

Madras College,  
St Andrews.  
December, 1976.

Dear Parents,

The Christmas term is now almost completed with pupils and staff thankfully looking forward to the holidays. It is fair to say that all have been working flat out over the last few weeks and I hope that report sheets for SI, II and III will be out to parents before the end of term with those for SIV, V and VI coming early in January. This has been a term marred by quite serious staff illness but I hope that, come January, all will be back to school fit and well. I have nothing but admiration for the way in which their colleagues have carried the extra load. To help in this we have been fortunate in having assistance from Mrs Broom, Mrs Swankie and Mrs Pirie (Modern Languages), Mrs Lacombe (History), Mrs Findlay (Mathematics), Mrs Howden, Mrs McCallum (Science.), Mr Bridges (English). I am very grateful to all these people. At present, on a temporary basis, we have with us Mrs McFarlane (Business Studies) and Mrs Anderson (Home Economics).

It is with pleasure that we wish every success to Mr Frame (Business Studies) in his new post of Principal Teacher of Business Studies in Kelso High School. To Miss Brace and Miss Smart, who retire at Christmas, go our thanks on behalf of the school for all the excellent work they have done and the best wishes of staff and pupils for a happy retirement.

Hard thinking has been done on the curricular side with much of the planning being done by Miss Cantley. The Certificate of Secondary Education Scheme, under which pupils were presented in Typing last session, will expand in 1977 to include Accounts, Chemistry and Human Biology, the syllabus and assessment for the latter two subjects being designed by staff and moderated by the North Eastern Regional Examination Board. For other pupils an experimental Leavers' Course has been constructed to suit their abilities and interests. At this stage the reactions, in general, have been favourable with an improvement in attendance among the pupils. Throughout the term there have been specialist lectures which many of the senior pupils have attended. All of this work costs money and with economies biting more and more deeply, I am left with the quite clear impression that in school there will have to be much self help.

Under the sure promptings of Mr Broom new clubs keep appearing. At present under consideration are lunch time Tennis in the Games Hall, an Origami section, Mrs Brighton's Yoga group for staff and pupils meets on Wednesdays. The old favourites - swimming, chess, cross country running, stamp clubs to mention but a few, continue to flourish. As usual I can only add my thanks for all the work staff do to make these activities possible.

I congratulate the Junior and Intermediate girls' hockey teams for winning the Fife School trophies. Margaret Blatchford has been selected for the Midlands Schools Hockey Team with Jacqueline Lewthwaite as reserve. Craig Douglas played for the Midlands against Edinburgh; Jimmy Sinclair has had outstanding success in representative football as have Roy Lessels and Norman Robertson.

The attention of parents whose children qualify for free school meals is drawn to the fact that regulations concerning this have been changed and that further information can be had from Miss Duncan, Area Officer, 13 Queen's Gardens, St Andrews.

