



# Christmas Newsletter

Madras College Newsletter

December 2013

## Rector's Message

I am very pleased to write to you in our newsletter as the appointed permanent rector to Madras College following my interview in October and would like to thank all of you for giving your support to the school and to our drive for excellence this term. The end of term continues to be as busy as the rest of term has been, with a rush of events, activities, assessments, shows, concerts and parties.

This newsletter gives us the opportunity to reflect on the many activities and successes we have enjoyed since the session began. I am also very pleased that the Citizen has been able to give a regular report on what is going on at Madras and offers an effective means of celebrating the many achievements of our pupils.

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## High Achiever

Andrei Ruskuc a 6th year pupil last year has seen his hard work at Advanced Higher rewarded by the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) and The Royal Society of Chemistry. Andrei received the Star Award for Academic Excellence at the SQA Star Awards Ceremony which was hosted by the TV and radio presenter Kaye Adams. The award recognises the top performance in the 2013 exams for all National Courses.

Andrei has also received an award from the Royal Society of Chemistry for the 'best overall Advanced Higher scholar' in Scotland. Andrei is scheduled to pick up his prize from the Royal Society of Chemistry at Thomas Graham House in Cambridge, where he is currently attending Churchill College, studying Physical Sciences and Maths.

## Knocking on No 10



On 3rd October, the Higher Politics class travelled to London to visit the Houses of Parliament. After braving the London underground at rush hour, the group then toured the House of Commons and the House of Lords, accompanied by a guide who explained parliamentary procedure and history. They then took part in a workshop where they were given the opportunity to experience the everyday life of an MP and the dilemmas they face. After a quick trip around the Supreme Court, the group then proceeded to Downing Street. With some gentle persuasion by the teaching staff, the pupils were allowed past the gates to the door of Number 10. After a lot of photo opportunities, a friendly policeman filled them in on the gossip on past and present Prime Ministers. The group had a quick spin round the British Museum and then returned home on that night's sleeper and arrived totally exhausted but considerably more informed than before!

## Farewell to Mr Millar

On Friday we say farewell to Mr Millar, Depute Rector, with responsibility for S5 and S6, who leaves to take up the post of Head Teacher at Perth Grammar. Mr Millar joined Madras College in January 2010 and has worked tirelessly to improve the school in key strategic areas such as self-evaluation, CPD and pupil voice. His no-nonsense, but extremely fair approach has earned him the trust and respect of staff, pupils and parents. We wish Mr Millar the very best in his new post. He will be sorely missed.



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In November the school delivered our first ever set of primary liaison road-show engagements, where myself and Mr Darge took a small team of supporting speakers to eight of our cluster primary schools over a period of three weeks. The evenings were very well attended and gave the current P6 and P7 pupils and parents the opportunity to hear first-hand our vision for Madras and how we hope to achieve our vision. The highlight of each road-show was, however, the excellent presentations from the pupils who accompanied us on each of the evenings.

In November we also held two very successful information evenings for parents and pupils. One evening was focussed on UCAS application and current S4 – S6 Curriculum for Excellence information. The second evening, at the end of November, was focussed on providing information about S3 progress and attainment reports as well as assessment arrangements and subject course choice information to support the S3 into S4 transition process.

I am grateful to all the staff who have given so much of their time to supporting the very impressive range of activities, events and opportunities which collectively define the experience of our pupils. I thank them for doing this with a willingness and energy and for not allowing the challenges of delivering Curriculum for Excellence and working across a split site to divert them.

On behalf of the staff and pupils I wish you a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year and look forward to what I know will be a busy and fulfilling third term in 2014.

*D. McClure*

## Samye Ling

In November 15 pupils from the Higher RMPS class accompanied Mrs Matheson and Mrs Caira to Samye Ling Buddhist Monastery in Dumfriesshire. We were given a tour of the monastery, including expert teaching from one of

## St Andrews Day Piper Trophy

Lauren Galloway (S6) is awarded the St Andrews Day Piper trophy, presented annually by the St Andrews Burns Club. Lauren is Pipe Sergeant in Madras College Pipe Band, which played in the recent St Andrews Day Parade through the town on 30th November 2013.



