



# Summer Newsletter

Madras College Newsletter

June 2008

## Madras Contributes to the Curtis Cup



Members of Madras College Singing Group

History was made recently when the Curtis Cup took place for the first time on the Old Course of St Andrews. Around 50 pupils from the Singing Programme sang from memory the national anthems of the participating countries at both the opening and closing ceremonies, a contribution much appreciated by competitors and audience alike, including those from the Republic of Ireland who heard their anthem sung in their mother tongue! Onlookers could be forgiven for thinking that Madras College had plans to win the cup as, for a brief moment, Mr Bell was allowed to hold it for a once-in-a-lifetime group photograph. As part of the closing celebrations, Class Brass (brass quartet) welcomed guests with their playing at a glittering evening reception in the Old Course Hotel.

Finally, a small team of dedicated litter-pickers from Madras College toiled throughout the competition to make sure the links stayed litter free. Pupils have enjoyed their participation in this international event and eagerly await the next opportunity! Thanks are due to the long list of staff who made this all possible.

## Fife Wind Band Festival

On Monday 23rd June the Senior Wind Band will attend and perform at the biannual "Fife Wind Band Festival" in the Rothes Halls. After individual band performances in the morning, all members of the bands, from some 16 schools in Fife, will form a massed band under the baton of a Royal Marine conductor for the afternoon's performance. Quite a sight and sound!

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## Rector's Message

I have now been Rector for just over a year and have seen through one full academic cycle. It has been a busy year during which I have been well supported by staff, pupils and parents in continuing the process of change. Most notably we have introduced the first phase of Behaviour for Learning, established an effective Parents' Council, come through a successful follow through inspection, enhanced our links with Elmwood college, developed a transition package that will ease the move of P7 pupils into Madras next session and made

changes to our guidance structure. The debate about the future single site Madras College has taken a significant step forward.

The national development of *A Curriculum for Excellence* has at its heart four capacities that are seen as central to the development of well-rounded pupils. These are successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors, all of which sit in harmony with our aim to promote achievement, ethos and partnership. *continued on page 2*

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Our successful learners have achieved much during this session:

- SQA examination results were particularly noteworthy at standard grade in Maths, Modern Studies, Chemistry and Accounts and Finance; at higher in English, Maths, Chemistry, Physics and Modern Studies and at Advanced Higher in English and Maths.
- Advanced Higher Drama students were used to create an assessment training CD for the Scottish Qualifications Authority.
- Our Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme has resulted in 23 Bronze, eight Silver and one Gold awards.
- Geography field trips this year have taken pupils to the Yorkshire Dales, Iceland, the Highlands, the Cairngorms and Dalwhinnie, and more is planned for next session.
- In the UK Maths Challenge we achieved, at senior level, four Gold, seven Silver and 15 Bronze certificates with two pupils gaining automatic entry to the prestigious British Maths Olympiad. At intermediate level we achieved eight Gold, 28 Silver and 24 Bronze certificates. In this year's Mathématiques sans Frontières competition both our teams have made it into the top 10 of their respective categories. Our participation in the Scottish Maths Challenge has resulted in four Gold, and five Silver awards.
- Zia Donaldson won first prize in the Lumsden Competition for local art with her charcoal portrait entitled 'Chloe', Stephanie Laird came second with her colour studies entitled 'Keeping Warm' and Elliot Parry won third prize with his photograph entitled 'First Snow'.

We have many examples of the confidence we develop in our pupils:

- A cast of 33 performed *A Midsummer Night's Dream* before packed houses.
- At a Creative Spaces event at Dundee College four S2 pupils took part in and won a competition to design and model an eco friendly house on an island.
- In September Susie Smart travelled to Houston having been successful in the Scottish Space School Competition run by Careers Scotland.
- Our Journalism Activity Group visited Star FM to find out how radio is produced and broadcast.
- Three S3 teams took part in the Courier Debating Competition, two S1 teams participated in the ASDA ESU Debating Competition and seniors debated in the ESU Mace, Debating Matters and the Donald Dewar Memorial Competitions.
- A very successful Burns Supper took place in January with a display of artwork, piping, dancing, recitations and speeches.

