



Summer Newsletter

Madras College Newsletter

June 1996

Viewpoint

A long delayed arrival of some really good weather makes the prospect of summer holidays all the more attractive, especially after another another term of intense but rewarding activity in almost every aspect of school life.

SCE exams have inevitably been the main focus of the term for senior pupils, although they still have some anxious waiting for official envelopes to drop through letter boxes before they know the extent to which their efforts have been rewarded.

Results are just one measure of a school's effectiveness. What emerges from the recently published report by Her Majesty's Inspectors on Standards and Quality in Scottish Education is the need to have procedures for regular performance review across the whole range of a school's operations.

For some time results have been subject to detailed scrutiny within the school and subsequently at regional level. That, however, is only a small part of the review process and a considerable amount of effort now goes into school and departmental development planning, which is used not only to chart progress on new initiatives such as 5-14 and Higher Still, but also as a means of ensuring that standards throughout the school are maintained. In practice, it means that in the course of the term the Depute Rector has met the Principal Teacher of every subject to carry out a detailed review of this session's work and to agree targets for the coming year. Parents should find it re-assuring to know that what happens across the whole range of subject teaching is not just left to chance, but is the result of a structured approach which combines forward planning with quality control.

• STAFF NOTES

In one way this is a sad time of year, as we find ourselves once again saying goodbye to several members of staff, all of whom have made their own unique contribution to the life and work of the school.

Mr Ian Douglas retires after 26 years of service as Principal Teacher of Technical Subjects. His quiet and unassuming presence tends to obscure the major part he has played in the development of his subject, not only within the school, but at regional and national level. At a time when Engineering was part of the school curriculum, Madras had an enviable reputation for the number and quality of its presentations both at Higher and SYS. Although Engineering as a subject in its own right was phased out, Mr Douglas's national involvement in curriculum development continued. When new courses for Standard Grade were introduced, his contribution to various subject panels and committees helped to move the subject away from its traditional craft/skills image and give it its proper position in a world increasingly dependent on technology. We are sorry to lose the benefit of his knowledge and experience, but we must be grateful to him for piloting the department through an era of massive change and leaving it well prepared to meet the challenges that lie ahead.

Mrs Alma Smith, who had previously made her mark when she was with us for several months in an acting capacity, became Principal Teacher of Art and Design in 1989 and immediately set about renewing and revitalising the Art Department. The result of that process and an immense amount of hard work on her part is a department known for its excellence in school and beyond. The numerous successes gained by her pupils past and present, the quality of the work displayed in the biennial Art Exhibitions and the lively atmosphere guaranteed to attract pupils to the subject are all a tribute to Mrs Smith's personal and professional achievement. The high profile of the department is only matched by the extent and warmth of the regard in which Mrs Smith is held by colleagues

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and pupils alike, by whom she will be greatly missed and long remembered as a colourful personality.

Mrs Vera Boag retires from the Modern Languages department after 15 years in which she showed herself equally skilled at enhancing S6 pupils' perceptions of French literature and encouraging S1 pupils' enthusiasm for the language. Mrs Milne leaves Business Studies after 11 years in the course of which many pupils have benefited from the rigorous training she has given them in secretarial subjects. Mr Baldwin, who also joined the staff in 1985, departs from Biology where he has done much good work, often in the face of problems with his health. Mrs Hannah, though only with us since 1989, will be a significant loss to the Home Economics department in which she had become well-established. We thank them all and wish them well for the future.

We also give our good wishes to Dr Rutherford, who is leaving for British Columbia on a year's exchange, and our congratulations to Mrs Macfie on well deserved promotion to the post of acting APT English at St Columba's High School in Dunfermline.

The Rector has been appointed by the General Teaching Council for Scotland to serve as a Governor of Moray House College of Education.

Finally, we take this opportunity to express our thanks once again to all those who have helped out on a supply basis this term and throughout the session. We wish them to know how much their efforts are appreciated.

