



# Easter Newsletter

Madras College Newsletter

March 2018

## Rector's Message

The main focus for S3 - S6 since Christmas has been working on National Curriculum outcomes. This year, for S4 - S6 the workload has been significantly increased by the Scottish Qualifications Authority with content extended, deadlines unadjusted and understanding standardised set to another revised edition. If you factor in the 4 snow days which hit us hard, all-in-all this has been a very tough term for staff and pupils and parents. However, despite these challenges (and the challenges of our austerity "savings" and staff absences - on occasions up to 17 staff per day absent) the school has continued to strive to deliver not just the exam curriculum but the very important balanced curriculum beyond exams - such as trips, clubs, competitions, excursions, exchanges, etc. I thank the staff and parents who have supported us through this very trying term and hope of better things to come in the final term as we set up our Easter school and study leave provision.

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## Madras Team Gets Favourable Reaction



On Tuesday, 23rd January, Madras College triumphed in the regional final of Top of the Bench, a national competition organised by the Royal Society of Chemistry. The team of Rory Angus (S2), Ailsa O'Riordan (S3), Tim Edwards (S3) and Joseph Mackie (S4), lifted the trophy finishing the eight rounds with a good score. The contest was held at the Chemistry department of the University of St Andrews; the team exhibited a fantastic knowledge of chemistry. They have come out on top of over 30 other local schools to win the regional final. The team faced Bell Baxter High School, The High School of Dundee and Websters High School in the regional finals, who had also progressed through three previous knockout rounds. The pupils qualified for the British Final of Top of the Bench at the University of Birmingham on 3rd March. Unfortunately due to bad weather the national finals were cancelled.

The chemistry department will be looking for new members to join the team for next year's competition so keep an eye on the notices or speak to Miss Ogilvy or Dr Nabi for more information.

### School Lunches

From 1st April the cost of a school lunch will increase to £2.10 for pupils and to £3.67 for adults.

# Happy Easter

## Disneyland Paris Trip 2018



In February 30 senior pupils joined 3 staff on a very successful trip to Disneyland Paris. An enjoyable time was had by all. Mrs Hall will run the trip again next year - please see her if you are interested.

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The winter has been particularly cold and long and as ever our two campuses have borne some of the brunt of this. As a consequence the wearing of school uniform has often lapsed or been masked by the need (or desire) to wear warmer (or more attractive) attire. However, winter is hopefully behind us and spring is upon us, and we expect that all pupils will once again proudly wear the Madras uniform. This will be particularly expected during the SQA exam period as it also supports the security of our campus.

Our focus next term will be on planning for session 2018/2019, supporting our pupils through their exams and through their transition stages. I would take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support and hope that our partnership continues to be as positive as it has been up to now.

*David P. McClure.*

## British Physics Olympiad

This challenging series of problem solving papers was undertaken by senior pupils again this year. The questions are based on the English examination system and sat before pupils have covered some topics, making the performance particularly good. In our best year so far we gained, in S6: 1 commended and 1 upper Bronze award (Wei-han Lee), in S5: 1 commended and 1 lower Bronze award (Alasdair Bhatti) and in S4: 9 commended and 1 lower Bronze award (Finlay Dornan). Well done to all participants.

It is hoped to further build on this next year, perhaps starting an Olympiad club.

See more Physics Department news on page 4.

# Technology

## First Lego League



Ten pupils from S4, 5 and 6 attended the regional heats in Dundee for First Lego League and took first place in the Robot and Programming section. They played against 8 other teams across Scotland. As a group they spent months during lunch and after-school to build, program and test their EV3 robot to allow it to complete several missions successfully on the day. The pupils who took part were: Chloe Smith, Anisah Bakar, Jed O'Donnell, Adrian Major, Connor Wilson, Lachlan Brennan, Rowen Cunningham, Freya Jackson, Euan West and Aine McHaffie.

## UK Robotics



On February 7 pupils from S1-3 travelled to Arbroath to compete against 10 schools from across Scotland. These pupils included: Corinne Brennan, Sadie Brennan, Fin McGhie, Daisy Simmons, Mia Anderson, Jake Langlands and Harry McLennan. Adrian Major from S5 joined us to help mentor the pupils from his experience at First Lego League. The event was run and sponsored by the RAF who worked with the team throughout the day. Pupils were awarded a trophy for the teamwork and communication skills that they displayed throughout the day. The pupils prepared for this competition during lunchtimes and after school to ensure their robot performed well on the day.

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# Musical Notes



## Fife Festival of Music

This year the pupils from Madras gave outstanding performances in solo and group classes at the Fife Festival of Music.

