



# Christmas Newsletter

Madras College Newsletter

December 2000

## Rector's Message

The poor quality of PE facilities at Madras, the gross overcrowding in the school, the problems of the examination system in Scotland, and the frequent mood of bitterness, frustration and cynicism within society, were some of the themes mentioned in the school magazine of 1950. Some things don't seem to change. The Rector of the day, however, also encouraged everyone to adopt the traditional maxim of 'simple living and high thinking'. Fifty years on how do we measure up to Mr McLeod's wise advice.

One thing is sure, modern living is anything but simple, as those who have to fill in a Taxation Return or programme a new VCR would agree. High thinking is as rare as a policeman in a traffic jam. We live amid constant stress and strain even though we are often told that we have never been so well off or as well looked after. People considered impervious to worry or overwork seem to be crumbling. Pupils, we are told, are under greater strain than ever before. What is going on?

Is it that we have no time? No, it can't be that, for why else would we all stand and gape when a pop singer gets married in a Disneyland annex in the Highlands?

Is it that we lack a vision or have no leadership? That won't wash either, since everyone who is anyone has been on all sorts of leadership and motivation courses. People have spent good money buying vision.

Is it that we don't want to succeed? This is patently not the case, since all organisations put a vast amount of effort and energy into planning and setting goals.

Could it be money? Again this won't provide the answer since society and industry is investing heavily in programmes for development and quality assurance.

Have people changed then? No, scientists and philosophers tell us that human nature

evolves slowly, adapting to new circumstances over many years. People still care as strongly as they ever did, as the public reaction to young Damilola's brutal murder has shown.

What then? One word: trust.

Does anyone trust anyone now? Has spin and twist finally broken society's trust? Have ordinary people become contaminated by the behaviour of their 'elders and betters'? Is the culture of blame (and guarding against being blamed) eating away at our developed social instinct of mutual trust? 'Where there's blame there's a claim' goes the advertising jingle of one loss-adjuster. It is easy, perhaps too easy to blame, to be negative.

It should, however, be easy to encourage and be encouraged, such as by the spectacular generosity of the third year Modern Studies pupils in their recent charity campaign or by the enterprise of pupils at all levels throughout the school from the crafty clever first year cooks to the various individual and group fundraisers in fifth and sixth year. After the recent Christmas Concerts you could hardly fail to be encouraged by the talent, effort and spirit in evidence.

The encouraging thing is that for all our difficulties this session such as in the SQA (see separate article) there have been many excellent achievements in all the usual strong areas of school life, as the following pages illustrate. Effort, care, teamwork, enterprise and ambition are alive and well, proving that Madras College is not the kind of place to be easily put off its stride. Perhaps also, this is the simple living and high thinking about which Mr McLeod wrote all those years ago.

The entire staff has worked extraordinarily hard this term despite difficult circumstances for us all. I wish to thank them publicly for putting in a very hard shift. The non-teaching staff generally have been having a difficult year. There are continuing discussions

about their remits, workload and salary. There is also a growing recognition and appreciation of the vital part that they play in helping schools to run smoothly. As long as all of us encourage and trust each other to do the basic things well, no pupil should suffer disadvantage over any other.

## SQA Diet 2000

The national problems are well known. The individual problems are known to those who have been adversely affected or who know others in this unfortunate position. As a school we have made every effort to have missing or incorrect grades put right. In August the priority was the pupils who needed correct results for entry this session to further and higher education. Next came the appeals for Highers and Sixth Year Studies, results of which came back in November. The results of appeals for Intermediate and Standard Grades were received last week. There have been a number of cases, particularly at Higher level, where we remain convinced that justice has not been done to certain pupils even after the appeals process. A special appeal by Madras College to the SQA Chief Executive has been lodged on their behalf. It is therefore very interesting to hear in recent days that the Education Minister is to set up a national system for a further review of Higher results. We shall ensure that any cases where we can support a further appeal will be put forward for consideration. Those involved will be kept informed. Meantime we wish to thank pupils and parents for their patience and their understanding in a difficult and stressful time for all concerned. I also wish to thank the teaching and clerical staff for the many hours of additional work that has been willingly undertaken.

