



Easter Newsletter

Madras College Newsletter

March 1997

VALEDICTORY

Mr David D Galloway, Rector of Madras College since August 1985, retires this week amid tributes and celebrations.

Mr Galloway's services to pupils and the community have been recognised in presentations and tributes from the Parent Teachers Association, the Board of Trustees and the School Board. A dinner was held in his honour at the school on March 21st, attended by over 150 staff from Madras, past and present, as well as former colleagues from Bell Baxter High School and members of Fife Education Service Management Team: Mrs A Auchterlonie and Mr D Hill, who made a presentation to Mr Galloway on behalf of Fife Council. Mrs L A Brown, Depute Rector, paid tribute to Mr Galloway's leadership, which has guided Madras through twelve years of consolidation and change, maintaining the finest traditions of the school while moving it forward. Consistently high academic standards have been sustained and even enhanced, while the extra curricular life of the school has flourished and its reputation for successes in many spheres, sporting and cultural, has grown locally and nationally.

Mr Galloway has supported and guided staff, sustaining morale and clear educational values during a period when the profession has been under intense pressure to accomplish wide-ranging changes, curricular and organisational. While many of these were justified in terms of bringing needed reforms and improvements to the quality of education, one of Mr Galloway's strengths as a Rector has been to protect his institution from those which, in his well-considered opinion, did not serve the best interests of pupils or the school in general. In this as in many other areas, he has enjoyed the respect and admiration of the whole staff, teaching and non-teaching, whose trust in his judgment has been absolute and never misplaced.

During his time as Rector, the role of the post has changed greatly. New responsibilities such as Devolved School Management and many national and regional commitments made inroads to



Mr D D Galloway, Rector
Madras College
1985 - 1997

his time in school. His skills as a diplomatic committee member were acknowledged in his appointment as Chairman of the Regional Committee which responded to the Howie proposals for Post 16 Curriculum, the forerunner of the 'Higher Still' initiative. In light of this, over recent years, one of his regrets has been having less time to spend with pupils whose company and opinions he has continued to seek. Senior pupils who have had the privilege to meet him on these terms are quick to discover his understanding and interest in their views - and to appreciate his dry sense of humour.

So we shall all miss David Galloway at Madras College. However, the School Aims, which he formulated and which embody the principles of a rounded education in citizenship which promotes but does not limit itself to academic excellence, remain to guide the school forward into the 21st century.

In these columns, Mr Galloway has paid gracious tribute to many members of staff over the years. We use them now to thank him once more and to wish him the long, tranquil and fulfilling retirement that he so richly deserves.

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Staff News

Congratulations to:

- Mr D D Galloway's successor as Rector of Madras College, Mr L Matheson, Rector of Milne's High School, Fochabers, who will take up his post mid-May.
- Mrs A Adamson, formerly Principal Teacher of Guidance, who was appointed to the post of Assistant Rector and joined the Board of Studies in February.
- Mrs S Rogers, who has been appointed Principal Teacher of Physics at Menzieshill High School, Dundee.
- Mr J Tarvet, who has been appointed to the post of Principal Teacher of Guidance.
- Mr R Gray, who has been appointed as teacher of Modern Studies.

Pupils have enjoyed benefiting from the input of this year's language assistants, Mr Guillaume de Montrémy and Mr Tobias Schürmer, who return to their studies next term in France and Germany respectively. We wish them well.

The school was saddened to learn of the death of Mrs I Currie, formerly teacher of Chemistry at Madras, who retired in 1989.

UK Mathematical Challenge Contests

- Intermediate Level

A record number of awards were achieved in this national contest entered by 120,000 pupils from schools all over Britain. In addition to 20 Silver and 20 Bronze awards, were 12 Gold winners, who are therefore amongst the top 6% of the contestants. They are: Alan Riddell, Gordon McLachlan, Oliver Glidewell, David Gibb, Louise Rolfe and Brian Hutchison (S4) and Jonathan Hine, Kate Swingler, Iain Mitchell, Sam Neilson, Imogen Tricker and Thomas Mortimer (S3). Congratulations go to all involved and especially to Alan Riddell, whose excellent score gained him entry to the

International Intermediate Invitational Mathematical Challenge, which takes place in late April.

- Senior Level

30,000 candidates from 780 schools entered the Senior section of the UK Maths Challenge and again the Madras results were outstanding: 15 Bronze, 5 Silver and 5 Gold. They are Jennifer Davie (S5) and the four highest scorers, who all qualified for the prestigious British Maths Olympiad Round 1: Luke Halliwell, Graham Redman and Richard Alexander (S6) and Neil Donaldson (S5). There they achieved fine results again.