- Our musicians and singers have achieved a very high standard in all their concerts this session, demonstrating skill and versatility in their performances.

Examples of how we develop responsible citizens include:

- The Activities Drama team performed a presentation linked to gun crime at Kirkcaldy Art Gallery as a contribution to the Police 'Force' exhibition.
- Throughout the year there has been a wealth of support for fund raising and charity events that have allowed us to support two international, two national and three local charities. On AIDS Awareness Day alone we sold over 900 ribbons.
- Kevin Dunion, Scottish Information Commissioner visited Modern Studies pupils and was impressed with the quality of the questions put to him.
- Our Eco Club, under the leadership of Mr Fox and supported by our Parent Council, has been successful in gaining our first green Eco Flag.

Effective Contributors include:

- Advanced Higher Drama students performed at the St Andrews Day service in Holy Trinity Church.
- Our team of reporters have produced a regular Madras Diary page in the Citizen throughout the session.
- We have established a series of pupil councils and whole school councils all of whom have met regularly throughout the year.
- Our pipe band performed at the Dunhill and Curtis Cup golf competitions and our choir sang at both the opening and closing ceremonies of the Curtis Cup.
- S3 pupils took part in training sessions for new members of the Children's Panel with the pupils taking on the role of children appearing before the panel.
- A team of three S3 pupils competed against 25 teams from the east of Scotland in the Stock Market Challenge and came second overall.

Staffing changes this year include Ms McGregor who retired at Easter. Five members of staff retire at the end of term. To Mr Harkins, Mrs Smith, Mrs Broom, Mr Pearce and Mr Beck we pass on our thanks and very best wishes for long and happy retirements. We also say farewell to Mr Aitken, Mrs Mulligan, Miss Russell and Mrs Fitzpatrick who take with them our best wishes and thanks for all their work in Madras.

Madras is a school that is strong, that justifiably enjoys a proud reputation not only in Fife but throughout Scotland, a school that knows itself, understands what it is good at and recognises the changes that are necessary for its continued development. It is a school that cares about its pupils, staff and community and is well placed to face the future with confidence.

## Fieldfare Kielder Challenge



Eight S3 pupils recently participated in the Fieldfare Kielder Challenge, a national outdoor adventure competition. Pupils participated as part of their work towards achieving a Natural Connections Team Building Award. They were involved in outdoor problem-solving activities that tested their skills of working in a team to communicate, plan and evaluate. The tasks were exciting, imaginative and challenging. Our S3 pupils participated with enthusiasm demonstrating the progress they have made this year in their teamwork. They were runners up in their heat and are already looking forward to the Fieldfare Challenge 2009.

### Business Enterprise Group 'Sponsor a Space'

S4 pupils, Alice Keillor, Ben Snape, Sarah McRae, Stephanie Greenhill, Siobhan Dunn and Zak Blackman ran a small Business Enterprise producing calendars and they chose to donate roughly half of the £116 profit the business generated to charity and agreed to support the SSPCA, which runs a scheme called 'Sponsor a Space' where (in our case) abandoned cats will be sponsored for a year.

On Wednesday 28th May 2008 the Business Enterprise Group visited the SSPCA rescue centre at Middlebank Farm in Dunfermline to present them with a cheque for £45 and enjoy a tour of the building, see animals being nursed and learn about the SSPCA's work.

The trip was a great success and allowed the pupils to see that the profit they generated in their business would be used to benefit a charity in a very real way.

### 51st Kiel Exchange Visit

Thirty-four S3 and 4 pupils travelled to Kiel with Mr Bennett, Mrs McCartney and Miss Orem to take part in the 51st exchange visit. This successful and longstanding exchange programme provides linguistic and cultural enrichment to the curriculum.

The exchange group visited Laboe and Hamburg. The group also attended a production of Agatha Christie's 'A Murder is Announced' in German, performed by pupils of the Kieler Gelehrtenschule. The pupils also took part in the annual sports competition and prepared a programme of music, dance and drama for the Farewell Evening.

