



Summer Newsletter

Madras College

June 2024

Rector's Message

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we digest the events of the summer concert and look forward to the senior awards evening it's hard to believe the summer break is almost upon us. Session 2023/2024 has whizzed through and after the summer break we'll be ready to go for session 2024/2025.

Reading through the submissions from faculties for this newsletter really highlights the range and number of events taking place across our school- in and out of the classroom. I'd like to thank all of the staff involved for their hard work and commitment over the session to these activities. I'd also encourage all pupils to take a close look and take the chance to get involved in all that is on offer!

SQA exams and results

As you'll be aware, the 2024 SQA exam diet concluded at the end of May and all of the pupils coursework and projects have now been submitted. This year, course modifications implemented in 2020 following CV-19 were removed, reinstating the complete qualification for the first time in four years. This year has seen a tremendous effort from staff and pupils and we all keenly await the issue of results on Tuesday 6th August.

I'm very pleased to share a very positive piece of feedback from our invigilator team debrief on the conduct of all pupils during the SQA exam diet. All of the invigilator team reported very positively on the behaviour and attitude of our pupils - both those sitting exams and also who were attending classes as normal but who are moving around the school whilst exams are ongoing.

To be compared so favourably to the university students many of our invigilators also support is high praise indeed and a sign of the very high standard of conduct displayed our pupils.

Pupils sitting exams can still sign up for [MySQA](#) to receive exam results by text message and email. In the event of any queries following the issue of results, the school office will be able to collate queries or requests for support. As in previous years, the guidance team will be able to support with appointments for pupils on the afternoon of the 19th and 20th August, immediately prior to the start of the new session.

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Rector's Message, continued.

SQA results—On the Day

It is a super feeling to feel that your hard work has paid off - and we wish all our students the very best with their results. However, receiving results can be an anxious time. If you're feeling stressed, worried or overwhelmed, we will be in school on the day so if you need us, just call us. Remember there are always lots of solutions and alternatives if you are feeling disappointed by your results.

Talking to a friend, family member or us about how you're feeling, can be a good first step and make a big difference. You can also find lots of information to help you relax and support your friends on these websites:

Young Scot [Getting Your Exam Results – What's Next? – Young Scot](#)

YoungMinds - [Exam Time & Exam Stress | Parents Guide To Support | YoungMinds](#)

There is also career advice from Skills Development Scotland:

[Our Customer Contact Centre - Skills Development Scotland](#) - their helpline is live from 8am on Results Day 6th August

SQA Appeals Service

In keeping with last year, the Appeals Service will continue to be free and available for students to access directly if you are concerned about a National 5, Higher or Advanced Higher grade and feel there may have been a mistake in the marking.

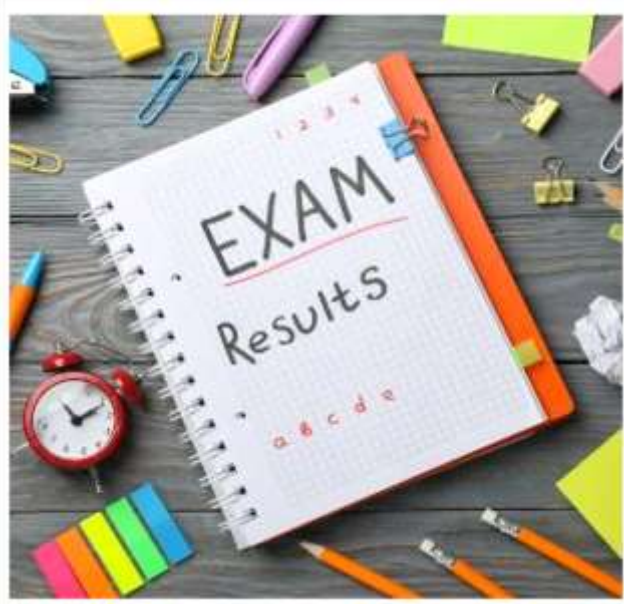
You can appeal directly to SQA or ask us at Madras to do this for you. The service will open on Results Day, Tuesday 6 August at 9 am

Priority Appeals

Deadline—Tuesday 13th August at 11.59pm for priority appeals. This is for those who are dependent on an appeal for entry to course. Please contact us here at Madras regarding this on results day, 6th August. Your appeal can only be prioritised if you have a conditional place at university or college or in training or employment that depends on your grade. We will need to know the name of your university / college and a contact person and email address in order to process a priority appeal.

All other appeals

The deadline date for all other appeals is Tuesday 27th August at 11.59pm



What is the Appeals Service?

If you appeal your grade, a senior appointee will carry out a marking review of your SQA-marked assessments.

It is not a re-mark. It is a marking review that checks that:

- All parts of your SQA-assessments have been marked
- The marking is in line with national standards
- The marks given for each answer have been totalled correctly; and
- The correct result has been entered on our system
- Please note that after being reviewed, your result could stay the same, go up or go down

All the best with your results on the day and remember we will be here in school if you need us.

Rector's Message, continued.

