



# Summer Newsletter

Madras College Newsletter

June 2014

## Rector's Message

This has been a very busy year for all at Madras College. A year which has seen the introduction of the new Curriculum for Excellence National 5 and National 4 awards for our S4 pupils. I know how hard the staff and pupils have worked to prepare for the new style assessments and exams and we look forward to seeing how well our pupils have achieved. As a follow-up to the SQA exam results in August, we will look very closely at all of our department SQA results as part of our self-evaluation process. We will try to ensure a secure analysis of performance at N5, Intermediate 1 and 2, Higher and Advanced Higher with a view to supporting improvement and pupil outcomes with departments and school managers, looking at what has worked well and at how we can improve on delivery and performance.

The year has also seen the reintroduction of school uniform and I am very pleased to report on the positive response and outstanding support I have received from staff, parents and pupils on this initiative.

The pupils are a credit to themselves and the school in how they portray our positive image and I always feel a tingle of pride in our pupils when I see them heading out of the gates at lunchtime, or 3.30pm, wearing the colours of the school. It was also very encouraging to meet and speak with our Primary 7 pupils and parents this week at the Primary 7 evening and to see that look of pride on the young people's faces as they left carrying their new Madras College blazer for the start of session 2014-2015 in August.

Our main priorities for next session will be linked to Attainment, Achievement, Positive Ethos and Image, Self-Evaluation and further development of Curriculum for Excellence. Under these headings, some of the areas for development will include improvements in monitoring and tracking of pupil progress, improvement in our department self-evaluation processes, improvement in our approaches to pupil support and to behaviour in learning, review of our CfE provision and links with business and careers.

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• <b>End of Term</b>	<b>Friday 27 June 2014</b>	•
•		•
• <b>School Closes</b>	<b>KR - 12.20 pm</b>	•
•	<b>SS - 12.30 pm</b>	•
•		•
• <b>New Term Begins</b>	<b>Monday 18 August 2014</b>	•
•••••		•••••

## Scottish Schools' Tennis Plate



On 11th June Madras College participated in the Scottish Schools' Tennis plate final. In the first round they played Arbroath High School and won 4-2 in matches and won two of the matches on match tie-breaks. In the next round they faced the stern test of Auchenharvie High School from Ayrshire and after the normal game time it was tied at 3-3. After some strong play from William Davidson they managed to win a championship tie-break 10-8 to make it to the next round.

In the semi-finals they faced a tough match against Linlithgow High School but pulled through 5-1 to make it to the final. The final was hosted at St George's High School in Edinburgh. There they were to play Trinity High School: the toughest team they had faced so far. With the matches all squared at 3-3 yet again it was settled by a championship tie-break which they battled through and emerged victorious with an impressive score of 10-6. Madras College's tennis team is comprised of Zak Scott, Sholto Cocris, William Davidson, Sam McKiddie and Gregory Dritschel. They are coached by Mr Darge.

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# Staffing Notes

## *Promotions and New Appointments*

We welcome Mrs A Robertson as Depute Headteacher (S3), Mr Wishart, as Depute Headteacher (S5/6), Miss J MacLaren as PTC Support for Learning, and her team of Mr T Inglis and Mrs J Robertson as Principal Teachers, Support and Mr Waterston, Principal Teacher DAS.

Lastly a big thank you as always to the supply staff who have helped us out over this term, with particular mention to Mrs Page and Mrs Grieg; to Mrs Adamson, SQA Chief Invigilator and her team of Invigilators, Readers and Scribes.

Mrs Adamson is retiring from her post as SQA Chief Invigilator, if you are interested in applying please contact Mr Wishart, DHT on 01334 659401.

## *Farewell to Mr Urquhart*



On Friday we say farewell to Mr John Urquhart, Depute Headteacher, who leaves to enjoy a well earned retirement. Mr Urquhart started teaching in Fife in 1974 as a Mathematics Teacher and joined Madras College in 1984 as a Principal Teacher of Guidance before being promoted to Depute Rector in 2002. His calm and relaxed manner has earned him the respect and trust of staff and pupils alike. We wish Mr Urquhart the very best in his new role. He will be sorely missed.

