

Fife Education Authority

MADRAS COLLEGE, ST. ANDREWS

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D.D. GALLOWAY, Rector.

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Dear Parent,

NEWSLETTER - EASTER 1989

The welcome approach of the end of term brings with it the task of writing another newsletter. It is not that there is any shortage of news. The problem is trying to keep the mass of information within reasonable bounds, although it can only be a good sign that so much is happening within the school.

The evidence of this activity is seen not only in the many events which have taken place during the term but also in the impressive list of successes gained by teams and by individuals. Two pupils have achieved national recognition in their respective sports. We congratulate Kandy Mitchell on her selection for the Scottish Schoolgirls' U-18 hockey team and Gillian Charnock on her place in the Scottish tennis team. The 10 x 10 Teenage Cancer Appeal, mentioned in the last newsletter, was a national competition as well as a charitable activity. The Madras team from Priory House, which raised over £1,000. from a sponsored spell, were placed joint third in the national results and were the only Scottish secondary school to feature in the prize-list. Avril Jackson and Christopher Taylor, the team leaders, travel to London this week to receive their award at the House of Commons. The other Madras teams which took part were highly commended for their entries. A more local but equally gratifying success was gained by the debating team who gave Madras its first victory in the Rotary Club Inter-School Public Speaking Competition. The team are also to be congratulated on three individual awards - Kate Bowden - best chairperson; Craig Buchanan - best opposer; Peter Hamilton - best seconding opposer. Our thanks are due to Mr. Henney for his expert advice and to the Rotary Club of St. Andrews for their interest and support. Two other events of the term demanded public speaking skills. Craig Buchanan won the trophy presented by the St. Andrews Speakers' Club, but all seven pupils who competed in this annual contest reached a high standard. The school Burns Supper was as well attended and as enjoyable as ever and although many pupils participated in speaking, reciting and singing, the focus of attention was perhaps on the staff speakers. Mr. Lochhead made a welcome return to propose the Immortal Memory and recite 'Tam O' Shanter' in his usual inimitable style. The toast of the school was ably and amusingly proposed by Ms. Carol Farr, our exchange teacher from Philadelphia, while Mr. Lindsay delighted the audience with an effervescent parody of 'The Twa Dugs'. Drama demands a different range of skills, but these were well displayed in the Crawford Centre where the Quad Theatre Group successfully overcame the somewhat cramped conditions with an entertaining production of John Arden's 'The Royal Pardon'. Still on the subject of speaking, but this time on the air, three fourth year biologists, Joanna Newton, Oliver Morris and Harry Wright, took part in a quiz on Radio Tay on the topic of Ecology. Although they scored 23 points out of a possible 24, it is not known at this stage whether that is good enough to gain them a place in the final round. Two of their teachers, Mr. Campbell and Mr. Baldwin, were also broadcast by Radio Tay when they contributed to a discussion in the 'Bone up on Biology' series of educational programmes.

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The musical activities of the school have likewise enjoyed their share of success. There were three notable individual results. Peter Hamilton (intermediate drums), Joanna Galbraith (advanced viola) and Karina MacKinnon (intermediate Scots songs) all won their respective classes. In the competitions for choirs and orchestras Madras were placed first in five out of seven classes and were defeated in the remaining two by the narrowest of margins. The orchestra gained one of the Festival's premier awards, the Avison Rose Bowl. The Junior Choir for the third time in four years won the Saltire Society Trophy for Scots songs and again qualify for the finals of the national competition in Stirling in June. At the Spring Concert the variety of talent which was displayed, especially by the choirs and by the soloists, both vocal and instrumental, gained well deserved acknowledgement from a large and appreciative audience. The 'inventing' item, which S Grade music pupils and a second year class had prepared with the help of an adviser from the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, deserves a special mention. The first event of the term, although not directly musical, involved the senior choir who are to visit Norway in June. Mr. Dag Mork Ulnes, the Consul General for Norway in Edinburgh, met the members of the choir and their parents and by way of preparation for their visit combined a video presentation with an interesting and informative talk about Norway and its way of life. Almost the only staff change of the term affects the Music Department with the departure of Mrs. Bronwen Mills to join her husband in the Middle East. Many pupils have benefited from her expert tuition in the violin and the viola and from her encouragement. Her commitment to high standards has also been evident at concerts and rehearsals in her work with various groups of string players. She takes with her our thanks and our good wishes for the future.

