



Easter Newsletter

Madras College Newsletter

April 2019

Rector's Message

Since Christmas the senior school has primarily focused on supporting our pupils with SQA internal assessments, subject prelims and assessments and a few subject external SQA assessments. The changes to SQA exams and internal arrangements have caused significant extra challenges to all our stakeholders and as we approach the Easter break I am sure that everyone is breathing a sigh of relief that we have managed to get to the break with everything we need to do in this area, now done. The process was made even more difficult as a result of staff absences in both the teaching staff and in the Admin staff, something which is always unavoidable but in these times of financial constraint where we have no extra contingency cover something which takes us close to breaking point. The fact that all staff and pupils have worked so well and so hard to complete all that is now asked of us is something which, for me, embodies the spirit of learning which Madras College excels in.

In junior school the staff and pupils have also worked very hard trying to make sure all pupils have made very good progress in their broad general education with special emphasis on supporting the course choice process, which is of course seen as a crucial part of all pupils' progression.

A new measure of attainment called the Broad General Education Benchmark Toolkit was launched this year by the Scottish Government, and I am delighted to report that the Madras College attainment data is outstanding showing that we have overtaken or been in line with our Scottish school comparators in all elements measured (Numeracy and Literacy).

This term saw a few special government visits to madras. In January we were selected to be inspected on a themed inspection of Mathematics and Numeracy. This type of inspection is a one day inspection and receives verbal feedback and a written note in the report on the Scottish wide information (due to be published around September time). In the verbal feedback we were given the inspectors said:

"Madras attainment in N5 Numeracy and N5 Maths is in line or above the Virtual Comparators (and has shown this for the past 3 years) where before it had been below or significantly below – so you have been doing something which has changed this attainment and we (the inspectors) feel we have seen the work in the school which has contributed to this improvement."

In February we received a visit from Mr Graham Dey, the minister for parliamentary business and Armed Forces Veterans. During the course of this visit Mr Dey met and spoke with a staff focus group and a pupil focus to gauge the challenges which children of Armed Forces Families can experience and how the school supports those young people. In February we also were given sight of the publication relating to Madras College (although it will be anonymised) of the outcome of the visit from the government commissioned case study team reporting on *Attainment Fund delivery and impact* – which for us was our investment of PEF money and its impact and delivery across the school. The case study team said: *"As a result of this the school has seen a positive impact for the targeted pupils, and across the school more broadly in the overall improvement in the school's culture of learning and attainment. The largest impact appears in Numeracy where interventions have helped to close the gap in this attainment. There has also been substantial impact on the confidence and self-esteem of targeted pupils. This is seen as a crucial element in enabling improved attainment, reflecting the fundamental importance of building pupils' willingness and capacity to engage with the curriculum. There has been a positive impact for attendance of the targeted groups and a reduction in exclusions since the development of targeted interventions by the school. PEF support has also contributed to more leadership opportunities for staff the*

Contents

Rectors message.....	1
Musical Notes.....	2
Disneyland Paris.....	3
English Department News.....	4
Physics Department News.....	5
Modern Languages News.....	6
DAS News.....	7
Sports News.....	8
Active sports/Key Dates.....	9



HAPPY EASTER!



Musical Notes



Fife Festival of Music

Over 200 Madras pupils and staff participated in the 2019 music festival. As always, the pupils rose to the occasion and gave some outstanding solo and group performances. The music staff were extremely proud of all the pupils who participated.

Competitive Solo Classes

- * Fin McGhie S4 won the Open Woodwind class and performed in the Young Musician final.
- * Katie Grieve S6 won the Open String class and performed in the Young Musician final. Katie's sister Isobel accompanied her.
- * Eilidh McGhee S6 won the Open Clarsach class and performed in the Young Musician final.
- * Maisie Dury S4 won the 15 & under Scots Songs class and the 18 & under Musicals class

Group Classes

- * The Clarsach Group, Senior Girls' Choir, Senior Mixed Choir and Senior String Orchestra received a Platinum award.
- * The Junior Choir and Wind Band received a Gold award.
- * The Senior Folk Group received a Silver award.

