

Madras College Newsletter - Summer Term 1979

Though not the longest of the terms in the academic year, the summer term always seems to contain more variety and contrast of activities, and this year has been no exception.

To the S.C.E. candidates, it must have seemed that the term had barely started before they were embarked on a lengthy diet of examinations. 306 were presented from 4th year for 'O' Grades, while from 5th and 6th years there were 250 Higher and S.Y.S. candidates. The results of these examinations are expected to be in the hands of candidates by Monday, 23rd July. The 63 candidates for the Certificate of Secondary Education granted by the North Regional Examinations Board may have to wait until August until their grades are published by the Board. To deal with any changes of course or appeals that may arise from the S.C.E. results, guidance staff will be available for consultation on Friday, 17th August.

In an interesting extension of the curriculum 8 of the pupils following the Schools Traffic Education Programme were awarded Certificates of Proficiency. This development has been greatly helped by the gift from the Hamada Trust of a Honda moped, and I wish to acknowledge the school's gratitude to the Hamada Trustees.

As usual, after the S.C.E. examinations were over, senior pupils started on next year's courses. For staff, this can be a difficult exercise, for time has also to be found for a number of educational visits and excursions which cannot be undertaken at other times of the session, but experience has shown the value of making this early start.

Under the programme of visits referred to above, parties have visited St Andrews and Dundee and Edinburgh Universities, Dundee College of Technology, Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art, the Fisheries Museum at Anstruther, Ceres Folk Museum and the Highland Show. While theatre outings have taken place to Perth and Dundee. Further afield, a party of senior pupils attended a week's Shakespeare course at Stratford, while a party of 37 pupils and staff is at present bound for Portugal, Spain and Casablanca on board the "School-ship" 'Uganda'.

It is a long time since parents, staff and pupils have had a chance to see the kind of work that is done in the Art, Technical and Homecraft Departments, and that was most rewardingly supplied in an exhibition held in the Hall by the Kilrymont Road building earlier this month. The standards of artistic skill and craftsmanship were matched by most effective presentation, especially in the case of the mannequin parade, a swinging affair carried off in a thoroughly professional manner. As a bonus, parents were able to see the Young Scientists team display their project together with the trophies gained at London and Oslo.

Sharp on the heels of the exhibition, the Drama Club presented in their usual highly competent manner two productions in the Quad Theatre in the South Street building, and to round off the team, the 'Cabaret' evenings in the Kilrymont Road building have introduced the younger generation to the songs of the 1940's and no doubt introduced nostalgia among their parents.

This year it was the turn of Madras College to act as hosts to the Gelehrtenschule, Kiel in the 22nd year of the exchange, and a delightful party of 30 pupils under Herr Kehrer enjoyed the only reasonable spell of weather this term.

Among the clubs, the Chess Club continues in strength, with Helen Scott being selected to play for Scotland, and Pam Mitchell and Stephen Curle for Dundee and District. It is good to see the Debating Club firmly established in both buildings.

Congratulations to Penny Hall and Helen Scott for winning the Latin and Greek recitation competitions in Fife, Glasgow and Edinburgh.

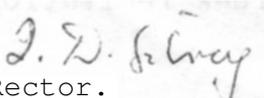
With the appalling weather in April and May, the cricket fixtures were decimated, and examination commitments hampered the 1st XI's performance, but it is a hopeful sign to see so many promising youngsters in the junior teams. The tennis teams have had a struggle to get fixtures, but have enjoyed some good games and results. In Athletics, the girls' team took 1st place and the boys 2nd in a six-school meet at Glenrothes. In a four-school competition at St Andrews girls again took 1st place, the boys dropping to 4th. From the Fife Schools' Championships at Pitreavie, where Madras took 1 first, 6 seconds, and 4 third places, Peter Green and Sarah Headen were selected to represent the Region against Glasgow. On the links, two Madras partnerships, Kevin Mackay & Michael Hamilton, and David Scott & John Goodlad won the City Foursomes, and Elaine Hunter was selected to play for Scotland against England. Finally, congratulations to Graeme King on winning the Perth Open Junior Rifle Championship.