The individual winners and group successes at the festival were: S1, Katie McGhee, Brass Advanced Class; S5, Isobel Grieve, Piano Open Class; S6, Eilidh McGhee, Clarsach Open Class.

Isobel and Eilidh were invited to perform in the Young Musician competition on the final evening of the festival. Both girls gave superb performances to a packed audience in the Adam Smith Theatre. Many other Madras pupils performed in solo classes and should be congratulated for their performances.

### ADJUDICATORS COMMENTS

#### • **Competitive Group Classes**

Senior Strings were awarded a Platinum Certificate - "A lot of hard work and years of dedication are clearly bearing fruit. Your attention to details such as style and articulation is admirable."

Senior Girls' Choir were awarded a Gold Certificate - "A lovely blend from the start, lovely expressive faces with clear diction throughout".

Mixed Choir were awarded a Gold Certificate - "Lovely musical singing, tuneful and well-presented and posture/stance was commendable from everyone".

Junior Choir were awarded a Platinum Certificate - "Words were clear and sung with expression".

Wind Band was awarded a Silver Certificate - "You set the scene very nicely. Well done for an enjoyable performance"!

Clarsach Group was awarded a Gold Certificate - "Good performance providing a very attractive programme".

#### • **Non-Competitive Group Classes**

The Junior String Orchestra, Folk Group and Lower String Ensemble all performed in the non-competitive Secondary School Class.

Junior Strings - "A great example of enthusiastic and dynamic playing. A talented string group".

The Staff Choir performed in the non-competitive Community Choral class - "You achieved a real lilt in this performance and there was a beauty of tone".

Well done to every pupil who stood on the stage and performed, they were a credit to themselves and Madras College.

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## Madras Pipe Band

The Pipe Band has had another busy term with numerous events and performances.

A big thank you to Ellie Clayton and Jack Hao (S6), Angus and Dougie Kennovin (S5) and Gregor Angus and Cade Tough (S4) who performed at a variety of local events including St Andrews Nursery, Kingbarns and Canongate Primary Schools.

In January the Pipe Band kicked off the Primary 7 Information Evening in great style entertaining the pupils and parents.

The Pipe Band also turned out for the Ceilidh on 15th March and impressed the Ohio, French and Spanish exchange students.

## Composing Project

Bartholomew Upton (S6), Katie and Isobel Grieve (S5) have been involved in a composing project with Kirkcaldy orchestral society.

The pupils have been working with composer John Gourlay since September.

The young composers' skills and confidence have visibly grown throughout the work thanks to the successful mentoring at work.

The final event was held at the Old Kirk in Kirkcaldy where each student's composition was performed and recorded by musicians from the orchestra.

## Musicians In Fife Music Activities

Once again, the busy concert period for Saturday morning and Tuesday evening Fife Music Activities has come and gone. Pupils have been busy at weekly rehearsals over the autumn and winter months and the results were evident over the last few weeks, when the groups performed to enthusiastic and hugely appreciative audiences.

Mrs Taylor, Music Co-ordinator is delighted to be welcoming so many Madras pupils to the forthcoming Fife Concert Band and Fife Sinfonia Residential Course. Pupils will be picked up from schools on Wednesday 28th March, returning Monday 2nd April 2018. The Concert Band and Sinfonia Concert will take place at the Lochgelly Centre on Thursday 19th April.

# Music Exam Success



# Madras Success

Well done to all pupils who sat instrumental exams this term. Results so far -

- S1 Louis Brown was awarded a merit for his Grade 2 Trumpet exam.  
Niamh Day was awarded a distinction for her Grade 2 Violin exam.  
Jamie Falconer was awarded a merit for his Grade 2 Violin exam.  
Isla Hedley was awarded a merit for her Grade 2 Violin exam.  
Ewan Hutchison was awarded a distinction for his Grade 2 Cornet exam.  
Guillem Penacchio was awarded a merit for his Grade 2 Violin exam.
- S2 Joanne Mackie was awarded a distinction for her Grade 4 Piano exam.  
Luisa Miller was awarded a distinction for her Grade 3 Violin exam.
- S3 Ailsa O'Riordan was awarded a merit for her Grade 5 Violin exam.  
Ruth Mason was awarded a distinction for her Grade 1 Double Bass exam.
- S4 Daniel Dykes was awarded a pass for his Grade 5 Trombone exam.  
Farah Faizi was awarded a merit for her Grade 2 Piano exam.  
Euan West was awarded a pass for his Grade 5 Trombone exam.  
Jamie Henderson was awarded a pass for his Grade 5 Trombone exam.
- S5 Eugene Ritchie was awarded a pass for his Grade 7 Singing exam.