## *Staff Moving On*

In April, Mrs Seeley, Depute Headteacher, left to take up a post as Head of Secondary at Gems Metropole School, Dubai. In May, Mrs Harvie went on a 2 years secondment as PT Literacy to Morgan Academy, Dundee. Also in May, we said goodbye to Mrs Murray Clerical Assistant. This month Mr Reid Principal Teacher Curriculum, Support for Learning, left to take up the post of Depute Head at Perth Academy; Ms Halliday, (English), is retiring; Mr Bell, (Principal Teacher, Music), is leaving to take up a post at St Leonards. Mr Seeley (Principal Teacher, PE Health and Wellbeing), and Mrs McIntrye (Biology) are taking career breaks. Mrs Cairn, (Social Subjects) is leaving to teach in Waid Academy; Mr Queen, (Physics) is leaving to take up a post at Kirkland High School. We say goodbye to Mrs Michie and Mrs Kennovin (SfL).

We would like to thank all of the staff above for their amazing contribution to Madras College over the years and wish them every success in the future.

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The change of timetable in June saw a change in our school day framework, where we have moved to a 5 period day (plus Form Time/Registration at the start of the day). This change will reduce the number of staff travels, the number of part period covers and the number of pupil class moves. It returns our start of lunch time to the more familiar 12.30 pm slot and offers a better pedagogical teaching unit of 62 or 64 minutes.

The introduction of a new Form Time (and Registration) which lasts 20 minutes at the start of each day in Kilrymont is designed to support a 12–15 minute opportunity for every S1, S2 and S3 pupil to receive a Health and Wellbeing focus each day. The format of the week is to deliver on 5 elements: Literacy through personal reading; Assembly, with the time to recognise (and promote) achievement; development of personal skills (such as study skills, dealing with cyber issues etc.); personal health approaches (such as the dangers of too much sun) and a Friday reflection on the week (looking at numeracy organisers and employability skills).

The morning Form Classes have also been organised in year group proximity groups to allow Guidance support teams better access to pupils in their caseload which hopefully will support both staff and pupil communication.

On a personal note, this has been my first full year as Rector of Madras College. I have been able to speak directly (one to one) with over 800 pupils and I have seen, on average, 10 classes per day (approximately 2000 across the session) looking at pupil engagement in learning, supporting good order and viewing pupil jotter work, writing, projects and talks. For me this has been an extremely rewarding experience and one which allows me to say, with total conviction, that the young people in Madras College have a very, very positive view of their school.

I would like to thank everyone for their huge support across the session, to wish our senior pupils the very best of luck with their exam results and to wish you all a pleasant and relaxing summer holiday.

D McClure



# Musical Notes

## Instrumental Play Day at Kilrymont

On Friday 30th May the Music Department played host to fifty pupils from our feeder Primary Schools augmented by fifty musicians from Kilrymont. The Play Day included instrumental workshops for Wood Wind, Brass, Strings and Clarsach pupils as well as a very enjoyable Samba session. The day was rounded off with a very enjoyable performance from each group and a great time was had by all.

## Friday 13th June

Some of the senior Drama and Music students were joined by staff from the University of St Andrews Music Centre. The pupils enjoyed an in-depth look at the world of Opera which helped to dispel any previous misconceptions.

## Fife Festival Workshops

Eighteen Kilrymont pupils represented Madras College at the Rothes Halls participating in the Fife Festival of Music Work Shops. The pupils took part in either a traditional Scottish session or a Jazz Improvisation workshop.

## National Youth Orchestra of Scotland

Congratulations to Megan Pettegree (S6) who was selected for the National Youth Orchestra of Scotland and Joanna Stark (S5) who was selected for the National Youth Training Orchestra: this is a great achievement.