## First Theatre Trip for S2

Second year are mostly born in the Chinese calendar Year of the Dog. They are our new third years, eager pups, straining on the leash, kind and clever, keen and loyal.

Last term Mrs Robertson (in the office), Miss McGrath and Ms Smith (Drama) took 54 second year pupils to see *Bugsy Malone* in the Whitehall Theatre, Dundee. With helpful hands from Miss Griffiths and Mrs Menelaws (English), Mr Grewar (Maths), Mr Kerrigan (Design and Technology), Mr Forbes (Business Education) and Ms Burns (Music) the night was a sensational event!

Madras College was lucky to have two outstanding pupils from second year in the production:

Jacob Ellis played the amazing Knuckles with great timing and colourful character. Liam Vincent Kilbride played the superb all singing and dancing Leroy with outstanding presence. These two lads have a future in drama.

This was the first theatre trip a second year group has been taken out to! Here's hoping there will be many more.

### Bell Baxter Competition

At the end of Spring term three pupils, all whom were preparing for Higher or Advanced Higher Music took part in the annual Bell Baxter Competition at Waid Academy. Congratulations to Jenny Gilbertson who was awarded joint 2nd place for her playing of orchestral percussion.

### Recitation Competition

There was a record number of entries for the annual Recitation Competition at the University of St Andrews. Ruairidh Tarvet won 2nd prize in the S4 category, Rory MacLeod won 1st prize in the S5 category and Jessie Gordon won third prize in the S5 category against strong competition, mainly from private schools.

## Mathématiques sans Frontières 2008



Photo - permission by M Joy

The Mathématiques sans Frontières Contest is a truly European annual event involving tens of thousands of students from all European countries. Teams of students are entered from individual schools competing by age groups in National Sections of the Contest. On the day of the contest the team is faced with a collection of ten or more tough problems to solve. They are allowed 90 minutes at the end of which they present their final draft solutions to as many questions as possible. However there is a slight twist: one of the questions is presented in a foreign language and must be answered in that language. As a result the team not only requires top-rate mathematicians but also first-rate linguists!

This is the 11th year that Madras College has entered two teams for the contest, one from S4 and one from S5. Both of our teams were placed among the top 10 finalists in the Competition and so the Captain and Vice-Captain from both teams were invited to the prize-giving ceremony at Heriot Watt University in Edinburgh on 16th June. At the ceremony it was announced that the Madras College S5 team had won the overall prize and that our S4 team had gained 3rd place in their section. This success is truly remarkable given the fact that 46 secondary schools from all over Scotland entered a total of 93 teams for the contest. It was also announced that our S5 team had only dropped four marks overall! They were awarded a magnificent trophy and a prize of a hand-held computer. Congratulations to both our teams on their outstanding success.

### 1st in S5 Category and overall winners

Holly Fleming (Captain)  
Louis AA Jones (Vice-Captain)  
Ben Aitchison  
Fiona Callaghan  
Jonathan Cameron  
Euan R Campbell  
Philip J J Drysdale  
Kristen M Holmes  
Andrew Howe  
Carly Lamb  
Alasdair Malek  
Annika Neukirch  
Felix Ritchie  
Cameron J Smith  
Katharine Stark  
James White  
Douglas H Willins

### 3rd in S4 Category

Padrig L G Davies (Captain)  
Nell Glen (Vice-Captain)  
Adam C Fleming  
Ewan J Gray  
Katie James  
Ian R Johnston  
Seunghye Kim  
Michael N McCormick  
Alina Popa  
Iain Ronaldson  
Martin J B Seenan  
Charlotte H Sloan  
Joseph J Thompson  
Ganna Tonne  
Christopher J Valentine  
Rachel Weir  
Robert E Woollins

