



Easter Newsletter

Madras College Newsletter

March 2016

Rector's Message

This term is always our busiest term for progress reporting, course option choice and internal assessment. Consequently there has been an enormous amount of work directed towards encouraging our S4, S5 and S6 to achieve their full potential in the May SQA exam diet - which is now only five weeks away. The South Street guidance and support teams have been working very hard with all senior phase pupils, ensuring they are on track, properly focussed and following a rigorous process of internal assessment. Every day the staff have delivered lunchtime and after-school study opportunities, which have been very well attended. During the Easter break the school will again be open for pupils to attend our Easter School. This will run from Monday to Friday for both weeks, from 9.00 am to 3.30 pm each day. This year the school has been able to offer 90 half-day sessions across the two weeks and an Easter School Timetable has been issued to all senior pupils and is also available on the school website. I would encourage all pupils who feel in need of some extra study, revision or support to come along and engage in extra learning.

As well as all of the learning mentioned above the school has continued to try to maintain its balance of academic study and personal experience, with pupils engaging in all the other elements of school life. This included Debating, the Music Festival, Top of The Bench, Careers Events, Peer Tutoring, Burns Night, supporting the community, charities, young enterprise, educational trips, competitions and the many sporting activities - as some of the examples of the opportunities which have taken place. Indeed, in sporting activities within the school, Madras College has the highest uptake of pupils in the whole of Fife,

recording 54% of all pupils engaged in school sport activities - 6% better than the second highest uptake as noted by Fife Active Schools Co-ordinator figures.

This term has also involved our S1, S3 and S4/5 pupils carefully making their next session option choices with the help of their respective guidance teams. To support our Senior Phase choices we have introduced National 4 Engineering Skills, National 5 Child Care, National 5 Psychology, National 5 Numeracy and National 5 Literacy courses for S4-6 pupils to choose. I hope that all of the progress reports, recommendations, parental evening contact and other home-school link contact has been useful and has helped everyone to make well-informed choices.

The winter months were particularly wet, dark and cold this year and as a consequence many pupils stopped wearing their blazer in favour of a warmer outdoor jacket. However, winter is behind us and the better weather and lighter days are returning and it is now expected that all pupils will be able to demonstrate their support of the school and (not insignificantly) our school security policy which, for South Street in particular, is essential.

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Bell Baxter Centenary Competition 2016



Arran Tarvet with Tutor, Mr Milton

The 27th annual inter-school competition was hosted by Madras College on Tuesday 22nd March. Nine pupils from Bell Baxter High School, Madras College and Waid Academy performed to an appreciative audience and the evening was a great celebration of the talented musicians.

Arran Tarvet, Madras College won the 2016 trophy with an outstanding performance on the Saxophone.

Inside

Sport Relief

On Friday 18th March, the school raised an amazing £929.39 for Sport Relief.

Mr Anderson who organised the events says thank you to everyone who contributed and helped make this day such a success.

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At this time of year we review our annual calendar and school improvement priorities. Our proposed calendar is printed on the last two pages of the newsletter and we would welcome any relevant comment from parents and partner groups regarding the 2016/17 calendar (comments can be emailed to the school office). Our main priorities for next session are currently identified as: reviewing the Broad General Education - courses and skills, further developing our partnerships (in particular those linked to Developing the Young Workforce), improving numeracy, understanding insight (statistics data) and continue to develop raising attainment approaches. We would also welcome any comments regarding our proposed priority areas.

This term we hosted another very successful P7 Parents' Open Evening for our future S1 pupils and parents. The evening was extremely well attended (we estimated an excess of 400 attendees) and the feedback from the parents and pupils was very positive and encourages us to continue this annual event. As well as this the school distributed (to our primary cluster schools) our finalised draft of The Madras Numeracy Policy and Toolkit. Both policy and toolkit can now be viewed on our website. The toolkit details the eight numeracy organisers and gives worked examples of all the numeracy approaches and

methods which our pupils will experience across the S1 - S3 curriculum. Next session we hope to complement this with a transparent set of Level 2 and Level 3 'standards' at secure, consolidating and developing grades.

The school handbook for Session 2016 -2017 has just been completed and is available for viewing on our website. The school will also issue an SQA examinations and study leave arrangements letter to S4/S5/S6 pupils before the start of the exams. This will be available for viewing on our website after Easter. It should be noted that during the SQA exam leave pupils will be expected to wear school uniform to continue to support the school security policy.