### *Horrible Histories*

Hannah Pitkin (S3) celebrated the end of her second year at Madras College by winning the History Department's Horrible Histories prize. Hannah won two tickets to the show in Perth Concert Hall and she took along her sister Beth.

Said Hannah "The show was really funny. It is a great way to learn about History".

### *Art and Design Portfolio Exhibition 2013*

Three former Madras College Art pupils represented themselves, and the school, in the SQA Advanced Higher Art Exhibition which was held at Strathclyde University earlier this term. Tess Glen, Emily MacDuff, and Sian MacFarlane's efforts during their sixth year Art course produced some of the top marks in Scotland. Their portfolios of work were chosen as examples of excellence and put on display to inspire other students across Scotland. Congratulations to each of them.

the lay Buddhists and were able to participate in some special rituals that were taking place because of the death of Akong Rinpoche who started Samye Ling after fleeing Tibet in the 1950s with the Dalai Lama. We were given a little instruction on meditation and although we all participated only Mrs Caira got up to attend the 6.00 am session.

## Other Staffing

Creative and Expressive Arts Faculty: We welcomed Mrs Miller as Principal Teacher of Curriculum.

English Faculty: We welcomed Mrs Robertson as Principal Teacher of Curriculum, replacing Mrs Cortazzi who left at the beginning of August. We said goodbye to Mr Hynes who has moved to Auchmuty High School as PT Literacy.

Mathematics Faculty: We welcomed Mrs Tonne, Mrs Travers and Mrs McClure who joined the Maths dept during the term.

Health and Wellbeing Faculty: We said goodbye to Miss Reid (Home Economics) who left to take up a post at Rossie Young People's Trust and we welcomed Ms Hann to the Department.

Support for Learning Faculty: Mrs Smith is retiring after 21 years at Madras College. We would like to thank her for her commitment and dedication and wish her all the very best on her retirement. We welcomed Mrs Anderson, Mr Munn, Ms Atkinson and Mrs Morrison. Mrs Weston and Mrs Laing are on secondment to Glenrothes High School and Waid Academy respectively.

Many many thanks to all the supply staff who have worked with us this term.

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# Social Subjects News

## Amnesty Group

*by Abby Wilson (November)*

The Madras Amnesty Group was founded in order to encourage pupils to gain a wider awareness of world issues and injustices. The group aims to get young people campaigning to fight inequality and discrimination across the world in association with Amnesty International. Their current campaigns include fighting against homophobic laws in Russia and trying to increase educational rights for women across the world. They are particularly enthused and passionate about this issue after their trip to the Global Citizenship Commission in Edinburgh to see Malala Yousafzai speak. Following the high level of interest at South Street, the group recently launched a junior division at Kilrymont, therefore allowing younger pupils a chance to get involved and to gain awareness of the major issues and global conflicts which dominate politics today.

In addition, the club is in the process of setting up a YouTube channel in order to bring their messages to a wider audience. The South Street group to meet on Monday lunchtime in M5. All welcome. Senior pupils then lead a Kilrymont Road session on a Thursday lunchtime.

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## Malala Event

On Saturday 19th October eight pupils were accompanied by Mr Swift and Mr Robertson to the first public meeting of the Global Citizenship Commission in Edinburgh. This event, hosted by Gordon Brown MP, brought together influential world figures that are looking at developments since the introduction of the UN Declaration of Human Rights in 1948. Guest of honour was the Pakistani school girl, Malala Yousafzai who was shot by the Taliban because she spoke up for the right of girls to be educated. She inspired all as she spoke about her continued determination to campaign for better rights for girls and access to education for all.

## Visit to Perth Prison

*By Lauren Galloway (October)*

On 26th September, the Advanced Higher Modern Studies class visited Perth Prison in order to obtain primary research for their dissertations. The pupils were given a guided tour around the prison, including the cells, recreation areas and visiting facilities. As well as providing valuable insight into the penal system, pupils also gained understanding about the everyday challenges that prisoners and prison officers often face; problems which often go undocumented in government reports. Pupils described the experience as “eye-opening” and were particularly intrigued by the interaction between the prisoners and staff which was far more friendly and harmonious than expected. Pupils returned with an understanding of the inmates and prison officers as people rather than as statistics on a page.