In Scotland, Neil came sixteenth, Richard ninth and Graham seventh, while Luke, as the overall Scottish winner and thirteenth in the whole of the UK, went forward to Round 2. There he gained a remarkable tenth position and the honour of selection for the Training Session at Trinity College, Cambridge on April 10-13th. At the end of this session, Luke, along with 19 other students, will sit a 4 hours 30 minutes final paper, to select 6 students and 1 reserve as the UK team for the International Maths Olympiad. Our congratulations go to Luke and our best wishes in his bid for a place in the UK team.



Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme

This programme continues to flourish, thanks to an outstanding commitment of time and effort by a team of staff led by Mrs F Towns and Mr G Dundee. On Tuesday 11th March a presentation ceremony was held which was well-attended by parents and by representatives of outside organisations who have helped our pupils with the "Skills" and "Services" sections of the Awards. Certificates and badges were presented to 12 S5 pupils who have achieved their Silver Award and 12 S4 pupils who have reached Bronze. Another eight pupils, at both levels, are due to complete awards during the next two months. Pupils who have already achieved their Silver Award are now making good progress towards the prestigious Gold Award.

Katherine White and Philip Reid (S5), who are both holders of the Silver Award, were invited to take part in the making of a BBC video about the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme and spent two days at the BBC studios in Edinburgh.

Design and Technology

Four pupils, Emily Bradshaw and Bridget Phillips (S6) and Tim Kerby and Nicholas Humfrey (S4) took part very successfully in this year's Engineering in Education Scheme. They designed an electronic activity centre as a teaching aid for the 5-7 year old age group, in the shape of a tortoise and called "Taught Us". This partnership with Product Development Tayside has resulted in an application for a patent with a view to marketing the product. The pupils displayed their product at the Fife Technology Fair at the Rothes Hall in Glenrothes on March

19th. As well as congratulating the four pupils involved, acknowledgement should also be made of the input of Mr W Kay and Mr C Marshall, Technical Department, and of the extensive support given by Mr J Love, Technician.

The Design and Technology Department has been approached by the Higher Still Development Unit to carry out trials and develop course materials for PIC microcontrollers, having acquired a national reputation through involvement in project work in the field.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

In South Street, the Information Technology Area is now in full use, with computer systems for word processing, using CD ROMs (eg encyclopaedias, newspaper files), Internet access and the Library Database. Laserdisc, CDi and the university information systems are also available. Pupils are making increased use of the Internet through a filtered account (which denies access to unsuitable material) enriching the sources of information and the possibilities for individual research in many subjects.

An e-mail pen pal exchange is now operating between pupils in S1 and Jones Middle School, Upper Arlington, Ohio. Pupils are writing letters to their counterparts in the USA and sending and receiving them using e-mail. This not only fosters an awareness of the differences and similarities on the two cultures but also offers an education into uses of current technology.

The school has a number of e-mail addresses which are reproduced at the end of this newsletter.

Scripture Union

For the first time, a joint meeting for senior pupils from Madras, Bell Baxter and Waid Academy was held on 28th February. Following its success, another is planned for Good Friday.

DEBATING

Eleanor Winton S6 represented Scotland at the World Debating Championships in Bermuda in February; the team reached the quarter finals of the event and Eleanor was placed in the top eight individual speakers in the world.

Eleanor and Emily Fraser, also S6, reached the Scottish final of the English Speaking Union Schools Debating Mace, which was held at Merchiston Castle School, Edinburgh on 20th March. There, after a very good performance and long deliberation by the judges, they were awarded second place: an excellent achievement to round off fine school debating careers.

Graeme Broom and Luke Taylor (S4) were semi-finalists in the Bank of Scotland Edinburgh University Debating Competition, putting up a fine display and losing narrowly to strong opposition.

For the sixth year in succession, Madras won the Waid Academy Centenary Trophy for Debating. The team (with individual awards) were Graeme Broom (best chair), Michael Rossi S5, Alistair Brandie S4 (best second proposer), Eleanor Winton, Avril Wheeler S6 (best second opposer) and Clair Speed S5 (best vote of thanks). The winner of the S1/2 Public Speaking Competition was Julia Higgins (S1).

Throughout the session, lively lunchtime debates are held in both buildings. As ever, our thanks go to the staff who give so much time and effort to supporting the development and coaching of the demanding skills of debating and public speaking: Mrs A Baughan and Mrs M Fraser in the senior years and Mrs G Macfarlane, Mrs D Lamb and Miss L Marr in S1-S3. The success of these activities, both within and outwith the school, would be impossible without their commitment.

