



Christmas Newsletter

Madras College

December 2024



Rector's Message

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope that this newsletter finds you well as the Christmas Break approaches. This first half of the session has been packed full of many great events and experiences, many of which you can see and read about in the following pages.

I am delighted with the range of activities and growing number of young people who are signing up and getting involved in the wider activities that our school offer. I'd like to say thank for your efforts and energies in supporting our pupils to take part to the extent that I am now seeing across our school. I'd also like to recognise our staff team, who continually impress me with the range and number of activities that they offer to all our pupils.

Further to previous messages relating to school attendance, I'm pleased to say that improvements continue to take place with school attendance and our school-level attendance at time of writing is 90.44 %, up on 90.3% at the same time last session.

There's a great deal of evidence that links positive and sustained outcomes for pupils to high levels of school attendance and so I'm delighted with every improvement that we make. Please continue to encourage and support high levels of attendance at school and do all you can to reduce absences.

On the last day of this term, we hope to issue nearly 200 certificates of perfect attendance to pupils in the assembly hall. We'll also continue to recognise those pupils who have been able to make improvements in their attendance level. I hope to see almost all pupils in school on the last of term. Friday of this week where teachers will keep learning moving forward in classes.

Cont

Contents

Rectors Message	Pages 1-3
Wellbeing Supports/Japanese Exchange	Page 4
Drama Department News	Page 5
Computing Department News	Page 6
Enterprising Maths Challenge	Page 6
P.E. Department News	Pages 7-8
Home Economics News	Page 9
Religious and Moral Education News	Page 10
Music Department News	Page 11
More Music Department News	Page 12
D.A.S. News	Page 13
Madras D.Y.W. News	Page 14
Madras College Cricket Club	Page 15
Madras Debating Team	Page 15
Burns Competitions	Page 16
Scottish Schools U-16 Rugby Bowl	Page 16
StAnza Young Makars	Page 17
North East Fife Toy Drive 2024	Page 17
S5 Raising Attainment & Wellbeing Day	Page 18
Former Pupil Successes	Page 18
More Madras News	Page 19
Streetcar Named Desire theatre trip	Page 20
SQA News: 2025 Exam Diet	Page 20
P7 Transition Coffee Mornings	Page 20
Dates for Your Diary / Contact Us	Page 21

Rector's Message, continued.

Many of our S4 pupils sat their A/B assessments over November, as they move closer to sitting SQA exams in April/May 2025. The marking, feedback to pupils and S4 parents' evening took place on the 16th December, leaving term 3 for further study and improvement. Feedback from our invigilation team on the behaviour and application of our S4 cohort was superb throughout the assessment diet. Well done S4!

Please remember that Study Support will continue to be available to all S4-6 pupils across faculties and has been running throughout terms 1 and 2. Study Support provides an excellent opportunity for further advice and practice so please take some time to talk through what sessions should be attended in Term 3. The study support programme is highlighted weekly on the bulletin and is also available to view on the school website.

School assemblies over the first couple of weeks in January will focus once again on promoting thought and reflection on our agreed school values, highlighting opportunities for leadership and participation in school activities, revisiting our classroom expectations and highlighting all of the different ways that pupils can access additional support related to wellbeing or learning if required.

I'd like to take this chance to remind you about the commencement of a new bus service to the Taybridgehead area that has been arranged to support young people to stay on at the end of the school day. This service will run from 6th January 2025 until 4th July 2025 on a trial basis and will run from Madras College Stance 1 out to Wormit (terminating at Kilmany Road). A copy of the bus timetable is below for reference.

The bus service will be designated M17.

	Fri	Mon/ Wed	Tues/Thurs
	Sch	Sch	Sch
Depart Madras College (Stance 1)	1410	1600	1700
Guardbridge Innerbridge Street	1420	1610	1710
Leuchars Turning Circle	1425	1615	1715
Tayport Library	1438	1628	1728
Newport on Tay Post Office	1448	1638	1738
Wormit Riverside Road	1454	1644	1744
Kilmany Road	1456	1646	1746

I'd like to remind you from the start that this service will run as a commercial venture by Stagecoach. As a result, sufficient pupil numbers will be needed to ensure that it remains a commercially viable operation. If usage (demand) for this service is low, then it would be likely that this service would be withdrawn. Pupils should use their NEC card (with the travel element enabled) or pay for the service. Please be aware that the school cannot issue travel vouchers for use on this commercial service by Stagecoach as it is not a Fife Council or school service.

I'd hope that this news will be welcome and support pupils and families with travel arrangements for pupils to continue to take part in the wide range of extra-curricular activities that are such a strong feature of our school.

cont

Rector's Message, continued.

S5/6 prelim assessments begin 20th January through until 11th February. The S5/6 Prelim Timetable is available here and on the school website. A separate letter, detailing arrangements for the Prelim diet and a copy of the timetable will be sent to you shortly. Individual assessment arrangements will also follow early in January.

This newsletter provides a great opportunity for me to emphasise the importance of a strong start to January 2025 and ask for your help to ensure that standards of uniform remain high over the winter months. I'm asking for your support to ensure all pupils come dressed for school and wearing school uniform. I'd like all pupils to be clearly identifiable by uniform as a Madras College pupil.

We continue to operate a very successful school uniform exchange and as a result, there is a great deal of school uniform available to you, in very good condition, completely free of charge. This will be on display and available to browse on the evenings of the 15th and 16th January. You'll be able to pick up almost everything, from school blazers and winter coats to jumpers, shirts, blouses, trousers and skirts.

