



Summer Newsletter

Madras College Newsletter

June 2022

Rector's Message

Dear Parent/Carer

As we put the final touches to the summer newsletter, it's hard to believe that we're in the closing days of session 2021/22 after such an eventful and packed year. It feels like only a short while ago we were welcoming learners into our new building for first time, whilst dealing with Covid-19 mitigations that have been such a prominent feature in all our lives of late.

Looking through the submissions from faculties for this summer newsletter, it's clear that there's been a great deal of exciting activity beyond the classroom and I look forward to seeing this develop further for next session as we open up further activities and experiences to all learners that provide such rich opportunities for learning and development. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our school staff for all the hard work that sits behind each of these wider achievement activities.



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On Friday 17th June, the school held it's (delayed) official opening ceremony, welcoming invited guests and officials into Madras College. Councilor Cara Hilton, Education Spokesperson, officially opened the school building. Performances from S1-6 were fantastic, demonstrating creativity, confidence and skill that is so representative of our community. In the same week, we held our Summer Concert and welcomed P7 parents into school for a transition evening. Again, it was fantastic to see the building in use for extra-curricular events and we look forward to welcoming you to many more events going forward.

The first diet of SQA examinations concluded at the end of May and we eagerly await the release of SQA examinations on Tuesday 9th August. Learners can still sign up for [MySQA](#) to receive their exam results via email and text message. If you have any queries following the issue of results, our school office will be able to collate queries or requests for an appointment. Guidance staff will address the bulk of these over the afternoon of each Inservice day, prior to the first day of term.

School uniform has been a clear focus over the past year and I write to ask for your support in ensuring that in August, all learners come to school dressed in school uniform, including black shoes and a blazer where possible. For a link to the school uniform code, please click [here](#). The purchase of school uniform is less expensive than branded clothing and I am keen that we work together to set a high standard from the outset. If you would like to discuss financial support for school uniform, please contact the main school office in confidence for further advice. In response to feedback from learners and families, the school has recently completed a structural review of the Guidance Team structure to ensure that we provide all learners with a consistent guidance teacher from S1-6. Importantly, over time, this means that we will be able to ensure that siblings are linked to the same guidance house and member of staff, strengthening school ethos, family links and a sense of belonging. As part of this review, we have invested in additional non-teaching staffing within the pastoral team, to provide more capacity in this key area of the school.

We will begin to make this move in August and further information will be sent directly to you, with the details of your child's guidance teacher. Excitingly, we have re-instated a fourth guidance 'house' and will open consultation to agree a name for the new house. I'll send out the link in the new term so please have your say! House assemblies will feature in the school

calendar and will provide opportunities for S1-6 to come together for key messages. We have also completed a review of our assessment and reporting activities and I'm grateful for the 300-plus pieces of feedback on parents' evenings and the format of school reports. As a result, we hope to improve the timing and quality of reporting from S1-6. Parents' evening will continue to be online, building on the successes of this year.

The school travel plan will be updated shortly and an area for development is parental drop-off/pick up. From August, I'd like to request that you no longer use the David Russell Apartments car park at the rear of the school and instead, try to ensure that all learners are encouraged to focus on sustainable travel options such as walking, cycling and public transport. If you have to drop off by car, please drop off and collect at a safe place some distance away from the school campus. I'd also like to remind you that, for the safety of all, drop off/pick up from within the school campus is not permitted, unless agreed in advance with the school. Exceptions include learners linked to the department of additional support and those requiring support with mobility. Thanks in advance for your support with this.

Finally, I'd like to take this chance to thank you for your support over the year and wish you a very happy and safe summer holiday. I look forward to welcoming everyone back in August for session 2022/2023.

As always, if you have any concerns or queries, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours



Ken Currie
Rector



As with the school, Community Use will be closing its doors for the summer holidays. Our last day will be Saturday 2nd July. We will reopen on Wednesday 17th August.

The Community Use Team would like to thank everyone for their patience in returning to the 'new normal' in the evenings. It has been sad to see some people not return. However, we have been able to welcome some new customers in from our waiting lists.

For a full list of what we already offer, please take a look here:

<https://sway.office.com/DnxndL8bMEs7lf0I>

A huge thank you to everyone who has responded to our recent questionnaire that was sent out through Madras College mail. The information already received has been extremely helpful and very exciting.