Non-Competitive Group Classes

- * The Junior String Orchestra, Instrumental Ensemble and Guitar Group played extremely well in the non competitive class.
- * The Staff Choir performed in community choral class and gave a brilliant performance to a packed auditorium.

Music Exam Success

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

- S1 Magnus Allen was awarded a merit for his Grade 3 Trumpet exam.
- S1 Abel Cotnoir was awarded a distinction for his Grade 2 Viola exam.
- S1 Emma Oliver was awarded a distinction for her Grade 3 Violin exam.
- S1 Abel Cotnoir was awarded a distinction for his Grade 1 Piano exam.
- S1 Aimee McClymont was awarded a merit for her Grade 2 Violin exam.
- S1 Euan Russell was awarded a merit for her Grade 2 Violin exam.
- S2 Zander Laesecke was awarded a merit for his Grade 4 Violin exam.
- S2 Daniel O'Riordan was awarded a distinction for his Grade 3 Cello exam.
- S2 Katie Kerr was awarded a merit for her Grade 3 Cello exam.
- S3 Eric Hao was awarded a merit for his Grade 4 Cello exam.
- S3 Joelle Millar was awarded a distinction for her Grade 3 Piano exam.
- S3 Joelle Millar was awarded a merit for her Grade 4 Violin exam.
- S3 Erin Kingsley was awarded a distinction for her Grade 4 Trumpet exam.
- S3 Luisa Miller was awarded a merit for her Grade 4 Violin exam.
- S3 Amy Thompson was awarded a distinction for her Grade 1
- S3 Zoe Kennovin was awarded a merit for her Grade 4 Trumpet exam.
- S3 Grace Tennant was awarded a merit for her Grade 4 Violin exam
- S£ Joanne Mackie was awarded a merit for her Grade 4 Cello exam
- S4 Kaitlyn Mann was awarded a pass for her Grade 5 Violin exam
- S5 Natalie Rengger was awarded a pass for her Grade 6 Violin exam.
- S6 Eugene Ritchie was awarded a pass for his Grade 8 Singing exam.

Fife Burns Competition



The annual Fife Burns Competition took place on Saturday 16th March at Waid Academy. The Madras team did extremely well and all the pupils involved gave excellent performances.

S1/2 Instrumental

- 1st place – Niamh Day
- 3rd place – Isla Hedley

S3/4 Instrumental

- 1st place – Holly Bartlett
- 3rd place – Zoe Mitcham

S1/2 Singing

- 3rd place – Nadirah Dawood

S3/4 Singing

- 2nd place – Cailan Duane

S5/6 Singing

- 2nd place – Ben Smart
- 3rd place – Natalie Rengger

Some of the winners represented Fife in the Robert Burns World Federation National Schools Festival and Holly Bartlett was awarded 3rd place in the S3/4 Instrumental competition.

development of leadership capacity. There has also been an overall improvement in the learning environment and "feel" of the school".

As well as all of the above going on this term the school has tried to maintain its balance of opportunity for pupils to offer a full range of wider experiences such as the Ohio exchange, the BBC Any Questions evening and Red nose day charity activities, to name but a very small number of things open to our pupils.

There is no doubt in my mind that as we strive to maintain the high standards of attainment and to offer the continued wide range of achievement/experiences opportunities which our young people deserve, it is becoming ever harder to do this. But we are of the mind that this is a challenge well worth tackling.

Finally I would remind all S4/5/6 pupils that Easter school is once again available (a programme of study opportunity should be on our website) and I would take this opportunity to thank all of you for your continued support and to wish you all a very enjoyable Easter break.

Yours sincerely

David P. McClure.

Disneyland Paris 2019

A group of 30 pupils and 3 staff went to Disneyland in February - we stayed in the Explorers Hotel which once again was excellent, some pupils made use of the swimming pool and various other games areas that they have.

The weather was super and a great time was had by all despite a 3 hour delay at the airport on our return. The Explorers' Manager once again mentioned how well behaved and polite Madras pupils were. We hope to run the trip again.