Uniform donations are greatly appreciated and can be placed into the uniform collection points in reception. There is also a drop off point for uniform at the Larick Centre in Tayport.

For reference, Madras school uniform consists of: School blazer, school tie, plain white or light blue shirt or blouse, plain black or dark blue or Madras College jumper/cardigan, plain black or dark blue trousers or skirt and dark shoes. For those pupils who are appointed as senior prefects the school blazer will display braid and school badge.

Items such as football tops, leisure wear and designer clothing (such as White Fox hoodies, for example) should not be worn to school - please keep expensive items (and any other Christmas gifts!) like these for out of school hours and help us to ensure that all pupils start the new school session 'dressed for work' and clearly identifiable as a Madras College pupil.

We can also offer a range of supports with regards school uniform and personal care items if required - please ask at the school office.

I hope that you the school updates useful and that you enjoy reading through the Christmas Newsletter. I hope that you are able to enjoy a well-deserved Christmas Break and I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year when it comes.

Thanks for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,



Mr K Currie
Rector

Wellbeing supports

Ensuring wellbeing of all of children and families is a priority and during any holiday period, I'm keen to ensure that while the school may be closed, you have access to further supports should you need them. Please see below for a range of links and resources that you can access at any point.

Foodbanks and Community Cafes in Fife - [Foodbanks and Community Cafés | Fife Council](#)
Fife Council Cost of Living Support - [Cost of Living Support \(fife.scot\)](#)

NHS Fife: Right care, right place - [Right Care Right Place | NHS Fife](#)

Fife Women's Aid - [Home - Fife Women's Aid \(fifewomensaid.org.uk\)](#)

Samaritans- [Samaritans | Every life lost to suicide is a tragedy | Here to listen](#)

Japanese Exchange

The Japanese Exchange is now open for applicants

It is an amazing and challenging experience.

In the past 2 boys a 2 girls are selected - if you are interested let Mr Darge know by 15th January

Brief Timeline - more info will be made available in February

- Interviews February.
- In S5 we host
- In S6 students travel to Japan and live with a Japanese Family experiencing the culture to the full!

Skills and qualities:

- Confidence
- Warmth - you get on with others
- Teamwork
- Resilience - dealing with being away from home
- Independence
- Ability to meet new people
- Adaptability - adapting to new surroundings
- Communication skills - ability to speak to an audience and communicate despite a language barrier
- Positive mindset - ability to see things as a challenge to overcome, not a barrier



Drama Department News

Byre Theatre Pantomime

All our S1 classes have been given the opportunity to visit the Byre Theatre to see this year's Pantomime 'Beauty and the Beast'. Four classes visited on 29th of November and the remaining five classes visited on Tuesday 3rd December. Our S1 pupils were a credit to the school on the journey and during the performance and all enjoyed the performances. We will be using this visit to support us to create our own short pantomime performances towards the end of term.

Panto Success

Well done to our pupils, **Erin R (S6)**, **George M (S6)**, **Sen D M (S6)**, **Elliot M-S (S6)**, **Emily W (S6)**, **Eleanor S (S4)**, **Maya S (S3)**, **Fergus W (S3)**, **Lily J (S2)**, **Emily G (S2)**, **Dylan M (S1)** and **Orelie D M(S1)** who have successfully gained a part in this year's Byre Theatre Panto of 'Beauty and the Beast'. After a round of tough auditions 12 pupils from Madras College were selected to perform alongside the adult cast. Our pupils will be performing in alternate casts throughout December. This is a fantastic achievement.



'UP' Theatre Visit

In September our AH Drama class went to see a performance of 'UP' by Visible Fictions at the Byre Theatre. The performance was created specifically for young people and used a form of theatre quite unique to Scotland called object theatre. Our pupils can use this performance to support Assignment and Dissertation work and particularly benefited from the post show discussion with the Director and Cast. The discussion allowed for our pupils to hear about the process of developing the performance and the inspiration behind using this form of theatre.

Madras Can Act

Earlier this term we had our first ever 'Madras Can Act' that showcased some of the talent we have in the Drama department from S4-S6. There were performances from 'Joker', 'Beetlejuice', 'Heathers', 'Blood Brothers', 'Importance of Being Earnest', 'Annie' and 'The Prince of Denmark'. Pupils performed at lunch time for junior pupils and staff and then again in the evening to a wider audience of friends, family and staff. The evening was hosted by **Jan T (S6)** and supported by helpers from S4 and the S6 creative committee.



'Echoes of Home' Film Premier

On Thursday 21st of November we held a special event in the school to celebrate the work of three of our S6 pupils. **Yves d C-I**, **Alastair A** and **Conor M** have written and directed a short film that was shown recently at Dundee Contemporary Arts. To mark this success there was a red-carpet film premier in the assembly hall so that the film could be shared with friends, family and staff. The evening ended with a Q&A session with the pupils, the director and sound producer of the film both of whom are professionals in the field of film making.



Computer Department News

Bebras Challenge



During the week beginning 4th November, National 5 and Higher pupils took part in the Bebras Computing Challenge. The Challenge introduces computational thinking to students. It is organized in over 60 countries and designed to get students all over the world excited about Computing. Each pupil answers questions that focus on computational and logical thinking.