CHALLENGING MATHEMATICS

• Maths Challenge Contest 1996

Madras pupils have again been competing with much success at national and international levels in a range of Mathematics competitions. In the Maths Challenge Contest 1996, run by the Scottish Maths Council, Madras gained more awards than any other school: 9 Gold, 7 Silver and 19 Bronze, a total of 35 in all. This compared with 18 achieved by the second placed school, Denny High School and 10 by the High School of Dundee. Gold awards were earned by Lauren Donaldson (S2), Rachel Hood (S2) and Hannah McCabe (S2) in the Junior section; Peter Brittain (S3), Morven Chisholm (S3), Jenny Davie (S4) and Neil Donaldson (S4) in the Middle Section. All the award winners attended a prize-giving ceremony at Stirling University on 11th June, when in addition to presentation, they were entertained by a talk and workshop on challenging mathematical topics.

• 1996 UK Schools Junior Maths Challenge

In the 1996 UK Schools Junior Maths Challenge, which 1660 schools entered, 70 S1/2 pupils from Madras took part. Of the 120,000 contestants, 6% gained national Gold awards, 13 of whom came from Madras: David Lundie, Thomas Davie, Kirsten Lohoar, Jonathan Hine, Emily Stephen, Imogen Scott, Olga Fitzroy and Anna White from S2; and Jack Edwards-Fox, Lesley-Anne Blair, Elinor Russell, Timothy Whitmore and Pamela Steven from S1. Jack Edwards-Fox and David Lundie were amongst the 0.8% of the contestants who qualified for the prestigious Junior Maths Olympiad.

• European Kangaroo Maths Contest

Meanwhile, on the international scene, our seven top scorers from the UK Schools Intermediate Challenge earlier in the year were invited to take part in the European Kangaroo Maths Contest.

Allan Riddell (S3) achieved the highest score in Scotland and thus progressed to a place in the International Invitational Intermediate Maths Challenge Contest. Also noteworthy were Gordon Maclachlan (S3), 2nd equal in Scotland, and John Whammond, Martha Neilson and Annemarie Wright, who were all placed in the top 250 UK contestants.

• Mathematiques Sans Frontieres 1996

Not to be outdone, a team of senior pupils took part in Mathematiques Sans Frontieres 1996, organised by the Academie de Strasbourg. Two thousand four hundred and forty teams from 20 countries speaking a total of 12 languages took part, with each team tackling 13 questions in one and a half hours, one of which is posed and must be answered in a foreign language. This was the first time Madras had taken part. The team of 19 fifth year pupils won second place in the Scottish section, earning a prize of £200 as well as smaller individual prizes. Congratulations go to all participants for their effort and enthusiasm, and especially to the team leaders, Ailsa Flynn and Cameron Foster.

Scottish Schools Burns Competitions

As reported in the Easter Newsletter, Clair Speed and Glyn McCrickard represented the school at the Fife Schools Burns Competition, where they are both to be congratulated on winning their respective sections in S3/4 - Clair for singing and Glyn for recitation. They then went on to the Scottish Burns Competition, which took place on 8th June. Glyn was placed third in the S3/4 Recital section and won a bronze medal - an exceptional achievement at national level. Glyn also won the Sir John Leng's Trust Gold Medal for Scottish Song, a Dundee based competition for schools in North Fife and Tayside.

DEBATING

The Craig Buchanan Memorial Gavel, presented in to Junior Inter-House Debating Competition, was won by Blackfriars this year. The individual winners were David Lundie, Graeme Broom, Alastair Brandie and Luke Taylor (S3) and Jonathan Dean and Lachlan Meldrum (S2).

Bell Baxter Centenary Music Competition

The Bell-Baxter Centenary Music Competition, held at Waid Academy on 28th March, was won by Matthew Priest, while the other Madras contestants, Lesley Bell and Susan Bell also performed very creditably.

Classics

In the St Andrews University Latin Speaking competition, the Junior Team retained the trophy for their playlet performance, while Michael Rossi was third in the Senior Latin. Third year pupils won the project Prize for their model of Hadrian's Wall and special commendation for their model of the head of Medusa.

