

Madras College Newsletter : Easter, 1979

The term now nearing its close is usually labelled interchangeably 'Spring' or 'Easter'. This year, 'Easter' seems the only appropriate name to apply, for Spring has yet to make its appearance. The wintry weather which keeps returning and the heavy incidence of illness among staff and pupils have made the term a gruelling one, and it is all the more creditable that so much has been packed into it.

The most notable achievement has been the winning of the "Young Scientists of the Year" award by the Madras team: Matthew Allen, Andrew Cormack, Angela McClean, Nicola Pyke and Patrick Seymour. They have brought the highest credit to themselves and the school, by the hard work and scientific ingenuity they put into the project and by their excellent presentation on T.V. In congratulating them, I would add a word of thanks to Mr Reilly for the encouragement and guidance that he gave as project teacher. The team now goes on to Oslo in May to take part in the Philips 'Young Scientists of Europe' competition, and we all wish them continued success. On Thursday, 29th March, the team will receive from Philips Industries on behalf of the school a cheque for £200 to be used for the purchase of equipment.

1979 has been designated the Year of the Child, and the 6th Year responded with enterprise and imagination by holding a "Make the Children Happy Week" with a series of lunch-time "extravaganzas" which raised £360 to aid projects for children in need. It was all good-humoured fun, effectively organised.

Just as effectively produced, though touching a more serious note, was Drama Club's production of "Twelfth Night" presented in the Byre Theatre in January. The production later had the distinction of being included in the St Andrews Festival along with 'A Resounding Tinkle'. Catering for allied interests, the Film Club is being well attended, while the Debating Society is now well established, with Charlotte London and Kenneth Rhatigan winning their way through to the Regional Final of the Scottish Schools Debating Tournament. Guided by the tireless Mr Mole, the Chess Club won the Computer Chess competition open to Fife and Tayside Schools, and have reached the semifinal of the "Scotsman" tournament. Congratulations to Helen Scott on being selected to play for Scotland in the Faber Cup.

On the sports side, the Football Club has had its most successful season for many years. It is encouraging to see how strongly the 1st XI has come through, not only in league games but in the Fife Cup competition where they eliminated a formidable team from Queen Anne High School. From the younger teams, Paul Stewart has been selected for the Fife under-14 pool. The Rugby club has had an excellent season, the 1st and 2nd XV's losing only twice, the 3rd year XV only once and the 2nd year XV being undefeated. Congratulations to Glyn Evans and Simon Wilson on being selected for the Midlands District Senior XV, and to Mark Hayhow on making the Junior XV. The Boys' Hockey Club has fielded two teams this season and is showing promise. Mark Clacher has been selected to play for the District,

In Girls' hockey, the 1st XI swept the board by winning the Fife Indoor, the Midlands Indoor and Outdoor and the St Leonard's Invitation tournaments. The 2nd XI are undefeated and the junior teams have played extremely well. Congratulations to Elaine Makein and Heather Fraser on being selected to play against Wales at Ayr on 31st March, and commiserations to Dorothy McGregor who narrowly missed a place. In cross-country, for the second year in succession the Senior Girls gained first team place in the Scottish Championships, while Rachel Watt and Sarah Maitland gained first place in the Regional Championships.

The Badminton Club continues to thrive with good results in regional matches Roderick Christie was chosen to play for Fife Schools against Perth Schools Golf has been hit by the weather, but our teams look forward to competing in the Aer Lingus Schools Competition in the last week of term

After the holidays, groups of pupils will be spending weekends at the school's cottage in Glen Tilt, using it as a base for hill-walking and environmental studies

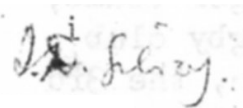
The faster term finds, or should find, S.C.E. candidates conscious of the approach of the examination period as they prepare for the final run-up under conditions which are, I am afraid, less than normal I wish them, and the C.S.E. candidates whose grading is determined next term, every success

Immediately after the S.C.E. examinations, those moving on to SV, effectively begin a new session, and I must insist that pupils intending to return for Session 1979/30 attend school regularly. Work covered in June will not be repeated in August

Among the staff changes to be noted are the welcome additions at the start of the term of Mr McLaughlan, Chemistry, Mr Hamilton, Music, Mrs Stirton, Home Economics and later of Mr Armstrong (a different one!) to the technician staff To Mr Taylor, who would normally have been printing this newsletter, we wish a speedy return to fitness It is with regret that we shall say goodbye at Easter to Mr Prothero who takes up a promoted post in R.E. in Grimsby.

The school has been much indebted to several people who have temporarily filled vacancies arising from illness or transfer: Mrs Howden and Mrs MacCallum (Science), Mrs Clarke (Remedial), Mrs Findlay (Mathematics) Mr Novak-Solinski (Geography) and Mrs Alexander who has deputised for Mrs Brighton of the Special Class while she has been on a course The term has made heavy demands on teachers, especially with no fewer than five parents' evenings, and I am grateful to staff, both teaching and non-teaching for their contribution to the academic and social health of the school.

For the benefit of parents, a list of some of the main events in the summer term is given below, some of the dates being, of course, provisional at this stage. For pupils and staff, it would be surprising if thoughts were not centred on a more immediate event - the start of the holidays, and I wish everyone a very pleasant and refreshing break.



Rector

Holiday Dates and Forthcoming Events.

- Easter Holidays - 2nd April to 13th April, 1979 inclusive
- May Day Holiday - 7th May, 1979
- June Holiday - 4th June, 1979
- Summer Holiday - 2nd July to 17th August, 1979
- June Events - Art, Technical and Home Craft Exhibition in Assembly Hall, Kilrymont Road
Drama Club Productions, Quad Theatre, South Street
Cabaret, Assembly Hall, Kilrymont Road,