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## Model United Nations

Model United Nations continues to grow at Madras College. Model United Nations (MUN) is a simulation of the United Nations where pupils represent the position of countries across a wide range of topical issues. MUN involves research, writing, debating and public speaking. Leadership, team work and diplomacy skills are all developed through MUN. The group meet on a Tuesday lunch time and also set up regular after school debates. This year the group have debated if there should be a global ‘fat tax’ on unhealthy food and if the United Nations should intervene in the Middle East. Next term the group plan to hold further debates on the use of the death penalty, censorship, and abortion among other topics.

In 2014 the group will also attend a day in Conference hosted by Inveralmond Community College in West Lothian and for the third consecutive year a weekend conference at George Watson’s College, Edinburgh.

All S4-6 are welcome to come along, pick country and get involved. More experienced students will be happy to help pupils new to MUN get involved with this exciting club.

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## Tour of Scotland

*by Clova Rennie (S6)*

On 27th September a group of 12 Madras Pupils accompanied by Mr Clark and Mrs Ham set off on the annual travel and tourism trip. The trip lasted 3 days and 2 nights, visiting some fantastic landmarks and viewing a small part of Scotland’s magnificent scenery including Glencoe, Loch Ness and Fort William to mention a few. We were very fortunate as the weather was great for the duration of the trip.

We left school and headed for Pitlochry, where we had lunch then set off for Dalwhinnie Whisky Distillery, where we gained some inside knowledge into the running of the distillery and were given a tour. From there we drove north on the A9 to Aviemore where we travelled on the funicular railway and experienced the magnificent views from the Cairngorms and enjoyed a hot chocolate at the top!

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After Aviemore we continued north on the A9 to Inverness, where we had dinner then stayed at Millbank Youth Hostel. On Saturday we left the Youth Hostel and headed for Culloden Battlefield where we gained some interesting historical information about the last pitched battle on British soil and the defeat of Bonnie Prince Charlie.

After spending the morning at Culloden we travelled to the banks of Loch Ness where we enjoyed a 'Nessie spotting' cruise on the loch, and visited the Ness 2000 exhibition where we were told the stories of the Loch Ness Monster. We then made our way to Fort William where we had a look around the town and relaxed in the beautiful sunshine. After our short stay we headed south on the A82 to Glencoe Visitor Centre, where we were given insightful information about the valley including the massacre of Glencoe and got to view first hand the stunning views of the Valley; the scenery was truly magnificent as the sun set on the 'Three Sisters'!

We then headed south to Oban, our second night, where we had a stroll through the town and ate our dinner before staying at Oban Youth Hostel, with stunning views over the water.

For our final day on the trip we headed for Loch Lomond, en route we stopped off at Crianlarich at the famous Green Welly shop. Travelling along the 'bonnie banks' of Loch Lomond was spectacular and, certainly inspired me to re-visit!

From the Lomond Shores we headed east for the final stop; Stirling and its impressive Castle. Upon arrival at the castle we received a talk on the history of the castle before being given some time to explore.

It was a fantastic weekend and it was great to see many of the places and features that we have studied in class, which I'm sure will help in forthcoming exams.

On behalf of the group I would like to thank the teachers who made the trip possible and it has inspired a group of pupils to see more of this wonderful country.

# Yorkshire Dales

On Thursday 12th September a group of 32 Madras pupils, accompanied by 3 teachers, visited the Yorkshire Dales National Park. The residential trip to the limestone scenery of the Yorkshire Dales benefited the pupils greatly as it allowed them to learn visually and interactively in the environment they are to write about extensively in their final exam.

## Thursday 12th:

On arrival at the Youth Hostel in Hawes the group were fed and briefed on the next day's activities, before being let loose into the local village.

## Friday 13th:

After breakfast served by the hostel we were on the road to Swindon Quarry. Half way to the quarry the bus came to an area of road we could not fit down. This was unanticipated and we had to take a massive detour causing us to be an hour late. The Advanced Higher pupils were let off at Grassington and the Highers continued to the quarry. We were warmly welcomed by Sean who answered all of our questions and showed us around the premises. Due to our detour we did not have time to explore the honeypot town of Grassington but collected the Advanced Highers and continued on to Whiterose caves. We toured around the caves and were led through the narrow passages where we saw some excellent examples of underground limestone scenery.