S6 Head Persons

Following interviews that took place this week, I'd like to offer my congratulations to the following S6 pupils who have been appointed into the role of Head Persons for next session:

New Head Boy—**Yves D Courcy-Ireland**

New Deputy Head Boy—**James Wilson**

New Head Girl—**Lucy Lin**

New Deputy Head Girl—**Yasmin Henderson**

To have had 40 applications from S6 for these roles was amazing. The skills and talents of all involved shone through and I know that the Captaincy roles will be filled easily and be in very safe hands for this coming session. Well done to all involved – you are a credit to our school. The school staff and I are really looking forward to working with you over the next year!



School attendance

As you are aware, school attendance has been an area of focus as we seek to ensure that all pupils attend school as often as possible. I'd like to start by thanking you for your continued and ongoing support in this key matter as we have finished this session in a stronger position again, with the overall attendance for our school closing at 90.19% at the time of writing, up from 88.6% last session.

While I'm pleased to see more of our pupils in school for more of the time, we have more to do together to try to reduce absence even further where we can. Importantly, we will take the opportunity to recognise and celebrate those pupils who have achieved 100% attendance for this session and we will do this again on the last day of term.

For those of you who will be holiday planning over the next year, I've included the link to school term dates for session 2024/2025 for reference. Click [here](#) to view these and add term dates to your own calendar. Please do all that you can to reduce absence from school during term time.

P7 to S1 Transition

After the successful conclusion of our transition program, we are looking forward to welcoming our new S1 pupils after the summer holidays. The new S1s did very well across the 3 transition days, and it was lovely to see so many parents/carers attend our open evening too.

Information about the first week of the new term has been sent out to our new S1 parents/carers which explains what their first five days will look like.

We hope that all our new S1 pupils have a lovely summer break and we look forward to seeing you in August.

School Uniform

A new school session provides a great opportunity to make a strong start and reflect on standards and expectations across our school. With that in mind, I'd like to ask for your support with school uniform and helping to ensure that all pupils return to school after the summer break 'dressed for work' and clearly identifiable as a Madras College pupil.

We have enjoyed great success with our school uniform exchange and this will continue to be on display and available to you at all school events—please come along and donate old school uniform and help yourself to the wide range of preloved school uniform, blazers and jackets that are available.

As we approach the end of term, if you have any uniform—especially blazers—you would like to donate, they can be put into the uniform collection points in reception. There will also be a drop off point, for uniforms, at the Larick Centre in Tayport.

We will be open for any parent / carer / pupil who may wish to drop off or collect pre-loved uniform, prior to the start of term, on Monday 12th August 9am-1.30pm

Rector's Message, continued.

Wellbeing Supports

Ensuring the wellbeing of children and families is a priority and during any holiday period, I'm keen to ensure that while 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
- Fife Council Cost of Living Support- [Cost of living support | Fife Council](#)
- NHS Fife: Right care, right place - [Right Care Right Place | NHS Fife](#)
- Fife Women's Aid - Home [Home - Fife Women's Aid \(fifewomensaid.org.uk\)](#)
- Samaritans- [Samaritans Scotland](#)
- Bernardo's [Barnardo's Scotland | Barnardo's \(barnardos.org.uk\)](#)
- DAPL- Text DAPL 62277 and [How to Refer \(dapl.net\)](#)
- Clued up - [Clued Up Project \(cluedup-project.org.uk\)](#)
- Mood café –[Mood Cafe | Home](#)
- MIND [Information and support - Mind](#)

Our newsletter includes posters advertising summer sessions that are taking place in the local area (see Community News, page 20)

Staff Updates

I'd like to take the chance to say a huge thank you and best wishes to the following members of staff who are leaving us at the end of the session:

Mrs C Cameron—Administration Assistant
Mr T Forbes—Teacher of Modern Studies
Mrs K Hall—Teacher of Drama
Mrs S Inglis—Teacher of Mathematics
Mr M Latona—Teacher of Computing Studies
Miss R Martin—Teacher of Music
Mr P. Ross—Teacher of Mathematics

We have several new staff joining the team in August and we're delighted to welcome the following staff to Madras College:

Miss H Dineen—Probationary Teacher of RME / Modern Studies
Ms V Miteva—Probationary Teacher of Home Economics
Miss O Robertson—Teacher of Support for Learning
Mrs O Tonne—Teacher of Mathematics

I hope that you enjoy reading through the very wide range of events and achievements that have taken place over the year and I'd like to thank you for your support and wish you a very enjoyable and relaxing summer break.

Yours sincerely



Mr K. Currie



P.E. Department News



It's been another very busy, and successful, term for learners in the P.E. Department. Read on for some of our recent achievements!

Football—Fife Cup Final Successes

Our S1 and S3 football teams competed in the Fife Cup final, held at Bayview Stadium, back in May. We were very proud of both teams winning their finals and becoming Fife Cup Champions!

The S1 team played Balwearie High School, in their cup final, and won 3-1 with a hattrick from **Rory Edie**.

Our S3s faced fellow finalists Beath High School, in their respective match, and finished 2-1 winners with goals from **Baillie MacMillan** and **Connor McLaren**



Left: S1 Fife Cup Winners with proud coach Mr T Forbes, Right: S3 winners with coaches Ruaridh and Xavior

Basketball

Madras have had a very successful basketball season in 2023-24. Our pupils have attended several games and festival across the year with the S1-3 team finishing top of the North East Fife League and our seniors finishing 4th overall in Fife and 5th in the Central/ North East Fife League.