Caring for the Environment

Sixth Year Studies Biology pupils joined forces with the S1 and S3 members of the Green Team to take part in an initiative with Fife Council cleaning up an area of derelict garden ground on the corner of Greyfriars Gardens and St Mary's Place. The clearing up of rubbish was followed by a detailed plant survey.

Musical Notes

Over 200 pupils from Madras took part in the Fife Music Festival, either as soloists or as members of a group. The Junior Choir won the Saltire Trophy and the Junior Choir class. The Choir were then invited to perform at the Gala Concert which marks the close of the Festival and, as winners of the Saltire Trophy, to take part in a national singing competition next term. Both the Senior Strings and the Wind Band were awarded Outstanding Performance certificates. The following pupils all won their individual classes: Carol Newton (S3) 15 and Under Voice; Clair Speed (S5) Scots Songs; Glyn McCrickard (S5) Male Voice Advanced; Kate McGeoch (S3) French Horn; Edward Martin (S6) Bassoon. It is pleasing to note Madras pupils were praised not only for their level of performance, but also for the smartness of their appearance.

School finalists in the Bell Baxter Music Competition and representing the school in Cupar on 27th March are Lesley Bell S6 (Clarinet), Kirsten McNeil S5 (Flute), Clair Speed S5 (Soprano) and reserve Roy Verner S5 (Tenor).

PTA 50/50 Club

50/50 Club prize winners to date are:

- £50 Dr & Mrs B Jayasekara, Tayport
- £50 Mrs E Griffin, Colinsburgh
- £50 Mrs S Harris, St Andrews
- £20 Mr P Goldsmith, St Andrews
- £20 Mrs P Lilley, Newport

COMIC RELIEF

Comic Relief Day was marked by a successful non-uniform day, enthusiastically observed by pupils and also by many staff in both buildings. A lunchtime entertainment in Kilrymont Road master-minded by Mrs M Kyle, "Stars in their Eyes", enabled pupils to see some of their teachers in a new light. The PE department ran a fund raising Physical Challenge in the Gym. The Interact Group of S6 pupils successfully organised a Band Night in the evening, when a wide range of aspiring bands drawn from the ranks of the senior pupils performed to an appreciative audience. The final total raised was over £1200.

Burns Supper

This popular and enjoyable annual event was held on 23rd January and was distinguished this year by the Rector, Mr DD Galloway's proposal of the Immortal Memory, in an outstanding address which combined erudition with humour. His Rectorship was celebrated in Mr A Lindsay's parody "Davie Shanter", while other excellent entertainment was provided by speakers, singers and musicians drawn from years S3-S6. From the winners of the schools' Burns competitions, a strong team goes forward to the Fife Schools Burns Competition in March: Carol Newton (S3), Kirsten McNeill (S4) and Glyn McCrickard (S5). The proceeds from the event were donated to Oxfam.

PTA DANCE SHOW

An impressive dance show run by the PTA was presented on the evenings of 19th and 20th March to an enthusiastic audience of parents and friends in the Kilrymont Hall. Over sixty girls drawn from S1-S3, who have attended regular Dance Club meetings throughout the year under the leadership of Miss L Hutchison and Mrs V Rough, performed a wide variety of exciting routines. Costumes produced by Miss A Duncan and contributions of back-projected slides designed by pupils in the art department all contributed to an entertainment which set a high standard in this, a new field of performance at Madras. Our thanks go to the PTA and to all within and outwith the school who contributed so much to make this highly successful event possible.

Sporting Round-up

• Athletics

At the Scottish Schools Indoor Athletic Championships in January, Jenny Farrow (S6) won Gold in the Over 16 60 metres Hurdles and Jamie Kilpatrick and Owen Greene (both S6) reached the finals of their events.

• Cross Country

Regional and National successes have been achieved in this years championships. At Over 17, the Boys team of Owen Greene (S6) and Ruairidh McQueen (S5) and Ian Rough and Donal Henretty (S6) won the Fife Cup and the Scottish Schools' title. Having won the Fife Schools' individual title, Owen Greene has been selected for the Scottish team and will compete in Wales on March 22nd. The Under 15 Girls' team came second in Fife and 5th in the Scottish Schools event. The Under 15 Boys came second in Fife and individual successes included the Under 15 title for Andrew Lemoncello (S3) and the First Year title for Andrew Murphy.