## Saturday 14th:

We were bussed down to Malham where we walked to Janet's Foss, then up to Gordale. After a brief lunch stop we continued walking to Malham Tarn then to see a water sink. We then walked down Watlows to Malham Cove. Here we saw the best example of a limestone pavement in the world. We then walked through Malham completing a building survey and looked around the National Park visitor centre.

## Sunday 15th:

Everyone packed their bags and loaded the bus ready to leave but we still had one more attraction to visit in the Dales; The Wensleydale Creamery. Being practically on our doorstep for the trips entirety we walked along to be given a demonstration on how the cheese is made and also asked some questions on the Creamery's socio-economic impact on the National Park. After eating a lot of cheese tasters we were back on the bus and headed home.

The trip provided the pupils not only with knowledge born of personal experience but also with the personal and social experiences that only such an out-of-school activity can bring.

*Lucy Gray*

## A Blast From The Past

Social Subjects were delighted to welcome Otzi The Iceman to the classroom.

Hadden Adam had a photo taken with our 5,000 year old visitor, just before he melted!



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# Musical Notes

## Exam Success

Congratulations to Michael Sharp (S4) who was awarded a distinction for getting 93/100 for his Grade 5 piano exam. Well done Michael for such a high mark and thanks also to Mrs MacLeod.

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## Brass Group Performance

Senior pupils, conducted by Mrs Mair, performed at the War Memorial Service on the 10th November. The group performed extremely well with the "Last Post" being played by Fiona Powrie in S6.

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## St Andrews Day Celebrations

In addition to Madras College Pipe Band participation, Megan Pettegree (S6), Advanced Higher Music class, played solo Bach on her violin during the St Andrews Day service in Holy Trinity Church.

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# Christmas Concert

Congratulations to all the pupils and staff who participated in the Christmas Concert and made it such a fantastic evening.

The programme included a huge variety of ensemble and solo items with the Wind Band, Junior Fiddle Group, S1 Choir, Pipe Band, S2/3 Choir, Folk Group, Senior Choir, Higher Class, Staff Choir, Guitar Ensemble, Advanced Higher Class and Senior Strings all giving very impressive performances. Well done to Tuba soloist Micah Scott S3, James Primmer S6 who performed a super Piano duet with Mrs MacLeod and Emma Ruskuc in S6 who wowed the audience with her Violin solo.

The concert was rounded off with a rousing finale item from all the choirs and the audience "I Wish It Could be Christmas Everyday".

A huge thank you to Mrs Hill and the Madras Teaching in Namibia fundraising group who organised the wonderful Christmas Market held during the interval.

## Burns Song Competition

Congratulations to all pupils who took part in this competition on Friday 29th November 2013. The following pupils gained first or second places:

S1 Boy	1st	Alex Simpson (1C1)
S1 Girl	1st	Tess Lynn (1B4)
S2 Girl	1st	Rebecca Stewart (2B5)
S3 Girl	1st	Verena Stephens (3C4)
S3 Girl	2nd	Saski Haresign (3C1)
S4 Boy	1st	Cameron Quate (5/6C4)
S5/6 Girl	Joint 1st	Hannah Visocchi (5/6P3) Joanna Stark (5/6C4)
S5/6 Girl	Joint 2nd	Caitlin Smith (5/6C3) Ashley Thompson (5/6B1)

## Recital Winners

S1 Boys	Angus Kennovin <i>Address to a Haggis</i>
S1 Girls	Louise Lumsden <i>My Love is Like a Red, Red Rose</i>
S2 Boys	Bradley Jackson <i>Rantin' Rovin' Robin</i>
S2 Girls	Shannon Stewart <i>To a Louse</i>
S5 Boys Winner	Matthew McAnaw
S5 Joint Second	Jack McLean Calum Stewart

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## Performance at the ADES Conference

Three senior pupils who are members of the Fife Youth Orchestra, Megan Pettegree (S6), Joanna Stark (S5) and Sophie Pettegree (S4) were selected by Sandra Taylor the Fife Music Co-ordinator to perform in a small ensemble group at the ADES conference in Cumbernauld on the 21st November.

This is a great achievement for the pupils and reflects their talent and ability. As a school, Madras had the highest representation in the group.