This has been a very demanding term for pupils, staff and parents and I would like to thank all for their continued support of the school and the work the school does. In the last week of term I received two extremely nice communications regarding praise for our pupils (who saved an injured seagull) and for our staff (for their energy, hard work and positivity) which moved me very much and reminded me that even at the end of an exhausting term our staff and pupils are a credit to the school. I wish you all a very enjoyable Easter break and look forward to the drive and rewards of next term.

D. McClure.

Volcano Day



Every year S2 students bring in fantastic, volcanic creations to their social subjects class. Every pupil studies volcanoes and earthquakes and Volcano Day is a fun way to tie up the topic and display what everyone has learned. No creation was the same; we had edible masterpieces and wacky models that erupted all over our playground, cascading over innocent by-standing gingerbread men! Volcano Day gets everyone involved; deputies came to taste the cakes and parents got involved in helping their children make these volcanoes come to life. It's certainly one of the best days in our Social Subject's year.

Annabel Thompson (S2)

British Physics Olympiad

Twenty seven S4 pupils took part in the GCSE level challenge and we got our best results ever. Pupils gained one gold, five silver, three upper bronze and two lower bronze awards. Special mention to Juliette Van Steensel who gained the Gold award placing her in the top 100 out of 3,500 in Britain. Last week seven S5 pupils took part in the AS level challenge and we are waiting to hear how they have done.

Rotary Quiz



This February a team of four Madras pupils pitted their wits in the Fife Schools Quiz. Run every year, by the Rotary Club, the quiz has testing questions on such topics as History, Science and General Knowledge.

Madras gained second place being only narrowly beaten by Waid Academy.



Musical Notes



Fife Festival of Music Success

Earlier this term over 100 Madras pupils participated in competitive and non-competitive classes at the Music Festival. The pupils should all be congratulated for their wonderful performances and excellent adjudication comments.

Individual Solo Class Winners

S3	Isobel Grieve	Advanced Wood Wind Class
S5	Arin Beaver	Advanced Guitar Class
S6	Ellenor Waddell	Open Clarsach Class
S6	Arran Tarvet	Open Wood Wind Class

Group Class Awards

Junior Choir – Platinum	Senior Choir – Platinum
Mixed Choir – Platinum	Wind Band - Silver

On the final evening of the festival S6 pupils Michael Sharp, Ellenor Waddell and Arran Tarvet performed in the prestigious ‘Young Musican’ class along with three other Fife pupils. After six wonderful performances the trophy was awarded to Michael Sharp for his exceptional performance on the Piano.

Music Exam Success

Well done to the following pupils who recently sat and passed music exams:

Finlay McGhie (S1)
Grade 4 Piano (<i>with distinction</i>)
Ailsa O’Riordan (S1)
Grade 2 Violin (<i>with distinction</i>)
Katie Forsyth (S2)
Grade 1 Cello (<i>with distinction</i>)
Jakob Mikulin (S2)
Grade 1 Double Bass (<i>with distinction</i>)
Maisie Payne (S2)
Grade 2 Viola (<i>with merit</i>)
Baran Talajooy (S4)
Grade 2 Violin
Joanna Burns (S4)
Grade 3 Viola (<i>with merit</i>)

Fife Burns Competition Success

Instrumental, Singing and Bagpiping



Congratulations to the Madras pupils who achieved great success in the recent Fife Burns Competition.

All first and second places go to the Nationals on 23rd April 2016 in Edinburgh.



Madras College Entrants

INSTRUMENTAL

S1/2	2nd	Zoe Mitcham
S3/4	1st	Katie Greive
	3rd	Isobel Grieve
S5/6	2nd	Ellenor Waddell
	2nd	Ellenor Waddell (Bagpipes)

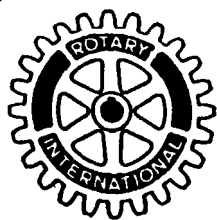
SINGING

S1/2	2nd	Natalie Rengger
S3/4	2nd	Eugene Ritchie
S5/6	3rd	Innes Little

SPEAKING

S1/2	1st	Luke Connah
	3rd	Aimee Brown (joint winner)
S3/4	1st	Shannon Stewart

St Andrews Rotary - Migration



On 1st March, pupils from Madras College attended the Rotary in St Andrews to listen to and take part in discussions concerning migration. It was a huge success; extremely informative and interesting.

