



## Futures Institute at Dollar Academy | April 2026 Round-Up

While April has been a quieter month outwardly, there's been plenty happening behind the scenes at FIDA. Here's a short round-up of what we've been working on. As always, we welcome any questions or feedback. Please feel free to [contact us](#) at any time.

### Watch our latest timelapse video



Our timelapse camera has been busy capturing the FIDA build on campus, and we're pleased to be able to share the latest update. Watching the building come to life is fascinating, not least because it highlights just how cloudy and wet our winter has been! A big thank you to the Robertson team for their continued hard work in keeping the project on schedule, despite the challenging conditions.

[Watch the timelapse here](#)



### BBC SCOTCAST mention

We were delighted to hear BBC Scotcast feature a discussion this month on the question: What is school for? Among the expert panel was journalist James McEnany, a valued supporter of FIDA (see his article in the Herald FIDA Newsletter October 2025).

During the conversation, the panel explored the role of innovation in ensuring education remains relevant and fit for purpose for young people today. James highlighted Dollar Academy as an example of this in action, noting: "Dollar Academy are doing something incredibly innovative around a whole new qualification." He added: "If you give young people the chance to do something amazing, they will amaze you."

[Listen to the podcast here](#)

### Teacher support of the International Sustainability Diploma

*Our involvement in the International Sustainability Diploma has helped our pupils build their confidence around skills they previously felt hesitant to attempt. The experience has been very positive for both the pupils and staff involved - helping Braes to embed Learning for Sustainability and interdisciplinary approaches across the senior phase.*

Dr S Wilson, Teacher  
Braes High School, Falkirk

We continue to showcase the support we have received from teachers delivering the International Sustainability Diploma in their schools. This month we hear from Dr Samantha Wilson, a teacher of Religious, Moral and

Philosophical Studies at Braes High in Falkirk. Braes are in their second year of delivering the Diploma and have been so impressed with how it continues to empower a diverse range of young people to develop their analytical skills through the research and design elements of the course.

[Read more about the ISD here](#)



## Public Art Installation Competition

To celebrate the opening of the Futures Institute, we are inviting young people to design an art installation that will sit permanently on the Dollar Academy campus. Designs should tell a story about Dollar – its identity, values, and hopes for a sustainable future. The competition is open to all pupils who live in Dollar or go to school in Dollar from P5 to S6 and in May we will be running workshops in Strathdevon Primary School and Dollar Academy to support pupils to think through their ideas - watch this space!



## Wildlife Welcome Here!

This year's J1 pupils at Dollar Academy have been busy working on their new FIDA Project: 'Wildlife Welcome Here'. They have explored the habitat around Dollar and learned about the local ecosystems. Once they had identified the various dangers posed to the local wildlife, they were tasked with creating an innovative solution to help reduce or mitigate these threats. They will be presenting their ideas to a panel on Friday, 8 May.



## Support Our Vision

Whether you're an individual or a corporate partner, there are meaningful ways to support FIDA's vision. Your contribution toward the Futures Institute could be recognised on our donor wall, or we would welcome support of our expanding educational programme.

Any level of support helps us create transformational learning opportunities for young people. To explore how you can be part of the future, please [get in touch](#).

## What our donors say...

*"I'm a Former Pupil and on a recent visit to Dollar to visit my parents I saw the Futures Institute being built so looked into it. It seemed a very worthwhile cause as well as an iconic building, hence my decision to donate."*

[Donate Here!](#)

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[FIDA News](#)

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