



## Futures Institute at Dollar Academy - May 2025 Update

May was a milestone month for FIDA, full of exciting developments and growing momentum. The hoarding is now up on campus, marking visible progress on the Futures Institute building. We've also expanded the International Sustainability Diploma with a new SCQF Level 5 qualification, making the qualification more accessible to a wider range of learners. Most encouragingly, 14 schools across Scotland have signed up to deliver the Diploma next academic year, a clear sign of the initiative's increasing reach and relevance.

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.

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### Robertson Construction on Site



In case you missed the announcement last month, we're thrilled to welcome Robertson Construction to the Dollar campus. Robertson has officially begun preparatory work for the construction of the Futures Institute building, an exciting milestone in bringing this ambitious project to life. Their presence on site marks the beginning of a new chapter, and we look forward to sharing progress updates as the build takes shape over the coming months.

[Click Here to watch the Rector's announcement](#)

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### International Sustainability Diploma



It's a busy time of year for the International Sustainability Diploma, with our first cohort of students reaching the end of their Diploma course and the second cohort beginning. The qualification is recognised by UCAS and we wish all our students well as they progress to the next stage of learning and life. We are delighted that the number of schools across Scotland offering the qualification is set to double in the 2025-26 session and look forward to working with them all.

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### New Qualification at Level 5



Building on the experience of the Diploma, FIDA is also now pleased to introduce a new qualification, the International Sustainability Certificate at SCQF Level 5. This is the result of a rigorous credit-rating process conducted by our academic partner, Glasgow Clyde College. It responds to demand from teachers who feel there would be benefit in introducing project-based learning at an earlier stage. We are excited to take this forward with schools in the 2025-26 session.

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### Junior 1 Wildlife Welcome Here Project



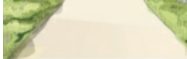
Here at Dollar Academy, our entire Junior 1 (Primary 6) year group has just completed a year-long FIDA project investigating threats to local wildlife and designing their own solutions. Their work couldn't be more relevant, as the UN's Goal of the Month for May was Life on Land. From 'habitat in a bag' kits for hedgehog protection to high-tech colour-sensing squirrel-feeders that would discern red squirrels from grey, their ideas were as impressive as they were innovative.

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### Fundraising Support Continues



Support for FIDA continues to grow, with another large donation this month from a Former Pupil. Many donors have shared how much they value FIDA's role in shaping the future of education and are very excited about the new building. It's not too late to get your name on our donor wall inside the Futures Institute. If



you are yet to donate and keen to support us, you can find out more by clicking below.

[Support Us](#)

## UNSDG - Goal of the Month

**SDG 15 - Life on Land:** Forests, biodiversity and land are under growing pressure from human activity. As of 2024, forest loss continues at alarming rates, with over 10 million hectares disappearing annually. Only 15% of land globally is under protection, while desertification and soil degradation threaten the livelihoods of over 3.2 billion people. Biodiversity is declining, with one million species at risk of extinction. Achieving Goal 15 requires urgent restoration of degraded land, halting deforestation, and conserving biodiversity across ecosystems.

[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."*

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