Musical Notes



Continued

Madras Pipe Band

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

The band successfully competed in the Scottish Schools Pipe Band Championships on 10th March at Livingston. The teachers and supporters who went along to support were very proud of their performance.

A big thank you to Miles McClure S5, Angus Kennovin S6, Dougie Kennovin S6, Cade Tough S5, Louise Lumsden S6, Cameron Dalrymple S5, George Turnbull S2, Eric Hao S3, Gregor Angus S5 and Rory Angus S6, JJ Cunningham S3, Joelle Millar S3, Zoe Kennovin S3 who performed at a variety of local events including St Andrews nursery, bag packing at Morrisons, Tayport PS and Canongate PS.

Composing Project with Kirkcaldy Orchestral Society

Last year Isobel Grieve S6 worked with composer and orchestra member John Gourlay on the KOS Schools Composition Project, producing a wonderful piece for string trio called *Natural Selection*. Following this

success, Isobel was invited to write a piece for full orchestra. John Gourlay said, "We were very impressed by the maturity of her writing and, knowing that Isobel has aspirations as a composer, we had no hesitation in giving her free rein to write a larger scale piece." Over the course of the year Isobel has worked on a new piece for the orchestra. "Composing *Paragon of Vice*," Isobel says, "it was a steep learning curve and proved a big challenge." This impressive piece was premiered at The Waid Academy Friday 22 March and Kirkcaldy Old Kirk on Sunday 24 March to a packed audience.

National Youth Choir of Scotland
Congratulations to Maisie Dury S3 for being selected for the NYCOS. Maisie takes up her place at the residential course this Easter.

Madras 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 appreciate 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 this Easter. The Concert Band and Sinfonia concert will take place at the Lochgelly Centre on Wednesday the 24th of April

Inter-School Young Musician Competition Success

This year Madras hosted the Inter-school Young Musician competition. Congratulation to Joseph Mackie who was the runner up.

St Andrews Community Hospital
Mrs Nisbet and a group of S2 and S3 singers went along to the community hospital on Tuesday the 2nd April and performed for patients and staff. The pupils gave an hour long performance to a very appreciative audience.

English Department News

Fife Literacy Quiz

Two teams of pupils from S1 and S2 travelled to Waid Academy to represent Madras in the Fife Literary Quiz.

This trip was part of the department's initiative, aiming to promote a positive reading culture within the junior school. One of our teams managed to secure second place in the competition.



Congratulations to Andrew, Abel, Robert and Joseph for narrowly missing out on the trophy. Congratulations are also due to Safia, Mary-Ella, Nadirah and Florence for their participation.

Poet Visit

This term, the English department welcomed poet Ken Cockburn.

Ken ran a workshop with classes focusing on the creation of poetry to do with Birds. After an engaging lesson, pupils displayed their work using bird feeders!



These were then displayed at the Byre Theatre as part of the StAnza poetry festival.



Debating

Debating continues to meet weekly on a Wednesday in P6. The club is pupil driven and the choices for debate this term have included allowing ISIS brides and soldiers to return to their homeland and abolishing the monarchy.

In January, Lawrence Brown and Flynn Duane competed in the second round of **The Law Society's Donald Dewar Debating Tournament** opposing the motion **"This house would abolish the national minimum wage"**. They were unsuccessful in continuing onto the regional final but gave strong and passionate arguments in support of the existence and role of the national minimum wage.

Additionally, Louis Brown and Lewis Thompson entered the Procurator Fiscal's **Public Speaking Competition** on the topic **"School uniform should be compulsory for all pupils."** Both boys gave strong arguments in favour of retaining school uniform and, being unsuccessful on this occasion, were given plenty of advice from the judges on how to improve their questioning skills.

To end the term we invited St Leonards to debate the topic **"This House would end the space race"** which included an end to all space exploration and any attempts to colonise other planets. A lively debate was held with strong arguments in support of the benefits of space exploration and on the need to focus on the challenges faced on earth without assuming that additional planets are **available to all seven billion of the earth's inhabitants.**

Next term the club switches to Kilrymont and all S1-3 pupils are invited to join us for lively discussion and to acquire new skills and confidence in public speaking.