The first speaker set the scene about what migration is and what the reasons are for people immigrating to another country. She established that types of migrants include seasonal migrants or forced migrants.

The second talk was in order to ask us questions to see how we view migrants; if we think they contribute a lot to society, and if we have any living in our area; if so how many.

The final talk was to show us the different problems migrants can face when they move to a new country and the issues that arise. The main concerns with being integrated into a new society are adapting to the new culture and learning the language. It can be particularly difficult if they come into contact with racism or prejudice in their new home.

We were then lucky enough to be able to ask questions directly to a Syrian refugee named Hassan through his translator. He explained how he had such an amazing life before the war broke out in Syria; home, stable job, family. However, once the war had started it was impossible for him to remain there. He moved with his wife and 18-year-old daughter to Jordan. From there the UN managed to get him to Istanbul and from there to Scotland where he is now living in Glenrothes. Unfortunately, members of his family still remain in Syria. Hearing Hassan speak about his experiences and process of migration confirmed how important it is for us to give these refugees all the help they need in getting them a safer and happier way of life. It was such an eye opening experience and one that will make a long lasting impression on all the pupils at Madras College.

After the questions had all been asked, we got into discussion groups, mixing with pupils from other schools, in order to talk about our feelings towards immigration and the ways in which we think the whole process could be made easier for people. We discussed the pros and cons and agreed that there had to be a place in the middle where we could take in a sustainable amount of immigrants and then integrate them successfully into society.

Overall it was a very enjoyable day and we were all able to learn lots more about migration and think about the whole situation open-mindedly.

Modern Languages Department

Business Brunch Business Ventures in China

The Modern Languages department was fortunate enough to be accepted to take part in a Business Brunch for Modern Languages pupils, held in the University of Dundee on 20th January. Mrs McCartney accompanied 10, S4 pupils who took part in various seminars, hearing about how languages can enhance any profession in today's jobs market.

Speakers told of business ventures in China where even a smattering of Mandarin was useful and a recruitment agency where languages were a great advantage. There were also representatives from Dundee Contemporary Arts who spoke about their contacts with speakers of languages other than English.

There was also a Market place of stalls and a lunch which was appreciated by all.

Euroscola

This is a 5-day trip to Strasbourg, sponsored by the Rotary Club. This year two of our pupils, India Butler and Clare Stadnik (both S6), were selected to go to Strasbourg in February. The visit included workshops in French, surveys of local people in the street in French and the highlight of taking part in a debate in the European Parliament. Both girls enjoyed the visit immensely and felt that they had had a wonderful opportunity to meet pupils from all over Europe and to enhance their French.

Languages in Tourism Competition

News has just come in from the Old Course Hotel that the competition that our current 4th years entered following a visit to The Old Course Hotel has been won by Cara Nicoll and Alayna Martin. This followed a visit by S3 language pupils to the Old Course Hotel to learn about the importance of languages in the Tourism industry. Pupils were asked to write a tourism brochure in a Modern Language for foreign visitors to The Old Course and this area.

The prize will be afternoon tea in The Old Course Hotel for the two girls and a member of their families.

Cross Country

Irvine - Wednesday 9th March

U/14 Girls: 16th team

G Booth 84, A Gowans 72, A Hodgens 138, A Rose

U/14 Boys: 16th team

S Christie 70, M Paterson 119, K Struck 125, E Wilson 129

U/15 Girls

C Ritchie 105, I Bell 128

U/17 Boys: 3rd team (Bronze Medals)

J Scobie 48, E Shively 82, R Sparks 14, G Dritschell 46

O/17 Girls: 15th

E Smyth



U14 Girls: G Booth, A Gowans, A Hodgens, A Rose



U15 Girls: I Bell



U17 Boys: J Scobie, E Shively, R Sparks, G Dritschell

Dates for Your Diary

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

(all dates inclusive)