Senior Group Top 3 Winners:

1. Fergus W (S4) 175 pts
2. Edwin P (S4) 154 pts
3. Leon R (S4) 129 pts

Elite Group Top 3 Winners:

1. Rodrigo B-S (S5) 200 pts
2. Lewis B (S5) 181 pts
2. Poppy T (S6) 181 pt

GCHQ Challenge

Wednesday 11th December saw National 5 and Higher pupils take part in the annual GCHQ Christmas Challenge.

The Christmas Challenge is a series of fiendish brainteasers and puzzles. It encourages pupils aged 11-18 to think laterally and work as a team, as well as showcasing some of the skills they might need to become a spy.

The winning team for the GCHQ Christmas Challenge was: **Andrei M, Stuart M and Lucy L (all S6)**. They had a winning time of 31mins and 28 seconds.



Enterprising Maths Challenge

Congratulations to all three of our teams who participated in the Scottish Enterprising Maths Challenge. The teams consisting of:

Team A: **Fergus W (S4), Anton M (S4), Amara S (S3) and Jacqueline Z (S3)**

Team B: **Platon N (S4), Leon R (S4), Keshika J (S3) and Ian C (S3)**

Team C: **Yuvraj S (S4), Edwin P (S4), William M (S3) and James H (S3)**

All participated in the Fife heat and performed extremely well. Team C finished in first place and the other two teams finished in the top 10! An absolutely fantastic achievement against the most talented young mathematicians from across the region.



The strong performance in the Fife heat meant that Yuvraj, Edwin, William and James qualified for the National final held at Glasgow Science Centre in November. Another strong performance seen the team finish inside the top twenty, a commendable achievement in a competition against the fifty-nine other teams that participated. The pupils also had the opportunity to discover the many wonderful interactive displays and exhibits at the Glasgow Science Centre as part of the day.

A special thank you to Miss Blundell and Mrs Lord from the Maths department who organise the Fife heat of the Scottish Enterprising Maths Challenge. An event that takes a great amount of time to organise and run. Further information about the Scottish Enterprising Maths Challenge can be found here:

<https://www.scottishmathematicalcouncil.org/wp1/enterprising-mathematics/>

P.E. Department News



Short Tennis Club

Short Tennis club is a new addition to the extra-curricular timetable. The club is a participation club which has attracted over 40

participants to this point. The club has been supported by both Mr Weir and students from the **Dundee and Angus College** who have helped coach the pupil's new skills.

Pupils also have the opportunity to play friendly matches against

others during each session. This club runs on a Wednesday lunchtime and is open to all pupils to join.



Strathallan Showjumping Competition

Madras was represented by a number of pupils in the Strathallan Showjumping Competition in November. All pupils, and their horses and ponies, did very well. Special mention to the following:

- **Rylee D (S2)** – 3rd 55-60cm (45 riders)
- **Rylee D (S2)** – 2nd 70-75cm (70 riders)
- **Lottie N (S2)** – 4th 70-75cm (70 riders)

Rylee and Lottie managed to place in both big and competitive classes.

Well done to everyone involved!



Madras Run Club

The run club is a brand-new club that Madras College started this year. The new club got off to a great start thanks to the dedication of pupils. Each week we run a 3-5km route around St. Andrews and hope to increase the distances as time goes on. Everyone is welcome to attend as it's a fantastic chance to meet new people, socialise and get some fitness in.



P.E. Department News



Active Schools

Active schools have been delighted to work alongside staff and volunteers to see the return of many of our favourite clubs as well as the addition of new clubs. It has been fantastic to see so many pupils show up each week and participate fully.

Our Young Ambassador team have been working hard this year to ensure that sport and physical activity at Madras is well advertised and represented. We have had a number of our Young Ambassador team support the delivery of our clubs and sessions as well as delivering sessions in local primary schools to support in increasing participation for all.

We look forward to expanding our offering in the new year and to opening applications for our S1-3 Leadership Academy.

Madison, Active Schools

Scottish Schools Road Race Championships

This year 22 pupils entered the Scottish Schools Athletics Association road race competition. The runners competed against hundreds of pupils across Scotland and it was a fantastic event and opportunity to compete nationally and represent Madras College. A massive well done to all the pupils who competed in this event, with a special mention to:

- **Harry R (S2)** who placed 2nd out of 109 competitors,
- **Fearne J (S2)** who placed 3rd out of 129 competitors,
- **Harriet R (S2)** who placed 8th out of 129 runners
- **Francesca J (S1)** who placed 9th out of 105 competitors.
- **S2 girls - Harriet R, Lottie N, Fearne J and Evie H** who were awarded 2nd team overall.

All pupils performed outstandingly and should be very proud of their achievements and participation.

Netball

The Senior Netball team deserves a huge congratulations for finishing third in the Fife Senior Netball tournament on Friday 13th December. Despite facing such fierce competition, the girls performed incredibly well throughout the day. Anna Easton was awarded 'best player' for the whole tournament.

With an 18-14 victory over Queen Anne High School and a 19-all draw against Woodmill, the senior team have had a fantastic start to their league games. After the holidays, the girls have one more game, and we're hoping they can build on their strong start so we can advance to the quarterfinals.



Home Economics News



Over the past two terms Home Economics have been busy developing practical skills with our young people and building the knowledge that underpins the subject area.

We are very lucky to be well supported in donations of autumn fruits and also fabrics from our school community allowing us to minimise waste both in food and textiles.