In order to recognise positive achievement and success, the English department have created new social media pages. We are now on Instagram and Twitter. You can find us @MadrasEnglish. This is linked to our reading initiatives aiming to enhance the reading culture within the school.

Physics Department Update

Ceres Holographics Visit

Recently the AH physics pupils visited the offices and workshops of Ceres Holographics.

After a short presentation of the company's work in their new offices in town, the pupils were shown and amazed by the company's award winning 'normal' holograms'. They also had a chance to sit in the demonstration of the company's current main development of 'heads up display' for car windscreens.

The company is working with many major car manufacturers and it is planned that within 5-10 years these displays will be in most cars. It would also mean that passengers could watch films on the windscreen and satellite navigation instructions would be displayed on windscreens in 'augmented reality'.



After this pupils travelled to the manufacturing unit in the New Technology Centre in North Haugh to see how the holographic films for the windscreen are produced. Look at the mesmerising machine in the picture! It is hoped that some closer links with the company may lead to collaborative work for senior pupils in the near future

British Physics Olympiad

Recently some S4 and S5 pupils studying physics have taken part in the GCSE and AS level Physics Challenges set by the British Physics Olympiad scheme, organised by Oxford University.

These very challenging papers are made even more difficult as they are based on the English curriculum.

In the GCSE challenge, Tim Edwards achieved a Silver Award, Alisa O'Riordan and Rory Thiel got Bronze with Patricia O'Riordan, Fin McGhie, Eilidh Harper and Dugald MacFarlane getting commendations.

In the AS level challenge Robert Williamson got Bronze with Lachlan Brennan, Joseph Mackie and Daniel Dykes getting commendations.

The awards are based on % of presentations and some schools have clubs that practice all year for the papers, so our pupils' performance is very pleasing.

Science Roadshow

In Feb St Andrews University again visited the Kilrymont Road Building to present a Science Roadshow to all S1.

The aim was to improve the number of pupils taking 2 or more sciences in S2 and 3. This now annual event is well received and as always the liquid nitrogen/ super magnets and angular momentum demos were the favourites.

Many thanks to Prof Ian Bonnell and his helpers from the Astrophysics Dept for doing this.

Girls into Physics and Engineering' Day

In Jan, 15 S3 girls travelled to Broughty Ferry for this day run by the Institute of Physics.

There were many workshops giving the girls hands on experience and problem solving tasks. These included Tower building by Institute of Civil Engineers, Rocket building by Edinburgh University, building to design by RAF and pattern building by Fife College.

Last year's visit did encourage more girls to take up physics and engineering, hopefully this years will as well.

Modern Languages News

Business Brunch Event

In January eleven S4 Modern Languages pupils joined schools across Tayside to engage with local businesses at the University of Dundee. Over 100 young learners heard from a range of business leaders who view language skills as key to the growth and success of their company. The Business Brunch demonstrated the relevance of languages in a work context and aimed to encourage pupils to continue with their language studies into the senior phase of their secondary education, and beyond school.

Speakers included Senior Staff from companies including Dover Fuelling Solutions, Michelin Tyre PLC, Outplay Entertainment, Scottish Dance Theatre and Scottish Engineering. There was also an opportunity for pupils to speak with representatives from



businesses and organisations in the Marketplace such as: Al-Maktoum College, Glamis Castle, Royal Air Force, Royal Navy / Royal Marines, The British Army, The Open University in Scotland, The Royal Zoological Society of Scotland and the University of Dundee.

One of the pupils commented: "I didn't know how helpful it was to know a second language. I learnt today how different businesses use languages and why it is beneficial to learn a language at school."

Paul Sheerin from Scottish Engineering commented: "This was a great opportunity for Scottish Engineering to press the importance of languages to our future workforce. Our business tends towards international operations, and we will increase our competitiveness as a trading nation with people who, through language learning, understand how to communicate and connect with people around the world."