A massive thank you to **Aidan Alexander** and **Rachel Lindsay** for leading the S1-3 sessions - without them we wouldn't have a basketball session, let alone a team. They led their teams to victory and put in a huge amount of effort to get the pupils there.

Also, thanks to the senior boys who's passion for the game shines through daily. Without their passion and commitment, we wouldn't have caught the eyes of our new coach Pablo, whom we look forward to working closely with next academic year to further develop our skills.

Extra Curricular

The Extra Curricular programme at Madras continues to thrive with the support of staff, Young Ambassadors and volunteers. Without the support of these people we wouldn't have the offering that we do. We are very fortunate to receive such support and in turn this has resulted in over 20% of our school becoming more active, more often. This a figure we hope will only rise in the coming years.

A huge thank you to all of the pupils that have attended these sessions and made them worth while. We hope you really enjoyed them as much as we have.

We look forward to heading into the next academic year with an already exciting timetable of extra curricular activities!

Madison

Madison Garland, Active Schools Coordinator

More P.E. Dept. News



School Sports Day 2024

Sports Day took place this year on Thursday 20th June. The event started with our S6 pupils taking part in a house Softball competition. The pupils played very competitive matches with each house being well represented. Swilken were the winners on the day with Blackfriars second, Castle third and Priory fourth.

It was then the turn of our S1/2/3 track finalists to compete at Station Park. The event was an excellent example of quality athletes we have at Madras College. All pupils displayed an exemplary attitude towards the competition. Congratulations to all of medallists and thank you to the group of parents who came down to support. We look forward to next year's event!

Team PE

Fife Schools Track and Field Championships

Tuesday 11th June saw learners competing in the Fife Schools Track and Field Championships.

We were very proud of their impressive medal tally (see below).

A special mention goes to **Harry Robinson**, who set a new Fife schools 800m record of 2m 14.35 – breaking the previous record set in 1992!

A great achievement by Harry.

Medal winners 2024

Harry Robinson—200m **GOLD**, 800m **GOLD**, Relay **GOLD**

Rory Edie Long Jump **SILVER**, Hurdles **GOLD**, 200m **BRONZE**, Relay **GOLD**

Struan Finnie—800m 5th place, Relay **GOLD**

Alfie Long—Long Jump **GOLD**, 100m **SILVER**, 400m **GOLD**

Fife Gillan—Hurdles **GOLD**, Relay **SILVER**

Lexi Page—Shot Putt **GOLD**, Discus **GOLD**

Benjamin Innes—Hurdles **BRONZE**, Relay **GOLD**

Evie Hodgson—800m **SILVER**, Hurdles **BRONZE**

Francisco Martins-Nunes—Long Jump **BRONZE**, Discus **SILVER**

Fergus Mason—Shot Putt **SILVER**, 100m 5th place, Relay **SILVER**

Imogen Jarret—1500m **SILVER**, Relay **BRONZE**

Alison Alexander—Shot Putt **SILVER** **Harriet Reid**—200m **SILVER**

Joe Napier—Hurdles **SILVER** **Archie Robertson**—Relay **SILVER**

Kit Holme—1500m **SILVER** **Johnny Watson**—Relay **SILVER**

Issy Stewart—Discus **SILVER**

Ruairidh Stuart—Javelin **BRONZE** **Michelle Badu**—Relay **BRONZE**

Maylin Bell—Javelin **BRONZE** **Orla Lawson**—Relay **BRONZE**

Freya Finney—Relay **BRONZE** **Aiden Alexander**—Shot Putt **BRONZE**

Isla Napier—Shot Putt **BRONZE**

Netball

After a year of commitment to Madras netball the S1 and S2 teams competed in the Fife tournament. The teams showcased their skills and determination on the court.

The S1 team demonstrated their determination at the tournament and secured a commendable second place finish, highlighting their teamwork and competitive spirit. The S2 team also put up a very strong performance, unfortunately they got knocked out in the semi-finals by 1 point but put up a fantastic performance. Both teams displayed great sportsman ship and talent. A special mention to **Florence Dempster** and **Benjamin Innes** who were voted players of the tournament.

Along side this, the S2 and S3 netball teams competed in the Fife leagues and played very well throughout the league, competing against many different schools and proudly representing their school.

Massive well done to everyone who has consistently trained and competed over the past year.



Mini London Marathon



This year, as part of their athletics block in PE, the whole of S1 and the junior DAS class were given the opportunity to take part in the Mini London Marathon. The event challenged the young people to complete 2.6 miles, walking, jogging or running, between 15th April and 10th May. Our S1s achieved this by undertaking a 1.3-mile course over two Wednesday PE lessons.

In April, **Mrs Kennedy** from the English department completed the full marathon in London, so she volunteered to take part with the S1 classes, running 1.3 miles with the X block on 30th April, and with the Y block on 8th May. The S1's really enjoyed having Mrs Kennedy run with them, particularly those who raced to beat her across the line.