June Art Exhibition

A very successful summer exhibition in the Kilrymont Hall was organised by Mr M Barclay, Miss D Cunningham and Miss J Johnson of the Art Department. A most impressive display of work representative of all year groups and including contributions from the Technical and Home Economics Departments and Community Use classes, was opened by Professor Will McLean on 12th June. Over the next two days, the exhibition was well attended and enjoyed by parents, staff, pupils and members of the public.

Mr M Barclay and the new sixth year Art and Design class visited the Edinburgh Art College Degree Show on 20th June, when pupils were given an exciting insight into college life and work, and a guided tour by former pupil, Malcolm Burkinshaw. Malcolm has just completed his third year at the college, winning the highly competitive Fashion prize for his year group. Another former pupil, Charlotte Rougvié, graduated at Edinburgh College this year with first class honours in Textile Design.

Tesco Computer Tokens Offer

The Learning Support Department organised the collection of tokens and a good response from staff, parents and pupils resulted in the acquisition of a portable computer and Apple Mac link for the use of pupils in that department. All who contributed are thanked for their efforts.

RESIDENTIAL TRIPS

As usual this session, a wide variety of residential experiences have been offered to pupils, thanks to the commitment and enthusiasm of staff, who gave extensive personal time to organising and leading these trips.

• Rugby/Hockey Tour

A combined senior Hockey and Rugby tour to Ireland at the beginning of the Easter holidays, managed by Mr J Bennett, Miss J Robertson and Mr J Wito, assisted by Mrs P Robb from the North East Fife Sports Council, produced some fine sporting contests and much good fellowship.

• French Trip

Another party which set off at the beginning of the Easter holiday was a group of 38 second and third year pupils. Under the guidance of Mr C Jessop, assisted by Mrs C Easingwood and Mrs C Harvey and ably monitored by a team of four S6 pupils, they travelled to Paris and Brittany. The coach tour around Paris by night was certainly the highlight of three busy days sight seeing in Paris. In Brittany, the Mont-Saint-Michel, the visit to Dinan market and the oyster-eating escapade at Cancale all served to make this a memorable trip for all participants - including staff.

• Three Day Activities

At the end of May, came the highlight of the year for S3 - the annual Three Day Activities, when their usual timetable is suspended and they are offered an extensive range of new and exciting experiences. Some take the form of day long activities and trips, but many offer residential experiences. As a result of this large scale operation, administered

by member of the Guidance Staff, all return refreshed and enriched.

• Kiel Exchange

From 1st - 19th June a group of 31 pupils accompanied by Mr D Macgregor and Mrs A Nicholson visited our partner school, the Kieler Gelehrtenschule, for the 40th annual exchange. The programme included visits to Lubeck, Hamburg, Wismar and Schwerin as well as class teaching. There were official receptions by the Land Schleswig-Holstein and by the city of Kiel. This trip as ever was much enjoyed by all participants, and adds one more successful chapter to our remarkably long-lasting exchange arrangement - a tribute to all involved over so many years.

• Hadrian's Wall Trip

The annual weekend trip to Hadrian's Wall, organised by Miss J Robertson, assisted by Mr D Cleland, Mr C Jessop and Mrs H Lawrenson, saw a large party of mixed age-group pupils undertake the fullest programme ever: six forts, three museums, two temples, a turret and a lengthy wall-top walk, in a period of just over forty eight hours.

• Haute Savoie Culinary Trip

At the end of this term, a group of pupils will set off on the Haute Savoie Culinary trip to the French Alps in search of "a taste of French cuisine". Led by Miss A

Khan, Mrs M Kyle, Mrs I Copland and Miss A Duncan, pupils will be given the opportunity to sample a variety of regional dishes and make an excursion to the Mer de Glace at Chamonix.

• European Maths Congress

Three fifth year pupils, Yvonne Anderson, Graham Redman and Jennifer Newton are to attend the Junior Mathematical Congress at the end of July at the University of Miskolc, Hungary. They will be the only Scottish representatives at this official "satellite" meeting of the 2nd European Congress of Mathematics, with a unique opportunity to experience a major world event. They will attend lectures, workshops and exhibitions, mixing with young and established world-famous Mathematicians.

