



Summer Newsletter

Madras College Newsletter

June 1997

Rector's Viewpoint

First impressions count for much, so we are told. Here goes. Firstly, the school is very active, very lively; there is a "buzz" about the place even at the end of another very full and demanding school year for staff and pupils. The news items which follow give an indication of just how much is going on in both curricular and extra-curricular activities. Secondly, despite its size and the split-site, the school is a welcoming one with a good tone. The human relationships seem to be good at every level; this is a caring place. Thirdly, there is commitment by all concerned, pupils, staff and parents, to doing the job well, to quality. Put these three ingredients together, high activity, broad humanity and deep quality, and Madras College is well placed to continue giving excellent service to its community in the years ahead.

There is also a sense of history about the place. Everyone is aware of the "Madras Story" of the school's origins and development as well as its proud place in education in Scotland and worldwide. By understanding and appreciating what has gone before, we are better able to focus on our own priorities for the future. More about that at a later date! In taking over as head of this famous school, I feel both humble and determined, humble because of the sheer weight of past achievements, yet determined to do everything possible to carry on the good work. At this point I wish to record particular thanks to my predecessor, who served Madras so well over the past twelve years. If those first impressions I gave are indeed accurate they should in large measure be credited to the dedication and leadership of Mr David Galloway.

Two specifics to mention are school uniform and school security, between which there is a connection. There is strong parental support for the existing policy on uniform; pupils know what is expected of them and are responding very positively. What is new, however, is that recent concerns about the security

of young people at school makes us view uniform from an additional angle, that is, the essential need for identification. With so many other young people visiting St Andrews throughout the year, not to mention the large university student community, it is essential that every pupil is able to be instantly recognised as a member of the school, inside or outside the building. The obvious benefits for security need hardly to be spelled out. We cannot compromise on safety or security, however, so it is my expectation that under all normal circumstances all Madras pupils will wear uniform.

May I lastly thank all of you who have made me feel so welcome at Madras and may I on behalf of the whole staff, wish you all an enjoyable summer at work or on holiday.

L S G Matheson

Kiel Exchange

The 41st annual exchange with the Kieler Gelehrtenschule in Kiel, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany took place in June, as it has every year since 1957. In alternate years, parties from either school visit the other, so that all pupils are involved in the scheme for two years, one year as hosts and the other as visitors. Recruitment usually takes place during S4, with great benefit not only to language development but also to cultural, social and personal development. The enrichment to both schools over the years which has derived from this link have been great. However, all this depends on generous investment of time and effort, principally by the two organising members of staff: Mr Donald MacGregor, Principal Teacher of German, who has led the Madras side of the exchange since 1975, and Mr Hans-Werner Suhr, who has organised the trip from Kiel since 1982.

INTERACT



Junior Rotary

The Madras Interact Club has now completed a second year of activity, with Neil McKenzie (S6) as President. During the year, monies raised for charity included £1300 from a Non-Uniform Day, £375 from a very successful Band Night and £35 from a Poster Sale.

Together with Paul Naysmith (S6), Neil McKenzie completed a charity cycle ride for CHAS. Between June 8th and 15th, they covered the distance from John O' Groats to Glasgow, arriving at the opening ceremony of the Rotary International Convention. Neil was invited to participate in the Youth Seminar at the Convention. The boys then hosted two South African cyclists of their own age who had also completed the ride.

In August, seven Madras Interactors will form part of a party visiting Canada and representing Rotary District 1010. Led by Mr J Bennett, Assistant Rector and St Andrews Rotary member, and Mr P Higginson, parent and member of Dundee Rotary, the group will visit Port Hope and Uxbridge, Ontario.

Next year's President is Fiona Higginson, who has already planned a full programme of social events, speakers and charity fund raising events.

STOP PRESS

The Summer Concert on Monday 23rd June was an outstanding success, the capacity audience enjoying a scintillating series of choral and instrumental items. £600 was raised for charity and music funds. Remarking on the dedication and talent of so many staff and pupils, the Rector trusted that the Council would continue to support the educational provision for expressive arts in our schools.