Apple Donations

We were delighted again this year to have over 1000 apples donated to the department and we used these across all junior and senior classes. We had apple upside down cake, apple kuchen, French apple tarts, apple crumble and apple cobbler, to name a few. We are so grateful for the support from our school community and make sure we put donations to good use

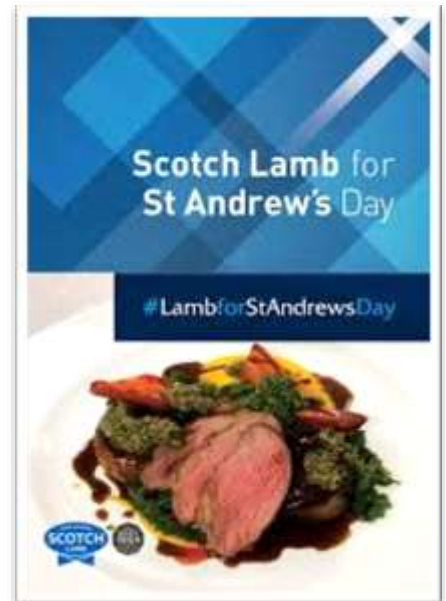


Lamb for St. Andrews Day

During November S3 pupils had the opportunity to try cooking with lamb. Quality Meat Scotland (QMS) and United Auctions (UA) are raising awareness of Scotch Quality Assured Lamb as a local and sustainable protein source.

As part of the campaign, QMS and UA have worked with local butchers and farmers across Scotland to create a lamb bank and donate lamb to schools. In 2021 30,000 pupils across Scotland were able to cook with lamb in school thanks to this initiative.

At Madras our S3 pupils made Lamb Nachos - delicious! **Hunters of Kinross** kindly sourced the lamb for our school.



Christmas Cooking

The last two weeks of term sees the Home Economics department embark on Christmas cooking and engagement has exceeded all expectations. S1 pupils have been making chocolate truffles, packaged in cellophane bags and ribbon as a lovely homemade gift. However, we are not sure how many of these are making it home! S2 have made chocolate crinkle cookies and S3 have been making these too, but going one step further to decorate them with sugar paste to make them look like festive puddings



Religious and Moral Education

Our Religious and Moral Education (RME) and Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies (RMPS) classes have been busy this. Find out more about their learning here...

Religious and Moral Education

This term our **S1** classes have completed their Belief Matters unit, thinking about big questions like what makes us who we are, what is the soul and what is the difference between a fact and a belief. We also looked at some Christian and Hindu beliefs and had class debates on whether God exists, with some classes also conducting a vote. We have now moved on to a unit learning about Buddhism, another of the world's main religions, which will be followed in turn by a unit on creation stories and other explanations for the origins of the universe.



S2 classes have now finished their racism unit, which concluded with pupils completing posters to display their learning. They have now moved on to a unit on Christianity, exploring the origins, beliefs, practices and ongoing relevance of Christianity today. This will be followed by a unit on Islam and beliefs and practices within it.

S3 classes have recently finished their ethics unit which focussed largely on advances in technology and the moral questions that arise from whether we should do something just because we can. They move on from this to a unit addressing gender stereotypes, sexism and other gender related issues before concluding the year with the topic of sectarianism.

This year **S4** have only come to RME in 6-week blocks, during which we have attempted to get as many pupils as possible through their Religion, Belief and Values Award as part of the Scottish Studies Unit. Next year with planned changes to the timetable we anticipate S4 having a period a week in RME throughout the whole year, which provides greater scope for the topics we can cover.

In terms of staffing, in addition to Mrs Matheson and Mr Webster, we are also delighted to have had Miss Dineen join our department for the year, working across RME, Modern Studies and Social Subjects. We are currently a growing department of 3 staff within the wider Social Subjects Faculty!

Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies

This year we are running separate **National 5** and **Higher RMPS** classes for the first time in several years, with pupils also studying **Advanced Higher RMPS** as well. We wish them every success in their assignments and exams later in the school year and would encourage them to take advantage of every opportunity for revision, feedback and study support to aid them in achieving their full potential.

Whether you are celebrating Christmas, or Hanukah, or are observing some other tradition or simply enjoying a break from school, we hope you have a lovely holiday, and pupils can come back refreshed and ready to continue their learning.



Music Department News

Talent Show

The charity talent show was held on Wednesday 23rd October. This year's line-up included solo acts, instrumental duets and a senior rock band. The evening was organised by Mrs Miller and hosted by **Freya H (S6)** and **Emily M (S6)** who were supported by **Max L (S6)**. Congratulations to **Marley B (S1) + Elijah A (S1)** who won the junior competition with a Telepathy act and **Rohan O (S6)** who won the senior competition with an electric guitar solo. The overall winner was **Luke F (S6)** who performed a piano solo.

Madras College Pipe Band

The pipe band has had a busy start to the session with performances at several community events. The Pipe Band were invited to perform for the **University Alumni Reunion** in September. The performance took place in St Marys quad and the Pipe Band entertained the guests with a large programme of pieces.

The unveiling of a statue of the Champion Golfer and Madras FP **Tom Morris** was held on the 2nd of October. Pipe Major Sam H (S6) lead the platform party from the R & A during the ceremony. The Pipe Band were delighted to be back performing at the **Alfred Dunhill Cup** after last years cancelled event. For many of the band it was their first time performing at this prestigious event and led by this year's Pipe Major Sam H (S6) they rose to the occasion.

