

After a very mild winter we are all looking forward to an Easter holiday which seems to fall earlier and earlier in the session but which is very welcome nonetheless.

Staff and pupils have shown commendable patience in working amid the noise inevitably involved in the restructuring work that has been going on in both parts of school. The Kilrymont Road building now has a fully equipped computer room, an extra classroom has been created, the layout of the cloakrooms has been improved and the games hall has been re-floored - a major improvement. The South Street building has had a larger programme of alterations, together with rewiring and the provision of a new fire alarm system. I am particularly grateful to Mr. Prunty, head janitor in the South Street building for the effective liaison he maintains with the Works Department. The Art department now have a splendid new suite, while the redesigned staffroom is greatly appreciated. The Music and History departments are comfortably installed in their new accommodation. By cutting down on the size of the dining hall, space has been found for a classroom/computer room. The technical department have gained a well-equipped drawing room and await with interest the conversion of the old technical drawing room into an additional workshop. Home economics now have two cookery rooms and are due to have a new fabric and fashion room created out of a classroom. The business studies staff watch with interest the alterations on the South side of the quadrangle which have restored the original West Room to its 1833 form, complete with the original vaulted ceiling. When equipped, this should be a splendid acquisition. This leaves the old Kinder block to be converted for the Geography department whose present rooms in the tower block will be converted to laboratories. I hope that all will be ready for August 1985 when all of 4th Year will be accommodated in the South Street building, leaving 1st, 2nd and 3rd Years in the Kilrymont Road Building.

This term we welcomed to the staff Miss Robertson, Principal Teacher of History, Mrs. Christie, Business Studies, and Miss MacDonald, Home Economics. I would take this opportunity of thanking the following supply teachers for the help they have given school: Mrs. McCallum and Mrs. Sinclair (Science), Mrs. McManus and Mr. McKinnon (Music), Mrs. Oliver (Mathematics), Mrs. Stevens (Home Economics), Mrs. Renton (Art) and Mrs. Broom (French). We are glad to see Mr. Reilly back on duty, and hope that Miss Young (Modern Languages) and Miss Kinnear (Music), now on sick leave, will soon back with us. Congratulations to Mrs. L. Oliver, formerly of the English Department on the birth of a baby girl. It was with real regret that we said goodbye to Mrs. Irving who for many years looked after the welfare of S1 and S2 girls as well as teaching in the Home Economics Department. I am sure that many staff will stop off at the restaurant which the Irvings are opening in the Borders. Because of the industrial action in schools, development on the curriculum front has been virtually at a stand-still, but the In-Service day for staff on 11th February gave a useful opportunity for a review of mixed-ability teaching in S1 and S2. Sixth Year pupils during the course of the term have attended a conference on CSYS English topics at Stirling University, and one on CSYS French organised by St. Andrews University.

As we have come to expect, the Music Department has been very active. It has contributed to the St. Andrews Festival by the Early Music Group and the Chamber Orchestra giving a lunch-time concert, and has also hosted a lunch-time lecture/recital by the percussionist Heather Steedman. Many of our musicians took part in and enjoyed the Fife Festival of Music. In the Junior Choir Competition and the Secondary String Orchestra Section, Madras came second. The Junior Choir won the Saltire Society Trophy for first place in the Scots song competition, while the Senior Choir won the John M. Morrison Memorial Trophy. In the non-competitive sections/

sections, the Wind Band and Wind Ensemble received excellent adjudications. The winners of the annual Burns song competition sponsored annually by the Burns Federation were Anna Poole and Sharon Cowie. As I write, preparations are under way for the Spring Concert.

For their annual production in the Byre Theatre the Drama Club chose 'A Winter's Tale', and once again, under the direction of Mr. and Mrs. Bridges, achieved a major success in presenting a difficult play with maturity and sensitivity. By now the School Burns Supper has become an annual event, and the quality of the contributions to this year's supper made it one of the best yet. This term, teams have been entered for several quiz competitions. In the Police Safety Quiz our teams gained first and second places, and we shall shortly be involved in the Fire Service Safety Quiz. The chemists reached the semi-final in the Royal Society for Chemistry in Schools quiz in February, while the Madras team in the British Computer Society quiz reached the semi-final, winning a Commodore 16 for the school. The Scripture Union spent an enjoyable weekend at Crieff, while the junior rugby fans made their customary visit to Murrayfield. During the Easter holidays, two parties will set off on very different sports holidays - the skiers to Switzerland and the tennis-players to Majorca. A third group will set off with members of the Geography Department on a geographical study visit to Holland.

This session the Saturday games have been badly affected. Of the football teams, the 1st XI must be one of the strongest the school has had for some considerable time. They narrowly missed reaching the semi-finals of the Scottish Cup, and have reached third place in the league, going forward now to the final of the League Cup. The team plays with a determination and good humour that have much to do with the influence of their captain, Martin McKechnie, now in his third season with the team. Seven members of the under-15's have gained places in Fife representative football, and this is reflected in the fact that the U-15 team won that section of the League Competition. The Boys' Hockey team was runner-up in the Midlands' 6's tournament and in the Indoor Tournament. Congratulations to Angus Rust on being selected for both the Midlands and the Scottish Schoolboys under-18 teams. The girls' hockey teams have had a curtailed season, though the younger players struggled gamely in the Indoor Tournament. Congratulations to Soraya Mohammed on being chosen to represent Scotland in Brussels, Dublin and Cardiff during the Easter holidays. The rugby teams have similarly had a lean season, but look forward to success in the Woodmill tournament. The Badminton club have had a stronger record, producing four semi-finalists at the Fife Schools Competition. Finally, some of our aspiring golfers have been receiving coaching from Mr. Laurie Ayton in the Kilrymont Road Games Hall.

I take this opportunity to wish all pupils, parents and staff a pleasant break and a happy Easter.

Rector

Forthcoming dates of holidays:

Easter Holiday	- Monday 25th March - Friday 5th April 1985
May Day	- Monday 6th May 1985
June Day	- Monday 3rd June 1985
Summer Holiday	- Wednesday 3rd July to Friday 16th August 1985