We were extremely proud of all the pupils and the effort they put in to take part. Everyone really pushed themselves to do their best, with the fastest three boys and the fastest three girls awarded medals for their efforts: Congratulations to **Harriet Reid, Fearn Jarrett, Evie Hodgson, Rory Edie** and **Ruaridh Thomson**. Particular congratulations go to **Harry Robinson** as our fastest finisher with an incredible 1.3-mile time of 6m 45sec.



Overall, 190 pupils were awarded their certificates for undertaking the challenge. We hope this will be an event we can participate in for years to come, and that we have perhaps even inspire some of them to undertake the full 26.2 miles one day.

This was the first time Madras College have taken part in this exciting event and we were, in fact, the only school in Fife to do so!



British Physics Olympiad

In March, National 5 and Higher Physics pupils were given the opportunity to sit the British Physics Olympiad papers for their respective levels.

Three of our S4 pupils attempted the intermediate paper. **Rodrigo Braunecker-Sicilia** and **Brodie Waterston** achieved a Silver award plus **Oisín Buckley-Zapf** achieved a Bronze award.

Ten S5 pupils attempted the senior paper with **Stuart Monks** achieving Silver, **Poppy Thomas, Xander Gray, Daniel Armstrong** and **Isla Munro** all achieving Bronze 1 with **Nazar Krasnobryzhev, Lucas Thomson, Luca Hartman, Florian Wahl** and **Callum O’Riordan** being awarded Bronze 2.

Well done to all who took part—especially the learners who achieved Madras College’s first ever Silver awards. Hopefully we can progress to Golds next year!



RME and RMPS News



RME Core Classes

This year we have explored questions about belief and how our beliefs matter as well as units on Buddhism and creation stories and explanations for our origins.

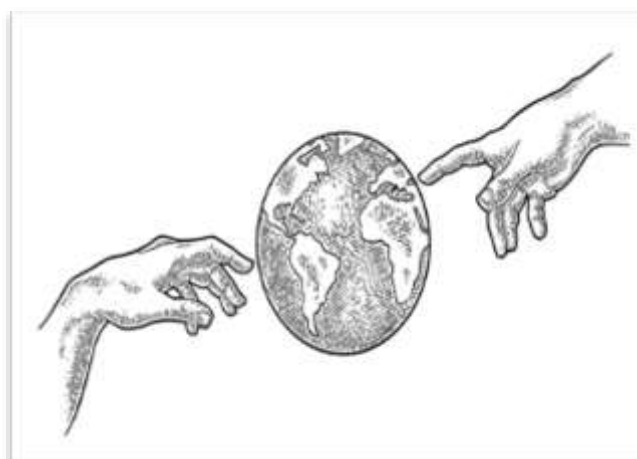
In S2 we have looked at the topic of racism, introduced our new unit on Christianity and also covered a unit on Islam, helping give pupils across S2 an understanding of the world's two biggest religions. In S3 we have been looking at ethics and how we make moral decisions, as well as doing a unit on the topic of gender.

Along the way we have had some great class discussions and seen pupils engage with developing their own thoughts and ideas.

S4 meanwhile came in 6-week blocks and explored the moral arguments for and against abortion. In the new school year we will be using our time with S4 to help them complete the Belief and Values element of their Scottish Studies Award, supporting them as they choose their own moral issue to explore.

New Member of Staff

We have also just recently heard that we will be getting assigned a probationer teacher to join our department. **Ms Dineen** will be splitting her time between RME and Modern Studies and will be teaching some of our core classes for the coming year



RMPS SQA Level Classes

An exciting development this year is that we are now running separate classes for National 5 with **Mr Webster** and Higher/Advanced Higher with **Mrs Matheson**. This is due to an increase in numbers choosing to study the subject and will give us more opportunity to teach specific to the level.

Our National 5 class will be studying units on Origins, Christianity and Morality and Conflict, whilst our Highers/Advanced Highers will be studying Existence of God, Buddhism and Medical Ethics.

RMPS is a subject that develops a wide range of higher order thinking skills through analysis and evaluation of different viewpoints on a wide range of issues and is a great subject to have studied for going into a wide range of careers.

Duke of Edinburgh Award

After struggling to run for a couple of years, this year we successfully ran a bronze expedition for three walking groups of pupils (21 participating in total). In training, the pupils learned about campcraft and navigation. They then put in a huge amount of effort to successfully walk the 30km, during the brief glimpse of summer we had at the end of May!

While the heat did make it more tiring, our group were motivated by the wonderful coastal views and even a

couple of sightings of dolphins in the Firth of Forth. Being able to cook dinner on the beach with their friends was also a highlight.

Since our expedition some of the group have managed to complete the award, with two already sent to the verifier. A quick reminder to the rest – get onto DofE and get the evidence uploaded (the longer you leave it the more you risk not completing).

A HUGE thank you to **Mrs Ovenstone-Jones** and **Mr Kerrigan** for their help on expedition, along with **Dr Woods** and **Miss Norrie** for their help in training.



Ruby Bay, Elie



Burns Competition



After a well attended and entertaining recital competition at school, four pupil went on to represent Madras at the Fife Schools Burns Festival. **Robert Hutchison** won first place in S1/2 Verse section and two of our seniors, **Jan Tero** and **Thomas Robertson** were first and second respectively in the S5/6 competition.

