration, and communication skills. Two pupils from Inverness Royal Academy created a fantastic short video in response to the challenge - you can watch it by clicking below (and don't forget to turn the sound on!).

[Click Here to watch video](#)

Fundraising support continues



Support for FIDA continues to grow, with more donations coming in this month from Former Pupils and current parents. Many have shared how much they value FIDA's role in shaping the future of education and are very excited about the new building. Every contribution, big or small, makes a difference. Find out how you can support us by clicking below.

[Support Us](#)

UNSDG - Goal of the Month

SDG 5 - Gender Equality: Gender equality is a fundamental human right and a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous, and sustainable world. Empowering women and girls is crucial for accelerating sustainable development, promoting economic growth, and building inclusive societies. **However, the world is far off track in achieving gender equality by 2030.** At current rates, it is estimated that another 176 years are required to reach parity in women's participation in management positions.

[Click here to find out more](#)

What our donors say...

"We believe that the FIDA initiative represents the forward-thinking and ambitious approach to learning adopted by Dollar Academy, which we have come to appreciate over the years since our child started at the school. We feel that FIDA offers them, and hundreds of other young people at the school and beyond, the opportunity to embrace learning and education in a creative, dynamic, and fulfilling manner, fit for the future. We therefore wanted to lend our support to the project."

[Donate Here!](#)

In the meantime, to view all previous newsletters and updates click on the FIDA News icon:

[FIDA News](#)

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

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