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## S3 World of Work Visiting Chefs



For the second year S3 classes in Home Economics have watched wonderful demonstrations given by Chefs from the Vineleaf, Old Course Hotel, St Andrews Links Club House, the Fairmont and The Adamson. Pupils were enthralled by lightning fast knife skills, and beautifully presented, tasty dishes. Chefs told pupils how they had started in hospitality and about the huge variety of roles in the industry.

Pupils enjoyed the opportunity to see how skills they are learning can be developed into a career.

## Owl Door Stops

*created by*

*some of the Fashion and Textiles Technology  
National 4 and 5 class*



## Madrid School Exchange 2014

Plans are well under way for next year's new Spanish school exchange.

In June of 2014, 20 pupils from our new partner school Instituto Camilo Jose Cela, Madrid will travel to St Andrews to visit their Madras partners. A full week's programme of events will include time spent in school whilst enjoying the sights in the town and further afield.

The Spanish pupils and teachers will be able to experience how different life is, in and out of school, for our students of Spanish here at Madras College.

At the end of September, 20 pupils from our current S3, S4 and S5 will travel to Madrid to spend a week experiencing Spanish school life and taking the opportunity to see some of the wonderful sights of the Spanish capital.

This promises to be a wonderful experience for all and hopefully the first of many successful exchanges to come.

## DAS News

### • Inter-School Swimming Gala

Back in September Madras entered a team into the 'D.S.F. – Inter-School Swimming Gala'. Members of the team were: Callum Hayne, Holly-Jane Gray, Alesha Brand, Joyce Law, Erin Watson, Jon Duffy, Karen Adamson, Leah Gray, Robbie Robertson, Daniel Wright and John Law. Every child competed in at least one race and did themselves and their school proud. Numerous medals were won on a successful day – the highlight being the girl's storming victory in the 4x25 metre front crawl relay. It was a proper team effort - each member of the team played a crucial part in helping Madras climb the table to finish 2nd overall on the day.

### • S.D.S. Junior Swimming Championships

Following on from the Inter-School Swimming Gala – swimmers were chosen to represent Fife at S.D.S. Scottish Swimming Championships. Leah Gray, Holly-Jane Gray, Joyce Law, Alesha Brand and Jon Duffy from Madras were selected to be on the Fife team. In November, the team travelled through to Scotstoun Pool, Glasgow to compete in the Scottish Swimming Championships. Every swimmer gave their all in what was a tough competition. Jon Duffy and Leah Gray were comprehensive winners in their heats but fell just short in their finals. A very special mention has to go to Joyce Law who picked up the bronze medal in the 50metres backstroke. This was to be the only medal won on the day by a Madras pupil but the whole team left Glasgow with their heads held high.

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# Drama News



## *Snippets*

On December 4th a number of pupils from the Drama Department took part in S6 pupil Ashley Thompson's Evening of Expressive Arts. Ashley coordinated the inclusion of various items for this but there were excellent drama performances from a number of S4 and S6 pupils.

Well done to everyone involved - it was a fantastic celebration of all the expressive arts and Ashley raised £350 for the Families First Charity.

On Thursday 12th December, 50 pupils from S4 and the S5 Intermediate 2 class attended Dundee Rep's production of *The BFG*. This was to gain more insight in to the use of all Theatre Arts which is what the pupils have been focussing on this term.

The Drama Department wishes to thank the S6 peer tutors for the significant contribution they have made this term. Their input and enthusiasm has been of huge benefit to both staff and pupils.

## LAMDA Acting Exams



A number of pupils in the Drama Department have achieved excellent results in London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art Acting Exams. All pupils presented gained Distinction or Merit. Well Done!

### **Grade Six - Bronze Medal**

Becky Adams  
Andrew Weir  
Hannah Visocchi  
Lucy Harrower  
Finlay Paul  
Chloe Din  
Liv Darge  
James Primmer

### **Grade Seven - Silver Medal**

Jacob Brown  
Imogen Craven  
Alan Sunter  
Gemma Malek  
Emily Wright

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## Drama Production Company

Miss Hyslop and the current 6th Year have recently undertaken a new and ambitious venture with the establishment of The Madras Production Company. The enterprise aims to:

- achieve artistic excellence
- provide social benefit and create opportunities to promote Madras talent within the school and wider community'.