Friday 25 March to Friday 8 April 2016

Monday 2 May 2016

Monday 6 June 2016

Monday 4 July to Friday 12 August 2016

INSERVICE

Thursday 5 May 2016

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Sports News

Extra-Curricular Girls' Hockey

Extra-curricular hockey practices began last August, with senior girls and S2/S3 training at Station Park and S1 at Kilrymont Road. Numbers attending practices have varied throughout the autumn and spring terms, with an average of 30+ attending first year sessions. We are very grateful to the University of St Andrews for allowing us to use their Astroturf on a Tuesday and Thursday evening, when the clocks changed at the end of October. We are also indebted to several of the students who have helped us with the coaching sessions this year. Following on from our link with the students' hockey development coaching programme, the senior hockey squad have played the University's 5th Team on three occasions, providing us with a challenging and competitive fixture. The teams have also played matches versus St Leonards, Bell Baxter, Dunfermline High School and Morrison's Academy. The girls also competed in the annual Fife Schoolgirls' Hockey Tournaments.



Sophie Pettegree (S6), the senior team captain, once again, represented Midland's U18 at the Scottish Inter-District Outdoor Tournament in October. Following on from her success, she was selected for Midland's U18 Indoor Squad in January, to play in the Scottish Indoor

Tournament. On this occasion Midlands finished in first position. Sophie (front row, kneeling, 3rd from the left) has also been selected to travel and represent Grove Ladies First Team at the European Club Championships in May, in Lille, which is an outstanding achievement.

After 6 years, we say goodbye to the following sixth year girls, who will be greatly missed and wish them every success in the future; Ava Adamson, Ellie Cannon, Sophie Duncan, Eva Innes, Ellie MacCallum, Sophie Pettegree, Eilidh Sutherland and Hannah Webster.

Speedway



The Fife Championship got off to the best possible start for Madras with an emphatic win at Queen Anne HS. The team comprised the usual old heads but many new S1s who are making a great impression on the scene. Madras take a 10 point lead into the next round away at Glenrothes before they host their opponents in St Andrews. The final leg will again be at Queen Anne but this time on the new outdoor track.

Karate

Third Year pupil Jack Reynolds competed in the Scottish Karate Association Championship held in Glasgow. He won the kumite (fighting) section 12-2 in the final to become Scottish Champion in the junior section (Under 16 years) category 5ft 8 to 6 ft.



Annual Rugby Tournament



The S1/2 squad attended the Annual Buckhaven Invitational Rugby Tournament on 16th March. The nine invited teams were split into 3 groups with the 1st, 2nd and 3rd placed teams then playing against similar teams in the finals. It was no surprise that from the 'Group of Death' Madras came 3rd, having fought strongly and well against George Watson's and George Heriots. In the next round Madras played their 3rd game in a row against Dollar and overcame a 2-1 halftime deficit to record a 5-2 win. A tired Kinross were the next opponents and Madras came out comfortable winners here to secure the Trophy. Thanks to coach David Hodge for the instructions.

Madras College school rugby wish Buckhaven Principal Teacher of Physical Education Mr Allan a long and happy retirement and would like to extend their thanks for the many years of school rugby and competition we have enjoyed throughout the years.

Wk Beg	Whole Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Wk End	Wk No
15-Aug-16		In-Service 1 (Staff meeting)	In-Service 2				19-Aug-16	1
22-Aug-16							26-Aug-16	2
29-Aug-16			EMT Meeting	Parent Forum AGM & PC			02-Sep-16	3
05-Sep-16			Faculty Meeting	Anniversary Tournament			09-Sep-16	4
12-Sep-16			S1 Progress Report 1 Completed	S1 Progress Report 1 Checked by PTs			16-Sep-16	5
19-Sep-16		S1 progress Report 1 Issued	Staff Meeting		UCAS, S5/6 Curriculum Evening S4 Progress Report completed	S4 Progress Report 1 Checked by PTs	23-Sep-16	6
26-Sep-16			Faculty Meeting	S4 Progress Report Issued			30-Sep-16	7
03-Oct-16		S5/6 progress Report 1 Completed	EMT Meeting S5/6 Progress Report 1 Checked by PTs		Talent Show	S5/6 Progress Report 1 Issued	07-Oct-16	8
10-Oct-16		October Holidays					14-Oct-16	
17-Oct-16							21-Oct-16	
24-Oct-16	House Swimming & XC P7 Roadshows		S3 Progress Report Completed	S3 Progress Report Checked by PTs Parent Council Meeting		S3 Progress Report issued	28-Oct-16	9
31-Oct-16	P7 Roadshows		Faculty Meeting				04-Nov-16	10
07-Nov-16		S2 Progress Report Completed	S2 Progress Report Checked by PTs		S2 Progress Report Issued	Act of Remembrance	11-Nov-16	11
14-Nov-16				S5/6 Parent Evening		In-Service 3 (Staff Meeting)	18-Nov-16	12
21-Nov-16	S3 Themed Week Main S4 N5 A/B Assessment Diet this week		EMT Meeting S4 N5 A/B assessments	S4 N5 A/B assessments	S4 N5 A/B assessments		25-Nov-16	13
28-Nov-16	Burns Competition		Faculty Meeting				02-Dec-16	14
05-Dec-16			S4 Parent Evening				09-Dec-16	15
12-Dec-16					Christmas Concert		16-Dec-16	16
19-Dec-16	Christmas Parties	S2&S4 Xmas parties S5/6 Progress Report 2 Completed	S3 & S5/6 Xmas Parties	S1 Xmas Party S5/6 Progress Report 2 Checked by PTs		School Closes 12:30pm	23-Dec-16	17
26-Dec-16		Christmas Holidays					30-Dec-16	
02-Jan-17							06-Jan-17	