## School Begins

Monday 8th January 2001

# STAFF NEWS

We've had quite a term on the staffing front, with a large number of changes to note. There has also been an increasing problem in managing to find supply staff for temporary vacancies in several subjects. While this is part of a national shortage of teachers we do seem to be particularly badly hit in our area.

The term commenced on 21st August with a number of new appointments, Miss Stewart in Art, Mr Anderson in Technical, Mrs Grieve in Home Economics and Miss Watkins in Classics. Miss Russell (Biology department) became Assistant Principal Teacher of Guidance. In September Miss Orem was appointed Assistant Principal Teacher of Modern Languages and Miss Paterson joined the Biology department. In October and November we had a flurry of departures, Mr Haldane from his Acting Principal Teacher of Learning Support post, Miss Forbes and Miss Thomson from the Mathematics department, and Mrs Steven (APTHome Economics) who went to Waid Academy as Acting Principal Teacher. Mrs Copland is Acting Assistant Principal Teacher in Mrs Steven's place. Mrs Calderbank joined the Art and Design department. Also in November Mr Mackay was appointed to the new Assistant Rector post, with Mrs Rough becoming Principal Teacher of Guidance in his place. At the start of December, Acting Head Janitor Mr Wingfield retired after five very good years' service to Madras. 'Sam', a popular figure in the South Street building, will be well remembered for his dry humour and unflinching calmness and politeness. Mr Graves takes over his position. Mr Irving has joined the Modern Languages department and Mr Walker the Mathematics department. Miss Buckler (English and Acting APT Guidance) leaves us at the end of term. We thank her for her three years' service to Madras and wish her well in her forthcoming marriage back home in Australia.

We also wish to thank very warmly the band of supply staff who have helped out for short or long stints on a temporary basis this term. Such colleagues perform a vital function in keeping the departments running when illness, national duties or council business affect class teaching. We trust that this section of the newsletter will be much shorter next time.

## Debating and Public Speaking

This year six Madras pupils have qualified for Round 2 of the Courier/Royal Bank of Scotland Debating Competition. They are Catriona Kay, Mairi McInnes, Hamish Findlay, Graeme Taylor, all S3, and Anna Wowk and Michelle Thaddeus of S2. In addition, Catriona and Mairi have just taken part in the new prestigious Junior ESU competition and have again reached the second round. This has been the best year yet for the juniors. The strength of debating in Kilrymont Road has been further strengthened by the contribution of Mrs Harvie (English Department) and Mr Gray (Modern Studies).

In-house, it has been a successful term which saw a variety of junior debates on topics such as abolishing the Monarchy, widening the Atlantic and putting the real meaning back into Christmas.

Seniors Shona Morrison and Kai Hopkins (S6) and Alisdair Dennis, Thomas Foster and Stuart Ball (S4) have progressed beyond the First Round in their respective ESU Debating and Public Speaking competitions. The fourth years also represented Madras in the Dundee Schools Debating Competition, open to schools from Dundee, Perth and Kinross, Angus and Fife. After three hard-fought rounds, they won a place in the finals and were eventually placed second.

To conclude, the inter-house debate was won this year by Castle.

## Parent/Teacher Association

### • Homestudy and Homework

On 13th October, a very successful meeting of the PTA explored the subject of 'Helping with Home Learning'. The session was introduced by Mrs C Easingwood, Assistant Rector, reviewing the topic of purposeful home study and the ways in which the school works in partnership with parents to develop pupils' capacity to study independently. A carousel format was then used, with groups of parents circulating round different short presentations.

Mrs M Welsh, Principal Teacher of Guidance, outlined the Study Skills material taught during Social Education, which aims to help pupils develop the skills they need in a progressive programme from S1 to S6.

Mr K Nisbet, Assistant Principal Teacher of Mathematics, demonstrated the extensive use now being made of the Internet to support home learning. Links he has put in place through the Madras College Maths Department Home Page lead pupils to interactive exercises and revision work. There are also after-school clubs for those who do not have Internet access at home.

