

MADRAS COLLEGE NEWSLETTER - SUMMER 1981

As the approach of the summer holidays begins to occupy the minds of pupils, staff and doubtless parents, it is time once again to give some account of the term's activities.

At the start of the term, the annual diet of S.C.E. examinations went off smoothly. Because of the civil servants' dispute, results will be delayed until the end of July. 'O' and 'H' candidates will initially get only a statement of results, with certificates to follow. All pupils applying to colleges and universities will get special instructions from the school on reporting their results.

As usual the senior pupils who intend to stay on for a further year's study have moved on to the next session's timetable and courses of study. This year, probably because of the employment situation, more of those who are uncertain whether they will stay on for next session have started new courses provisionally for the month of June. This has resulted in unusual pressures on the timetable and accommodation, and I am most grateful to the teaching staff for their efforts to satisfy as many requests as possible.

In the Kilrymont Road part of the school, the Resources Centre is being developed into a very useful teaching adjunct, and I am grateful to the P.T.A. for their gift of a tape-slide projector to the school. A new sound system paid for out of school funds will be installed in the Kilrymont Road and South Street buildings in time for next session. Out of doors, visitors to the Kilrymont Road building recently will have been impressed by the way in which the Rural Science pupils under the direction of Dr Richardson have transformed what was a traditional school garden into an area of considerable botanical interest, and bright with colour.

After a year's experience with the micro-computer, the staff and pupils of 6th Year who have been involved in its use gave a fascinating display of its applications. Thanks to the efforts of Andrew Cormack who won an initiative prize in a national competition, the school will be given a small micro-computer which will be used in the Kilrymont Road building. Two other innovations for next session should be mentioned. Following the recommendation of the Scottish Education Department's report on the education of pupils with learning difficulties a new policy will be adopted for pupils in this category, while for all pupils in S1 both Home Economics and Technical Subjects will be studied, with the option of continuing one of these into S2. The school has been selected as a second-line pilot for Foundation English.

It has been good to see such a lively programme of extra-curricular activities this term. The Music Department has delighted its audiences with a brass band concert followed by a dance, and a Summer Concert involving all of the school music groups and our guests from the Kiel Exchange. In addition, pupils gave a performance of Faure's Requiem in Leven and participated in the Dunfermline Abbey Festival. The Drama Club entertained pupils and parents with John Aden's "The Royal Pardon", while the Art Department put on an impressive display of work by pupils from all stages in the school, including some excellent contributions from the Special Education Department.

This year's visit from the Kiel pupils marked the 25th Anniversary of the Exchange with the Kieler Gelehrtenschule, and at the farewell party we welcomed back Dr Thompson, Mr Hendry and Mr & Mrs Wate, all of whom were associated with the early days of the exchange. By contrast, this year was the first visit of our pupils to Lagny, near Paris, under the exchange initiated last session by Mr Wills. This year again a party of seniors under Mrs Bridges took part in a week's course on Shakespeare at Stratford, while at the end of term another party will join S.S. 'Uganda' on a school's cruise to warmer waters.

Congratulations go to the Latin speakers team who did extremely well in the competition run by St Andrews University; to Donald Sinclair who was a prize-winner in the schools Mathematical Challenge Competition and outright winner of the Stirling University Mathematical Competition; to Fiona McConnachie on gaining a scholarship to the International College at St Donat's; and to Lynn McLennan who as an independently entered competitor gained first place in the Tricity Junior Cooks' Competition. Special congratulations go to one of our F.P.'s (and incidentally son of a staff member), Stephen Cuthbert of Trinity College, Cambridge who has gained a 1st Class Honours B..A. in Mathematics and has achieved distinction by becoming a Wrangler.

After a day's postponement because of rain, the Sports were held in fine summer weather with a happy blend of 'fun' events and serious competition. No fewer than 26 records were broken. Congratulations to Castle on winning the House Championships and to the

following individual champions: Senior - Marc Webster and Sara Headen; 3rd Year - Brian Webster, Jennifer Cater and Joan Ferguson; 2nd Year - Alistair Smith and Susan Lumsdaine; 1st Year - Graeme Dunlop and Sarah Meiland.

Cricket has enjoyed a welcome surge in popularity this season with seven teams being fielded when the weather occasionally allowed it. The Seniors reached the semi-final round of the Fife Cup. The golfers too have been active in matches with our neighbours at Waid and Bell Baxter and in the Fife Schools' and other competitions. Julie de Angelis was second in the Fife Girls' Competition run by Lundin Links Club. In an area with such strong links with golf, it is disappointing, however, that the golf coaching sessions offered in school were not better attended, and I hope that next session parents will encourage their children to take advantage of an excellent opportunity.

One amenity which is very well used is the School's Cottage at Glen Tilt which has been fully booked each weekend this term and in September for parties of pupils and staff on outdoor activities.

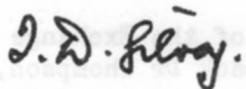
As always at the end of a term, there are staff changes to record. Mr Langlands retires after 16 years of service both in the Burgh School and Madras College. His has been a varied career including a sea-going life as a master-mariner as well as the less exciting one of introducing pupils to the mysteries of seamanship and navigation. We wish him a happy retirement. Mr Young (Business Studies) has taken up his appointment as Principal Teacher of Business subjects in Waid Academy, a well-earned promotion. Mr Simpson, Technical subjects, will be leaving early in the new session to a lectureship in Computer Education in Aberdeen College of Education. His expertise in stage-management and in computer programming will be hard to replace. From the Modern Languages side, Mrs Gellatly has been given maternity leave, and I was pleased to learn that her colleague, Mrs Harding, who left earlier this term, has had twins. Mrs Arbuckle and Mrs Jackson both of whom have given good service in a temporary capacity in the Home Economics and Art Departments respectively, leave at the end of the session.

Early next session two long-serving and well-kent members of staff retire - Mrs Cadman, Assistant Rector (admin) and Mrs Croll (A.P.T. Physical Education). I shall pay a proper tribute to them in the next newsletter, but in the meantime I congratulate Mr Paterson, Principal Teacher of Mathematics on his appointment as Mrs Cadman's successor.

Looking ahead to next session, I thought it might be helpful to parents to have a note of the school's policy on dress. I have been most appreciative in the past of the support given by parents in ensuring that our pupils wear school dress, and I hope that this support will continue. The recommendations are on the enclosed sheet.

For your information, the holiday dates for next session are given below.

I wish all parents, pupils and staff a very pleasant summer break.



Rector.

Start of Session for Pupils	Thursday	20th August 1981
<u>October Break</u>	School finishes:	Friday 16th October 1981
	School starts:	Monday 26th October 1981
<u>Christmas Holiday</u>	School finishes:	Tuesday 22nd December 1981
	School starts:	Wednesday 6th January 1982
<u>Easter Holiday</u>	School finishes:	Friday 2nd April 1982
	School starts:	Monday 19th April 1982
<u>Summer Holiday</u>	School finishes:	Friday 2nd July 1982
	School starts:	Thursday 19th August 1982
Single Day Holidays	October Holiday:	Monday 5th October 1981
	May Holiday:	Monday 3rd May 1982
	June Holiday:	Monday 7th June 1982