On Tuesday evening three Madras musicians competed in the Annual Inter-School Competition between Bell Baxter, Madras and Waid. This year's worthy winner was Isobel Grieve (S5).

# Fife Burns Competition



The annual Fife Burns Competition took place on Saturday 17th March at Waid Academy. The Madras team did extremely well and all the pupils involved gave excellent performances. Out of the six instrumental and singing categories Madras pupils won five of them.

The 1st and 2nd winners will represent Fife in the Robert Burns World Federation National Schools' Festival 2018. This will be held on 21st April at Denny High School, Stirling.

## S1/2 Singing

1st place – Maisie Dury

## S3/4 Singing

1st place – Cailan Duane  
2nd place – Iona Thomas

## S1/2 Instrumental

1st place – Holly Bartlett S2

## S3/4 Instrumental

1st place – Zoe Mitcham S3  
3rd place – Dugald Macfarlane S3

## S5/6 Instrumental

1st place – Katie Grieve S5

# Physics News

## S1 Science Roadshow

All S1 classes attended a science roadshow by the University of St Andrews Physics department. The road show was to promote the choice of science subjects after S1. As before, the favourite demonstrations were the superconductor magnets and the liquid nitrogen but this year the rotating chair (showing conservation of angular momentum) was popular. Many thanks to Professor Bonnell for arranging this again and to all the student helpers.

## S3 Girls Into Physics and Engineering

Twenty-two S3 girls attended the above day organised by the Institute of Physics and hosted by St Andrews University. The girls attended lectures and workshops including a competition to build the tallest tower out of straws, analysing data from the International space station, a competition to build an oil rig valve in the fastest time, a rocket workshop, an optics workshop plus building and racing robotic cars. The time was thought provoking for many and several girls that have not studied engineering or physics before are choosing to pick it up in S4. Hopefully this will become an annual event.

# Madras/Madrid Spanish School Exchange Programme



This term has been very busy with both parts of the Spanish school exchange taking place and, as before, it has proved to be a huge success on both sides.

At the end of January a group of twenty S3 and S4 pupils travelled with Mr Irving and Mrs Maix to our partner school, IES Camilo José Cela, in Madrid. On arrival the group spent the weekend settling in with their families and getting to know the Spanish way of life at home.

Winter in Madrid can be cold but we were lucky to have blue skies most days and the group took the chance to see many of the sights of the city, as well as day trips to Toledo and Alcala de Henares. On our final day Madras pupils shadowed their Spanish partners in school for the day and were able to see how school life is there.

Luckily the snow stayed away for the return visit of the Spanish group in mid-March. After the weekend spent with the host families, the Spanish pupils had a busy week visiting the castle and cathedral in St Andrews, as well as completing a photo treasure hunt around the town. The whole group visited Edinburgh Castle before returning to St Andrews to have a day of golf, including the driving range and golf museum. Just before leaving for home the Spanish pupils enjoyed a day in Anstruther visiting the Fisheries museum there and enjoying the famous fish and chips – outside in the cold!

The highlight of the week for many was the combined Spanish, French and Ohio Exchanges group ceilidh where over 150 pupils from all three countries filled the hall at Kilrymont dancing the night away.

Muchas gracias a todos! Thanks to everyone involved including staff here in Madras and in Madrid and of course the host families, without whom the exchange could not take place.

## KIEL EXCHANGE 2018

Preparations are now well underway for the 61st Kiel Exchange visit. Ten S4 pupils who hosted their exchange partners in June 2017 during the Diamond Jubilee celebrations are looking forward to being reunited with their partners in Kiel in June. Eighteen S3 pupils will also be making the journey to Kiel where they will meet their exchange partners for the first time. More about the programme of events will follow in the summer newsletter.

## FRENCH EXCHANGE



The first part of this year's French exchange took place earlier this month when we welcomed to St Andrews thirty-six pupils and four teachers from Collège Georges Besse in Loches. There was great excitement when the Madras pupils finally met in person the French partners they had been messaging for several weeks.

The morning after their arrival the French pupils shadowed their Scottish partners at school before enjoying a trip round the sights of St Andrews. They spent the weekend with the Madras families, enjoying a host of activities such as a trip to Edinburgh Zoo, ice-skating, swimming, go-karting and one lucky French boy even had a fantastic flight in a four-seater plane! Thanks to all the parents who went to such great efforts to ensure the French pupils enjoyed their stay.

The French visitors had a busy week of excursions to Edinburgh, Stirling, Loch Ness and Anstruther. The whole week was a great success and ended on a high with the ceilidh in the Assembly Hall together with the Spanish and Ohio Exchange pupils. It was amazing to see Scottish, French, Spanish and American pupils of all ages enjoying themselves together.



