

MADRAS COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

March, 1975.

First some dates. School closes for the Easter vacation on March 21st and re-opens on Monday 7th April. Summer term will end on July 2nd. The new session will begin, for pupils, on August 22nd. There will be a mid-term holiday on Monday, June 2nd.

During the summer term there will be a good deal of activity, academic and other. The Scottish Certificate of Education Examinations for IV, V and VI begin on April 24th, continuing till May 29th. All candidates will have timetables showing dates and hours of examinations. On April 9th in the South Street building, and on Tuesday, April 15th in Tayport School there will be careers meetings, concerned primarily with the courses offered in technical colleges and in technology and commerce. The meeting in Tayport is being held there to suit Tayside parents. We are very grateful to Mrs. Eagles, the headmistress, for her cooperation.

Next session pupils at present in II will begin to specialise a little. There will be a meeting with parents of second year pupils in the Kilrymont building on April 21st at 7.00 p.m. A notice of this meeting and a sheet showing the subject choices will be issued later. In June we hope to see you at two school productions. Starting on June 3rd, we present "Charley's Aunt" in the South Street building and starting on June 16th, we present "Annie Get Your Gun" in the Kilrymont building.

Add to all this the arrival on May 13th of thirty pupils from the Kieler-gelehrtenschule for three weeks, and on April 1st of three pupils from Woodward Academy, Georgia.

In case this letter should seem merely a chronicle of extra-curricular activities and give the impression that we care concerned more with these than with anything else, let me stress that the past term has been a good working term with no interruptions and with very little absence through illness. This is the most important thing that can be noted. Our job in school is to learn and to teach - in that order. It becomes yearly more important. If the habit and skill of working hard and intelligently are learned at school they will see pupils well on their chosen paths. They must be learned early, particularly by the many all-rounders we have in school, pupils who throw themselves whole-heartedly into all sorts of extracurricular activities. These pupils, particularly, must learn to use their time wisely.

I am still concerned about uniform. There is no doubt that when pupils are dressed in school uniform, morale is enhanced and inequalities of family income are not made obvious. It is important that uniform should be uniform, and not a mixture of uniform and casual clothing. I ask for your cooperation in this at all times, whether your son or daughter is coming to school on a weekday or taking part in a representative game on Saturday.

Naturally, although school is primarily about learning, there are many sides to the life of a healthy school. Sporting activities, drama work, community service and so on are all important. In the sporting area there has been considerable movement. The girls' hockey teams have been very active and indeed the first year and second year A teams have not been beaten for one and two years respectively. Isobel Graham has been selected to play, in goals, for the Scottish Select against Holland at the end of this month.

The footballers have been very busy with great promise being shown by the younger teams. The under 16 year olds at time of writing are still in the Fife Cup.

The rugby club works hard with again the younger sides showing much promise. The cross country runners have really distinguished themselves and little wonder since day after day we see them out training at lunch-time. Penny Gunstone, Ursula McKane and Laura Irving have all turned in splendid results. Penny has also been chosen to represent Scottish School Girls in the Schools International Cross Country Race in April.

We have come to expect that the chess club will sweep all before it and this year would seem to be no exception. The A team has won the local league, the C team is in the final of division II and we are still in the Scotsman Tournament. Timothy Upton has been chosen to represent Dundee and District in the East of Scotland Junior Championships.

The rifle club is very busy with Bruce McLean earning his Senior Marksman Class A. The badminton players have enjoyed a pleasant season while the swimmers have competed in four galas, and so the list goes on. Needless to say all this is totally dependent on Staff, So we have Staff running clubs during their lunch interval or after school or at the weekend. Their work is greatly appreciated.

At the next meeting of the P.T.A. on 16th April, Mr Broom will arrange demonstrations of some of these extra-curricular activities.

John Thompson