## External Music Exams

Recently several young musicians from Madras have gained great passes; Eugene Ritchie (piano, grade 2 with distinction), Joanna Stark (piano, grade 6 with distinction), Ewan Redpath (piano, grade 3 with merit), Tsen Day-Beaver (piano, grade 2 with merit), Katie Grieve (cello, grade 1 with distinction), Joanna Stark (cello, grade 8 with distinction), Ashley Thompson (cello, grade 6), Emily Keddie (cello, grade 2), Eilidh McGhee (harp, grade 1 with distinction) and Rebecca Kyle (harp, grade 1 with distinction).



SI  
African Themed Masks



# Spanish Exchange 2014

The first Madras Spanish School Exchange has been successfully launched with the recent visit of 20 pupils from our new partner school Camilo Jose Cela Instituto in Madrid. Mr Irving and twenty S4, S5 and S6 pupils studying Spanish at Madras welcomed the group here in June.

After spending the first weekend with their host partners, the group visited St Andrews Castle and Cathedral before learning some Scottish songs with Mr Bell in the Music Department. This was followed by a Welcome Ceilidh Evening to celebrate the launch of the new Exchange, complete with Spanish and Scottish dancing which everyone enjoyed.

The whole group got to know Edinburgh with a visit to the National Museum of Scotland, a picnic in Princes Street Gardens and a tour round the World of Illusions at the Camera Obscura. Mr Dagless was kind enough to present a wonderful Scottish history lesson in preparation for the Spanish pupils' visit to Stirling Castle and the Wallace Monument. Without this informative background the visit would not have been such a success.



Our Spanish visitors were very keen to see the fishing villages of Fife, as they live in the centre of Spain, so a trip to the Fisheries Museum in Anstruther was another highlight – followed, of course, by the obligatory fish and chips.

Great friendships have been made and all were sad to say goodbye. However, the Madras pupils are really looking forward to the return visit to Madrid in September which will involve seeing how school is in Spain as well as getting to know the city, along with visits to Toledo and Segovia. Many thanks to Mrs Maix for supporting the exchange group and hosting our Spanish guests, along with Mr Bell, Mr Dagless and to the office staff for all their help in making the exchange visit a success.

# Paris Trip



As 47 Madras College pupils gathered in the school car park, the buzz of excited energy was infectious. Tuesday 27th May had finally arrived for the long awaited trip to the beautiful capital of France. A gruelling journey, involving 7 hours on a coach, an overnight ferry, then a 5-hour drive to Paris, did nothing to dampen the enthusiasm of the pupils who passed the time singing, going to the cinema and dancing at an on-board disco!



Wednesday morning: the pupils visited the Eiffel Tower, with many of them climbing all the way to the top to take in the breathtaking, if a little misty, view of Paris. Thursday was the day set aside for the highlight of the trip – Disneyland Paris, and it did not disappoint. A beautiful, sunny day ensured that all the pupils (and the staff!) enjoyed roller-coasters and rides galore. The last day of the trip was spent visiting the Champs Elysee and the Sacre Coeur. All in all, everyone thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

*Nina Munro*

## Fife Inter-schools' Sports Day



On Wednesday 11th June 2014, 10 pupils from Madras College travelled to Dunfermline to take part in the annual Fife SDS inter-schools sports day. The Madras team comprised of Dean Baird (Captain), Kaynat Arshad, Joyce Law, Caitlin Pryde, Jack Macey-Lillie, Matthew Beaumont, Hadden Adam, Cameron Cairns, Kieran Beaton and Tom Jackson.

The Madras team performed spectacularly and came back with 34 medals. The team narrowly missed the team prize being pipped by merely 4 points by a very strong team from Balwearie High School. The Madras Team won 20 golds, 7 silvers and 7 bronzes.