## Environmental Action Day

The Parent Council is organising an Environmental Action Day on Friday 27 June. They are planning to use volunteers to clear three areas at Madras College, the overgrown garden behind the former janitor's house and the silted up burn at the Kilrymont site and a disused drying green at the South Street site. The aim is to help the Madras eco-club become self-sufficient, and we hope to provide them with a cleared area to work with in the autumn. We have managed to raise over £1,400 for the eco-club; £100 from the eco-club selling plants at the S1 Parents' Evening, £150 from the Performing Arts Evening, £160 from the auction of a simulator ride, £500 from Madras College and £500 from the R&A. This will be used to purchase equipment and materials for the eco-club. Territorial Army engineers will provide a JCB to clear the burn, and the St Andrews Links trust will provide a JCB to clear the garden at the back of the former janitor's house. RAF personnel will help with the work. If you could spare some time on Friday 27 June, please contact Henry Paul on 07977 131635 or <madras\_college@scottishparents.com>

## Garden of Secrets

Art pupils from S1 to S3 and the Department of Special Education have entered the annual art competition for schools in Fife. This competition is organised in partnership with the Vetrriano Trust, the University of St Andrews and St Andrews Botanic Gardens.

Madras pupils have inventively created individual and group renditions of their own Garden of Secrets, inspired by the beautiful Botanic Gardens of St Andrews.

The enchanting 3D garden sculpture created by DSE is both magical and delightful. S1 to S3 art pupils have created wonderful individual pieces using multi-media such as masks, the inside of a book and exotic plants and insects.

The standard is very high. Well done, Madras College. The results will be posted after July 1st 2008. We await with baited breath...





# INFORMATION

## SCHOOL DAY Times for Session 2008-09

In a previous letter I indicated that we were considering reducing the lunch interval for Kilrymont pupils to 50 minutes. The Parent Council were supportive of this proposal and I invited comment from staff and parents. The prevailing view is favourable to this change and the table opposite shows the period times for both buildings. Please note that school will begin at 8.45 am to ensure that we deliver 27.5 hours of class contact per week.

Kilrymont Road		Period	South Street	
8.45 am – 8.55 am	10 mins	REGISTRATION	8.45 am – 8.55 am	10 mins
8.55 am – 9.50 am	55 mins	1	8.55 am – 9.40 am	45 mins
9.50 am – 10.45 am	55 mins	2	9.40 am – 10.40 am	60 mins
10.45 am – 11.00 am	15 mins	INTERVAL	10.40 am – 11.05 am	25 mins
11.00 am – 11.50 am	50 mins	3	11.05 am – 12 noon	55 mins
11.50 am – 12.45 pm	55 mins	4	12 noon – 12.50 pm	50 mins
12.45 pm – 1.35 pm	50 mins	LUNCH	12.50 pm – 1.40 pm	50 mins
1.35 pm – 2.25 pm	50 mins	5	1.40 pm – 2.35 pm	55 mins
2.25 pm – 3.20 pm	55 mins	6	2.35 pm – 3.30 pm	55 mins

## House Teams

### BLACKFRIARS

#### Guidance Staff

Mrs Rough      B1   B2  
 Mr Watson      B3   B4  
 Mrs Little      B5

#### Senior Management

Mr Bennett  
 Mr Mackay

### CASTLE

#### Guidance Staff

Mr Hepburn      C1   C2  
 Miss Montador   C3   C4   C6  
 Miss Latto      C5

#### Senior Management

Mrs Adamson  
 Dr Gilbert

### PRIORY

#### Guidance Staff

Mrs Faichney      P1   P2  
 Mrs Seeley      P3   P4  
 Miss Russell      P5

#### Senior Management

Mr Urquhart  
 Mr Jones

### HOLIDAY DATES *(all dates inclusive)*

**School Begins Tuesday 19th August 2008**

Monday 13th to Friday 24th October 2008

Monday 22nd December 2008 to Friday 2nd January 2009

Thursday 12th and Friday 13th February 2009

Monday 6th to Friday 17th April 2009

Monday 4th May 2009

Monday 1st June 2009

Friday 3rd July to Friday 14th August 2009

### INSERVICE DAYS

Monday 18th August 2008

Friday 14th November 2008

Monday 5th January 2009

Wednesday 11th February 2009

Tuesday 2nd June 2009

### CONTACT DETAILS

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<http://www.mdras.fife.sch.uk>



*We wish you all  
a restful  
and enjoyable  
summer*

## East Fife Sports Council Awards

The awards ceremony was held in April and is designed to recognise the achievements of sportspeople from all over Fife and winning The Michael Matthews Team of the Year award was the Madras College Senior Boys' Tennis Team. (Squad – Duncan Mitchell, Ian Stewart, David Birrell, Steven Birrell, Gordon Hill, Gregory Weir and Alasdair Hill.) The Team have won the Scottish Schools' Tennis Championships, three times in the last four years.

