

## MADRAS COLLEGE ARCHIVE

Inaugural meeting of the Madras College Archive Support Group  
K1, South Street, 4 pm on Thursday 25th September, '08

### Note of the meeting

1. Present. 21 members attended: Pupils - Daniel Charlton, Jamie Murphy, Elliot Parry, Michael Greig, Annie Parker, Holly Barbour, Lewis Atherton, Alice Minnick and Ellen Bowman; Former Pupils: Anne Morris, Frances Humphries and Matthew Wright; Staff - Patricia Esler, Emma Payne, Olav Darge, Elizabeth Higgins, Elaine Methven, Adam Smallwood and Paul Dagless; Former Parent: Norman Reid; Former Staff: Lindsay Matheson.
2. Apologies: From former pupil - Edmund Robertson, Hamish Kinnear; from staff - Sandra Thomson and Jim Bennett; from former staff - Arlen Pardoe.
3. The meeting was chaired by Lindsay Matheson, who explained that Mr Jones, Rector, had asked him to convene a support group for the archive on his behalf. He outlined the main purpose of the group as being to make the rich resources of our archive as widely available as possible. He also hoped that the archive would expand into new areas of common interest including collecting individual memories.
4. Members introduced themselves briefly and some spoke about their hopes or interests in this new organisation.
5. The work that had taken place during the summer was outlined by Lindsay Matheson and Matthew Wright. The latter, about to set off for his History course at Durham, was warmly thanked for his (and Hamish Kinnear's) efforts to update the archive catalogue and organise the collection of over 2000 items. He and Hamish will remain members of the support group and may even give some time to its work next summer. They had raised over £1000 in sponsorship from local organisations and societies to assist in the project of reorganisation. Arlen Pardoe, former PT of Computing, had given valuable assistance in ICT aspects, including plans for a website.
6. Dr Norman Reid explained how the university archive operates, invited anyone interested to come along to see around, and outlined how a number of paper resources and photographs from our archive will probably be taken into safe-keeping as a collection within the university archive. Certain of our most valuable items are already held in the university archive. In the correct conditions the items will last much longer, be more accessible to all concerned than at present, and a number will be scanned and the reproductions thus made available electronically.
7. A summary of the five proposed sub-groups was circulated (see attached): catalogue; responding to requests; communication and public relations; website; exhibitions. Members verbally confirmed that there was a spread of interest between the various groups and an enthusiasm to change round every so often to widen experience. They were asked to email or telephone Lindsay Matheson (see email and phone list attached) with a choice (or first and second choice) so that the sub-groups could begin their work straight away. A member of the staff will be asked to convene each sub-group.
8. There was general discussion at the end of the meeting about the importance of the website, good communication generally, and archiving categories such as personal experiences of their schooldays, pupil work, school exchanges, activities and events.
9. The chair agreed to select a date early in December for the next plenary meeting, and in future a termly meeting would suffice. The main work will be within the sub-groups. The chair thanked all present for their attendance, ideas and enthusiasm. (Thursday 4th December at 3.45pm is suggested as a possible date, to be confirmed after discussion with Mr Jones). Items for the agenda should be given to Lindsay Matheson by 27th November.

LM  
26th September, '08