In May we will be off to France for the return visit. The pupils will be staying with their French partners and will have the chance to participate in lessons at school and enjoy a range of excursions such as visits to châteaux of the Loire and also a theme park.

# Sports News

## CROSS COUNTRY



On Saturday 17th March the re-scheduled Scottish Cross Country Championships took place at Hopetoun House, Edinburgh. Madras took 13 runners of the original 24 who participated in sleet, snow and gusting winds on a pleasant but tough course. Anna Hedley (S2) won for the second year running in a head-to-head battle with a close rival, with Anna pulling ahead in the final 100 m. The S1 girls ran exceptionally well and would have won the team cup had the other two athletes been able to attend the postponed meet. Isla Hedley was 4th and Ruby Methven 7th in a thrilling race. The other notable finisher was Robert Sparks (S5) who finished 5th and will hopefully be selected for the upcoming Scottish team event.

## DANCE

Miss Band took her merry band of S1 and S2 dancers to the annual Dance Show in Lochgelly where all dance clubs from the Primary Schools and Secondary schools exhibit their dances to a very large audience. This is the second time that Madras have been represented and once again they impressed all in the hall with their performance.

## NETBALL



S2 girls netball team competed in the Fife tournament and gave a very good account of themselves despite an unfavourable draw and a long day's play. Next up for a tournament are the S1s who are scheduled to play in April.

## TENNIS

In February Mr Darge took his squad of boys to St Mungo's Academy to play in the Scottish tournament. The result was close but ended in Madras's favour with Peter McKay and Greg Proctor winning their singles matches and the Dritschel twins, Cameron and Gregory, providing assistance in the doubles games. Next up...?

## HOCKEY

The weather has played havoc with the Hockey girls this year with two matches cancelled due to the weather. In addition a trip to Glasgow to meet and greet the Scottish International team who were to play Ireland was lost to the Beast from the East, depriving 30 pupils of this great opportunity.



The S1 girls fielded a team in the Fife Schools Tournament at St Lennox's and despite the help from ex-Madras staff Mrs Methven and Mrs Wallace they were unable to make a top three position.

## SPEEDWAY

The Madras Cycle Speedway squad continue to set the standards in Fife with another emphatic win in Glenrothes in February. The 'B' Squad had a hard fought, almost internal battle with S3 Scott Burnett riding the best races of his life to equal 1st Position with another Madras rider, Victor Hill. Rory Thiel completed the Podium in 3rd, shutting out the Glenrothes and Queen Anne riders from top honours.



In the 'A' Finals Madras scored an impressive 54 points, finishing 18 above Queen Anne and 28 ahead of Glenrothes. The Fife Cup is all but secured before the final round in April at the Queen Anne outdoor track. Traditionally Madras have fared poorly on this special track so the top squad of Lewis Alsop, Vasili Hill, Jamie Penny and emerging talent Harris Alsop will be hoping to rectify this position. Vasili Hill took the maximum points with 4 wins out of 4, with Lewis Alsop just two points behind in the standings.

# Sports News

## Disability Sports Fife 7-a-side football league

Madras entered a team into the junior and senior sections of the competition again this year.

Each team represented Madras in both rounds of fixtures at Kirkcaldy High School in the 7-a-side football league for ASN pupils. Madras competed well in all of their matches, playing against Balwearie, Lochgelly, Woodmill and Queen Anne High Schools and Levenmouth Academy.



Last year the junior team finished runners up. However this year, the senior team went one step further, winning the competition and being crowned regional champions. The team were undefeated, winning four matches and drawing the other two.



Special mention must go to Josh Gibson from Madras; he was joint top goal scorer – bagging six goals in total.

As a result of this victory; the team have automatically qualified to represent Fife in the Scottish Disability Sports National 7-a-side football in Glasgow later this year.

Well done to all players for their achievements so far.

## Sport Relief

A huge congratulations to all those involved in our Sport Relief 2018 campaign. Through various activities throughout the week we have been able to raise a whopping £684.24.

Our donations will be going to help some excellent causes through Sport Relief including providing pharmaceutical aid for expectant families in Africa and supporting many mental health charities here in the UK.

A huge thanks goes to all staff involved in what was a fun and exciting week at Madras College. Without your support projects and fundraisers like Sport Relief couldn't go ahead.

Finally, a thanks to all pupils and parents who donated throughout our 2018 campaign.

## Dates for Your Diary

### **SCHOOL HOLIDAYS**

*(all dates inclusive)*

Friday 30 March  
to Friday 13 April 2018

Monday 7 May 2018

Monday 4 June 2018

Monday 2 July  
to Friday 10 August 2018

### **INSERVICE**

Tuesday 5 June 2018

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