The event was organised by SCILT, Scotland's National Centre for Languages based at University of Strathclyde, in partnership with the University Council for Modern Languages Scotland (UCMLS).

SCHOOL EXCHANGES – France, Germany, Spain

It's been a busy term in the Modern Languages department preparing for the three exchanges taking place this year. In May twenty pupils we will be heading off to Loches, St Andrews' twin town in France. 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. In class pupils have been learning new language topics to prepare them for the trip, such as food, places in town and asking for directions.

Preparations are now well underway for the 62nd Kiel Exchange visit. S4 pupils who visited their exchange partners last year are looking forward to being reunited with their German partners here in June, while S3 pupils are getting very excited about meeting their partners for the first time before making the return trip to Kiel in June next year.

At the end of September a group of twenty S3 and S4 pupils will travel to our partner school, IES Camilo José Cela, in Madrid. The Spanish will spend a week with us at the end of October.

SURPRISE FRENCH VISITOR

S1 and S4 pupils were surprised in February when French footballer Will Edjenguélé from Paris joined their French classes.

Will is signed to Dundee United but is currently on loan to Falkirk. He answered questions put to him in French by pupils and spoke of his time at one of the French football academies before going on to play in France, England (for Coventry City and Bury) and, most notably, for top Greek team Panetolikos. Will was happy to help Miss MacEachen's S4 class with their speaking practice and said that he was most impressed by their French.



DAS News

DSF 7 a-side football league

Madras entered a team into the junior and senior section of the competition again this year (joint teams with Bell Baxter). Each team represented Madras in all three 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, coming up against the likes of Balwearie, Levenmouth, Lochgelly, Queen Anne and Woodmill.

The junior team finished runners up. The senior team (reigning champions) managed to retain the title and were crowned regional champions once more. The

team were undefeated, winning seven matches and drawing the other one. Special mention must go to **Josh Gibson**; he was awarded the trophy for player of the tournament.



Good team performances and well done to all players involved!

Fife Swimming Championships

Madras entered the Fife Swimming Championships competition at the Michael Woods Sports Centre on 1st March 2019.



The Juniors and Seniors were outstanding in their efforts and between them won over twenty five medals including winning both the Boys and Girls Relay.

A valiant effort by all who took part.

Well done Madras

2019 Swimming Champions

Kilrymont Road

S1 Boys – Connor Brierley B
S1 Girls – Tilly Whittet C

S2 Boys – Charlie Gillespie B
S2 Girls – Ruby Methven P

S3 Boys – N/S
S3 Girls – Anna Hedley P



Junior Boys – Charlie Gillespie B
Junior Girls – Anna Hedley P

Senior Boys – Cameron McMaster B
Senior Girls – Rebecca Spalding B

SPORTS NEWS

Senior Basketball

Captain Charlie Mercer lead the squad of 10 Senior pupils in the Fife Schools Annual Senior Boys Basketball Tournament, held at the Michael Woods Sports Centre, Glenrothes on Wednesday 6th March.

The players started off their pool games against the eventual winners, Inverkeithing HS but they made a decent game of it in the re-scheduled match with little warm-up time. Next up was a much better team performance racking up a reasonable score against Beath HS. The final pool game finished 23-21 to Madras in a tense game which gave the boys a runners-up spot in Pool 1 meaning they were drawn against holders Queen Anne. Most of the competition play regular league basketball (and club basketball) so it was to their credit that our **players kept this game close but couldn't pull off the win. Fair play by involving all the subs saw the team narrowly lose to Woodmill to finish a very respectable fourth.** The following week a return match against St.Leonards at the University complex saw another tight and exciting game which Madras lost 36-31.

The season finished with a friendly fixture against Waid Academy on Wednesday 20th March as both teams were keen to play each other in the Fife tournament but due to the draw they were kept apart. Three late call-offs but two last minute replacements meant only six players attended but fortunately their reliability matched their playing ability and they ran out comfortable winners at 64 points to 38.



Cycle Speedway

Madras riders were once again in the vanguard of success in the Fife/Tayside Inter-School Cycle Speedway Competition held over three venues. This year was the first to have an individual champion for Seniors, Juniors and Girls.