• Football

The 1st XI team have won all their league games and have a strong chance of winning the Fife Schools league for the first time, having been runners up for the last two seasons. The five-a-side team won the Fife Cup for the first time on the 25th anniversary of the competition. Congratulations go to Donal Henretty, Duncan Caithness, Stephen Clark and Paul Broadfoot (S6) and Ruairidh McQueen, Gary Clark and James Russell (S5). At Under 14, the team reached the semi-finals of the Fife Cup and the five-a-side team missed

qualifying for the national tournament by one point.

• Swimming

In the Fife Schools Swimming Championships, the Girls 14/15 Relay team came second, qualifying for the Scottish Schools' event, where they were placed fourth. The team was Melanie Christie (S3), Rachel Hood (S3), Karen Lowe (S4) and Lisa Sturrock (S4). In the individual events, Melanie Christie came second in the 14/15 Breast Stroke and fourth in the 200 metres; Helene Oliver (S1) won the Under 11 Breast Stroke and was second in the Butterfly; Susan Field (S1) came sixth in the Under 11 Back Stroke.

• Hockey

This has been the most successful season the senior girls have had for many years, not just in the quality of hockey played but in the interest and determination evident in over 30 girls. Most Saturdays have seen two XI's, with substitutes, out. The 1st XI are the Fife champions both at the Outdoor and Indoor game, and runners up in the Midlands. The Under 16 team played in the Midlands Adults Division 2 and have earned promotion to Division 1 next season. The end of term highlight promises to be a game against the staff.

Both Zoe Ballantyne (S6) and Lindsay Thompson (S4) have been tried for the Scottish teams, at Under 18 and Under 16 levels respectively, and both are reserves for the Scottish teams which will travel to Dublin and Köln.

The Third Year team were the winners

of the Midlands Junior Indoor tournament while four S2 pupils were selected for the Under 14 Development Squad: Shona Robertson, Maura Petrie, Emma Stewart and Lindsey Allison.

• Rugby

The 1st XV has had a fair season, playing some attractive and successful rugby under the captaincy of full back Peter Walker, running up high scores against teams who gave them strong opposition. They have been runners-up in two seven-a-side tournaments and narrowly defeated in the Scottish Cup, each time by Dunfermline High School. Good attendance at practices resulted in a large pool of players and a strong 2nd XV. The backs have benefited from working with John Jardine, Under 21 internationalist.

Euan Bennett (S5) played for the Midlands Under 18 team, and Daniel Riach (S4) at Under 16 level, while Ross Methven (S4) played at Under 15 level and had a trial for Scotland in his age group.

The First Year team have had a very successful season, winning 19 of their 20 games, losing only to Merchiston Castle School, and all their games at the Fife First Year Rugby Festival. Points for: 765, points against: 92.

• American Football

Ricky Hamilton and John Rice (S6) have been selected for the Scottish Under 19 squad and will travel to Warrington to play the English Under 19 team on March 23rd.

School Events

This has been a busy term for school events, many of them raising money for charities as well as providing a focus for enjoyable activities.

• Easter Entertainment for the Old Folks

In a repeat of last year's very successful event, S3 pupils staged an entertainment for senior citizens in the community on the afternoon of Wednesday 26th March. Around 50 pupils were involved in singing, playing various musical instruments, dancing, reciting verse and then serving refreshments to over 50

guests. The afternoon was much enjoyed by all.

• After School Club

An "After School Club" has been set up in both buildings to allow pupils who wish to study in supervised conditions in the school libraries. Particular thanks go to Mrs A Stephens and Miss T Gillespie for this initiative, which offers pupils the

opportunity to complete homework in an environment free from distractions.

• Chemistry Top of the Bench

Congratulations to the team of Jack Edwards-Fox (S2), Tom Davie (S3), Alan Riddell (S4) and Graham Redman (S6) who have won through to the final of this event.

Dates for your Diary

Exams

S3

Monday 28th April 1997 to
Friday 16th May 1997

SEB Study Leave

Tuesday 6th May 1997 to
Wednesday 4th June 1997

PTA Meetings

Partnership with Parents
Thursday 8th May 1997

Summer Fayre

Saturday 14th June 1997

School Holiday Dates

Easter Holiday

Monday 31st March 1997 to
Friday 11th April 1997

May Day

Monday 5th May 1997

June (single day)

Monday 2nd June 1997

Summer Holiday

Monday 30th June 1997 to
Friday 15th August 1997

Parents' Evenings

S3

Tuesday 29th April 1997

S1

Wednesday 4th June 1997

P7

Monday 26th May 1997

In-Service Day for Teachers

Friday 30th May 1997

School Board Meeting

Thursday 22nd May 1997

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