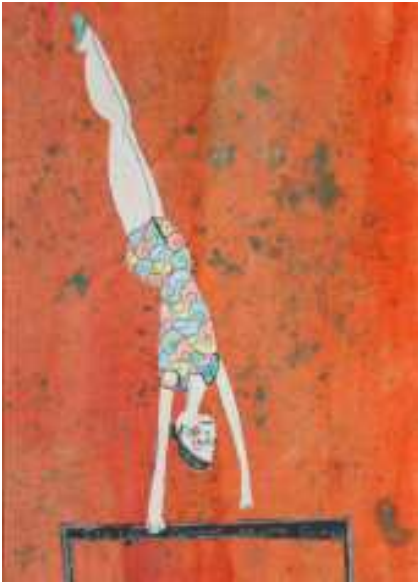
In the SDS Cross Country championships for all schools in Scotland, Joyce Law won the girls 1 Km final to become the National Champion.

## Mathematics Department News

Once again Madras pupils gained significant success in the many maths contests that were entered this year.

In the UKMT maths challenges, Madras pupils gained a total of 8 Gold, 39 Silver and 63 Bronze certificates. Best in Year certificates were awarded to Isla Bonnell (S1), Leonardo Sani (S2), Amber Rendall (S3), David Black (S4), William Naismith (S5) and Emma Ruskuc (S6). Emma, along with Ruairidh James (S6), also qualified for the subsequent Senior Kangaroo contest where Ruairidh achieved an award of Distinction and Emma a Merit award. The SMC puzzles once again proved popular and 4 pupils (William Naismith, Leonardo Sani, Jack Hao and Caitlin McKee) recently attended the awards ceremony at Stirling University to be presented with their Gold and Silver certificates. Our S4 and S5 teams have once again achieved top ten placings in the Mathematiques Sans Frontieres mathematics and foreign language contest, and we eagerly await the upcoming award ceremony at Heriot-Watt university to find out how each of the teams have done and whether we will be crowned national champions for the third year in a row.

In December we supported the annual NSPCC/Childline National Number Day by organising a teacher number treasure hunt, totalized class challenges and a number-themed bake sale. All the events were enjoyed and well-supported by staff and pupils and a total of £176.31 was donated to the NSPCC charity.



Patrycja Croy



Annie Renton



Robbie Knight



Tom Jackson

# MUSA Young Artist Awards 2014



Cameron Dritschel

With the Commonwealth Games coming to Glasgow, 2014 is a big year for sport. *On Your Marks* was the theme for this year's MUSA young artist competition.

A total of 649 entries were submitted and a record-breaking 1208 pupils from schools across Fife took part in fun, interactive workshops with museum staff.

Entries were judged by well-known artist Will Maclean, Gary Brankin from the University Sports Centre, and Emma Jane Wells, Co-Director of Museum Collections.

Winners were chosen on the basis of: Originality and creativity, Confident handling of materials, Boldness and impact, and an obvious link to collections at MUSA.

The judges were impressed by the standard of the artworks and awarded Special Merits to 13 additional pupils.

Madras College Art department had five entries gaining an award this year, and the successful pupils were:

Category E: S1 to S3 – Annie Renton, 1st prize, Cameron Dritschel, 3rd prize; Patrycja Croy, special merit; Robbie Knight, special merit.

Category F: Additional Support Schools/Units – Tom Jackson, special merit.

Winning entries are displayed at the Gateway Galleries between 11th June and 9th August.



## SI African Themed Masks



# Physics News

## • S2 Crest Projects

As part of their physics course all S2 physics pupils were given the opportunity to achieve a British Science Association Bronze Crest Award. This required the pupils to select an aspect of physics that they are interested in and carry out research on it. Pupils then had to present their findings to their peers. These projects allowed communication, research presenting and many other transferable skills to be improved. Projects ranged from “Dark Matter” to “the Physics of Dance”. Over 40 pupils have currently been successful in achieving the standard.

## • Scottish Space School

Congratulations go to Stanley Ho and Thomas Shaw (both S5) for being accepted into the highly competitive Scottish Space School which was held last week at University of Strathclyde. The boys will face team-building and problem-solving tasks. If successful, they may win a place on a trip to NASA in Houston, USA.

