

## MADRAS COLLEGE ARCHIVE SUPPORT GROUP

Business meeting, Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September, 2015, at 3.45 pm in Room M1

1. Apologies: Beth Pitkin, Clare Stadnik.
2. Present: Ellidh Aitken, Liam Armstrong, Jim Bennett, Ann Bridges, Ted Brocklebank, Lauryn Christie, Mattia Serrano Ferraro, Lewis Garippa, Liz Higgins, Anna Kirby, Ben Levy, Donald Macgregor (Chair), Colin Mackay, Jamie Macleod, Lindsay Matheson, Elaine Methven, Anne Morris, Arlen Pardoe, Edmund Robertson, Maia Sheridan, Katie Stewart, David Watkinson.
3. Donald Macgregor (DM) welcomed the record turnout to the meeting, asking members to introduce themselves briefly.
4. The note of the 4<sup>th</sup> June meeting was accepted.
5. Lindsay Matheson (LM) highlighted the two main developments which had arisen from the informal meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> August: a) the proposed formation of a pupil archive committee (see 6, below); b) the opportunity for S6 volunteers to visit local archives (see 7 below).
6. It was decided that the pupil committee would be a very useful development, particularly given the excellent response from S6 this session. Anna Kirby (AK) will convene meetings, Jamie Macleod (JM) will give advice and support, Ann Bridges (AB) will see several of the pupils during AH English, and Arlen Pardoe (AP) will assist the group to set up a rolling system for recording aspects of school life. The S6 Group will also ask for involvement from other members of the main committee from time to time. AK will decide meeting times to suit the group and possibly use Room M1 at lunchtimes. AK will report progress to the main termly meetings.
7. Visits for S6 to local archives and museums in the coming weeks will be organised by Maia Sheridan (MS) and Ben Levy (BL). BL will communicate the visit options to the other members of the group personally or by email. MS will set up a visit to the Teaching Room in Martyrs (North Street), Sam Bannerman will do likewise in the Preservation Trust Museum (also North Street), and groups of S6 will also visit the university "shop front" which is the beautiful MUSA museum on the Scores. In this way the S6 members will gain knowledge of archive work such as the presentation of artefacts to the public and suitable methods of cataloguing and storage. BL will report on these visits to the main termly meetings.
8. Oral History Group. Ted Brocklebank (TB) and Colin Mackay (CM) will coordinate the interviews with various "ages and stages". TB mentioned several very suitable interviewees in the older age-group that he was keen to involve. TB and CM will form the Oral History sub-group along with S6 members interested.
9. Edmund Robertson (ER) reported briefly on the Prizes and Awards sub-group, mentioning the "recovered" medals that will now be awarded annually. AP commented on a metal chest of interesting items, including trophies that had turned up in the K3 cupboard and contained some uncatalogued items.

10. Frances Humphries (FH) and Anne Morris (AM) will continue with the Scrapbook task. The various volumes that now exist are not currently on display. MS pointed out the conflict that can occur between “public display and rapid decay” when dealing with fragile items of this nature. LM proposed that we consider some ideas for temporary or permanent displays later this session.
11. AP reported on the website work, particularly the constant need to keep information up-to-date and the interesting task of recording brief biographies in various categories. JM noted that the rector’s biography needed to be updated. AP asked whether the Annual Report that we produced in 2014 was to be repeated this year. After discussion it was felt that a biennial report would be sufficient. Sub-groups, therefore, will produce reports for late in 2016. Lastly, he will place on the website the full texts of the two recent booklets, The Burgh School and The Madras War Memorials, even though the hard copies are still for sale.
12. AM enquired about how we follow up the graduations and other achievements of former pupils. This topic requires further discussion, although David Watkinson (DW) already can show some relevant information from published graduation lists in the local press that he has researched. AM proposed that the biographies of past rectors could be linked to the educational developments during their eras, an interesting task that would link with updating the school history.
13. MS kindly offered to provide some training in archive techniques for those interested.
14. Ellidh Aitken (EA) has some material from the Kiel exchange in which she took part. She can give it to the group starting to tidy K3. Lewis Garippa (LG) and Katie Stewart (KS) are already involved. Care has to be taken to leave careful notes of any current acquisitions in the right place so that these may be added to the catalogue when eventually the “platform” is updated.
15. The next meeting of the main committee was provisionally scheduled for Thursday November 5<sup>th</sup>. LM will leave a supply of paper copies of the agenda and other papers in the South Street office a couple of days ahead of future meetings, since printing facilities are an issue for many S6 members.
16. DM closed proceedings at 4.45 pm thanking all for their input to a successful first meeting of the new session.

LM

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Ps Once all sub-groups have fully formed it would be helpful if each convener would give me the names of members so that we can produce a spreadsheet showing our “division of labour”.