Staff Notes

On May 19th, the school welcomed Mr L Matheson, who arrived to take up his post as Rector. Mr Matheson was previously Rector at Milne's High School, Fochabers (near Elgin) and before that was at Inverurie Academy as Assistant Rector, Lochaber High School (Fort William) as Principal Teacher of History, and Banff Academy. He was himself educated in Edinburgh and in Dunedin (New Zealand) where his family emigrated while he was a boy. On return, he went to St Andrews, then Oxford University and to a research college in Naples. He has a wife, Katherine, and two grown-up daughters, Sarah and Fiona.

Congratulations go to the two newly-promoted members of staff: Miss F Jackson, who joined us in June from Buckhaven High School, as Assistant Principal Teacher of Science; and Miss L Hutchison, already a member of the PE department, was appointed to the post of Assistant Principal Teacher of Guidance.

We also congratulate staff who have left to take up appointments elsewhere: Mr P Finnigan, as Assistant Principal Teacher of English at Balwearie High School; Miss L Marr, to Kelso High School and Mrs H Lawrenson to Kilgraston School.

The exchange of staff in the Biology department with Salmo Secondary School, British Columbia, Canada has now successfully run its course. We wish Mr R Thompson well as he returns home to Nelson BC next month and thank him for his services over this session. Dr A Rutherford will resume her post at Madras at the start of the new session.

At this stage in the year we thank members of staff who have given such excellent service to the school in a temporary capacity: Miss P Dunn, Mrs E

Religious Studies

The Higher Religious Studies class enjoyed an overnight stay at the Samey Ling Tibetan Buddhist Centre in Eskdalemuir. This was a most rewarding trip, organised by Mrs A Shields, which gave pupils the opportunity to visit the Buddhist Temple, speak with monks and try out some meditation.

Clark, Mrs E Methven and Miss L Watson. Thanks also go to all supply staff, long and short term, who give us such invaluable help throughout the session.

Mrs Mabeth Douglas

Mabeth Douglas retires this summer after fourteen years' service in the Chemistry department. Her commitment, expertise and experience will be much missed by pupils and colleagues. As a senior teacher, her characteristic friendly manner was enjoyed by students and probationers who valued her support and advice. We wish her a happy retirement in St Andrews and in her travels to her favourite holiday spot in the Lake District and beyond.

Mr Sandy Smart

Sandy Smart has been a cornerstone of the Technical Department at Madras College for 30 years, having joined the staff in 1967. In 1980 he was appointed to the post of Assistant Principal Teacher and his steady service over the years has contributed much to his department. Sandy has also had a high and energetic profile with the staff as a whole. He has been an excellent representative for all members of the SSTA. His friendly extrovert personality and his musical abilities have been assets often in demand, both as an active member of the Staff Social Committee and in memorable performances for pupils, raising funds for charity. We wish him a long, happy and active retirement, confident in the knowledge that he will enjoy it to the full.

Hadrian's Wall

A regular annual event, Mr D Cleland's weekend trip to Hadrian's Wall, took place in mid-June and was as successful as ever. Despite poor weather, the group visited six sites and four museums and had two wall walks. Thanks go to the trustees for a supporting grant, as indeed to all the members of staff involved: Miss J Robertson, Mrs A Shields, Mrs P Esler, Mrs H Lawrenson, Mr D Dallas and Mr C Jessop.

TRIPS ABROAD

USA Exchange

The participants in the annual exchange programme with Great Valley High School, Philadelphia, USA have been selected for next session. They are Corrinne Bell, Mhairi McKenzie, Tim Schmitz and Nicola Squires, all in S6. Their families will each host one visitor from Great Valley who will attend school at Madras from August until January 1998. Our pupils will travel to Philadelphia in January and attend Great Valley, staying with their host family, until the end of term in June.

This will be the seventh year of the exchange, initiated and organised by Dr R Waterston. The programme has been an enriching one for all the participants and for both of the schools.