Parents will appreciate that such a wide range of activities, all of which extend and reinforce the formal curriculum, could not be carried on without the interest and enthusiasm of the staff. I wish to take this opportunity of thanking them for all that they contribute to the life of the school.

In spite of the hard winter, we escaped serious illness among staff until Easter, but since then several members have been laid up for lengthy spells. As the end of term approaches, I am glad to report that Mr Pyper is back having made a good recovery from an eye operation, and that Mr Kinghorn is making good progress with hopes of being back in August. To Mr Cuthbert and Mr Chisholm who are still on the sick list, we send best wishes for a speedy return to health. I take this opportunity of thanking all our supply helpers - Mrs Presley and Mrs Blackburn (English), Mrs Findlay, Mrs Duncan and Mrs Douglas (Mathematics), Mrs Peters (Remedial), Mr Mathieson (Geography), Mrs Duncan (Art), Mrs Howden and Mrs McCallum (Science) - for the backing that they have given the school often at considerable inconvenience to themselves. I should like to thank the Education Authority too for its readiness to bring in temporary staff to ensure continuity of teaching over a difficult spell.

Miss M. Johnston, Home Economics, leaves this summer to be married and we wish her all happiness. Earlier in the term we said goodbye to Mrs McCance and Mrs Clarke who gave splendid service in the English Department and to Mrs Morrison who will be missed not only in the Mathematics Department but by the Activities Committee and the school Sailing Club to which she contributed so much. Mrs Methven, P.E., leaves at the end of this term to join the aforementioned group of 'ladies in waiting'. To Mrs Lambert, who takes up an appointment in Dundee High School and to Mr Husk (English) who has been appointed Lecturer in Drama at Aberystwyth University from the end of August, we offer congratulations and best wishes. Changes in a school staff are inevitable but there is always a pang when long-serving colleagues retire as is the case with Mrs Margaret Napier, Assistant Rector (Guidance), and Mrs Jean Lohoar, Science. Reared on a farm and married to a farmer, Mrs Lohoar brought to her work that steady reliable quality that we associate with those on the land, and the contribution that she made to rural science teaching will in particular be missed. Mrs Napier, after being persuaded by my predecessor, Dr Thompson, to return to teaching for a short spell, remained to become a major influence in the development of guidance not only in Madras College but in Fife Region and beyond. She brought to her post the same drive and skill that she showed as a younger woman on the hockey field and has been a splendid colleague. From the clerical staff, Mrs Gardner, who has been in charge of the South Street office, will be giving up work at the end of the holidays so that she can spend more time with her family. She will be missed for her cheerful efficiency and courteousness despite the hurly burly of a busy office. We wish all three a happy and active retirement.

At the end of a demanding but rewarding session, I should like to thank the staff for the way in which they have not only sustained the day-to-day work of the school but have managed to enrich and extend the curriculum in so many ways. I wish staff, pupils and parents a pleasant and refreshing holiday with better weather than the forecasters have promised.


Rector.

Holiday Arrangements for Session 1979/80

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| Start of session for pupils: | | Monday, 20th August, 1979. |
| <u>October break:</u> | School finishes: | Friday, 12th October, 1979. |
| | School starts: | Monday, 22nd October, 1979. |
| <u>Christmas Holiday:</u> | School finishes: | Friday, 21st December, 1979. |
| | School starts: | Monday, 7th January, 1980. |
| <u>Easter Holiday:</u> | School finishes: | Friday, 28th March, 1980. |
| | School starts: | Monday, 14th April, 1980. |
| <u>Summer Holiday:</u> | School finishes: | Wednesday, 2nd July, 1980. |
| | School starts: | Wednesday, 20th August, 1980. |
| <u>Single Day Holidays:</u> | May Day: | Monday, 5th May, 1980. |
| | June Holiday: | Monday, 2nd June, 1980. |

Blazer Sales

Outgrown blazers will be on sale in the Music House, South Street on Tuesdays and Fridays from 2 -4 p.m. during the first week and the last three weeks of the school holidays.