Wk Beg	Whole Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Wk End	Wk No
09-Jan-17				S5/6 Progress Report 2 Issued			13-Jan-17	18
16-Jan-17			EMT Meeting			S3 Full Report Completed	20-Jan-17	19
23-Jan-17			Faculty Meeting S3 Full Report Checked by PTs	Parent Council Meeting	Burns Supper	S3 Full Report Issued	27-Jan-17	20
30-Jan-17	S5/6 Prelims Fife Festival of Music UK Maths Challenge		Careers Convention	S1 Progress Report 2 Completed	S3 Parents Evening	S5/6 Prelims Start S1 Progress Report 2 Checked by PTs	03-Feb-17	21
06-Feb-17	S5/6 Prelims		Choir at Festival S1 progress Report 2 Issued	P7 Open Evening			10-Feb-17	22
13-Feb-17	S5/6 Prelims		S5/6 Prelims End	In-Service 4	February midterm holiday		17-Feb-17	23
20-Feb-17		S4 Full Report Completed	S4 Full Report Checked by PTs	Sew-Arty S4 Full Report Checked by PTs	Sew-Arty S1 Parents Evening		24-Feb-17	24
27-Feb-17		S4 Full Report Issued	EMT Meeting			S5/6 Full Report Completed	03-Mar-17	25
06-Mar-17		S5/6 Full Report Checked by PTs	Faculty Meeting	Parent Council Meeting	S5/6 Full Report Issued		10-Mar-17	26
13-Mar-17							17-Mar-17	27
20-Mar-17	2nd prelim Diet Great Assembly			S2 Parents Evening	P7 Ceilidh		24-Mar-17	28
27-Mar-17			Staff Meeting				31-Mar-17	29
03-Apr-17 10-Apr-17	Easter Holidays						07-Apr-17 14-Apr-17	
17-Apr-17							21-Apr-17	30
24-Apr-17						S4/5/6 Rewards Trip ?	28-Apr-17	31
01-May-17		May Holiday	EMT Meeting	S2 Full Report Completed	In-Service 5 (Staff Meeting)	S2 Full Report Checked by PTs	05-May-17	32
08-May-17	National Exams? Guidance Visits		Faculty Meeting	S2 Full Report Issued			12-May-17	33
15-May-17	National Exams? Guidance Visits						19-May-17	34
22-May-17	National Exams? S3 profiles S1/2 themed Week			parent council Meeting S1 Full Report Completed		S1/S2 Rewards Trip S1 Full Report Checked by PTs	26-May-17	35
29-May-17	National Exams? Eng/Math S3 Tracker			S1 Full Report Issued	Awards Ceremony	S3 Activities Day	02-Jun-17	36
05-Jun-17		June Holiday	(Staff Meeting)	Proposed change of T/T S6 Ball			09-Jun-17	37
12-Jun-17	P7 Week		Faculty Meeting	P7 transition sports day	P7 Timetable visit P7 Evening	P7 Timetable Visit	16-Jun-17	38
19-Jun-17				Sports Day	Celebrating Success SfL		23-Jun-17	39
26-Jun-17			Summer Concert			Summer Holidays Start	30-Jun-17	40