French Trip

During the Easter holiday, Mr C Jessop, Principal Teacher of French, assisted by Mrs C Harvey, Miss P Dunn and Miss D Balsillie, led a group of pupils from S2 and S3 on a trip to Paris and Brittany. Highlights of the visit included a tour of Paris by night, visiting Mont St Michel and Chartres Cathedral, oyster tasting on the harbour wall at Cancale, market day at Dinan and finally a walk round the city walls of Saint Malo.

German Trip

Also at Easter, Mr D MacGregor led a group of 49 S2 and S3 pupils on a very successful tour of the Rhine land, visiting Koblenz, Cologne and Cochem Castle, amongst other places. He was assisted by Mrs P Esler, Miss D Orem and Miss S Mackay.

Parent Teacher Association

The importance of dialogue between home and school in promoting the quality of pupils' learning is prominent in educational discussion at present and often emphasised in the media's handling of school concerns. In this context, the PTA has an important role to play and Madras is fortunate in the hard-working and able team of parents and teachers who serve on its committee.

It was difficult, in a community as active as St Andrews, to find a date for the Strawberry Fair which did not overlap with other events. Nor was the weather kind to us on the date chosen: June 14th. The PTA committee and all involved are to be congratulated on the substantial sum of money raised by this successful event, which will be used to support the learning of all pupils in the school.

The year's programme of events was very well-received by those parents who were able to attend. We would hope to see greater support for the interesting programme planned for next session. The first meeting will be on Wednesday 24th September: "Support for Learning".

At this time in the year, our thanks go to all the committee for their willing support and efforts throughout the year, and especially to the President, Mrs L Black, Vice-president, Dr D Sinclair and Secretary, Mr H Beaton.

50/50 Club Prizewinners

• January

£20 Alan Pearce, Gauldry
£20 Dr EM Randall, by Dunino

• February

£20 Christopher Black, Newport
£20 Mrs C Grant, Denhead

• March

£20 Mr R Goldsmith, St Andrews
£20 Mrs P Lilley, Newport
£50 Dr Jayasakera, Tayport
£50 Mrs E Griffin, by Colinsburgh
£50 Mrs S Harris, St Andrews

• April

£20 Ann Amy, St Andrews
£20 Filomena Shaw, Gauldry

• May

£20 Ann Amy, St Andrews
£20 Colin Mitchell, St Andrews

• June

£20 Philip Shanks, Ceres
£20 Dr A Hood, St Andrews
£50 Mrs SM Walker, St Andrews
£100 Mrs Lesley Edwards, Newport

To find out more information about the 50/50 Club, please contact Linda Black on (01382) 542306

3 Day Activities

The high spot of the year for S3, once their first major diet of examinations ends, is the Three Day Activities.

This year, the Activities took place from 27th - 29th May, when the regular timetable was suspended to allow a wide range of different experiences to be offered to the whole year group. Over half were involved in residential trips to venues as varied and enterprising as Stratford-upon-Avon, Mull, Paris, Glen Affric, York, Scarborough and Paris. The school's cottage in Glen Tilt was in use for a group to experience its peaceful and simple accommodation, while those taking part in their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Expedition camped in the Glen. Other pupils took part in different one-

day activities, including day trips to York, Hill Walking, Go-karting and Horse Riding. One other group helped out on a small-holding for a day. In school, Computing Capers, Dough Making and Volleyball were amongst the activities to sample.

The energy and enthusiasm of all staff who contributed made this once again a memorable and enriching time, when many pupils faced new challenges and experiences not open to them in the classroom. While thanks go to all, the lengthy organisational feat involved in setting up the activities was borne by Mrs A Bridges, Mr J Urquhart and Mrs M Welsh, with Mrs V Rough coordinating in S3 Guidance.

Music

At the Saltire Society Competition, which is open to Festival Award Winners and aims to promote the singing of Scottish songs, the Junior Choir performed very well and achieved second place in Scotland in their class.