The current popular suggestions have shown that people are looking for a return of the classics - Discos, Netball, Yoga and Traditional Crafts to name but a few.

Our Team will be working hard over the summer to try and deliver as many of your ideas as we can. We want your local Community Use School to have something for everyone to get excited about in the evenings.

If you haven't had the chance, you can still let us know your thoughts here:

<https://forms.office.com/r/atiednEcpE>

CDT/DT News

Callaway Competition

Every time a Major Championship is held, Callaway design and make a limited addition bag for the players to use. S2/3 pupils took part in the competition to design the tour golf bag for the 150th Open. The designs were to reflect pupil experiences of going to school in St Andrews. The top ten designs, including five from Madras College, have been created in fibre glass to be part of the Big Bag Trail which launches on June 1st. The trail can be followed over the month of June, from the Harbour to West Sands, including an app to help find the bags and learn about the designs and local history. At the end of the trail the fibre glass bags will be auctioned to raise money for CHAS (Rachel House) and Scottish Sports Futures.

Being involved in this competition was a fantastic opportunity for young people to showcase their graphic design skills, working from a live/real life brief. The top five pupils have had opportunities to visit the St Andrews Links Trust, meet representatives from Callaway and work with local artists. This has developed their understanding of local partnership work and how to improve local tourism.

[To find more about The Big Bag Trail and the stories behind each bag design, visit the website.](#)

Download the trail

The free-to-download app, which gives golf enthusiasts and those looking for a walk around the historic town of St Andrews access to a bag-by-bag map via their mobile devices.

These can be downloaded from the app stores.



Industrial Cadets

Two groups of S2 pupils successfully completed the Bronze Industrial Cadets Project. This was an engineering project that developed teamwork and problem-solving skills by responding to a brief. The teams had to research, plan, test, model and evaluate solutions. One group designed a building for a chosen location, weather pattern or climate system - focusing on durability and sustainability. The second group explored technology of the past and present, to plan the technology of the future by designing a smart car that could filter water and create renewable energy in developing countries.

All pupils gained a Bronze Industrial Cadets Award, Bronze Crest Award and Level 4 Young STEM Leaders award.

Chemistry Department



Top of the Bench

Top of the Bench, the annual Secondary school Chemistry competition returned this year after its year long 'isolation' due to Coronavirus. The Madras College Top of the Bench Team not only won the Regional Final but also achieved the runner-up position in the National Final which took place on the 24th of March. They were up against 27 other battle-hardened Chemistry quiz teams. An outstanding achievement, well done people!

Here some of the team shared the positives that they had taken from their experience after winning the Regional Final:

"The things that I have enjoyed most about Top of the Bench are working with people to solve interesting problems, learning new skills and enhancing my current capabilities. What has struck me most since doing Top of the Bench is that I have more confidence in my own knowledge, and my teamwork and cooperation skills have improved."

"I feel like the competition has largely expanded my understanding of chemistry and science as a whole. It was great fun and I was overjoyed when I heard that our team had made it to the next round. I am excited for the final and hope it goes well. It was worth the time put in and I am very glad that I did it."

"Doing Top of the Bench has made me learn interesting facts about the subject and conduct some in depth research into it. Also, working collaboratively at chemistry problems has been a very good experience as it is something I have not done often before."



Team left to right

S3- Andrei Morrison, S3- Stuart Monks, S2- Fraser Scott-Hermiston, S4- Sarah Kouhy

Department of Additional Support

Old Course Work Placement

Over the past term, some of our DAS senior pupils have been provided with the opportunity to gain some work experience at The Old Course Hotel.

Our pupils were given a full tour – and were introduced to the different departments within the hospitality sector.

They started off working with the special events team – learning how to lay out tables. Next up, they worked with the housekeeping team within the health spa. Most recently they worked with the catering team.

Our pupils have embraced and enjoyed gaining some experience in a real work setting. This opportunity will recommence to some more of our DAS pupils in October.



Department of Additional Support

DAS Day Trip to Craigtoun Park

On the 9th of June the Madras DAS pupils enjoyed a full day at Craigtoun Park, where they were able to make use of the full range of facilities that were on offer.

Pupils (and staff!) had a fantastic day in the sun: train rides, play park, crazy putting, trampolines, zip-lines, pedalos, go-karts... you name it, they did it!

This was thanks to The St Andrews Rotary Club – who are very supportive of the department throughout the calendar year (including the much enjoyed trip to The Byre Theatre, for the Christmas pantomime).