While the detailed results of team games have been set out in a separate table, there are several sporting successes which are specially noteworthy. The 3rd Year Hockey Team defeated Morrison's Academy in the final of the Midlands District Indoor Hockey Championships. The school took part in several Rugby 7 A Side Tournaments. At the Waid Academy 7's, although the senior team were defeated in the semi-final, Craig Boath won the Player of the Tournament Award. At the Perth Academy 7s, the senior team defeated Trinity Academy in the final and won the Perth Academy Midlands 7's Plate. In the Fife Schools Badminton Championships, Madras obtained their best ever results. Katy Hill won the girl's under 16 singles, Aline Hill the under 15 singles, Dorian Coxon the under 15 boy's singles, Kevin Ross was runner up in the boy's under 15 singles and Katy and Aline runners up in the under 16 girl's doubles. Katy, Aline, Dorian and Kevin were all chosen to represent Fife in the Scottish Schools Tournament at Meadowbank. The combined Madras/Waid Academy team are well placed, with one match yet to be played, to win the Fife Schools inter-district cup.

A glance at the table of results shows that Madras teams have, in general, done well throughout the season. However, the importance of the results does not lie in the comparison of wins and losses. What is significant, and pleasant to record, is the number of games played, the participation of so many pupils and the commitment of staff which, as the preceding paragraphs show, extends across a very wide range of activities. I am sure that parents are well aware that it is not every school where pupils have these opportunities and would wish to acknowledge the great contribution which staff make in terms of extra-curricular involvement.

Although strict limits have to be set to the number of good causes to which the school can respond, charitable activity seems to play an increasing part in school life. The 10 x 10 Teenage Cancer Appeal has already been mentioned. Contributions to the Armenian Earthquake Appeal, gathered in a fairly short space of time, mainly at Christmas Assemblies, produced the quite remarkable total of £377. More recently over £2,000. was raised from the extraordinary costumes and the not very serious contests of Comic Relief Day, which by involving almost everyone - even the Rector was quite literally roped in - had a pleasantly unifying effect on the school.

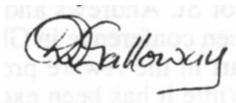
Charity of course begins at home and fund-raising more directly relevant to the needs of the school has been begun by the P.T.A. with the launch of their ambitious £9,000. by 90 Appeal. It is hoped to use these funds to improve the Libraries in both buildings, to purchase equipment such as a Domesday Computer System and to provide extra funding/

funding for extra-curricular activities where transport costs make even the present programme increasingly difficult to maintain, especially if pupils from the outlying parts of the catchment area are not to be deprived of opportunities to take part. A nearly new sale and a coffee morning have already raised useful sums and other events are planned for next term. The scheme, whereby parents can purchase books on display at Parents' Nights and donate them to the Library, has been generously supported and this input of new and attractive reading and reference material is most welcome. As far as the P.T.A's. other activities are concerned, three meetings have been held this term. A forum on Health Education was well attended and the staff who took part are to be congratulated on their excellent presentation of a difficult and controversial topic. The Technical and Vocational Educational Initiative, in which all Fife schools are involved, will form part of our S3 timetable from August. Mr. Douglas Hill, Senior Assistant Director of Education, gave a clear and informative talk on this important new development. Mr. Andrew Lindsay, Principal Teacher of English, spoke to a well attended meeting in Tayport Primary School on the subject of English in SI. He explained the many changes in English teaching which had taken place since parents were themselves pupils and left his audience in no doubt that the changes made the subject more relevant and more rewarding. This was the first P.T.A. Meeting for some time to be held outside St. Andrews and it is hoped that the encouraging response will lead to other 'outreach' meetings being included in future programmes. Mrs. Elisabeth Slater retires as Chairperson of the Association and it is appropriate to thank her for all she has done for the school and for the Association during her term of office, especially in relation to the difficult but necessary discussion of the new legislation. We welcome as her successor Mr. Colin Mitchell, who is in an excellent position to take over the helm, since he is a former Captain of the School.