Glyn McCrickard represented Fife in a National Burns competition in Paisley where he gained third place.

The Wind Band entertained at the Bow Butts Bandstand on 15th June under the auspices of the Community Council. On 20th June, a group from Langlands Nursery class visited the Kilrymont building and enjoyed a performance from an S3 Standard Grade music class.

At present, the Senior Choir are preparing for a visit to Edinburgh in August to take part in the first ever Festival of Youth Chamber Choirs as part of the Edinburgh Festival of the Arts.

ART & DESIGN

S4 pupils Nicola Gourlay and Karen Whyte, who were winners of the Video Storyboard competition run by St Andrews and North East Fife Crime Prevention Panel, filmed their storyboard on Wednesday 4th June. The cast of Madras pupils drawn from S3 to act in the film were Jenny Shanks, Colin Goulay, Andrew Scott and Craig Thomson.

Former pupil Malcolm Burkinshaw graduated with 1st Class Honours as top fashion student at Edinburgh College of Art this term. He has been accepted for post-graduate study at the Royal College of Art in London.

On the evening of 10th June, Mr M Barclay, Principal Teacher of Art, took S6 pupils who had just completed their Certificate of Sixth Year Studies in Art and Design to attend the Fashion Show at Edinburgh which included Malcolm's work. A group of fifth year pupils embarking on Higher went to a matinee performance of Telford College Fashion Show with Mrs D Wyllie.

Summer Holiday
Monday 30th June 1997 to
Monday 18th August
(inclusive)

Classics

At the Tayside Classical Association Latin Speaking Competition at St Andrews University on 17th June, Madras pupils performed well against teams from schools in Fife, Angus, Perthshire and Aberdeen. Hazel Pearson (S3) won the Intermediate Cup, while the S2 team of Andrew Crome, Felix Davey, Jerome Dilley, Rhona McKay and Kimberly Millgate came second in the Junior Play. The S3 Latin Class Choir won the Project Prize for their performances in Latin and in appropriate costumes of London's Burning, Pie Jesu and, in a totally different idiom, of Abba's Momma Mia.

S3 Volunteers

Madras College will soon be the only school in Fife to operate on a split site. One feature of this organisation is that, as the most senior year group in the Kilrymont Road Building, the Third year have the opportunity to take some responsibility and assist in the day to day running of the school. All in the year group are offered the opportunity to volunteer and more than 100 from the year group of 320 responded. The activities in which they have been involved have included assisting in the running of the school tuck shop, organising dinner queues and supervising corridor areas, helping at Parents' Evenings and assisting the School Librarian. Especially effective this year have been the helpers who have gone regularly into first year classes at registration. The mutual benefits of this system are considerable and the pupils are to be congratulated on the way in which they carried out their duties.

DEBATING

The Jimmy Thomson trophy for Public Speaking was won by Graeme MacGregor (S3) with James Hutchison (S3) as runner-up. The Craig Buchanan Memorial Gavel for the winning House in the Junior Interhouse Debating Competition went this year to Blackfriars. Individual winners were Julie Higgins (S1), Hazel Pearson (S3), Jack Ferguson (S2), Jonathan Dean (S3) and Eric Baijal (S2).

MATHEMATICAL COMPETITIONS

Another very active and successful session in Mathematical competition is now drawing to a close. Since the Easter newsletter, which detailed the school's outstanding achievements in the UK Senior Maths Challenge, results of equal excellence have been announced in the Intermediate and Junior sections.

At Intermediate level, 12 Gold, 29 Silver and 20 Bronze awards were won, from an entry of 120,000. The Gold Award winners were: Allan Riddell, David Gibb, Louise Rolfe, Oliver Glidewell, Brian Hutchison and Gordon McLachlan (S4) and Jonathan Hine, Kate Swingler, Iain Mitchell, Sam Neilson, Imogen Tricker and Thomas Mortimer (S3). Allan Riddell's score of 102 qualified him for the prestigious International Intermediate Invitational Mathematical Challenge.