All three boys then competed at the National Festival in Gourrock in March and, although they did not achieve a top place, were commended for their performances.



Maths Challenges 2024



A very successful year for our pupils in the many national Maths challenges they have the opportunity to participate in.

United Kingdom Mathematics Trust Challenges

This year we had in excess of 220 young people 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 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 70 Bronze awards, 30 Silver awards and 10 Gold awards across the three levels. A special mention goes to the 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 being invited at each level. The qualifiers were **Daniel Armstrong, Stuart Monks, Ash Simmons** (Senior Kangaroo qualifiers), **Edwin Peart, Yuvraj Singh, Brodie Waterston** (Intermediate Kangaroo qualifiers), **Andrew Lu and William Monks** (Junior Kangaroo qualifiers). **Stuart Monks** and **William Monks** both performed exceedingly well in each achieving a merit in the Kangaroo paper. Well done to everybody that participated.

The 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. 22 young people competed in the Scottish Mathematical Challenge with 17 of them receiving an award. There were 8 golds; **Sofia Benssassi and Brodie Waterston** (S4), **Platon Nikolaev and Edwin Peart** (S3), **Ian Cotnoir** (S2) **Grace Lin, Samuel Lovett and Ethan McDougall-Bagnall** (S1). All award winners were invited to the award ceremony at Stirling University where they enjoyed a lecture on "Using Mathematics to Model Biology; From Fibonacci to the R Number" before receiving 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 works as a team to tackle the puzzles in the allotted time.

This year two teams from Madras entered with both teams receiving a certificate in recognition of a commendable submission. Well done to all involved.



Maths Challenges cont.



Scottish Enterprising Maths Challenge

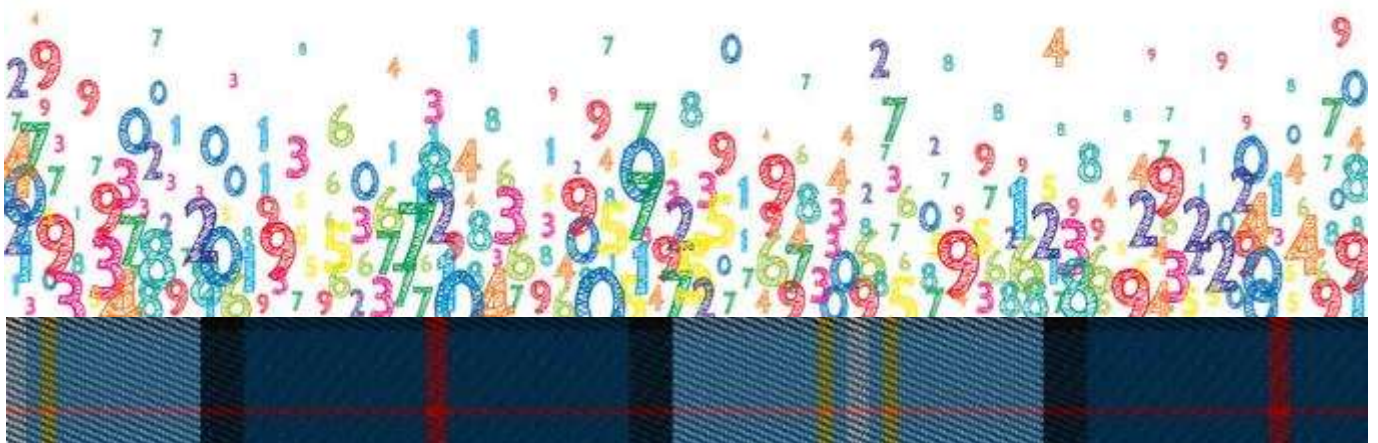
Two teams participated in the Scottish Enterprising Maths Challenge. An event where each team comprises of two S3 and two S4 pupils. The two teams travelled to Bell Baxter High School in September to participate in the Fife heat and performed very well. The team comprising of **Rodrigo Braunecker-Sicilia** (S4), **Oisin Buckley-Zapf** (S4), **Robbie Spence** (S3) and **Platon Nikolaev** (S3) placing third and the team comprising of **Akito Close** (S3), **Andrei Morrison** (S3), **Fraser Scott-Hermiston** (S4) and **Brodie Waterston** (S4) finishing fifth in the overall competition. A very good performance against the most talented young mathematicians from across the region.

The strong performance in the Fife heat meant that Rodrigo, Oisin, Robbie and Platon qualified for the National final held at Glasgow Science Centre. Another strong performance resulted in the team gaining a place inside the top twenty, a fantastic achievement in a competition against the strongest young mathematicians from across Scotland. 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.



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 at:

- <https://www.ukmt.org.uk/>
- <http://www.wpr3.co.uk/MC/>
- <https://www.uws.ac.uk/about-uws/a-21st-century-university/partnerships/math%C3%A9matiques-sans-fronti%C3%A8res/>
- <https://www.scottishmathematicalcouncil.org/wp1/enterprising-mathematics/>



S3 Paris Trip Feb 2024



Thanks to S3s Cara Knox, Freya Finney and Alice Sugden for the trip report!