Mrs J Scott, English Department, assisted by Miss C Doig, Library Assistant, explained the ways in which pupils' private reading at home is encouraged, extended and monitored. They also

demonstrated how use had been made of the Internet for a project involving the Carnegie Medal for junior fiction, whereby volunteer pupils read, reviewed and voted for their own choice of winners from the Carnegie short list.

The response of all parents present was enthusiastic and appreciative.

### • 50/50 Club Winners

#### August

£50 Mr J Crombie, Wormit  
£25 Mrs C Richardson, St Andrews

#### November

£25 J Murphy, Ceres  
£25 Mrs J Young, Blebo Craigs

#### December (Concerts)

1 £100 Mr & Mrs Humfrey, Ceres  
£50 Mrs H Hagan, Tayport  
2 £100 Mrs K Pitman, Guardbridge  
£50 Mr L Stevenson, St Andrews

Last year, the money raised by the PTA went towards the following:

- 1 School Diaries - every pupil in the school was provided with a diary.
- 2 First Aid Kits for the PE department.
- 3 'World Book Day' prizes.
- 4 Mobile phones for use by teachers accompanying groups of children out of school.
- 5 Dates ties.

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## FUNDRAISING

Within the last month the school has contributed substantially to various local and national organisations: The Earl Haig Fund Scotland received £290.00; Fife HIV Awareness and The Positive Steps Partnership each received £124.50 for World AIDS Day; pupils from all S3 Modern Studies classes took part in a "Give it up for Oxfam" campaign day to raise the issue of the problem facing street children in Tanzania. In doing so they raised over £300.00 from fasting, giving up television and talking(!) on November 10th. The sixth year Interact Club will present Macmillan Cancer Relief with a cheque for £380.00. Department of Special Education pupils, staff and parents filled 9 shoe boxes with Christmas presents for children in Eastern Europe. At the moment a group involved in Higher Still Enterprise Unit are baking, selling cakes in the staffroom to raise money for Rachel House Children's Hospice in Kinross. Nicola Hastie, a sixth year pupil, completed a sponsored cycle ride in the summer and presented the generous sum of £142.45 to the school to support "The Quad Fund".

The school was delighted to receive a cheque of £400.00 from the Year of '76 Reunion group organised by former pupil John Marini. It has been decided that the money will go to the Locker Area Fund in the Kilrymont Road building. Through these columns we would like to thank John and his year for their most appreciated gift.

Proceeds of £150.00 from the school production 'Romeo and Juliet' were given to The Byre Theatre. Through a presentation of a play entitled 'Shelter' composed by pupils in the S5/6 module class, a sum of £50.00 was raised for Shelter.

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## Physics Workshops

The Advanced Higher Physics pupils attended separate workshops in the Universities of Dundee and St Andrews this term. Again they proved extremely worthwhile as preparation for Higher Education. In Dundee the pupils were offered a series of excellent computing experiments and mini lectures and in St Andrews the pupils were caught up in the enthusiastic presentations. The members of the university departments were very impressed by Madras' ability, behaviour and social skills.

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## Out and About in the Department of Special Education - Environmental Visits

Over the term the department has been on a number of interesting visits in the local community.

The programme began by looking at a variety of habitats around St Andrews. This included walks in the Lade Braes, the Botanic Gardens and on the East Sands. In October the group attended the Environmental Fair at East Sands when the topic was The Seashore. The pupils were involved in activities on pollution problems. One of the highlights of the trip was a demonstration on the workings of the local lifeboat.

Recently, work has focussed on the history of St Andrews where visits have included the museum, cathedral, castle and university.

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## News from the School Library in the New Millennium

In September, the school library, with the support of the English Department and a team of able and willing helpers from S3, ran another successful Book Fair at Kilrymont. This event allows pupils to visit the library to look at and discuss a selection of the latest fiction and non-fiction books. They are invited to make their choice of books for the library, and are able to buy books and stationery.

The sales from this year's September Scholastic Book Fair amounted to £509.00, which entitled us to select books in commission to the value of £305.40 for the library.

