

Fife Education Authority

# MADRAS COLLEGE, ST. ANDREWS

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*D.D. GALLOWAY, Rector.*

*J.L. HODGE, Depute Rector.*



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DDG/HGD

December 1985.

Dear Parent,

Newsletter Christmas 1985

Term ends on an unusually muted note without the customary crescendo of concerts and parties and without much of note to report.

The dispute between the teachers' organisations and the government continues unabated and although there have been occasional flickers of hope, there is still little sign of any real light at the end of the tunnel. Although the action has inevitably had its effect on the life and work of the school, it has not so far suffered as severely as other areas and classroom work at least follows a fairly normal pattern.

Senior pupils have just completed their examinations. The forms that have been filled in by university and other college applicants have been completed and sent off. Those concerned now wait to hear the results of their efforts no doubt with varying degrees of anxiety, but not I hope to an extent which will impair their enjoyment of the Christmas festivities.

In November several of Her Majesty's Inspectors visited the school to see the use made of micro computers as an aid to the teaching of a wide variety of subjects, not just those with an immediately obvious scientific or mathematical connection, but others such as English and Latin where the application of modern technology is at first sight less apparent. Their visit was a fact-finding mission rather than a formal inspection and their conclusions, which will no doubt provide us with pointers for future development, will in due course appear in an official survey of the use of micros in Scottish schools.

S6 pupils in their activities time have involved themselves in forming and operating a company under the auspices of the Young Enterprise scheme. The direction and management of the venture is entirely in the hands of the pupils. Technical advice is provided by two local businessmen, Mr McKechnie and Mr Chapman, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for the time and assistance they have generously given. It is too early to judge whether Madcraftz, as the company is called, is a commercial success, but as a source of interest and as an educational exercise its value is undeniable.

S4 and S5 pupils who leave school at Christmas have currently been gaining an introduction to the real world of work, and in some cases the offer of a permanent job, through work experience placement with firms in the area. I would gratefully acknowledge the willing co-operation of local employers in making these opportunities available to our pupils.

The virus which usually delays its attack until February appears to have struck rather earlier this year and in recent weeks staff absence, especially in the Science departments, has been exceptionally high. I am sure you will want to

join with me in wishing those who are still on the sick list a speedy recovery and also in expressing our thanks to a whole cohort of supply teachers, eleven in all at the last count, who have rallied round to provide some continuity in the teaching. Mrs Robb of the P.E. department leaves at the end of term to take up a post at Dollar Academy. Our good wishes go with her along with our thanks for the work she has done here, especially on the hockey field. Her timetable will be taken over by Mrs Dobie who is making a welcome return after a long illness.

Friday sees the end of a long and tiring term and staff and pupils alike are more than ready for the break, although perhaps for different reasons. As the end of the Christmas term is one of the two occasions in the year when early closing is permitted, pupils will be dismissed at 12.30 p.m. on Friday. Buses have been arranged for that time and there will be no school lunches, since it was thought that everyone would prefer an earlier start to the holiday.

To end this newsletter, may I just wish staff, pupils and parents a Happy Christmas and a Good New Year.

Yours sincerely,



Rector.

<u>Christmas Holiday:</u>	School Finishes: Friday 20th December 1985
	School Starts: Monday 6th January 1986
<u>Easter Holiday:</u>	School Finishes: Thursday 28th March 1986
	School Starts: Monday 14th April 1986
<u>May Day:</u>	Monday 5th May 1986
<u>June Day:</u>	Monday 2nd June 1986
<u>Summer Holiday:</u>	School Finishes: Friday 4th July 1986