

By comparison with the first term with all the 150th anniversary activities in full swing, this term settled down into a steady routine of work, and in the period from October to December, much ground has been covered by pupils and staff alike. As parents will be aware, this is a time of major upheaval in education in Scotland. The changes already under way for the 14-16 age-group are being followed in rapid succession by changes for the 16-18's and for the 12-14's. All of this involves the staff in a good deal of in-service training and course-writing. Some of the time for this, though only a small part, is found by closing the school on selected days. Details of this will be given early in the new term. In the past week the Consultative Committee on the Curriculum has given further guidance on the curriculum in S3 and S4, enabling schools to take their planning a stage further. I hope, during the Easter term, to be able to meet parents to outline what is happening in Scotland generally, and in Madras College in particular. However, because one of the teachers' professional organisations is in dispute with the Scottish local authorities on the conditions under which its members attend parents' evenings and has advised its members nationally not to take part in such meetings, it will, regrettably, not be possible at least for the time being to hold the parents' evenings planned for the beginning of next term.

Parents of pupils in SI will receive this session a report sheet rather different from that used in previous sessions in that each subject will report separately on the pupil. This change, which reflects changes in the teaching and assessment methods, will be explained more fully in a note accompanying the report.

The Music Department has been active in the community this term. On Remembrance Sunday, the Senior Brass Ensemble played at the St Andrews War Memorial service, the Last Post and Reveille being sounded by Lyall Dochard, Lorna Smart and Helen McGill. Later that day, the same pupils played the calls at Moonzie Old Kirk by Cupar. This month, a group of pupils gave a recital at Hope Park Church, and will play again at the watchnight service, the Senior Brass Ensemble played at Holy Trinity Parish Church at the dedication of the Rotary Club's Christmas tree, while the Wind Band provided the music at the service on 16th December. As I write, preparations are under way for the annual Carol Concert on 19th December.

In October, the school received a request to do something for a group of mentally handicapped old people on holiday in St Andrews from a hospital in Perth. In response, pupils from the Music Department combined with those taking Community Studies to provide a concert followed by afternoon tea.

Earlier this month, the Home Economics Department staged a lively fashion display in which Madras pupils modelled costumes made in Fife schools as part of a regional fashion display.

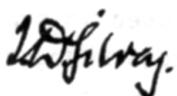
Early next term, the Drama Club will present "Alice" in the Byre Theatre. "Alice" is, of course, adapted from Lewis Carroll's "Alice-in-Wonderland", and the forthcoming production is a full-length musical version expanded from the very successful shorter one put on in the Crawford Centre as part of the 150th Anniversary celebrations. It is suitable for all ages and will run from 18th to 22nd January 1984. Tickets - £2 for adults and £1.25 for children and pupils - will be obtainable from School Offices.

On the games side, in Girls' Hockey, several games have been cancelled, and in those played, the results have been mixed. The Junior Girls' team have qualified for Midlands Indoor Tournament. The Boys' Hockey Club is now involved in both indoor and outdoor forms of the game. Congratulations to the Senior Boys' Indoor Team on winning the Balwearie Indoor Tournament. The Football 1st XI and the Under-15's have had several games put off, and have had mixed results in those they did play. The Under-13's and the Under-14's have only dropped two points each in their first five league games. Brian Batchelor and Neil Forsyth represented the school in the Fife Schools Under-18 team, while Ross Watson, Colin Finlay and Guy Devereux played for the Fife Under-14 team. The Rugby teams have been playing regularly, unaffected so far by adverse weather. Results over the teams have been mixed. The 2nd year team have shown considerable improvement after a shaky start to the season.

The Fife Schools Volleyball leagues are well under way, with the 2nd year and 3rd year teams participating regularly in their leagues. The 3rd year team especially shows promise for next season. The 1st year section of the club will commence in January. In the Fife Schools Road Relay Championship in October, the boys' O/15 team and the girls' O/15 team each came second in this successful first venture. Possibly through the stimulus of Don Macgregor's book on marathon running, there has been a large entry for cross-country training this year. The inter-house championship will be decided this week amidst keen rivalry.
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Since October, several new members of staff have taken up post - Mrs Grant, Assistant Principal Teacher of Home Economics, Mr Keegans, Principal Teacher of Modern Studies, Mr MacLeod, Music, and Mr Nisbet, Assistant Principal Teacher of Mathematics. We welcome them to the staff and hope that they enjoy their association with Madras College. Thanks are due to the following for giving cover during periods of staff illness or pending appointments being taken up: Mr Adamson (Geography), Mrs Carstairs (Science), Mrs Doig (Music), Mr Goodman (Chemistry), Mrs Gray (Mathematics) and Mrs Van Beusekom (Modern Studies). In particular I should like to thank Mrs Doig for the help that she has given to the Music Department over the years. It was with real regret that we had to part with Mrs Stirton (Home Economics) who was transferred to Waid Academy in December. Her quiet, steady work both in and out of the Department was greatly appreciated. I am pleased to report that Mr Broom, Mr MacCrimmon and Mr Monteith are making good progress and hope to be back with us soon.

I take this opportunity of wishing staff and parents a happy Christmas and a good New Year.



Rector.

Holidays and Forthcoming Events

Christmas Holiday	- School closes 12.30 on Friday 23rd December - School re-opens on Monday 9th January 1984
Dessert/Theatre Party	- Thursday 19th January 1984
Visit of Parents of P. 7 to School	- Tuesday 20th March 1984
Easter Holiday	- Monday 26th March - Friday 6th April 1984
May Day Monday	- 7th May 1984
June Day Monday	- 4th June 1984
Summer Holiday	- Monday 2nd July - Wednesday 15th August 1984