We hope to run another Book Fair from Wednesday 19th September to Tuesday 25th September 2001.

South Street library has received a face-lift in the past year. Earlier in the year, the library was repainted. In the summer holidays, vertical blinds were installed, and this term we have taken delivery of smart upholstered chairs. The working

environment has been considerably enhanced, and the changes welcomed by staff and pupils coming to study. It has also given the school a bright and comfortable area in which to host receptions and events such as debating competitions.

In Kilrymont Road library, the programme of supporting reading continues. This year the first years were welcomed with special bookmarks designed by Miss Doig, which outlined information about the library, and also contained a book review. Pupils have responded brilliantly, with most pupils using the bookmarks and still having them intact after two terms.

Both Kilrymont and South Street libraries continue to be well used by pupils in their own time, at lunchtime and after school. Pupils are welcome to read or work, and have access to help with using computers for word processing and using CD Roms and the Internet in connection with school work.

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## Drama Department

Standard Grade, Intermediate 2 and Higher Drama pupils have been involved in in-house and public performances of dance and investigative projects ranging from interpreting popular chart music and dramas based on the themes of the Seven Sins.

The school production of 'Romeo and Juliet' was a tremendous, sell-out success. Directed with panache by Mrs P Esler, the production was praised by all who came to see it for its physicality and verve. It is difficult to single out any individual performance because this was indeed a team production with both pupils and staff (including Mr Matheson) contributing to the show's success. The production was daring, adventurous and imaginative: the quality of the acting from the leading pair through to the supporting characters was impressive. It is hoped to perform the production again in Falkland next year. Future productions include 'Flour Babies' which is being directed by Miss L Dewar. Watch this space for information on Pinter's 'The Birthday Party'. The Drama staff, after their tour of the Byre Theatre site, are looking forward to its opening and the opportunities which will be available to the community.

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## AWARE 2000

Again this year all fourth years were offered a five day work experience placement which took place in November and December. It has proved beneficial to the pupils as it introduces them to a variety of different experiences and helps develop a number of life skills. The experience they gain can be used in parts of the curriculum when the pupils return from their placement. Educationally, they gain a Work Experience Module.

To give pupils a variety of choice we are always interested in new work placements and therefore if you think you could offer work experience, please contact the school for more information.

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## *Social Life*

Both buildings have been busy socially this term. In October the Guidance team of Mrs Towns and Miss Russell organised, with staff and sixth year support, what has now become a fixture in the school events calendar, the S1 Activities Night. Over 250 pupils enjoyed a variety of entertainments from sporting challenges and computer games to disco dancing and board games. In the same month a similar number of second years attended their Caribbean Capers Disco. Organisers Mr Mackay and Mrs Rough were not out of place in their colourful outfits as everyone danced, sang and limboed throughout the evening. The seniors too, through Mr Jessop's Interact Group, enjoyed their Hallowe'en disco in the South Street building. This event raised £100 for Charities. Variety is certainly the spice of social life in the school these days!

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## CLASSICS

Classics pupils attended three Greek Tragedies performed this term: Bacchae in St Andrews, Antigone in Glenrothes, Medea (Liz Lochhead/Maureen Beattie) in Perth, the last of which was particularly effective. There is a first for the department this year in that Miss Watkins who has come to Madras straight from College of Education is the first ever teacher qualified in a degree in Classical Studies in the school. James Wovk (S6) has been extremely busy on his exchange to Canada where no Latin or Classical Studies is offered in his school. He has certainly been active at faxing and e-mailing the school to keep up with his studies. And, on this side of the Atlantic Callie Chatten, our Canadian exchange student, has achieved a Classical Studies unit pass. What may also be unusual nationally is that Hannah Bredin (S3) is doing Classical Greek for her Duke of Edinburgh Skills Unit.