Department of Additional Support

DSF Cross Country

Earlier this term the Madras DAS pupils headed for Beveridge Park, Kirkcaldy to compete in the DSF Cross Country Event. It was a hot, sunny day for the runners but they all managed to complete their events, whether it was 500m, 1km or 2km.

Each and every pupil was a credit to Madras, they all competed well and behaved exceptionally. Three of our pupils managed to finish in the medals (pictured bottom right). It was great to see our pupils out representing their school once again – the first time since Covid.

Well done to all involved!



Department of Additional Support

DSF Track & Field Championships

On the 2nd of June, the Madras DAS pupils travelled to Pitreavie Athletics Centre, Dunfermline to participate in the DSF Track & Field Championships.

It was a fruitful day to say the least, with a massive haul of medals returning with the athletes to St Andrews. In total, the team won twenty-seven (27) medals! Nineteen medals for individual events and eight medals for the team relays (boys won gold and girls won bronze in the 4x50m relays).

The pupils are obviously keen to go back and compete in this annual event next year. However, it would be fair to say that they have set the bar incredibly high and that this year will be a hard act to follow!



Department of Additional Support

DSF Track & Field Championships



Maths Department News



United Kingdom Mathematics Trust Challenges

This year we had almost 200 young people in total competing in the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust Challenges across the Junior (S1-S2), Intermediate (S3-S4) and Senior (S5-S6) papers.

The challenges encourage mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency in using mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems. They are designed to make students think, most are accessible to the majority of young people who participate, yet still challenge those with more experience.

It was a very successful year with our young people achieving 57 Bronze awards, 31 Silver awards and 20 Gold awards across the three levels. A special mention goes to the twelve young people who qualified for the Kangaroo papers which are the follow-on round to each of the challenges.

The Kangaroo papers are by invite only with several thousand young people across the United Kingdom at each level. The qualifiers were Andrew Armstrong, Reuben Holme (Senior Kangaroo qualifiers), Daniel Armstrong, Abel Cotnoir, Lucca Hartmann, Sarah Kouhy, Stuart Monks, Fraser Scott-Hermiston, Ash Simmons and Brodie Waterston (Intermediate Kangaroo qualifiers), Rodrigo Braunecker-Sicilia, Oisin Buckley-Zapf and Fraser Scott-Hermiston (Junior Kangaroo qualifiers). A particularly impressive performance by Fraser and Brodie who both qualified for the Intermediate Kangaroo as they were in S2 at the time!

Scottish Mathematical Challenge

The Scottish Mathematical Challenge is a problem solving competition for individual pupils in Scottish secondary schools and upper primary schools. It has been running since 1976 under the aegis of the Scottish Mathematical Council. The aim is to promote mathematics as a source of interest and pleasurable achievement.

Each year there are two rounds of problems for Secondary schools. 30 young people competed in the Scottish Mathematical Challenge with 15 of them receiving an award. There were 6 golds; Nadia Benssassi and Reuben Holme (both S5), Sarah Kouhy (S4), Lucy Lin (S3), Nadia Benssassi, Brodie Waterston (both S2) and Platon Nikolaev (S1). All gold and silver award winners received their certificates and coveted Scottish Maths Challenge mugs.

Mathématiques sans Frontières

Mathématiques sans Frontières is an annual international mathematics competition for senior schoolchildren, centrally run by the Académie de Strasbourg since 1989. This interclass competition involves a number of mathematical puzzles where one of the puzzles is posed, and must be answered, in a foreign language. Each class should work as a team to tackle the puzzles in the allotted time. This year two teams from Madras entered and the entry from the 'Divide and Conquer' team achieved fifth place in this National event, a fantastic achievement!

It is always an absolute joy to see so many of our young people participating in these events each year. Further information about all of the above challenges can be found <https://www.ukmt.org.uk/>, <http://www.wpr3.co.uk/MC/> and <https://www.uws.ac.uk/about-uws/a-21st-century-university/partnerships/math%C3%A9matiques-sans-fronti%C3%A8res/>

Maths Department News



Puzzle of the Week

PUZZLE OF THE WEEK

Madras College registered to take part in a free, international puzzle competition called Puzzle of the Week. It involved our young mathematicians showing off their problem-solving ability and compete against schools from over 50 different countries.