• Great Valley High Exchange

The Exchange Programme with Great Valley High School, USA, has now been running successfully for five years. Next year's participants are Jamie Douglas, Ruth Paulton and Richard Preston, who will attend Great Valley from January and complete their sixth year of schooling there, gaining a unique insight into American culture and education. Their partners, one of whom will be hosted by Meg Dewar, will join Madras College for the first half of the session.



Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

The pupils participating in the scheme have undertaken a wide variety of activities in pursuit of their Bronze and Silver Awards this session, including Charity Shop work, assisting a Vet, visiting the elderly, game keeping and many other sporting and musical activities. A group also competed in the Scottish Small-bore Rifle Shooting League with St Andrews' Rifle Club. During May and June, 23 pupils in S3 successfully completed their Bronze expedition in Glen Tilt and 28 pupils in S4 their Silver expedition at Ardroy. Silver participant Caroline Part deserves special mention, competing for Scotland in Germany at Crosscountry Skiing and becoming Scottish Schools Roller-ski Champion. Next year, pupils look forward to progressing towards Gold Awards under the guidance of Mr G Dundee, planning expeditions by foot, canoe and bicycle.

Building Improvements

The creation of a new administrative office suite at Kilrymont Road has meant many weeks of upheaval for office staff in that building, but has resulted in much expanded and improved accommodation and better security. After long delays, a major refurbishment of the sports pavilion at Station Park is also nearing completion. The main aim has been to upgrade the shower areas to bring them up to acceptable modern standards of efficiency, comfort and hygiene. The improvement also includes the provision of a First Aid Treatment room. As pupils and staff move out, tradesmen from the Works Department move in and a number of other planned improvements, which have been in the pipeline for some time, will hopefully be completed over the summer holidays.

School Board

Some parents may not be up to date with the most recent changes in the membership of the School Board. Present members of the Board are:

Parents:

Dr Nicol (Chairperson), Mr Hail, Mrs Calvert, Dr Neilson, Mr Welsh, Mrs Gilmour, Mr Swankie.

Co-opted:

Dr Rennie, Mr Prunty, Mrs Ashcroft.

Staff:

Mrs Lamb, Mr Halliday, Mrs Towns.

The Clerk to the Board is Mrs M Wilson and parents who may have issues which they think it would be helpful for the Board to discuss should write to her c/o Madras College, South Street, St Andrews, KY16 9EJ or contact a Board member directly.

News from Fife Careers Service

Fife Careers Service has changed status within the new Fife Council. It is now a partnership between the Council and Fife Enterprise, known as Fife Careers Ltd. Careers Officers are now known as Careers Advisers. The Careers office for North East Fife will be known as North East Fife Careers Centre and is still located beside Elmwood College. There will still be a part-time careers presence at the Fife Council Area Office in St Mary's Place, St Andrews. Miss P Ritchie, the school Adviser, is usually there on Friday afternoons and at other times by appointment. The main Careers Centre telephone number is 01334 412240. The Careers Centres are open throughout school holidays to assist school leavers to find jobs, Skillseekers training and college courses, as well as advise parents.

When exam results are received on Friday 9th August, Careers Advisers will be on hand to help with any changes of career plan which may have to be considered. The Careers Centre has a full range of university prospectuses, which could be useful during UCAS Clearing, and a comprehensive Careers library. Careers Advisers will also staff the Scottish Exam Results Helpline from 8.00am to 8.00pm on 9th August and from 10.00am to 8.00am thereafter until 23rd August. The number is 0800 100 900 and calls are free.

Pupils with queries about their 1996 UCAS applications and in particular, Appeals which are required to fulfil their conditional offers of places, should contact the school office in the first instance.