The Big Hoolie Event - The band were pleased to lead the St Andrews Day Torch Light Procession through the town. Thousands of people lined the streets and marched behind the band to the West Sands where the Fireworks display ended the celebrations.

The S1 chanter and pipe band drumming tasters took place at the start of this term. It is great to see so many of the new S1 pupils taking up this opportunity and continuing with lessons.



Fife Youth Orchestra Concert

The annual FYO concert took place on November the 1st after a residential rehearsal camp. It was wonderful to see so many of members being selected from Madras. For several of the pupils it was their final performance after many years of membership.

Daniel A (S6) – Cello

Tara M (S6) – Clarinet

Hannah M (S6) – Flute

Stuart M (S6) – Cello

Callum O (S6) – Viola

Thomas R (S6) – Cello

Poppy T (S6) – Percussion

Emily M (S6) – Clarinet

Rory A (S5) – Tuba

Zofia J (S5) – Violin

Eliza K (S5) – Trumpet

Rosie S (S5) – French Horn

Frida M (S5) – Flute

Kirsten F (S5) – Clarinet

Molly I (S5) – Cello

Lynn J (S4) – Cello

Robert H (S3) – Violin

Ziyan C (S3) – Violin

Sophie R (S3) – Violin

Akito C (S4) – Euphonium

Fraser S-H (S5) – Percussion

Fife Youth Concert Band and Sinfonia application forms are now available. The minimum standard for these groups is grade 4. Please contact Lynne.miller@fife.gov.uk for further information.

More Music News...



Music Exam Success

Well done to all pupils who sat instrumental exams this term and last.

- **Joseph T (S2)** was awarded a Merit for his Grade 1 Violin Exam
 - **Matthew G (S2)** was awarded a Merit for his Grade 1 Violin Exam
 - **Heidi P (S2)** was awarded a Merit for her Grade 3 Violin Exam
 - **Euan M (S3)** was awarded a Distinction for both his Grade 3 Violin and Piano Exam
 - **Alexander E (S3)** was awarded a Merit for his Grade 3 Violin Exam
 - **Marzio H (S3)** was awarded a Merit for his Grade 3 Violin Exam and a Distinction for his Grade 3 Piano Exam
 - **Jonah T (S4)** was awarded a Distinction for his Grade 4 Violin Exam
 - **José O M (S4)** was awarded a Merit for his Grade 4 Violin Exam
 - **Marks S (S4)** was awarded a Merit for his Grade 5 Singing Exam
-

Christmas Concert

The annual Christmas Concert and Market took place on Thursday the 12th of December. It was a sellout evening that involved over 250 talented S1-S6 pupils. The groups included the Junior Choir, Senior Girls' Choir, Senior Mixed Choir, Staff Choir, Junior Trad Group, Senior Trad Group, Junior String Orchestra, Senior String Orchestra, Piano Ensemble, Junior Wind Band, Senior Wind Band, Clarsach Group, Guitar Ensemble, Brass Ensemble, Flute Quintet, Lower Strings Ensemble, Jazz Group, Pipe Band and a Cello Solo from Thomas Robertson S6. Congratulations to all the pupils and staff who helped make the evening such a success.

Before the concert and during the interval the Christmas Market was open and this year the event was supported by S1-S6 Pupils, Mr Forbes and the staff of the Business Education Department, Miss Dawson and the pupils involved in the World Challenge, the LGBT Group, Mrs Rose, Mrs Duncan and the staff of the Home Economics department.



Senior Wind Band Concert at St Leonards Church

The senior wind band pupils accompanied by Mrs Miller, Mrs Henderson, Mrs Ritchie and Mrs Morrison performed at St Leonards church on Monday 16th. The hour long concert included a variety of wind band, brass group and solo items from some of the S5 and S6 pupils.

Visually Impaired Group, St Andrews

Monday 9th December saw Mrs Day and a group of our Senior pupils perform at the annual Christmas party for the Visually Impaired Group, St Andrews. The six talented pupils, Friday Martin, Kirsten Falconer, Finn Moan, Olivai Al Horoub, Tara McGhie, Zmeng Chen, Rory Allan and Eliza Konig gave an hour-long concert to a very appreciative audience.



SDS National Swimming Championships

In November, Madras had 4 of its pupils swimming for Fife in the **SDS National Swimming Championships** at **Michael Woods Leisure Centre, Glenrothes**. The Fife team was made up of 18 swimmers (4 of them from Madras). All pupils represented their school (and region) fantastically well – all setting personal bests in every event. All-in-all, Madras brought back three gold, two silvers and one bronze – great stuff!



Elie Sports Club

The DAS juniors and seniors were welcomed back to **Elie Sports Club** for some more grass bowls, golf sessions and to try out Elie's new padel courts. The pupils all engaged superbly with the activities and responded well to tips provided by the golf professional, padel/racket sport coach and former international bowlers. This is a relatively recent link that has been created with the wider community. We hope to be invited back for more sport at Elie in 2025 as the pupils really loved the sessions



Trip to The Byre Theatre

On the 11th of December the Madras DAS pupils enjoyed a trip to **The Byre Theatre** to see the pantomime 'Beauty and the Beast'. This was courtesy of **St Andrews Rotary Club** – who funded the cost of the tickets. Pupils and staff thoroughly enjoyed the pantomime. Thanks again to the Rotary Club for enabling our pupils to have such positive experiences year after year.