Pupils intend to produce at least one small-scale performance each term. This term has seen Amy Fell lead a languages project targeted at S1. Cross-curricular links were successfully established with the performance of a comic play and drama workshop in French.

The Company's first public performance will take place on 12th December with Lucy Harrower leading a devised Pantomime and literacy workshop for local Primary School pupils and offering an evening performance for family and friends. The company were delighted to have the opportunity to work with Smallpetitklein Dance Company during rehearsals. They will also tour their work to Waid Academy on 19th December.



James Primmer, Andrew Weir and Joanna Rickman have already begun researching material for next term's events. They will examine the impact of the Arts on Alzheimer's/Dementia in the elderly with a view to developing a performance from the memories of local people. James and his team are keen to maximise on the social benefits of this highly creative and innovative project.

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# Uniform

“Our uniform is what sets us apart from other schools. Our uniform is a highly visible and major way in how we demonstrate our respect for each other and our school.”



Since August the vast majority of parents and pupils have supported the school's drive to improve our image by wearing full school uniform, and to those many, many pupils and parents I say thank you for supporting our school. Despite the fact that we are now well into a Scottish winter, where dressing appropriately while still supporting uniform can be a challenge, most pupils have managed to combine warm clothes with school colours and uniform. Indeed, in some cases our pupils have been very creative in how they have achieved this.

As Christmas approaches I would remind everyone that our school colours are navy blue or black. If warm clothes are on a Christmas list or a January sales list I would ask parents and pupils to support us when purchasing clothes for school, by buying school colours. We continue to ask that all pupils continue to wear school uniform and school colours, and demonstrate, in this most visible of means, that they are proud to be seen as Madras pupils.



The pupils and parents have shown remarkable support for our school uniform up to now and I would ask that this continues when we resume classes in the New Year.

# Physics News

All S1 will have completed their Space Mission by the end of term. Well done!

S2 are due to start their CREST projects after the holidays in which they research a topic of their choice and present their findings. They should be thinking of the topic they want to do over the holiday.

S3 are completing their investigations on renewable energy as part of the theme week. They also had an informative lecture by David Hodge from the Hydrogen Office in Methil about his career and future opportunities in the Renewable Energy Sector.

S4 have just finished three weeks of working on their Added Value Unit/Assignments researching and writing a report of various aspects of car safety. As advertised at the parent's evening, they have an opportunity next term to participate in the Higgs-Boson (IOP) and the Junior Physics Olympiad Competitions. They should see Miss Gray or the posters in the department for details.



As advertised at the parents evening, S5 have the opportunity to apply for the Nuffield Science Bursary (be paid to undertake science research in the summer holidays), Scottish Space School (win a free trip to the USA after competing in team exercises in Scotland) and Headstart (insight into engineering). Briefing meetings have been held but they can still see Mrs Lindsay for details.

The closing dates for the above are around prelim time so it would be a good idea to get the applications done before this busy time.

The AH/S6 are going to be participating in the senior Physics Olympiad.

All physics pupils 16-19 can now apply for free membership of the Institute of Physics. See the posters in the department for details or go to:

[http://www.iop.org/education/student/youth\\_membership](http://www.iop.org/education/student/youth_membership).



## Girls' Hockey



Around fifty S3 and Senior girls regularly attend hockey practices on Tuesday after school, with forty-five S1 and S2 attending on a Thursday. Practices were initially held at Kilrymont Road and Station Park, but through the University hockey club development, arranged by James Fenna, we now train under the floodlights on the University Astroturf, which is extremely beneficial at this time of year, for which we are very grateful.

S1, S2, S3 and the 1st XI, have played Saturday morning matches against St Leonards School (x2), Dunfermline High School, Kilgraston School and Morrisons Academy, with mixed results being recorded. Matches cancelled were Robert Gordon's College and Mary Erskine's School. Thanks must go to former pupil Lauren Wood, who has assisted in the coaching of the S3 girls and to former teachers Mrs E Wallace and Mrs V Rough, for their umpiring.

All year groups have taken part in the Fife Schoolgirls' Hockey Tournaments, hosted by Madras College at Station Park.