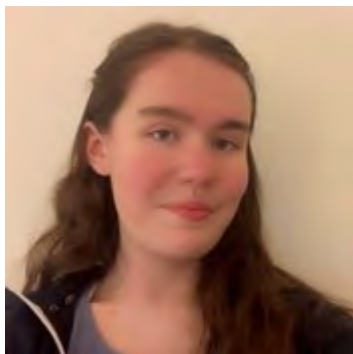
There were 16 puzzles this year, each published on a Monday with the first one going live on **14th February**. We encouraged all students, staff and parents to register and then participate each week. Every answer counts towards our position on the international leaderboards. Puzzle of the Week has now finished for this session but will be returning later in the year.

Well done to everyone who took part this year - Madras College finished 30th out of the 178 schools worldwide who took part.

Congratulations to Reuben Holme who got all 16 puzzles correct to finish in joint 1st place on the worldwide pupil leader board and top of the Madras leader board, and Mr Trewartha who topped the Madras staff leader board. Special mentions for Andrei Morrison, Stuart Monks, Xander Gray, Anton Morrison, Poppy Thomas, Oli Sanderson, Laura Mulderry, Mr Young and Mr Matheson who, although they didn't answer all 16 puzzles, managed to finish with 100% records for the puzzles they did attempt.

English Department News

Eleanor Gray (S5) was Highly Commended in this year's Scottish Schools' Young Writer of the Year competition for her piece entitled "A Portrait of Scotland".



Eleanor Gray
Madras College

Lyrical paper examining art and its impact on our lives.

Music Department News



Play Day

In May the Music Department hosted a very successful Transition Play Day. Fifty primary instrumentalists came along from ten of our feeder primary schools to Madras and spent the day playing in the Wind Band, the Junior String Orchestra and Piano Ensemble along with some of the Junior instrumental pupils. Every pupil also participated in a steel samba workshop. The day was rounded off by a final performance from each group to an appreciative audience of staff and pupils.

Return of Regional Music Activities

Congratulations to the many Madras pupils who have taken part in the Fife Youth Orchestra, Fife Concert Band, Fife Sinfonia, Tuesday night Wind Band/String Orchestra and Saturday morning Wind Band/String Orchestra. Many activities run throughout the year and provide the pupils with fantastic performing opportunities as well as meeting and playing alongside pupils from other Fife schools. Every ensemble group finishes their busy schedule with a concert.

More information to follow for next sessions schedule.

National Youth Orchestra

Congratulations to Daniel Armstrong S3 who was selected for the Junior Orchestra and Andrew Armstrong S5 who was selected for the Senior Orchestra. The boys enjoyed a residential weekend training camp with the final concert performance

St Andrews Burns Club - Piper of the Year

Congratulations to Eric Hao S6 who was awarded Piper of the Year 2022 by the St Andrews Burns Club. The trophy was presented by the new president Kyff Roberts.

Summer Concert

The return to live performances meant the Music department was able to host a Summer Concert which was held on Monday the 13th of June. It was wonderful to share the music making once again in the new assembly hall. The audience members were entertained with superb performances from a wide variety of groups including the Wind Band, Junior & Senior String Orchestra, Junior Choir, Senior Choir, Staff Choir, Folk Group, Junior Brass Group, Jazz group, Percussion Group, Pipe Band and Clarsach Group. Soloists included Katie McGhie S5 on piano, Ben Smart former pupil now studying voice at the Scottish Conservatoire, a cello duet played by Stuart Monks and Thomas.

Mrs Miller paid tribute to the many S6 pupils leaving and the contribution they had made to the extra-curricular music groups. A special presentation was made to Mrs Gibson, the piano teacher who is retiring at the end of the session.

The evening was rounded off with a vocal solo 'Time to Say Goodbye' sung by Maisie Dury S6 with choir backing. It was a fitting end to an excellent concert.

During the interval refreshments were served by pupils from the Rights Respecting Group supported by Mrs Duncan and Mr Robertson. All donations are going towards UNICEF's emergency appeal to support child refugees displaced by the war in Ukraine.



Madras College Pipe Band

The school pipe band has had a busy term performing at the Summer concert, P7 Open evening and the official opening of the new school. A special mention must go to Pipe Major George Turnbull for his solo performances at the opening ceremony and the S6 Ball.

If anyone is interested in receiving lessons on chanter, snare drum or tenor drum please see Mrs Miller in the music department. Lessons take place *after school*.