Active Schools Curling Taster Sessions

Earlier this term, the Madras DAS joined some of the other DAS units from NE Fife at **Bell Baxter**. This was to allow our pupils to participate in an indoor curling taster session, run by **Active Schools** and **Scottish Curling**. Off the back of this event our pupils ventured through to **Kirkcaldy Ice Arena** and got to try curling (lead by coaches) on an actual ice-rink. Despite it being on the chilly side – the Madras pupils really seemed to enjoy this different experience.



Madras DYW News



It has been a busy start to the academic year for Madras Developing the Young Workforce. Here is just a taster of some of our recent activities...

AIG Women's Open

Back in August, some senior pupils had the unique and exciting opportunity to get a behind-the-scenes insight into the AIG Women's Open. Pupils learned about the many jobs available in the golf industry and what it takes to put on a major event like the Open. After hearing from player services, the medical team and greenkeepers, the group then saw what was on offer at the Festival Village. The day ended with a fantastic golf lesson and the chance to check out some of the merchandise! Following on from this, pupils were then invited to volunteer at the Open itself for the four days it was in town.



North East Fife Coastal Alliance Launch

Another large scale event was the launch of the North East Fife Coastal Alliance (NEFCA) which promotes careers in hospitality and tourism. Pupils from S3-6 attended the event at The Old Course Hotel and spoke to industry leaders. They also go to try out activities like mocktail making, cake decorating, bed making, canapé construction and coffee tasting.

Work Experience

Lots of senior pupils have been getting a taste of the workplace by taking up Work Experience opportunities.

There are Madras pupils currently trying out placements in schools, cafes, museums and even leisure centres.

SRUC Animal Care Visit

Most recently, a team from the Elmwood Campus of SRUC visited the school to tell us all about their NC, HNC and HND in Animal Care.

Pupils learned about the different courses and had the chance to interact with animals whilst speaking to staff and current college students.

Daisy the dog, Bella the rabbit, Cullen the blue tongued skink and two little mice were all a big hit with pupils (and staff!) who attended.



Madras College Cricket Club

Over the past term the Madras College Cricket Club has grown in numbers, giving many of our pupils their first taste of the game of cricket. It has provided participants with a chance to develop some basic cricketing skills with Mr

Trewartha and Mr Jones. We are thankful to the **St Andrews Ball Society** who have kindly donated funds to allow us to purchase equipment for the club. It has been fantastic to see the young people not only mastering their bowling

or batting but also building friendships with one and another. Keep up the good work in the New Year as we aim to hopefully undertake some competitive fixtures, or enter some school tournaments and continue to build our confidence!



Madras Debating Team



As well as meeting weekly since the start of the year, the Debate Club have taken part in some competitions.

On Saturday 21st September three teams attended the St Andrews University Debate Competition at St Leonard's (pictured). Our Team of **Jonah T (S4)** and **Edwin P (S4)** won the Novice Debate Final beating St Leonard's, Strathallan and High School of Dundee. Other teams representing the school - **Robert H (S3)** & **Keshika J (S3)** and **Erin R (S2)** & **Matilda G (S1)** who also had great performances.

Saturday 16th November, **Matilda G (S1)**, **Erin R (S2)**, **Keshika J (S3)** and **Suhandan T (S3)** travelled to Edinburgh to compete in the Law Society Junior Debate. They completed 3 rounds and each team won at least one of their rounds, Suhandan and Erin qualified for the Novice Final and Suhandan also placed as 6th best speaker. Everyone spoke with confidence and skill.

Thursday 22nd November, we travelled north to Lathallan School at Johnshaven. **Jonah T (S4)** and **Edwin P (S4)** took part in the first round of the Donald Dewar Debate which covers all of Scotland. They too spoke with confidence and demonstrated a range of debating skills. The scoring was very close but sadly they did not qualify for the next round. Many people in the audience spoke to them after and praised their performance.

In addition, you may have heard that Scotland won the Schools World Debate Competition earlier this year. This year, **Erin R (S2)** and **Hamish H (S3)** have also been selected to join the Scotland Squad for training towards the Scottish Debate Team.

Burns Competitions



Burns Recital Competition

There was a great turnout for the Robert Burns Recital Competition run by the English Department in November. Judges were impressed by the range of poetry on display and also with the high levels of performance. The results were:

Junior Winners

1st Matthew G (S2)
2nd Erin H T (S1)
3rd Erin R (S2)

S3/4 Winners

1st Robert H (S3)
2nd Sophie R (S3)
3rd Klementyna L (S3)

Senior Winners

1st Jan T (S6)
2nd Thomas R (S6)

Winners will now be invited to receive their prizes at the school Burns Supper in January and those who bagged the top spots will be invited to perform.

Burns Singing Competition

The music department welcomed members of the St Andrews Burns Club to the annual competition on the 28th of November. All pupils performed extremely well. Winners and runners-up will compete in the Fife Burns Competition next term.

S1/S2

First = Ellie H (S1)
Second = Matilda G (S1)
Second = Erin R (S2)

S3/4

First = Robert H (S3)
Second = Sophie R (S3)
Third = Euan Miller (S3)

S5/6

First = Rita K (S5)
Second = Zimeng C (S6)
Third = Gabi P M (S5)

Scottish Schools U-16 Bowl



The **U16 St Leonards/ Madras Blues** won the Scottish Schools U16 Bowl at Murrayfield on Wednesday 4th December with a 23-14 victory over George Heriots.