## • Headstart

Stanley Ho has been successful in gaining a place on a Headstart course in the summer. He will get the opportunity to experience university life by attending lectures and activities. Headstart has been established for more than 16 years as a charitable trust providing hands-on Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) activities and

engineering taster courses to encourage young people into technology based careers.

## • British Physics Olympiad

For the first time in many years, pupils in the senior school competed in the British Physics Olympiad. National Five pupils competed in the GCSE challenge and performed really well. Twenty-eight achieved Commendations, 7 achieved Bronze Certificates and special mention goes to Romy Niven and Ellie Gudgin who achieved Silver Certificates. In the Higher classes, Eilidh Northridge and Stanley Ho achieved Bronze with William Naismith and Alasdair Reid gaining Silver in the AS level challenge. All pupils involved should be proud of their achievements as the competition is based on the English system that follows a different syllabus. We plan to attempt the A level/AH competition next Autumn!

## • Nuffield Science Bursaries

Jake Walker, William Naismith, Christopher Fyfe, Jack McLean and Eleanor Heighton (all S5) have gained a place on this prestigious scheme to undertake science research during the summer holidays. The first four are completing the work at the University of St Andrews. Eleanor is going to be working with Dundee University. Normally only one or possibly two pupils from each school are selected so to have five selected is amazing!

# Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Once again the Duke of Edinburgh's Award groups has had a fantastic year. After a shaky start, due to lack of staff, 16 pupils from S3 experienced Bronze. Despite a few drop-outs the Silver and Gold groups still had 18 and 7 members respectively for the expeditions.

The expeditions for once went off without torrential rain. Again Fife, Loch Tay, Glen Tilt, the Cairngorms and Torridon were visited. The routes at silver covered new territory which gave the staff fresh ground to cover. Midges were out, but not in swarms and they even saw some sun.

Over the year there have been some excellent successful finishes: sixteen Bronzes and 10 Silvers were awarded. There are also 3 from Madras going to the Award Garden Party at Holyrood; one a former pupil who completed just before her 25th birthday (the deadline for completion). It would be great if this could be increased next year. Once again it is important for all participants to get onto eDofE and upload/write evidence into their profiles.

Finally - a huge thank you to all the staff who were involved this year; giving up large chunks of their own time, suffering midge bites and wet tents along with the pupils. Without their support the group just couldn't run. Thank you.

## 57th KIEL EXCHANGE

The 57th Kiel Exchange group departs for Kiel on Monday 16 June. Seventeen S4 and S5 pupils, accompanied by Miss Orem and Mr Munn, will be taking part in an exciting programme prepared by our hosts at the Kieler Gelehrtenschule.

There will be an early start most days to get to classes on time. Two day trips are planned – one to Hamburg and one to the island of Sylt. Mr Munn and a number of pupils are also looking forward to supporting Germany in the Football World Cup.

The exchange hoodie this year has the crests of the two partner schools on the front and the names of the partners on the back. Emma Ramsay and Nathan Allan (pictured) seem to be pleased with this year's design.



## Athletics

### Fife Schools' Multi-Events

On Thursday 29th May 2014, sixteen selected athletes from Madras College competed in the annual Fife multi-event competition at Pitreavie Sports Arena, Dunfermline. With only Jack Bremner representing the Senior pupils, who were sitting exams, it was squads of 3 boys and 3 girls from S1, S2 and S3 who competed over the 5 events: 100 m/200 m, High Jump/Long Jump, Hurdles, Shot Putt and 800 m.

Campbell Palmer (S2) won the Gold in his age category by reversing the positions with Struan Christie from last year by a mere 11 points – a matter of a few seconds in the closing event. The third member of the S2 boys' squad, Callum McLeod, also competed well in his favourite 800 m event, finishing 5th in the rankings.