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## ENGLISH News

Each year the University of St Andrews hosts STANZA, which is establishing itself as one of the leading poetry events in the UK. This year the English Department was very fortunate to obtain the services of two poets who came into school for two days. Jill Pirrie worked with classes of younger pupils and encouraged them to try a variety of approaches to the writing of poetry. Her sessions were much enjoyed by the pupils and the staff involved felt that they too had benefited from the visit. Paul Lyalls spent most of his time with senior pupils. Anyone who had held the view that poetry was boring or irrelevant had all such delusions dispelled within a few seconds of the start of Mr Lyalls' delivery. His poetry was sharp, incisive and often extremely funny. We are hoping that they will visit us again next October; in the meantime we are left with the memory of a very profitable two days.

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## Madras On Track Club

This new club, with the support of Fife Careers, helps fourth year pupils prepare themselves for leaving school. In September a small group was formed with Guidance and Fife Careers in an initiative to give pupils responsibility and skills to equip them for leaving school. Each pupil has a specific role to play from chair of meetings through public relations representative to designer. Andrea Martin, On Track Club Secretary, has been busy with the others in organising a variety of activities. They entered a competition last month for the best On Track Club logo, thanks to designer Paul Hastie. Glasgow School of Art will judge the competition in January.

The Christmas party, organised by the group, for the staff and pupils of the Department of Special Education has been a great success. Future projects will include Career Planning and Charity Fundraising. This enthusiastic group has gained so much from their activities so far.

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## School E-Mail Address

enquiries@madras.fife.sch.uk

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## *Mouthwatering Menu*

In the Fife Schools Scoff-ee-stop Millennium Challenge Cookery Competition Christina Lochhead and Emma Murphy, both 1B, won a place in the finals at Glenrothes College at the beginning of December. The girls were the youngest of ten teams, the majority of whom were in S4, 5 and 6.

The standard of food presented was excellent and worthy of any restaurant. After all the hard work and a nail-biting wait the judges awarded Christina and Emma second prize in the overall competition and first prize for Best Dessert. This was indeed a major achievement for such a young team.

The menu of their presentation, 'Clem's Cafe' (derived from their initials) appears below:-

### *Main Course*

*Spicy Lentils and scallops with poori bread*

### *Dessert*

*Clem's cranabana fantasia*

On Wednesday 29th November the cheer of Christmas started early for fourteen of our senior pupils who had the opportunity to prepare, serve and eat a delicious traditional Christmas lunch at Elmwood College. This special day was organised by the college to promote their Hospitality courses. The day was thoroughly enjoyed by all who took part.

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# MUSIC DEPARTMENT NEWS

One of the natural by-products of teaching in a busy Music department is music for public performance. This term has been no exception and we have heard classes or ensembles of pupils from four of the six year-groups taking part in the Christmas concerts alongside the regular extra-curricular groups. In like manner, an enthusiastic group of S1 pupils, again drawn from classes, together with elements of the Junior Fiddle Group, provided the entertainment for an Old Folks' Party in Martyrs Church Hall. In a class of their own at the Christmas concerts was the staff choir, with seasonal offerings old and new and introducing some very promising soloists!

At a time when Scottish traditional music is at last beginning to receive government funding and recognition, our musicians have been busy with a strong representation of fiddlers at the annual Food and Drink Fair in St Andrews. The solo piper for the day was also from Madras as were former pupils taking part in Fife Roadshow, a traditional music organisation providing opportunities for young musicians and dancers. The Pipe Band has had a number of engagements including a street fair and participation in the massed bands for the Beating of the Retreat on St Andrews Night. The Madras Pipe Band also led a torchlight procession from the Cathedral to Bow Butts, gathering a sizable crowd as they went. Afterwards, all enjoyed the spectacular fireworks display. Perhaps most memorably, since the last newsletter, the Pipe Band took part in a Millennium March through the streets of Edinburgh in early August. Involving some 10,000 pipers and drummers, this raised a substantial sum for Marie Curie Cancer Care. Also in the summer, the band led the parade for the Anstruther Lifeboat Gala in addition to appearing on a number of other occasions.

On another tack, Mr Bell, APT Music, spear-headed a burst of primary-secondary liaison with two concerts in Tayport Primary School. The pupils taking part on piano, brass, woodwind and string instruments were all from that area and were well-supported by parents and friends although it has to be said that the P2 pupils from Tayport stole the show!