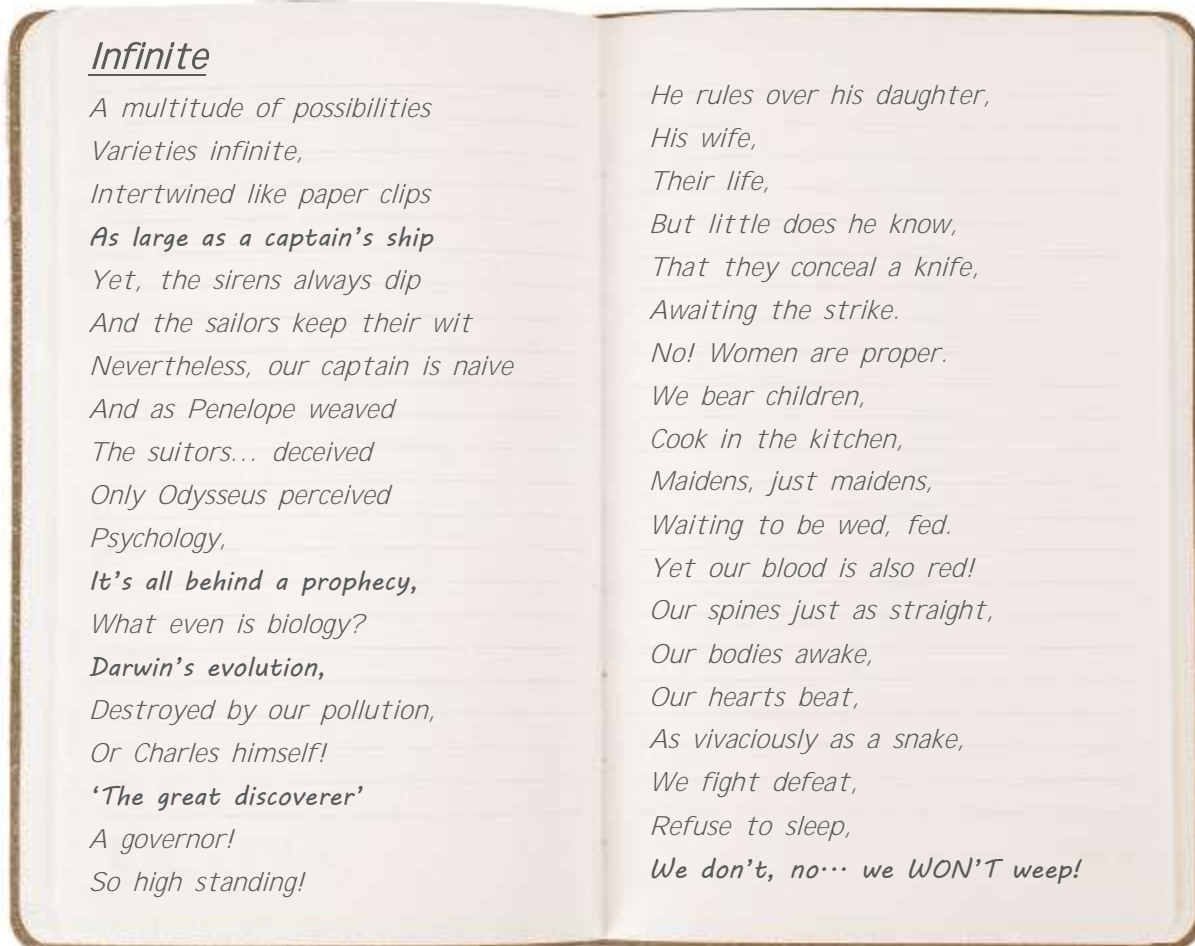
It was a fantastic performance and even better result that was witnessed by staff, parents and supporters from both St Leonards and Madras who had travelled to watch the team perform on the back pitches at Murrayfield.

Well done to all those involved.

StAnza Young Makars



S6 pupil **Ingrid M-F** has won the StAnza (Scotland's International Poetry Festival) Young Makars Competition. She is now a Young Makar. Ingrid studies Advanced Higher English and recently read some of her poetry in both English and Spanish at the School Talent Show. Next year she will be reciting her poems at the StAnza poetry festival in March. Congratulations Ingrid! We are pleased to include some of Ingrid's poetry, below, for you to enjoy.



N.E. Fife Toy Drive 2024



Huge thanks to all Madras staff, pupils and parents / carers who kindly contributed to our collection for the North East Fife Toy Drive. Your generosity will help families across the area over the festive period. Thanks to Mrs Clark for organising and Mr MacLeod for arranging transport. Also, thank you to the S6 elves who helped with the drop off at the main collection point!



S5 Raising Attainment and Wellbeing

Back in October, our S5s enjoyed a raising attainment and wellbeing morning to promote the confidence and ambition of all young people in S5. The morning was designed to get pupils thinking, talking, and working together. S5 pupils heard from current S6s about their experiences in S5. The input focussed on motivation and resilience.

The school would like to thank Dundee based **Insights**, who work with companies across the world on personal development and increasing self-awareness, and Jamie McBrearty performance coach at **Dundee FC's Academy**.

We hope this input, alongside school messages on the day, will help to have a positive impact on the quality of attainment and achievement for all our S5 pupils over the coming year.



Former Pupils Successes

Congratulations to the following Madras alumni, celebrating recent successes!

Doon Mackichan, Actress

In November, Doon won a Scottish BAFTA in the Best Actress, Television, category for her role as Cathy in the hit BBC sit-com Two Doors Down.

