



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

As we reflect on another successful academic year, it is hard to ignore just how quickly the world around us is changing. The extraordinary pace of developments in AI alone has reinforced something we have long believed: the future will demand more than knowledge. Young people need the confidence, adaptability and critical thinking skills to navigate an increasingly complex world. At FIDA, we are committed to ensuring they are equipped to thrive in that future.

This month's newsletter celebrates the progress we have made together over the past year. None of it would be possible without the generosity and encouragement of our supporters. Thank you for believing in and supporting our vision, and for helping to prepare the next generation for the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead.

As always, we welcome any questions or feedback. Please feel free to [contact us](#) at any time.

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### Andrew Whalley OBE views the building



It was a real privilege to show Andrew Whalley OBE - a Dollar Academy Former Pupil (1980), the building's architect, and Chairman of [Grimshaw](#) - around the Futures Institute during a recent visit to Dollar. Following his tour, Andrew reflected:

*"...it was wonderful to see construction progressing so well under blue Scottish skies. The glulam geodesic dome is now complete, with the ETFE roof membrane nearing completion, and it was exciting to experience the scale and character of the internal spaces as they begin to take shape.*

*The Futures Institute will be Grimshaw's first completed building in Scotland, but more importantly it represents a remarkable educational vision. Under the leadership of Ian Munro, whose passion and commitment have driven this initiative from the outset, The Futures Institute has been conceived as a place where creativity, curiosity and real-world problem-solving come together to help young people engage with the challenges and opportunities of the future.*

*My hope is that this building becomes far more than a piece of architecture - that it provides an inspiring backdrop for creative thinking, sparks imagination, and supports generations of students in exploring new ideas and making a positive impact on the world.*

*Thank you to everyone involved in bringing this extraordinary project to life. I look forward to returning to see the interior spaces take shape and to when it's complete and the building opens, and seeing the impact it will have on students and the wider community."*  
(LinkedIn, June 2026)

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### Well done Class of 2026!





Congratulations to the 73 pupils from across Scotland who have attained one of FIDA's national qualifications this year – the International Sustainability Diploma (SCQF Level 6) or Certificate (SCQF Level 5). We are thrilled to see our FIDA learning programme widen its reach to more schools across Scotland. We are also delighted to congratulate learners from Braes High, Kingussie High, Our Lady & St Patrick's, Turnbull High, Clifton Hall School and Dollar Academy who attained the **Distinction grade** this year!

*"I couldn't recommend the Diploma highly enough for learners. I thought it was an absolutely brilliant course, [...] I think this style of learning is the way forward.*

*I had one learner who was thinking of dropping out of school, she's now aiming to go to university at the end of sixth year, and she attributes that to the skills she's picked up through the Diploma, which is great to see.*

*I would just like to thank you for all your help and guidance throughout the year. It's been such a great experience..."*

**Diploma Teacher**  
**Barrhead High School, East Refrewshire**



### Class of 2027 start

We're delighted to welcome our 2026-27 cohort of learners to the International Sustainability Diploma programme.

With many schools across Scotland getting the new academic session (2026-27) under way in June, it has been a busy time of year with new schools coming on board.

We wish all our new learners all the very best as they embark on the course and look forward to seeing some of their work over the coming year!



### Thank you for supporting our vision!

The 2025\_26 academic year is now over and we would like to thank you for your continued support of FIDA.

In a world changing at remarkable speed, your generosity is helping equip young people with the skills, confidence and curiosity they need to thrive.

We are grateful to have you with us on this journey and wish you a happy, restful summer. Our next newsletter will be in August.

To view previous newsletters and other FIDA updates click here:

**FIDA News**

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