Recently some concern has been expressed by visitors to the school and by a number of parents about the appearance of our pupils. While it is easy to highlight the bad features and overlook the fact that there is a good basic standard, it is certainly very noticeable that when Madras College pupils appear at inter-school events, they do not compete on equal terms in the matter of appearance with either of our nearest neighbours or indeed with many other schools in Fife and Tayside. It is surprising that a school which is successful in so many other ways should fall behind in this. It may be that the senior pupils are too much influenced by the trendy fashions of the student community. The tweed jackets, for example, which are being worn by an increasing number of the senior girls, apparently do not suffer from the same disadvantages as the blazer which was rejected because of its impracticality. While the desire of the seniors to be regarded as students is entirely praiseworthy academically, it is not unreasonable to ask them to accept that they are students of Madras College and not of another place. While I firmly believe that attitude is far more important than appearance, schools are under scrutiny and in competition with each other more than ever before. It is a pity if the excellence of Madras College is not immediately obvious at a glance. What is required is a greater degree of consistency which, without being restrictive, would produce a better balance than has so far been achieved between individual freedom and the school's public image. We are grateful to parents for providing the uniform, but they could perhaps help even more by ensuring that what is bought for school wear is consistent with a good image of the school. To take some examples, denim jackets and jackets with slogans on them, which are banned by many schools, do not create a good effect. Although the official sweater is navy and V necked, there are sweaters in a great range of colours and styles. Skirts do not have to follow extremes of fashion by being excessively long or short or tight. In this, as in other aspects of the uniform question, it is surely possible to find a standard style which both the individual and the school can accept as sensible and smart. At present there are so many variations that the whole idea of a school with a pride in its appearance is being lost. I am quite sure that no elaborate changes are required. With a little more attention to detail and better guide-lines for parents and pupils, the whole position could be greatly improved to give Madras its proper place in this particular league. The/

The end of term is usually marked by separate assemblies for each of the year groups. This term S1 and S2 will have their assembly as usual in Kilrymont Road. Thanks to the kindness of the Rev. Charles Armour, the rest of the school will attend an End of Term Service in Holy Trinity. It recalls an old tradition of a Founder's Day Service, but with about a thousand pupils attending from South Street and Kilrymont Road, it is a means of emphasising the unity of the school and its place in the community in a way which has not been attempted for some time.

This term has brought an outstanding run of success. However, there is no success without hard work and for that reason the Easter holiday is well-earned. It is even better that it can be enjoyed with a sense of justifiable pride in what has been achieved. I wish staff, pupils and parents a pleasant holiday.
Yours sincerely,



RECTOR

Easter Holidays

School Closes - Thursday, 23rd March, 1989

School Starts - Monday, 10th April, 1989

May Day Holiday - Monday, 1st May, 1989

In-Service Day - Tuesday, 23rd May, 1989

June Holiday - Monday, 5th June, 1989

Summer Holidays

School Closes - Friday, 30th June, 1989

School Starts - Tuesday, 22nd August, 1989

S.C.E. Examination Leave - 2nd to 26th May, 1989

S3 Examinations - 8th to 22nd May, 1989

S3 Parents' Night - Tuesday, 25th April, 1989

P.T.A. Summer Fete - Saturday, 17th June, 1989

Grand Gala Summer Concert - Monday, 19th June, 1989

TEAM RESULTS/

MADRAS COLLEGE
TEAM RESULTS -SESSION 1988 - 89

INTER-SCHOOL GAMES

Girls' Hockey

<u>Team</u>	P	W	D	L
1st XI	14	6	2	6
3rd Year	18	13	2	3
2nd Year	12	4	-	8
1st Year 'A'	13	6	1	6
1st Year 'B'	2	-	1	1

Football

<u>Team</u>	P	W	D	L
0/18	5	1	1	3
U/16	2	1	-	1
U/15	9	4	-	5
U/1A	12	9	-	3
U/13	12	5	1	6

Rugby

<u>Team</u>	P	W	D	L
1st XV	14	7	0	7
2nd XV	2	0	0	2
3rd Year	15	7	1	7
2nd Year	17	8	1	8
1st Year 'A'	16	14	0	2
1st Year 'B1	4	1	2	1

Boys' Hockey

<u>Team</u>	P	W	D	L
U/18	4	-	1	3
U/16	4	2	-	2

HOUSE MATCHES

Rugby Blackfriars Castle Priory

1st Year	12	12	3
2nd Year	3	15	9
3rd Year	3	9	15
Seniors	(To be played)		

Girls' Hockey Blackfriars Castle Priory

1st Year	12	3	12
2nd Year	3	15	9
3rd Year	3	12	12
Seniors	(To be played)		

Football Blackfriars Castle Priory

1st Year	3	15	9
2nd Year	3	12	12
3rd Year	9	99	
Seniors	18	30	6

Netball Blackfriars Castle Priory

1st Year	8	2	8
2nd Year	2	6	10
3rd Year	8	2	8
Seniors	4	20	12

Boys' Hockey Blackfriars Castle Priory Overall Blackfriars Castle Priory

24	24	6	115	186	140
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