Music Exam Success

Well done to all pupils who sat instrumental exams this session. Results so far –

S5 Katie McGhie was awarded a Distinction for her Grade 6 Piano exam.

S6 Eric Hao S6 was awarded a Merit for his Grade 8 Piano exam.

S6 Maisie Dury was awarded a Distinction for her Grade 8 Singing exam.

S4 Lexi Paterson was awarded a Merit for her Grade 4 Drum Kit exam.

S3 Howard More was awarded a Merit for his Grade 6 Piano exam.

S5 Tara McGhie was awarded a Distinction for her Grade 4 Piano exam.

S3 Thomas Robertson was awarded a Pass for his Grade 5 Cello exam.

S2 Mollie Innes was awarded a Merit for her Grade 4 Cello exam.

S1 Lynn Januscke was awarded a Distinction for her Grade 3 Cello exam.

S3 Stuart Monks was awarded a Merit for his Grade 5 Cello exam.

S1 Jonah Thomson was awarded a Merit for his Grade 3 Piano exam.

S5 Zaara Nabi was awarded a Merit for his Grade 5 Piano exam.

S1 Lucy Franks was awarded a Distinction for her Grade 5 Violin exam.

S3 Daniel Armstrong was awarded a Merit for his Grade 8 Piano exam.

S3 Zimeng Chen was awarded a Merit for her Grade 4 Piano exam.



Social Subjects

There has been a number of staffing changes over the course of the last session. Mrs Ingledew retired after over 40 years of teaching at the school. Her passion for History has inspired many young people onto study History at University. She will be remembered fondly by staff and pupils across generations. I would like to thank Mrs Foy who has been teaching RME at the school and we wish her every success at her new post at Levenmouth Academy. Mr Johnston will also be leaving us to take up a post at Strathallan. Mr Johnson has inspired many young people at Madras through his history club.

As well as goodbyes the Faculty welcomes Michael Kopacz to his new post as teacher of History and Modern Studies at the school, he brings a wealth of experience. Finally I would like welcome back Mr Jones (History Classical Studies) and Mrs Rodger (Modern Studies Sociology)who return to the Faculty on a full-time basis.

It has been an eventful year in the Faculty I would like to thank Mrs Barbour for all her hard work as Acting PTC over the past year.

Highlights of the year included lighting up the school with messages for world leaders at COP26, UK Parliament week where we were able to link up with Wendy Chamberlain MP remotely. We have been running many clubs throughout the session, Mr Johnston's History club has become the stuff of legend with S1. Mr Clark continues to run a lunch time film club. The Right's Respecting school group raised £300 at the summer concert in order to support UNICEF's work with child refugees. The school has been awarded the Bronze Award and will work towards its silver and gold awards over the coming session.



Eco Announcement— We did it!

Madras College has been awarded a Green Flag Award by environmental charity Keep Scotland Beautiful in recognition of our Eco-Schools journey. To earn the Green Flag Award we have been following the seven elements of the programme to ensure that the whole school and wider community has been involved.

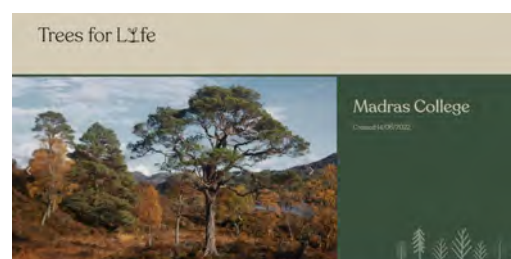
We have focused our work on litter, biodiversity and climate change and linked the Eco-Schools Scotland action plan to UN Sustainable Development Goal Life on Land. We have replanted beech hedges and planted a wildflower meadow

It's testament to the dedication and hard work of our eco Committee, janitorial staff and Mrs Barbour. I'd like to thank them all for all their daily efforts to ensure we were successful.

We've successfully held our first swap shop, raising £85 and to celebrate our success we have the beginnings of our own wee Madras College Grove through Trees for Life our trees will help to rewild the Caledonian Forest, a rich habitat found only in the Scottish Highlands.

It will be a sapling grown from locally collected seed and will be one of a number of species we plant such as Scots pine, willow, birch, rowan and bird cherry.

We as a school and Eco Group will continue to add additional trees to mitigate against climate change and if you wish to donate to our project you can do so through the following link [Madras College - Trees for Life](#).



