

At this time last year, I noted in the newsletter that there had been an increase in the number of pupils returning to school for S5 and S6. This session has seen a continuation of the trend, with an increase of 10% in S5 and S6. While in a period of economic recession one can expect such increases, it is impossible to predict either their extent or which departments they are going to affect. This year's increases have produced accommodation difficulties and, of course, additional strain on staff, who have gone to considerable lengths to try to give pupils the courses they had asked for.

At the start of the session, we welcomed to the staff Mrs Doig (Music), Mr McInnes (English/Drama), Mr MacLachlan (Physics), Mr Rose (Music), Mrs Stephens (Mathematics) and Miss Stewart (Modern Languages). Mrs Douglas and Mr Weir transferred to the permanent staff. An additional and belated welcome to Mr Sproson who joined the Technical Department from Glenrothes High during the Summer Term. Since the last newsletter, Mrs Geddes of the French Department has retired in order to devote more time to her home interests and family. She has given sterling service to the department and school; and we hope that she is enjoying her leisure. At the October break we shall be losing two other ladies through retirement - Mrs Roller of the Special Education Department and Mrs Robertson of the Remedial Department. Each of them has made a substantial contribution in a challenging area of teaching and we wish them both a happy retirement. It was with regret that we said goodbye shortly before the end of the term to Mrs Lawson on her transfer to St Andrews High School, Kirkcaldy. Her contribution to the extra-curricular life of the school, as well as to the work of the Mathematics Department, was a valuable one; and we wish her a happy stay in her new school. Mrs Oliver, English Department, goes on maternity leave at the end of the term. We shall miss her enthusiasm and professional approach. Congratulations to Mr Lochhead on his appointment to succeed Mrs Lawson as Assistant Principal Teacher, Mathematics.

In common with other schools in Fife, Madras College is involved in the development of Foundation Level courses for those pupils in S3 and S4 for whom '0' Grade work is not suitable. In English, the "pilot" course initiated last session moves on this year to the S4 stage, while Mathematics and Science have begun their "pilot" courses in S3. Further down the school, at the S1 stage, the emphasis has been on easing the transition from the primary school by limiting the numbers of teachers that a class meets during the course of a week. Instead of having two periods of History and two of Geography every week, classes will, during each half-session, have a block of History for four periods a week followed by Geography for four periods or vice-versa.

Extra-curricular activities continue to thrive. The summer holiday expeditions based on Aix-en-Provence was highly successful socially and educationally. Accounts of this and other school trips during the past year given by the participants formed the basis of an engrossing evening for members of the P.T.A. last month. A mixed group drawn from S3/4 and S6 spent a strenuous week at Fife Region's outdoor Centre at Ardroy; a party of pupils interested in Roman Britain spent a weekend last month exploring Hadrian's Wall; and the school cottage at Glen Tilt continues to be a firm favourite at week-ends. The Current Affairs Club, the Junior and Senior Debating Societies and the Drama Clubs have all restarted vigorously, while the computer addicts have to be prised from their key-boards at the end of the lunch breaks. This year we were privileged to act as hosts and audience to the School Orchestra of the Kieler Gelehrtenschule on their visit to mark the completion of twenty-five years of exchange visits with the Madras College. Next term, our own musicians hope to provide lunch-time concerts in both buildings.

In Rugby, the seniors have begun strongly, with only one defeat; the 3rd year team are playing some good rugby, though with more mixed results; 2nd year are undefeated so far; while 1st year's performance shows that they are getting to grips with the game. Congratulations to Michael Robson and Alan Greig on being selected for the Midlands Schools Trials.

After a mixed start, the Girls' Hockey results have come away more strongly, with the seniors winning the Fife Schools Senior Championship. Elaine Dochard has done splendidly to gain a place in the Midlands 1st XI and the Fife Schools' 1st XI, as have Carol Lewthwaite and Soraya Mohammed in being selected for the Midlands 2nd XI and the Fife Schools' 1st XI; Alison Mair and Elaine Stewart have also gained a place in the Fife Schools' 1st XI.

The Soccer 1st XI have started well, winning four out of five of their league matches and reaching the third round of the Scottish Cup. The under-16's got through to the quarter-finals of the Fife Club but succumbed to Kirkcaldy High School. The under-15 and under-14 teams are through to the 2nd and 3rd rounds respectively of the Scottish Cup. Congratulations to William Donaldson, Stuart Gatherum and Neil Pumford on being chosen for the Fife under-18 squad.

The under-16 and the under-15 Boys' Hockey teams have been playing with great enthusiasm but need more players, particularly at the under-15 level. Third or Fourth Year boys wishing to start the game are welcomed at practices at Station Park on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 4 p.m.

The Volleyball Club, which is looking forward to entering league competitions at the end of October, would similarly welcome recruits. Practices are held in the Games Hall, Kilrymont Road at 1 p.m. on Thursdays.

In the Golf Match Play Championships, the Aikman Cross for S3 and S4 was won by Elaine Moffat and the Foster Cup for S5/6 by Jamie Gardner. Although our team in the Boys' Aer Lingus Championship were not highly placed, the 'B' team competing in the Fife Schools' Championship came 3rd out of 9.

News of the graduation of F.P.'s reaches us from Universities and Colleges about this time. It is far from complete however - Edinburgh University, for instance, does not provide an official list - and any news of F.P. graduations would be welcome. It is hoped to publish a list in the Christmas newsletter.

To F.P.'s of a slightly older vintage I would appeal for the loan of material connected with the Madras College of their period for display in the old Assembly Hall (now the Library) of the South Street Building during the celebration of the 150th Anniversary next October. Items will be carefully looked after and returned to the donors. The celebrations will run from 5th - 9th October, closing with a commemorative service in Holy Trinity Church on Sunday, 9th October. The school will be open for reunions and exhibitions during that period. Further information will be given in the Christmas newsletter.

Rector.

Holiday Dates

October Break:	School Finishes:	Friday 15th October 1982
	School Starts:	Monday 25th October 1982
Christmas Holiday:	School Finishes:	Wednesday 22nd December 1982
	School Starts:	Thursday 6th January 1983
Summer Holiday:	School Finishes:	Friday 25th March 1983
	School Starts:	Monday 11th April 1983
Easter Holiday:	School Finishes:	Friday 1st July 1983
	School Starts:	Thursday 18th August 1983