Tuesday — Madras to Newcastle

We were ready to go - everyone was so excited, and the sun was shining. We waved goodbye to all our parents who were watching on - excited and nervous for the trip ahead. We had a stop, at the Metro Centre in Newcastle. The ferry was SO cool, and one of our favourite parts of the experience. After a filling dinner, we were able to explore. We went onto the deck, and the wind was howling. There was a beautiful sunset, and the waves were crashing onto the side of the boat. Everyone took loads of selfies, and we all took a group one. We spent time together in a lounge with live music, playing cards; we all thought it was so cool!



Wednesday — Arriving in Paris!

On Wednesday we all woke up shattered from the ferry journey but excited for the journey ahead. After the 6-hour coach trip, we arrived at our hotel in Paris before heading to the restaurant "Monte Carlo". There were mixed reviews, so our lovely Mr. Maskell bought us all Mcflurries, which was very sweet of him! After this we made our way up to the Arc de Triomphe and it was so cool! The view was lovely despite the clouds and rain. Eventually it cleared, and we got a view of the city. We then went to Trocadero where we had an amazing view of the Eiffel Tower.

Thursday — The Louvre, the Eiffel Tower and a Seine River Cruise

The Paris traffic is no joke; after ages in standstill traffic, we had to change routes and walk to the Louvre. We had much fun in the brief time we were at the museum! On the walk from the Louvre to Champs-Elysée we were caught in torrential rain. We dried off during a cruise down the River Seine; it was lovely to see all the different tourist attractions Paris had to offer, including Notre Dame. After dinner at an Italian restaurant, it was finally time to go up the Eiffel Tower! The lift to the top of the Eiffel Tower felt terrifying, but the views were worth it!



S3 Paris Trip (continued)

Friday — Disneyland Paris!

OMG. The best day. The one we were waiting for. DISNEYLAND PARIS!!!! This day was the most fun, and we all were SO excited! The coach was filled to the brim with chatter and jokes on the way there. Mr. Forbes gave us all sweets, which was nice of him. After we arrived, we scattered, ready to race to the rides. It was FREEZING, not the warm day we were hoping for, and since we all thought that Paris was sunny and warm, we had all worn shorts. Nonetheless, the sheer excitement beat out the cold. The first ride my friends and I went on was the Avengers ride – it was so cool and incredibly fast! Other rides everyone liked were the Tower of Terror (I was petrified) and the Indiana Jones ride. Lots of us bought souvenirs – t-shirts, key rings, necklaces and stuffed animals. After lots of fun and rides, we ran back to the meeting point, and took a big group picture of all the people on the trip (see right). We all fell asleep on the coach on the way back, exhausted after a fantastic day.

Saturday — Last day in Paris

Saturday was our last day in Paris. We were all a little disappointed as the time seemed to have flown by. The last tourist attraction we visited was the Sacre Cour in Montmartre. The Sacre Cour is a lovely building filled with religious culture. The following 6-hour bus journey (back to the Ferry Terminal) didn't feel so long to me, because I had made some new friends on the trip. The last night on the ferry was SO much fun as we had a parting disco. Pretty much everyone got involved, and it was a great way to spend our last night on the trip.



Sunday — Arriving home

Ironically, our arrival in Hull on Sunday was warmer and sunnier than any day we ever had in Paris. On the journey back, the teachers kept us busy with quizzes and a hilarious award ceremony. When we finally pulled up to the school, and were all reunited with our parents, we realised how exhausted we were. We needed nothing more at that point than to go home and sleep.



The Paris trip was an amazing, life-changing opportunity which we will all remember for years to come. Thank you to all the teachers for being so enthusiastic and kind throughout the trip, and for helping to make it all happen. Mr. Maskell's jokes were a particular highlight! We would absolutely recommend the Paris trip.

Cara, Freya and Alice

Madras DYW Round Up



This academic year, pupils have been able to engage with Developing the Young Workforce Activities in many different ways. From work experience placements to our massively popular Careers Fair, there has been lots going on. Here is a snapshot of just some of the highlights:

Former pupil Chris Burdon brought glamour and excitement when he returned to the school with his Oscar. An acclaimed sound engineer, Chris won the Academy Award for Best Sound as part of a team working on "Top Gun: Maverick". The S1 year group and the National 5 Media class were invited to hear about Chris starting his career with the BBC and, of course, what it was like to be flown first class to Hollywood and to win an Oscar!

The S3 Design and Manufacturing elective class enjoyed a visit to the St Andrews West site courtesy of Headon Developments to learn about the many jobs available in the construction industry.

The S2 year group were lucky enough to take part in a project run by Channel 4. Starting with a whole year group assembly, this interactive session got pupils thinking about all the jobs involved in TV production. This was followed up by workshops in which students were assigned job roles in groups and had to work together to create a new digital series for Channel 4.0 on YouTube.



Wildflower Biodiversity



Advanced Higher Biology students have been carrying out the annual Wildflower Biodiversity survey in the school grounds. This was first carried out in August 2021 and it has been completed annually ever since, each June. Our surveying methods have been improving - using a specialised phone app for identification. We are really just trying to identify everything and anything growing in four different survey areas, excluding the trees.

This year we can see a huge increase in the number of different species in each of the four areas we look at (compared to last year):

67% increase at the back of the school

63% increase at the rear of the cycle shelter area

86% in the Tree Trail plot

and a whopping 96% increase in the number of different species around the pond area.