Social Subjects

The Madras College Eco Group are participating in Dandelion 2022 [Home - Dandelion](#). There are thirty-six Fife schools in total who will be involved.

Tattie planting - Dandelion project

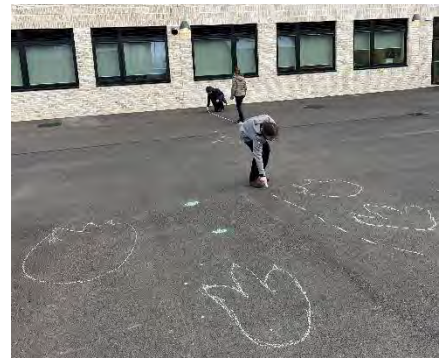
The group have a growing cube to explore the future of vertical farming through a series of growing experiments which will help to bridge the gap between the classroom and the real world.

In addition, Madras received numerous seed potatoes (3 different varieties) and a little compost. Mrs Barbour worked in partnership with parents and young people to help plant and grow the potatoes at home and in school, we look forward to hosting our harvest festival in September

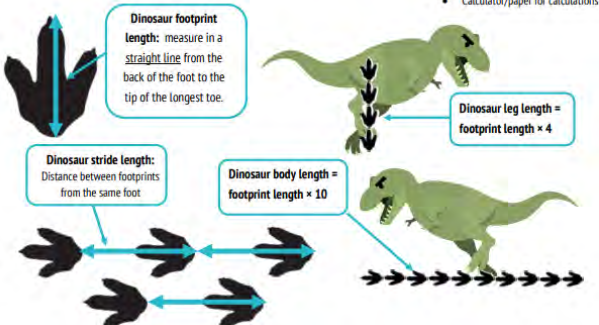


Rocks and Fossils

Mrs Barbour's enrichment class have been studying Rocks and Fossil as per the young people's choice. Throughout the term we've investigated rock types, how fossils are formed, geological time periods and the discovery, evolution and size of dinosaurs.



DINOSAUR BODY SIZE



The whole class (33) can fit into the footprint of a Brachiosaurus!

Sports Update

Cycle Speedway

Madras hosted the return friendly fixture against Queen Anne High School on the 21st of June with home advantage assisting the 6-man Madras team. At the away fixture, the boys rode the official outdoor track which sapped the legs and provided a tough challenge. However, the tight corners and tricky games hall floor surface suited our talented lads better and straight from the flag Thomas Roberston was off to winning ways. Thomas finished with 5 wins and his team of Danny Marszalek, Struan Trewartha, brothers Brodie and Fergus Waterston and Jonah Bell also provided several emphatic victories or high placings. The team competed enthusiastically and at times riskily but their 'never say it's over until the finish line' approach ensured close finishes and extra points were won contributing to a handsome 83pts to 63pts win.



Fife Track and Field Athletics

Madras sent a 31-person squad to the first Fife Schools track and field event since 2019 due to Covid. It was a great return to competitive regional sport where our pupils all performed well in the range of events entered. A final medal haul of 10 Golds, 5 Silver and 12 Bronze was a fitting return for their efforts. Performer of the day was S1 boy Lucas Gauld who won 3 Golds in the High Jump, Shot Put and 100m and rounded the day off with a Silver in the team 4x100m relay.

Sports Update

Sports Day

A new school and new shared facilities meant a rejigging of the annual Sports Day into a new format. Each junior year group were offered a heats day where many pupils participated to qualify for the Track Finals or to complete the Field events to a Final on that day.

The Track events were held on Thursday 23rd June at the University track where the 400m , 200m, 800m and 100m Finals took place. In excellent weather the races were all ran competitively providing many close finishes and outstanding performances. It was nice to see parents and competitors enjoying this event again and it is hoped that after this trial run an extended version can be run next year.

The year group Sports Champions - decided by highest placings in both track and field events - were:

S1 Girls - Nerys Harrison

S1 Boys - Lucas Gauld

S2 Girls - Ava Webster

S2 Boys - Cohen Hynd

S3 Girls - Annabelle Greig

S3 Boys - Alfie Long

Congratulations!!



Dates for Your Diary

TERM 1

Monday 15th August 2022 (Teachers)
Wednesday 17 August 2022 (Pupils)

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

(all dates inclusive)

Monday 10th - Friday 21st October

INSERVICE

Monday 15th August 2022
Tuesday 16th August 2022

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