Music is not only about performance. Pupils from only five schools including Madras took part in Fife Region's presentation of music and dance at the Millennium Dome in September. This

involved workshops to develop composing and performing skills for those lucky S2 and S3 pupils who were chosen. Senior pupils recently took part in a composing workshop in the Secret Bunker organised by the Society for the Promotion of New Music. This encouraged different ways of thinking in order to get the notes onto paper and the young composers (as did all those of more mature years who attended the staff night) had the benefit of immediate feedback from participating members of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra. Anything they wrote could be performed straight off and this helped the compositional juices to flow. A final performance of some of the items was given in public before a recent SCO concert and all the young composers received a CD of their work - ready to be

popped into their Higher and Advanced Higher Music composing folios. Other pieces composed by SQA Music pupils have recently been performed in a school concert.

Surely time to wind down for the holidays? Not a bit of it. Whilst in-house preparations for four closing assemblies are being made, you may also see and hear Madras musicians out and about providing festive music and raising funds for the support of the Pipe Band and also for the forthcoming tour of Holland involving the Orchestra, Wind Band and Pipe Band.

As we go to press, the schools heat of Fife Schools Rockband Competition is taking place with six hopeful young bands lining up to excite the aural nerves. . . .

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## Mathematics Department Update

In November 29 teams of 4 pupils from all over Scotland converged on Northern College, Dundee to compete for The Enterprising Mathematics in Scotland Trophy. Our team of Joe Neilson and James Milne from S4 and Natalie Jackson and Iain Brodie from S3 won third place overall in the final. This was a remarkable result and our best for many years. The UK Schools Mathematical Challenge is the largest Mathematical Contest attracting annually over 300 000 entrants. Madras entered 57 pupils. This year our school gained an amazing total of 27 awards, three more than last year, with 3 at Gold, 9 at Silver and 15 at Bronze. Fuller details can be found on the Maths Website. The Best in School Award was

won by Yu Liu (S6) whose score was of sufficient merit to qualify her for the esteemed British Maths Olympiad in January. She is currently 'enjoying' a course of problem-solving by e-mail and is being mentored by a previous World Maths Olympiad Gold medalist! In fact this ability in contest problem solving is matched by her successes in national exams. Her Higher Maths exam (taken a year ahead of her age-group) was the best in Fife. This year the SQA has recognised her "exceptional performance" in two separate Certificate of Sixth Year Studies Maths papers taken last summer and has awarded her prizes for each.

## Study Skills on the Web

For a few years now the Mathematics Department in the school has been developing its Website and is now acknowledged as one of the UK's best Secondary School Mathematics Websites. You can visit the home page at:

<http://www.madras.fife.sch.uk/maths>

A recent development involves the Homelearning Pages. On these pages the best interactive mathematical activities to be found on the Web are linked into Madras College Mathematical courses from S1 to Higher. The pages are organised by test and exam dates. So, for example, a pupil in S3 who is studying for his/her January Test at General Level need only click through to the appropriate page to be presented with an array of interactive activities that they know are relevant to their approaching test. Since this growing collection of activities can be accessed from home, pupils have a great opportunity for enhancing their learning while hopefully enjoying the interactive nature of the activities. Parents too might be relieved to know that at last they know of some worthwhile pages on the web to direct their surfing sons and daughters towards!!

The Homelearning Index page may be found at:

<http://www.madras.fife.sch.uk/maths/homelearning>

# SPORTING HIGHLIGHTS

## • Golf

In warmer moments this session Jamie Anderson (S3) won the Jock Hutchison Trophy for Intermediate boys Strokeplay; Peter Latimer (S2) collected The Aikman Cross for Junior Boys Matchplay and Fraser Renwick the James Smith Memorial Shield for Junior Boys Strokeplay. The Alex Soutar Cup went to Lee Marks (S4). Already this session we have seen an increase in the number of pupils taking part in golf.

