

Dollar wins Prince's Trust

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Dollar Academy has won this year's Prince's Trust Scholars' Challenge.

A team of 16 fifth and sixth year pupils raised more than £80,000 for the charity following an initial investment of £3,000.

They arranged a Gathering dinner at Stirling Castle, which was attended by First Minister Alex Salmond, Stagecoach founder Brian Souter and golfer Colin Montgomerie.

The group also sold school hooded tops to classmates.

Judges decided they did enough to edge out Bishopbriggs Academy, which raised £45,000, Madras College in St Andrews and Larkhall Academy.

The challenge was launched in August last year and each school had to submit final reports in April 2009.

Barry Sealey, from Archangel, one of the judges, said: "The scholars are all winners. The degree of professionalism shown was quite outstanding.

"Both Bishopbriggs and Dollar Academy produced fantastic submissions and raised a phenomenal amount of money.

"Dollar won by the shortest of short heads with the combination of great initiative and a very substantial sum raised."

Entrepreneurs including Ken Ross, chief executive of Elphinstone, Richard Bailey, Douglas Anderson of Optos and Gordon Galloway of Mobiq, plus representatives from Ernst & Young, Capgemini and Accenture gave up time to mentor and guide each team.

Kirsty Fergusson, chair of the Dollar Academy group, said: "We are absolutely delighted to have won the Scholars' Challenge. The team worked extremely hard and we really pushed ourselves to the limit.

"We have learned a lot of valuable business and life skills in the past few months. I'm now confident we can tackle life after school with ease."

Geraldine Gammell, director of The Prince's Trust Scotland, said: "All the pupils involved have done exceptionally well and, in my opinion, are all winners in their own right. It is fantastic to see young people have such entrepreneurial spirit and initiative."