At Junior level, an overall 60 awards were gained, including exceptionally good results by pupils in S1, the younger year of contesting at this level. Two Gold Awards winners, Jack Edwards-Fox (S2) and David Stephens (S1) achieved the honour of being invited to sit the Junior Maths Olympiad. The other Gold Awards went to: Jerome Dilley, Louise Thomson, Greg Harrison, Michael Gray, Brett Stickland, Alasdair Young, Jennifer Law, Elinor Russell, Shona Morrison, Suzanne Bateman, Catriona McKenzie, Barrie Field and Lesley-Anne Blair (S2) and to Sarah Graves, James Brodie, Calum Hardie, Donald McCabe, and Jennifer Miller (S1).

In the Scottish Maths Council Challenge Contest 1997, 33 schools from Fife, Tayside and Central Regions, as they then were, took part. Madras achieved 31 of the total 104 awards given, 9 Gold, 8 Silver and 14 Bronze, more than any otherschool taking part. The Gold Award winners in their respective sections were: Juniors - Fiona Donaldson (S1), Intermediate - Thomas Davie and Jonathan Hine (S3) and Gordon

Maclachlan, Martha Neilson, Anne Marie Wright (S4); Senior - Neil Donaldson, Luke Halliwell (S5) and Graham Redman (S6). All the Gold and Silver winners will receive their awards at a ceremony at Dundee University on 17th June.

On the international scene, the Madras College team which took part in the Scottish section of the Mathématiques sans Frontières Contest 1997 won the S5 event, coming first out of 25 teams. Individual prizes and £300 for the school were won. The team were: Ryan Sochanik (Captain), Douglas Aiton, David Bell, Sally Bremner, Kirsty Dawson, Jenny Davie, Neil Donaldson, Jonathan Ervine, Alex Godwin, Jacqueline Harkins, Luke Halliwell, Glyn McCrickard, Phil Reid, Tim Schmitz and Susan Weatherstone.

One more item of mathematical news. The school department now has a Home Page on our Web site, whose address is

<http://www.users.zetnet.co.uk/madras>

IRISH TOUR

For the second year in succession, a very enjoyable combined Rugby and Hockey tour to Ireland took place, including games in Northern Ireland and in Dublin, sight seeing and a presentation dinner. Next season, we look forward to a visit from touring sides from St Luke's College, Argentina.

Crafty Cooks Club

In the New Year, the Home Economics department started up the Crafty Cooks Club, open to all pupils in S1 and S2. Its aim has been to develop interest and food skills and heighten awareness of food issues, including safety and hygiene. The venture has proved extremely popular and it is hoped to continue the Club's activities in the new session.

Sporting Round-up

• Football

The 1st XI Football team celebrated an outstanding season at an Awards Dinner, held at Ziggy's courtesy of the team's main sponsors, Cantley and Caithness (Estate Agents) on June 12th.

Cantley and Caithness had presented the team with a set of strips at the beginning of the season while Mr M Henretty of Hazelbank Hotel presented the team with 12 leather training balls and a trophy for the top goal scorer and individual statuettes. The 1st XI's major successes have included winning the school's 150th Anniversary Tournament, the Fife Schools' U/18 5-a-sides and the Fife Schools' U/18 League. At the dinner, the following awards were presented: Steven Ellwood (S5) - Players' Player of the Year; Donal Henretty (S6) - Player of the Year; Rhuaridh McQueen (S5) - Most Improved Player; Gareth Clark (S5) - The Henretty Award for Top Goal Scorer.

Meanwhile, the Staff team who are reigning Fife Schools Champions, have again reached the final of their tournament by beating Inverkeithing/Woodmill Select 3:1; Dunfermline High School 4:2 and in the semi-final on 13th June, Kirkcaldy High School 2:1. We wish them luck in retaining their title when they play either Fife Primary or Balwearie High School in the final.