While our methodology is not perfect, this clearly shows a quickly increasing trend for this year, and generally, over previous years...great news for our environment and the species that live in it.



Madras DAS News



Craigtoun Park Day Out

On the 18th of June the Madras DAS pupils enjoyed an all expenses paid day out at Craigtoun Park. This was courtesy of St Andrews Rotary Club – who funded the cost of access-all-area wrist bands and even provided our pupils with lunch.

All pupils had a fantastic day and the weather even stayed fair! Thanks again to the Rotary Club for enabling our pupils to have such positive experiences year after year.



DSF Track & Field Championships

In June, the Madras DAS pupils travelled to Pitreavie Athletics Centre, Dunfermline to participate in the annual DSF Track & Field Championships. The pupils were entered into run, jump and throw events of their preference. Yet again, the team returned to Madras with a massive haul of medals. This year the team won sixteen medals! The pupils are obviously keen to go back and compete in this event next year. We'll just have to wait and see what 2025 at Pitreavie brings.



DFS Cross Country Event

On the 20th June the Madras DAS pupils once again headed for Beveridge Park, Kirkcaldy to compete in the DFS 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. Four of our pupils managed to finish in the medals (1 gold, 2 silver and 1 bronze). Well done to all runners!



Modern Languages News



67th Kiel Exchange

Last year a large group of S3-5 Madras pupils spent a wonderful week with their German exchange partners in the beautiful city of Kiel. This year in June, with strong links already forged, the Germans arrived in St Andrews for their return visit. This was the 67th year of the Kiel Exchange, which we understand is the oldest, unbroken (with the exception of the 'Covid years') exchange between schools in Germany and the United Kingdom.

During their week in Scotland, the thirty-two pupils from Kiel had the opportunity to visit the school one morning and participate in lessons. They enjoyed a range of excursions such as visits to Edinburgh Castle, the Edinburgh Dungeons, Stirling Castle, the Wallace Monument and of course, sightseeing in St Andrews. They particularly enjoyed their walk along the Fife Coastal Path and their visit to the fish and chip shop in Anstruther! The Madras partners were also able to join their partners on excursions to Edinburgh, Stirling and St Andrews.

University of St Andrews: Modern Languages Open Day

S5 and S6 Modern Languages pupils, accompanied by Mr Irving, visited the School of Modern Languages at the University of St Andrews for the Open Day on Tuesday 25th June. In the morning they were able to enjoy language taster sessions in a new language (Arabic, French, German, Italian, Chinese, Russian and Spanish) and participate in mini-lectures in Arabic and Russian. In the afternoon they had a talk on how to apply to university followed by a Q&A session with student ambassadors and lecturers. Pupils were able to ask questions about language learning, university life and living abroad to current Modern Languages students there. Pupils found this to be a very useful and informative Open Day.



By all accounts, the KGS and Madras pupils had a fantastic time together, enjoying parties and lots of fun activities. The week flew by and it was sad (and sometimes tearful!) to say our goodbyes to the German Exchange partners on Monday 17th June. The second leg of the Exchange has certainly strengthened friendships and some Madras pupils have already made plans to visit Kiel once again, on their own or with their families, next summer. We hear that plans are also afoot for some Kiel pupils to re-visit their Madras hosts for Hogmanay!

Many thanks to the Madras families who were so welcoming to our Kiel visitors and made the 67th Exchange such a resounding success.

Music News



Fife Festival of Music Success 2024

The pupils of Madras had a very exciting fortnight participating in the Fife Festival of Music. The pupils were a credit to themselves and the school. The group classes returned to the stage of the newly renovated Adam Smith Theatre.

Competitive Solo Classes

Several pupils entered the solo classes with many receiving Outstanding and Very Good Awards.

Tara McGhie S5 won the Open Woodwind class and performed in the Young Musician Final.

Daniel Armstrong S5 won the Open String class and performed in the Young Musician Final

Group Classes

Junior Choir - Platinum Award
Senior Choir - Gold Award
Mixed Choir - Gold Award
Clarsach Group - Gold Award
Percussion Group - Gold Award
Lower String Ensemble - Platinum Award
Jazz Group - Platinum Award
Senior Wind Band - Gold Award
Senior String Orchestra - Gold Award
Senior Trad Group - Gold Award
Flute Quintet – Gold Award



Non Competitive Classes

The junior String Orchestra, junior trad group, junior wind band, and flute quintet played extremely well in the non-competitive class. The Staff choir performed in the non-competitive community choral class.



Madras College Pipe Band

The school pipe band has had a busy session competing in the Scottish School Pipe Band Championships, the Summer Concert and the P7 Open Evening.

Scottish Schools Pipe Band Championships 2024 - This year's competition took place in March and the pipe band returned to the William McIlvanney Campus, Kilmarnock. We received some wonderful feedback from Alex Duncan, Chief Executive, The Scottish Schools Pipes and Drums Trust:

“We at the Scottish Schools Pipe Band Championships were delighted to welcome all the players from Madras College Pipe Band, and send congratulations to each of you who took part. Your teamwork, effort and performance were impressive, one and all.”

