

MADRAS COLLEGE NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER, 1980

After a summer memorable not for sunshine but for a record rainfall, school reopened on 19th August with a first-year intake which, for the first time in many years, was just below the three hundred mark. I think most would agree that, thanks to the careful preparation and kindness of the staff, the new intake have settled in with a minimum of fuss.

At the start of the session, we welcomed the following new members to the staff: Mrs Dixon (R.E.), Mrs Fraser (Chemistry), Mrs Mason (Mathematics), Dr Malcolm (Biology), Mrs Oliver (English) and Mr Trewartha (Principal Teacher, P.E.). Mr Blakey, who had been seconded in order to gain a qualification in R.E., rejoined the staff; and this month Mrs Baughan was appointed to the vacancy in the English Department which had temporarily been filled by Mrs Oxley to whom we are indebted for her help. We are similarly indebted to Mrs Douglas who is helping the Science Departments in a temporary capacity. Vacancies among the instrumental instructors have been filled by the appointment of Miss Maidment (violin) and Mr Craib (double-bass).

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of David Buddo. David had made a tremendous fight back to normal life after a serious illness. He began school again last August in a wheelchar, but by January he had discarded the chair and was moving freely about the corridors. Tragically, however, his condition deteriorated over the Summer holidays and we were not to see him again. His quiet courage and constant cheerfulness were lessons to us all.

The results of the S.C.E. examinations both at 'O' and 'H' Grades were most satisfactory, and it is heartening to see the success pupils have had with the C.S.E. examinations.

The acquisition, at the end of last session, of a computer has enabled Madras to enter the important field of computer studies. A modest beginning has been made with a group of 6th Year pupils with most encouraging results, and it is to be hoped that the facilities can be extended to provide a wider coverage.

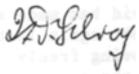
By now, most of the clubs and activities have got under way, including the Stamp Club, which, I was delighted to see, has been restarted. Our archaeologists had a very profitable visit to Hadrian's Wall and the neighbouring Roman sites. The school cottage at Glen Tilt has seen a constant flow of school parties, and a group of 18 pupils from S3 and S6 spent an arduous ten days at Fife Region's Outdoor Centre at Ardroy.

Congratulations to last session's girls' hockey 1st XI on being awarded the N.E. Fife District Sports Council's Team Trophy for the most outstanding team in any sport. The present 1st XI, handicapped by the loss of its most senior members at the end of last session was knocked out of the St Leonard's Tournament in the quarter-finals but made an excellent showing in the Fife Schools Tournament, being runners-up to Bell-Baxter. The 3rd Year team, undefeated so far this session, and won the shield in the Morgan Academy 7-a-side Tournament. The Boys hockey team have had a slow start to their fixture list, but their potential and enthusiasm promise well. Soccer has been represented by a full complement of four teams. To date the under-15 team is undefeated, and two of its players, Mark Connolly and Neil Pumford have been selected for the Fife Schools U/15 team. The eight rugby teams have made a promising start by winning 18 of 22 games played. The 1st XV are relatively young and inexperienced, but have already shown considerable potential - as have the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Year teams. Congratulations to the 3rd Year team on winning the Morgan Academy 9-a-side tournament. Stewart Imlach (VI) has been chosen to represent Fife in the Midlands Schools Trial. In the Fife School Senior Boys' Golf Championship, the A team gained 8th place and the B team 18th place. In view of recent correspondence in the local press, parents may be interested to know that the school has been offering golf tuition in the games hall under Tom Melville. So far 27 pupils have taken part, and I hope more will join.

The Parent-Teacher Association has got off to a good start with a most interesting evening of accounts by pupils of their involvement in extra-curricular activities. The dates of the forthcoming meetings are given below, and I hope that you will come along to these meetings - and of course join the Association.

Finally, I offer somewhat belated but nonetheless warm congratulations to those of our F.P's whose graduation results we have been able to record over the summer: Dundee University - Stanley Mackay (Economics); Dunfermline College - Sarah Gilroy (Physical Education); Robert Gordon's College - Evelyn Scott (Pharmacy); Edinburgh University - Donald Adam (Geography); Douglas Dick (Medicine); Kenneth Dick (Zoology); Joseph Lamb (Microbiology); Ian Lament (Microbiology); Tim Upton (Classics): St Andrews University - David Maitland (Zoology); Ian Palfrey (History); Sheffield University - Judith Dingle (Music); Warwick University - Martin Reed (Engineering Science and Computer Technology).

I wish all staff and pupils a well-earned and refreshing holiday.



Rector.

Holiday Dates and Forthcoming Events

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| October Holiday | - Monday 20th October, 1980 to Friday 24th October, 1980 |
| P.T.A. Meeting | - Wednesday 12th November, 1980, Kilrymont Road Staffroom |
| SI Party | - Tuesday 9th December, 1980 4.15 - 7.15 Kilrymont Road building |
| SII Party | - Thursday 11th December, 1980 " " " " " " " " " |
| SIII/IV Party | - Tuesday 16th December, 1980 7.30 - 10.30 " " " " " |
| Carol Concert | - Wednesday 17th December, 1980, Kilrymont Road building |
| SV/VI Dance | - Thursday 18th December, 1980, 7.30 - 11.30 South Street building |
| Christmas Holiday | - Monday 22nd December, 1980 to Friday 2nd January, 1981. |