## • Rugby

The first year squad started the season with very few players. However, the situation has recovered and over twenty players are now training and playing on a regular basis. The seniors, too, have been active, having played 14 games so far, winning 11 and losing only 3. The First XV were runners-up in the school's Anniversary Tournament, reached the last 16 in the Scottish Cup, beaten by Fettes College and with the Second XV played hosts to the touring team King Edward VII from Lancashire. Rob Dewey (S6) has been featuring for Caledonian Reds Under 18s. On the international front 45 pupils and volunteer staff have made three trips in three weeks to Murrayfield to watch Scotland play USA, Australia and Samoa. Apart from the result against Australia, all involved enjoyed the occasions!

## • Hockey

Since August, the First XI, first, second and third year teams have been playing regularly on Saturdays with fairly successful results. At regional level Jennifer Walker, Fiona Thomson and Helena Bateman (all S3) have been selected for the Midlands Under 16 training squad, Emma Stewart and Alison Bell (both S6) for the Midlands Under 18s. Fern Smith, Lucy Smart, Krystin Ingram (all S2) have been selected for the Midlands Under 14 Development Squad.

## • Football

Football is also in a healthy state this session with teams active at four age groups. Large numbers of first years have been enjoying their soccer sevens, the second years are still undefeated at 9-a-side while the First XI have been impressive in Fife. In 5-a-sides in the

East Section games both the 14s and 18s qualified for the regional finals at FIPRE. Here the 14s lost in the semis but the older team won their trophy by defeating Queen Anne High School in the final match. This is the fifth consecutive year that Madras College has won this event. Kevin McMullan (S6) is captain of Fife Schools Under 18 team. He has helped his side win both their games so far and has attended a Scottish Schools Trial weekend at Jordanhill. Elliott Husband Powton and Douglas Rowe have been selected for Fife Schools S1 Development Squad which is currently being organised by the SFA.

## • Road Relay

Once again the school has had outstanding successes at all age levels in the Fife Road Relay Championships taking four trophies and coming runners up in another two. Nine individual medals were also won. Particular mention goes to the Boys Over 15 team, winners of the Lockhart Cup. Michael Cunningham and Adam Duncan (both S3), Andrew Murphy (S5) and Tommy Greene (S6) also lifted silver medals in the Scottish Schools Road Relay Championships at Grangemouth.

Madras continues to see the rise of national awards: Jamie Raeside (S4), sister Jennifer (S3) and Anna McQueen (S1) won the shield for Scottish Team Showjumping. Scotland's top youth single-handed dinghy sailor, Alasdair Young (S6), took part with the British Youth Squad in the Flanders Youth Regatta, one of the biggest in Europe. Also in the summer his success near Izmir made him the first youth sailor ever to have reached the Gold Fleet at the Laser Youth World Championships. For the first time a Madras pupil has been selected to play for Scotland in the Under 16 American Football team. Seth Thompson in fourth year will play at quarterback for the team that is preparing for a full international match against England.

## • Coaching

As well as playing sports some Madras pupils are also coaching. Claire Hill and Katrina Ross in sixth year have both gained their Level 1 Netball Coaching Award. As well as working with the senior team they are organising netball in S2 and S3. Sian McKenzie (S4) and

Vikki Manzie (S4) now hold their SFA 'E' Licence and will be helping coach girls football in the school and the community.

## Dates for your Diary

### HOLIDAYS

#### Christmas

Monday 25th December 2000  
to Friday 5th January 2001

#### February

Thursday 15th February 2001  
and Friday 16th February 2001

#### Easter

Monday 2nd April 2001  
to Friday 13th April 2001

#### May Day

Monday 7th May 2001

#### June

Monday 4th June 2001

#### Summer

Monday 2nd July 2001  
to Friday 17th August 2001

### IN-SERVICE DAYS

Monday 19th February 2001  
Tuesday 1st May 2001  
Monday 20th August 2001

### PRELIMS

S5/6  
Monday 29th January 2001  
to Wednesday 14th February 2001

S3  
Monday 14th May 2001  
to Tuesday 29th May 2001

*Exam dates may be subject to minor variations  
to suit the needs of subject departments*