A big thank **Rory Turnbull** S6, Pipe Major who has given many solo performances on behalf of the pipe band and **Callum Gillespie** S6, Pipe Sergeant.

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.

Fife Young Musician 2024

Congratulations to **Tara McGhie** who was selected to represent Madras College in the Fife Competition. Along with ten pupils from other Fife schools Tara performed two saxophone pieces. She gave a brilliant performance and was awarded 2nd place in a competition of incredibly high standard.

Play Day

The music department was delighted to welcome 50 Primary pupils to the Primary 7 Transition Playday in May. The instrumentalists spent the day playing in the Junior Wind Band, Chanter Group, the Junior String Orchestra and Piano Ensemble along with some of Madras' Junior instrumental pupils. The day was rounded off with a final performance from each group to an appreciative audience of staff and pupils.

More Music News



Fife Burns Competition Success

Congratulations to **Thomas Robertson** S5 who won the S5/6 Singing Competition. Thomas also came 2nd in the Instrumental.

Congratulations to **Sophie Robertson** S2 who won the S1/2 Instrumental Competition.

Congratulations to **Euan Miller** S2 who won the S1/2 Singing Competition.

Congratulations to **Robert Hutchison** S2 who came 2nd in the Instrumental and 2nd in the Singing.

Congratulations to **Jonah Thomson** who came 2nd in the S3/4 Instrumental Competition.

All of the musicians went on to represent Fife and compete in the Scottish Schools Competition 2024 National Festival which was held at Clydeview Academy in Gourrock on Saturday 23rd March. Everyone gave very good performances and scored very high marks.

Robert Hutchison was awarded 3rd place in the National S1/2 Instrumental Competition.

Music Exam Results (so far!)

We are currently waiting to receive news of lots of our Music Exams, as we are fortunate to have so many pupils sitting Grade Exams this year—well done to everyone involved!

A couple of results we do have back are:

Robert Hutchison S2

passed with Distinction Grade 5 Violin

Tara McGhie S5

passed with Merit Grade 6 Piano

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.

Applications are now available for next year's Fife Youth Orchestra residential course.

Jazz Group

The jazz group has had a busy year performing at school and community events. They represented Fife in the recent Scottish Young Musician Ensemble Competition. Here is some of the adjudicators feedback:

"The performance showed a deep commitment and quality demonstrating a brilliant ensemble".

The group were also invited to perform at the Fife Head Teacher conference in May.

The Jazz group and Mr Lloyd will say farewell to **Robert Fleming**, **Abel Cotnoir** and **Jasmine Shackman**, all three outstanding musicians.

Summer Concert

The Summer Concert was held on Tuesday the 18th of June. The evening was filled with group performances from the Senior String Group, Senior Trad Group, Staff Choir, Junior Wind Band, Piano Ensemble, Flute Quintet, Percussion Ensemble, Choir, Brass Group, Pipe Band, Junior String Group, Junior Trad Group, Lower Strings Ensemble, Guitar, Clarsach, Senior Wind Band and Jazz Group. **Tara McGhie** S5 played a beautiful Saxophone solo, **Daniel Armstrong** played an exciting Cello solo and **Kaila Bartlett** S6 wowed the audience with her Bagpipe solo. **Mrs Miller** paid tribute to the many S6 pupils leaving and the contribution they had made to the department.

At the end of the concert a special item was added in to mark the retirement of **Mr Barron**. Mr Barron was a pupil at Madras joining Kilrymont in 1968 and when he left school as a pupil he returned to assist his father with the pipe band. He has worked as the Pipe band Leader at Madras College for 30+ years taking part in hundreds of school and community events. Almost sixty years on from learning the pipes Mr Barron is still playing, teaching, judging and composing. Mr Barron will be sorely missed and we wish him a very long and happy retirement.

Top of the Bench 2024



2024 saw another successful year for Madras College in The Royal Society of Chemistry's Top of the Bench competition. After an exceptional performance, in January, against 14 competing schools, Madras progressed to the Regional Final, held at the University of St Andrews, where they faced Dundee High, St Leonards and Kinross High. We were delighted to see Madras' team win the Regional Final, and then progress to the National Final in Edinburgh. Participating in the National Final was a fantastic opportunity, to compete against 36 national and International schools and a great experience for our pupils.



Top of the Bench Regional winners: Amara Scotcher S2, William Monks S2, Fergus Waterson S3, and Oisin Buckley Zapf

More Madras News



Rotary Forum

Madras College were the proud hosts of this year's Rotary Forum. We welcomed Dr Eve Poole (a former pupil of the school), and pupils of St Leonards, to take part in a discussion around the impact of Artificial Intelligence on society and education.

We would like to thank Dr Poole for her valuable insight and for answering all the questions from the young people who took part.

First Aid Training

As part of our new S6 Induction Day, we were pleased to offer a Level 6 course in Emergency First Aid Training. This allows our S6 learner to gain an additional qualification and also helps to provide them with an important new life skill.

UK Ambassador Q&A

This session, our Modern Studies classes were fortunate enough to participate in a Teams call with His Excellency Anthony Phillipson, UK Ambassador to South Africa. This was an excellent opportunity to learn about work in the Foreign Office. There was an interesting question and answer session, which covered a range of issues facing South Africa Today