Interact Club

The group organised a Non-Uniform Day on Friday 26th April and succeeded in raising £860, which was presented to Ninewells Hospital, St Andrews Memorial Hospital and International Vision. They are now working to fill an Aquabox with items which can be sent for use in a disaster area; the box itself is then used for water purification. Working with the St Andrews Rotary Interact Committee, Mr J Bennett, Mr B Alexander and Mr T Ferguson, Neil McKenzie who is the incoming president and newly recruited members from the senior years of the school are starting to plan next year's programme.

Sports Round-up

Athletics

Fine results were achieved at the Fife Schools Multi-Event Championships at Pitreavie, when Aaron Lofting won Gold for S1 Boys and Mia Nisbet Bronze for S3 Girls. Other high placings included Jenny Shanks (5th, S2 Girls), Thomas Coll (4th, S3 Boys), Geoff Crow (5th, S5 Boys) and Jamie Kilpatrick (4th, S6 Boys). In the Fife Schools Track and Field championships, the school achieved a total of 20 medals. The following pupils won their events: Andrew Lemoncello (S2) 1,500 metres; Thomas Coll (S3) Triple Jump; Owen Greene (S4) High Jump; Jenny Farrow (S5) 300 metres; Jamie Kilpatrick (S5) 400 metres. With Lynne Anderson (S3), they all went on to represent Fife in the Inter Area Athletics match at the Scottish Schools Track and Field Championships, when Fife ended as runners-up. Special congratulations go to Andrew Lemoncello who won Gold, coming first in the Under 14 800 metres: an outstanding achievement.

Badminton

This sport has seen a revival over the last season or so under the coaching of Mrs J Scott, and this year, after a gap of several years, a team entered the Fife Schools Badminton Championships, where all 12 competitors performed very creditably. Special mention goes to Sam Nielson and Kevin McMullen (S1), who were runners-up in the Under 13 Boys Doubles. However, the staff are still a match for pupils in this sport: in a stiff contest, experience and creaking joints won through 16:0!

Cricket

The school gratefully acknowledges the receipt of £300 from Britannic Assurance for the purchase of equipment to assist with the development of school cricket.

Football

The Under-18 team finished runners-up to Beath High School in the Fife Schools League, having also reached the semi-final of the Fife Cup. The Girls' football team won decisive victories over Bell-Baxter and Glenrothes High School. However, this term's outstanding success was the retention by the Staff football team of the Fife Summer Shield, when they defeated Kirkcaldy High School staff 2:0 in the final on 20th June (H Munn, Captain 2).

Golf

Hannah Norrie (S5) won the Fife Schools Individual Handicap Championship and, together with Kathryn McCartney and Annemarie Wright (both S3) the Girls' Team Handicap Strokeplay Championship. The Junior Boys team of Jamie Farmer, Adam McQueen, Raje Dhillon and Sam Neilson won the Fife Schools Strokeplay Championship. Ryan Lumsden (S6) was selected to represent Fife in the Scottish Schools Championships.

Show Jumping

At the Scottish Schools Championship (Dressage and Show Jumping) the Intermediate team of Amy Palmer (S3), Amy Bateman (S3) and Heather McLaren (S3), won the Show Jumping event and came third in the combined training team. In the Senior event, the team of Meg Dewar, Julie McLaren and Joanna Sutherland (all S6) and Alayne Finlay

(S4) came first in both the show jumping and combined training team events, winning the Kilgraston Cup. Amy Palmer and Meg Dewar both won the individual show jumping competition in their respective age groups. Congratulations go to both teams on these splendid results.

Dates for your Diary

Summer 1996

Wednesday 3rd July 1996 - Friday 16th August 1996

In-Service Day

Monday 19th August 1996

Autumn Term for Pupils Begins

Tuesday 20th August 1996

October Break

Monday 7th October 1996

Monday 14th October 1996 - Friday 18th October 1996

In-Service Day

Thursday 28th November 1996 and Friday 29th November 1996

Christmas Holiday

Monday 23rd December 1996 - Friday 3rd January 1997

And finally

In extending very best wishes for a relaxing and enjoyable summer holiday, we would wish to thank all those who have given their support to Madras College in the course of another demanding and successful session.