Alex Samuel, Rugby Player

Glasgow Warriors player (and former Scotland U20 captain) Alex, made his senior debut for the Scotland men's team versus Portugal in November.

Richard Gadd, Actor / Writer

Following the success of his Netflix series, Baby Reindeer, Richard scooped three Emmys in Los Angeles in September: Outstanding Writing for a Limited or Anthology Series; Outstanding Lead Actor Limited or Anthology Series and Outstanding Limited or Anthology Series.



More Madras News



Wear it Pink Day—Breast Cancer Now

Thank you to all staff and pupils who took part in our Wear it Pink Day, back in October.

In total we raised £480 for Breast Cancer Now, who work towards changing the lives of people affected by breast cancer through research and support.

Young Speakers Scotland Competition

On the 9th November Amelia S (S3), Florence D (S3), Ariana S (S2) and Imogen M (S2) took part in the Junior section of YSS (Young Speakers Scotland) in Edinburgh. The competition was to write and deliver a speech on 'my favourite feud' or 'Growth is over rated' which was presented to an audience and four adjudicators. They were then questioned by the judges thereafter. We had two speeches from each theme and in a very strong leet Madras had four tremendous debut performances and Ariana S was selected for the Scottish final in March.



Chemistry: Top of the Bench 2024/25

Madras college, after a very competitive set of heats have, once again, reached the RSC Tayside Regional Final for Top of the Bench 2024 –2025. The final will be held on Wednesday 22nd January 2025 in the Purdie Building (School of Chemistry). The four schools who qualified for the final are:

- St Leonards School
- Queen Anne High School
- Madras College
- Lochgelly High School

The Madras team consists of Edwin P (S4), Elvira B-S (S3), Marija J (S3) and Ruben J (S2).



Madras College Chess Club

Madras College Chess Club would like to congratulate Zach B (S4) our 2024 Madras College Chess Club Champion.

In our league table Zach achieved a score of 45 points with Joseph L (S1) achieving second place with 17 points.

The league was administrated by our Chess Club Captains Alex Z -C (S5), Rodrigo B-S (S5) and James T (S5), with 3 points being awarded for wins, 2 for draws and 1 for losses.

Mr Watson (DHT) was invited along to offer congratulations to the winner.

Chess Club runs on Tuesday lunchtimes in Mr Webster's RME classroom F013 and is open to all year groups. Even if you have never played chess before you can bring your lunch and come along and learn.

Streetcar Named Desire Trip

On 30th October, the English and Drama departments combined to take a group of S5&6 Higher and Advanced Higher pupils to **The Lyceum Theatre**, in Edinburgh, to see a live production of Tennessee Williams' famous play 'A Streetcar Named Desire'. Several of the Higher English classes are studying the play this year for the Critical Essay component of the exam, so this was a rare opportunity for them to experience the drama the way it was supposed to be seen. The English students were also able to reflect on the use of dramatic devices throughout the play to assist them with both their textual analysis and dissertations respectively. As part of the SQA requirements, in Drama, pupils must visit the theatre to write about a play for their dissertation or final exam. This trip also provided lots of opportunities for Drama pupils to discuss acting performances and the directors' intentions. Staff and pupils agreed that this was an excellent



SQA News: 2025 Exam Diet

SQA Your Coursework Guide

Please find a link (below) to a presentation that Madras College S4/5/6 students were given at Assemblies. It is regarding their National Qualifications, providing advice around: assessment arrangements, coursework, A.I., and plagiarism, etc. <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/112068.html>

SQA Exam Timetable and Learner Apps

Below is the SQA official examination timetable from the SQA website. Candidates are asked to check the dates of their exams and, if there are any which occur at the same time, to contact their Guidance Teacher. The SQA page (below) also has various Study and timetable apps candidates can utilise for exam planning <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/1439.html>

P7 Transition Coffee Mornings

Over the course of December Madras College welcomed Primary 7 parents/carers to a series of coffee mornings. These were organised to allow parents/carers a chance to visit the school during the day and have a chat with Madras staff and pupils. It was well attended and well supported by current S1 and S6 pupils who spoke very well and answered lots of questions. The coffee mornings were a great success and something that we will build into our transition programme every year going forward.



Burns Supper

Madras College Burns Supper will take place on 6th February. Celebrating our National Poet This is a super evening and will involve speeches from our S6 and of course some Scottish culturally significant cuisine - Haggis! Music, song poetry and dance- if you have never been to a Burns Supper, then the Madras College Burns Supper is one of the best. It is a popular event so book early!

Careers Fair

The Madras College Careers Fair will take place this year on Thursday 24th January 2025. This is a fantastic event as the vast majority of Scotland's colleges and universities are in attendance, along with some of the largest employers in our area. Pupils will get the chance to discuss their future destinations with the experts and parents are invited to the evening session which will take place in the Assembly Hall and Breakout Spaces.

Timings are as follows:

2pm-3.40pm for S4/5 pupils then 5.00pm to 6.30pm for parents/carers/ supporters



Dates for your Diary

Term 3 Begins:

Monday 6th January 2025

Inservice Day:

Wednesday 12th February 2025

Half Term:

Thursday 13th February 2025

Friday 14th February 2025

Easter Holidays:

Starts Monday 7th April 2025

Ends Friday 18th April 2025

Contact Us



Bell Brae
St Andrews
Fife KY16 9BY



01334 659401



madrascollge.enquiries@fife.gov.uk



www.madras.fife.sch.uk