S2 girls Sara Keracher, Abbie Coote and Katrina Tough narrowly missed out on a medal while the S1 girls were more successful coming away with a Silver and a Bronze. Isobel Olsen took the second spot with great consistency in all 5 events and Sam McInnes secured Bronze after a tense 800 m victory. The S1 boys also did well with Matthew Cuffley closest to a medal position at 4th. Joel Day and Robert Sparks performed well in all events with the latter winning his 800 m heat by at least 20 seconds helping him to 6th place.

With many S3 pupils out of school, Emma Malcolm won Bronze. Emma's High Jump, 200 m and Hurdle events all went very well and yet another gutsy effort in the 800 m helped her secure the third position by a handful of points. Her male counterpart, Angus Paton's Shot Putt and Long jump also helped him secure a Silver medal. Danny Bremner also played a strong supporting role and impressed with his consistency and commitment. His brother, Jack Bremner, wound up the meeting in the final 800 m where he held onto the older competitors and finished a very close second in his main event and 4th overall.

## Sports Day

The 2014 Sports Day was held on Wednesday 18th June in glorious sunny conditions at the Station Park playing fields.

The morning softball and rounders matches got the day off to a great start with all houses fully represented throughout the years. Castle house took the overall honours in these events.

Madras College Pipe Band entertained prior to the athletics programme with a stirring set of tunes to get everybody in the mood. Although no school records were broken on the day every track and field event was keenly contested. With several top athletes missing due to representing Fife at an Olympiad in Turkey this left the individual championships wider open than usual and everyone was competing for the prestigious awards and medals.

The individual champions were:

S1 Champions	Taylor Baldie	Isobel Olsen
S2 Champions	Declan Regan	Sara Keracher
S3 Champions	Angus Paton	Emma Malcolm
Senior Champions	Cameron Gray	Ellie Gudgin
Adam Scott Memorial High Jump Trophy		Josh Stewart
Inter-House Sports Day Cup		Castle

The competition concluded with the house relays then the presentations and special thanks goes to Mrs V Rough who returned to hand out the trophies. Thanks also go to the staff and pupils of Madras College who worked so hard to make this traditional day a great success.

The Madras boys finished equal First in the Team event to cap a superb day for the school.

The final event of the programme was the dash to the Golden Arches where some competitors had obviously been saving their energy to secure first place in the queue!

### Scottish Schools' Triathlon

On Saturday 14th June, Isobel Olsen (S1) competed in the Scottish Schools' Triathlon. Unlike the Fife Schools' Multi Events, first year pupils only compete in three events, high jump, shot putt and 600 m. Isobel finished in third place, which is an outstanding result at this level of competition. She also jumped a personal best of 1.38 m in the high jump,

which helped her on her way by accumulating extra vital points to receive her bronze medal at the end of the day.

**Fife Schools' Track and Field Winners**  
Winners at the Fife Schools' Track and Field event held on 19th June were as follows:

Robert Sparks: S1 Boys, 800 m; Isobel Olsen: S1 Girls, High Jump; Megan Wilson: S4/5 Girls, 800 m and 80 m hurdles; Struan Christie: S2/3 Boys, 100 m and Long Jump; Struan Christie, Campbell Palmer, Nathan Learmonth and Callum McLeod: S2/3 Boys, 4 x 100 m relay; Jack Bremner: S3/4 Boys, 800 m.

There were also 23 Silver and Bronze medals won.

## Dates for Your Diary

### SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

*(all dates inclusive)*

Monday 13 to Friday 24 October 2014

Monday 22 December 2014 to Friday 2 January 2015

Thursday 12 and Friday 13 February 2015

Friday 3 April to Friday 17 April 2015

Monday 4 May 2015

Monday 1 June 2015

Monday 6 July to Friday 14 August 2015

### INSERVICE

Monday and Tuesday 18 and 19 August 2014

Friday 14 November 2014

Wednesday 11 February 2015

Tuesday 2 June 2015

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