### Thursday 26th September – S3 Girls

1st	St Leonards School	6 points
2nd	Madras College	4 points
3rd	Dunfermline High School	2 points

### Friday 4th October – Senior Girls (Six schools competed)

Section 1	Bell Baxter, Woodmill and Dunfermline High Schools
Section 2	Madras College, St Leonards and Waid Academy

In spite of Madras winning their section and beating St Leonards 2-0, they met again in the final, having both won their cross over section games. At full time in the final both schools were drawing 1-1, which was followed by a timed penalty run out. Madras lost out to St Leonards 4-3.

### Tuesday 5th November – S2 Girls (Four Fife Schools competed)

Dunfermline High School, Madras College, St Leonards and Waid Academy.

St Leonards were winners with Madras finishing 3rd.

### Wednesday 12th November – S1 Girls

28 First Year girls made up an 'A' and 'B' Team, along with 2 teams from Dunfermline and 1 team from St Leonards. All teams played in a round robin format and in spite of all teams recording wins, draws or losses, there was no outright winner. The aim of this tournament was fun, fairness and maximum involvement.

### Midlands U16 Scottish Inter-District Championships

Sophie Pettegree (S4) represented Midlands U15 in June and following on from her outstanding play and scoring several goals, was selected to represent and play for Midlands U16 in the Scottish Inter-District Championships in September. Sophie caught the eye of the Scottish selectors once again and was invited to attend the U16 Scottish Trials. She played very well, making it through to the final trial; however her run of success ended here.

## Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome Visit



On Wednesday 11th December, 15 members of the Madras Cycle Speedway club travelled to Glasgow for a two hour training session on the Commonwealth Games track at the Chris Hoy Velodrome.

The boys adeptly picked up the new skills of riding without brakes on a fixed wheel bike and the Track Coach was impressed by their confidence and athleticism on the boards. Several riders rode the 46° banked corners on the top band which, seen from the above or below, is a very scary and impressive feat.



Jack Bremner (S4) posted the fastest flying lap with a time of 18.84 seconds – only a few seconds shy of the Velodrome's namesake!





# INFORMATION

## Fife Council

### *School Closure Information for Parents*

As early as possible on the morning of severe weather or other situations such as water, heating and building problems, the main ways for you to stay informed are:

- **online** - all the news and information you'll need is online. Visit [www.fifedirect.org.uk/closures](http://www.fifedirect.org.uk/closures) for up-to-date information
- **by text or e-mail alerts through Fife Direct** - to sign up for text or email alerts Alerts, please enter your contact details via [www.fifedirect.org.uk/alerts](http://www.fifedirect.org.uk/alerts), click on Alerts and under Alert Services click on join fifedirect
- **by text or e-mail alerts through your school** - make sure that you have given you contact details to the school so that they can contact you by Groupcall
- **on your mobile phone** - search for [m.fifedirect.org.uk](http://m.fifedirect.org.uk) (from your mobile phone browser)
- **on Facebook** - follow-us on [facebook.com/fifecouncil](http://facebook.com/fifecouncil)
- **on Twitter** - follow-us on [twitter.com/fifecouncil](http://twitter.com/fifecouncil)
- **by radio bulletins** - listen to Kingdom FM (95.2 and 96.1), Forth One (97.3) and Tay FM (102.8 and 96.4)
- **by digital television** - red Button on Sky and Virgin Media under Interactive Services, Local Services

#### HOLIDAYS

##### **Christmas**

Monday 23 December 2013  
to Friday 3rd January 2014

##### **February (two days)**

Thursday 13th and Friday 14th February 2014

##### **Easter**

Monday 31st March  
to Friday 11th April 2014

##### **May Day**

Monday 5th May 2014

##### **June (single day)**

Monday 2nd June 2014

##### **Summer**

Monday 30th June  
to Friday 15th August 2014

#### IN-SERVICE DAYS

Wednesday 12th February 2014

Tuesday 3rd June 2014

#### EXAMINATIONS

##### **S4/5/6 Prelims**

Monday 13th  
to Friday 24th January 2014

##### **SQA Exams**

These start on Tuesday 29th April to Friday 6th June.

However, the format of S4 study leave  
will be different this session.

#### PARENTS' EVENINGS

**S1** Monday 10th February 2014

**S2** Wednesday 14th May 2014

**S3** Thursday 30th January 2014

*(all dates inclusive)*