• Rugby and Hockey Honours

The Colombo Cup for Rugby was won by Peter Walker (S6) while the Players' Player award went to Alex Kinninmonth (S6). Euan Bennett (S5) has been selected for the Scottish U18 Squad, with two days training at Fettes College lined up for August.

At Hockey, the S6 Player of the Year was Zoe Ballantyne, while the Players' Player was Siobhan Grieve (S6).

The Under 16 Girls' Hockey team took part in the Bonagrass Grove Ladies Hockey Club Tournament in Dundee on 8th June, competing against strong opposition. They reached the final by beating Dundee Wanderers and Impact U14 and drawing with Hyndland. In the final, they played exceptionally well to overcome Royal High Gymnasts and take the trophy. In celebrating their

success, the team wish to thank Mrs Hulbert, Miss J Robertson and Mrs J Dobie for their help throughout the season.

• Athletics

Madras had an outstanding day at the Fife Schools Track and Field Championships at Pitreavie on 11th June. A total of 16 Gold, 9 Silver and 9 bronze medals were won across a wide range of events and age groups. At 1st year level, Adrian Dempster won the Boys' Shot Putt and the Girls' Relay team of Ellen Norrie, Alison Bell, Joanne Munro and Fiona Lerski in coming first were awarded the Commemoration Cup. There were four Gold medals in the Under 15 group: Craig McLaren, Long Jump; Zoe Nisbet, 800m; Andrew Lemoncello, 1500m and the Boys' Relay Team of Iain Mitchell, Michael Latto, Finlay Wright and Craig McLaren, who thus secured the Wellesly Trophy. In the Over 17 age group, Jenny Farrow won Gold in both the Hurdles and 100m, while Jamie Kilpatrick was equally successful at 400m and the Triple Jump. All competitors are to be congratulated on their splendid all-round performances.

The first year Relay teams took part at Bell Baxter Sports day on June 17th and won the Invitational Relay Shield.

• Golf

At the Fife Schools Girls Golf Championships, outstanding successes were achieved. Hannah Norrie (S5) won the Scratch competitor, while Sarah Copland (S1) won the Handicap. Hannah Norrie, Martha Nielson (S4) and Lauren McArthur (S6) won the Team Handicap and came second in the Scratch event.

The winner of the Turner medal was Euan Bennett (S5), with Stuart Anderson (S1) as runner-up.

Ryan Lumsden (S6), Hannah Norrie and Lauren McArthur were selected to represent Fife at the Scottish Schools Championships.

• Swimming

At the Scottish Schools Swimming Team Championships, the S3/4 Girls' team did very well, coming Second in the Freestyle Relay and fifth in the Medley

Sports Day

Sports Day was held on 19th June on a pleasant warm afternoon, after early rain. Thanks to the usual excellent organisation of the athletic events by Mr Trewartha and the whole of the PE department, the afternoon ran smoothly and successfully. The individual year champions were as follows:

S1

Boys: David Corcoran

Girls: Joanne Munro

S2

Boys: Craig McLaren

Girls: Zoe Nisbet

S3

Boys: Andrew Lemoncello

Girls: Frances Rossi

Seniors

Boys: Owen Greene

Girls: Mia Nisbet

The overall House winner was Castle, followed by Blackfriars and then Priory.

Relay. The team was Karen Lowe and Lisa Sturrock (S4) and Melanie Christie and Rachel Hood (S3). The S1 team of Leanne Sturrock, Helene Oliver, Susan Field and Alison Bell also performed creditably, coming eighth in both their events.

• Tennis

Rachel Hood (S3) and Alison Bell (S1) won the Midlands Schools Girls Junior Doubles (U15) for Madras College.

• Lunchtime Tournaments

A feature of lunchtime at Kilrymont Road this year has been the Inter-Class tournaments organised by members of the PE department. Mr K McKenzie ran the basketball competition for S3, which was won by 3A. Mrs V Rough organised tournaments for S1, where the winners were 1K at Football and 1A and 1F, who drew at Hockey. Mixed Football matches for S2 are still going on, run by Mr J Tarvet and Miss L Hutchison.