The series got off to the best possible start in St.Andrews in January where all three categories were held by Madras riders. Victor Hill (S5) as Senior Boy, Logan Williams (S1) as Junior Boy and Amy Young (S1) as Girls Champion elect.

A first experience of the Braeview Academy track on an extremely slippy games hall floor saw a change to Harris Alsop (S4) in the Senior and joint lead for Amy with the home girl Amy Stewart. Logan continued to dominate the Junior ranks.

The final event was held at the Queen Anne outdoor track on a very cold and windy March Monday. Unfortunately our Amy was unable to race due to an on-the-day injury which left her co-leader a clear run to the trophy although a special mention should be made for Casey Hutchison (S1) who finished second overall with some strong and consistent riding over the three legs. It was extremely close between Victor and Harris and the local Queen Anne rider but Harris prevailed with intelligent riding to secure the trophy. Logan underlined his dominance by completing a full set of wins over the three rounds!

Next up is the Team races for the Fife and Scottish Cups held in June which will be very interesting and competitive. Huge thanks to all 14 riders who travelled and raced and to the many other pupils who attend the training sessions. A special mention goes out to Kyla Logan (S1) who just learned to ride a Speedway bike (no brakes and no gears!) in October



and was competing fully by January.

S2 Football

The under 14 team finished their league campaign with two home ties played this term. Probably their best result of the season was holding Woodmill to a 4-4 draw and the final match resulted in a 3-2 defeat to Dunfermilne HS.



Equestrian Team

This year the team has been busy, with pupils representing Madras in the Kilgraston School Hunter Trials, Strathallan Schools Team Show jumping and the Scottish Schools Equestrian Championships.

A team made up of Teigan Cameron (S2), Poppy Aspin (S2), Rebecca Gatherum (S2) and Amy Gowans (S4) placed 4th as a team at the Scottish Schools Championships held at Howe Equestrian Centre on the 3rd of March.

Anyone interested in representing the school in future should see Miss Ogilvy."

ACTIVE SCHOOLS NEWS

P7 Transition Events

PE and Active Schools have been working in partnership to deliver Primary 7 transition events throughout March. All cluster schools attended as pupils either attended a football or hockey event. The aim of the events were to support the pupils with their transition from Primary School to Secondary School, promote the sporting opportunities provided at Madras and enable the pupils to meet staff, senior pupils and fellow Primary 7 pupils.



The football event was delivered by six sports leaders and the hockey event lead by fifteen S3 girls who form part of the after school hockey programme. The hockey deliverers had previously attended a six hour 'Hockey Leaders' Course delivered by Scottish Hockey in preparation for delivery of this event. Support for the football event was excellently provided by local community club AM Soccer.



Early feedback provided by the Primary Schools was very complimentary with positive feedback being provided about the opportunities throughout the event for the Primary 7 pupils to mix, the delivery skills shown by our young leaders and the organisation and structure of the day.

Well done to all of our pupils involved!



P7 Girls Transition Programme

Active Schools have been working in partnership with Community Learning Development to deliver a four week girls transition programme aimed at current Primary 7 pupils.

Pupils from cluster schools Canongate PS, Lawhead PS, Leuchars PS and Strathkinnes PS attended.

Two S3 pupils, Katie McKay and Charlotte Travers, delivered netball and hockey sessions to promote S1 sporting extra curricular opportunities. The girls had previously been on Active Schools Competition Organisers Training which had helped provide ideas for this four week programme.

Dates for Your Diary

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS
(all dates inclusive)

Friday 5 April
to Friday 19 April 2019

Monday 6 May 2019

Monday 3 June 2019

Monday 1 July
to Monday 20 August 2019

Contact Us

SOUTH STREET

St Andrews, KY16 9EJ

Telephone (01334) 659402

KILRYMONT ROAD

St Andrews, KY16 8DE

Telephone (01334) 659401

E-MAIL

madrascollege.enquiries@fife.gov.uk

WEB-SITE

www.madras.fife.sch.uk