Neil Beattie (S3) won the Kingdom FM Achiever of the Year award for the athlete making the most progress in 2007 in the field of golf.

Mrs J Scott (English Department), won The Masters Award for her success in the field of athletics by a sportsperson in the over 50 category.

## Golf



The Fife Schools' Junior Golf Competition was held at Scoonie Golf Club, Leven on Friday 30th May. Neil Beattie (S3) won the individual scratch competition for the third year running and along with Andrew Whyte (S3), Alex Price (S2) and Ruairidh Robertson (S2); the boys won the team scratch competition, which they also won in 2007.

The Senior Boys also won their competition in 2007, however this year at Kirkcaldy, they could not complete the double and finished in 2nd place. Representing Madras Senior Boys was Cameron West, Alan Tulleth, James White and Callum Graham.

James White and Neil Beattie represented Fife Schools at the Scottish Schools' Golf Championships held at Banchory Golf Club and Inchmarlow, Banchory on Monday 16th June.

## Kilmaron Olympic Games

A group of pupils from the DSE enjoyed an action packed visit to Kilmaron School in Cupar where they participated in a variety of imaginatively designed 'Olympic Games'. Alex Methven (S4) was in the winning team 'Mexico' and was presented with her gold medal by para-olympic athlete, Caroline Baird (Innes) MBE.

## Athletics

- On Thursday 5th June several athletes took part in the Fife Schools' Multi Events held at Pitreavie Stadium. Each athlete completed five events and in the S3 Girls, Alice Morrison finished in 3rd place. In the Senior Boys' Event, Greg Dawson finished in 2nd place with Adam Delargy only eight points behind in 3rd place. Fiona Bracegirdle (S5) finished in 2nd place in the Senior Girls' Event.

- The Fife Schools' Athletic Championships were held on Wednesday 11th June, with Madras winning eight Gold, eight Silver and eight Bronze medals. Michael Duncan (S2) and Edward Dillon (S3) have been selected to represent Fife Schools in the Scottish Schools' Inter-area Track Championships on Wednesday 18th June.

- The Scottish Schools' Track and Field Championships were held on Friday and Saturday, 13th and 14th June. In the Over 17 Girls Age Group, Karen Cairns (S5) narrowly missed out on a medal in the Discus and Shot, finishing in 4th place in both events. Adam Delargy (S4) came 5th in the U17 Boys' Triple Jump. In the U17 Girls' 300 metres Hurdles, Emma Gordon (S5) won a Gold medal, which was an excellent achievement. Fiona Bracegirdle was 4th in the 3000 metres.

## Duke of Edinburgh's Award Group

The award group has had a very good year with one of our biggest intakes ever. Thirty Bronzes, 18 Silvers and 16 Golds started the year training hard to gain all the information needed to hike and camp in our fantastic Scottish wilderness. At the same time these pupils were involved in many voluntary, skill improving and physical activities around the North East of Fife.

At the time of writing the Award Group has completed three of the four

expeditions planned for this season. The weather has been kind to us this year with lots of sun and no rain. Hopefully the final expedition (Silver and Gold together) will also go well when they visit the amazing Fisherfield Forrest area in North West Scotland.

When it comes to our successes, from last year we have awarded a total of 21 Bronzes (over 70% of the group), eight Silvers and we have one Gold attending the award ceremony this July.

A **huge thanks** has to go to all the staff and volunteers who help us to run the group; this year 13 different people have helped out and without their kind donation of time and talent there would be no possibility of the award going ahead. Thanks also go to Drs K J and I J Falconer who kindly donated a tent to the group - this was in recognition for all their two children (Ben and Jenny) gained from the award over all three levels and has been of great use to our hikers this season.