

Fife Education Authority

MADRAS COLLEGE, ST. ANDREWS

South Street Building
KY16 9EJ
Tel. No. (0334) 75733.

Kilrymont Road Building
KY16 8DE
Tel. No. (0334) 75777.

D.D. GALLOWAY, Rector.

J.L. HODGE, Depute Rector.



Dear Parent,

NEWSLETTER - SUMMER 1989

Because the amount of administrative work seems to be greater than ever and because the present spell of fine weather is not conducive to literary effort, the aim is to make the newsletter shorter than many of its predecessors. That of course may prove much harder to achieve in practice, since the school's activities are so varied and, this year especially, so worthy of comment.

The advent of school boards, the introduction of TVEI or, as it is now to be called, the Fife 14+ Project, the third phase of S Grade development, which brings most of the remaining subjects into the new system, continue to make extra demands on the time and effort of the entire staff. Change, however, is not just confined to the curriculum. The staff itself is subject to the same process. We welcome Mr. Michael Barile, APT Mathematics, and Mrs. Alma Smith, PT Art, both of whom took up their appointments in the course of the term. Four of the new Senior Teacher posts were allocated to the school and we congratulate Mrs. Baughan (English), Mrs. Fraser (Chemistry), Mrs. Jones (Art) and Mrs. Margaret Smith (Classics) on gaining these appointments. As this newsletter was being written, we learned that Dr. Gordon Kinnley had been appointed Principal Teacher of Chemistry at Bell Baxter High School. Much as we welcome the news of his thoroughly well deserved promotion, his departure is a very great loss to the school. His contribution to the development of S Grade Science has been considerable and the excellent results the school has had in Higher Chemistry owe much to his expert teaching. We also congratulate Mrs. Shonagh Barclay on her recent promotion to APT Social Subjects at Inverkeithing High School. This is another case where our pleasure at her well-earned success is counter-balanced by regret that we are losing the commitment she brings to her work and the contribution she makes to the life of the school. Mr. Blakey retires at the end of session after 25 years outstanding service. In addition to teaching Mathematics and Religious Education to several generations of Madras pupils, he held the post of PT Administration. In this capacity he carried out with uncomplaining cheerfulness and great efficiency the thankless tasks of timetabling and arranging cover for absent colleagues. He takes with us our sincere thanks for his skill and dedication and our very best wishes for a long and enjoyable retirement. His administrative duties are to be shared among the Assistant Rectors in order to allow the creation of a much needed PT Guidance post. Pending a permanent appointment, we are glad to have the vacancy, temporarily filled by Miss Ann Batchelor who will act as Guidance Principal for the incoming first year. Some staff changes are also taking place in the Home Economics Department. Mrs. Anna Currie, whose teaching career began in the Burgh School in 1955, is retiring in September. We take this opportunity to offer her our good wishes and thank her for her long and loyal service. Mrs. Ann Anderson returns from the U.S.A. to replace Ms. Carol Farr, her exchange partner from Cheltenham High School, Philadelphia. It has been a great pleasure to have Ms. Farr with us. Staff and pupils have warmed to her lively personality. The school and her subject department have gained much of value from her experience of a different system. It is hoped that ideas which have already been discussed for extending the link between Cheltenham High School and Madras can be further developed/

developed as one of an increasing number of contacts with the U.S.A. For the last three weeks of session we welcome another American visitor, Ms. Georgiana Giese from Portage, Wisconsin, who is here to study our guidance and counselling systems. Not all our visitors come from so far afield. The 33rd Kiel Exchange has arrived and we extend a very warm welcome to Herr Suhr, who by now counts as an old friend, and to the thirty seven pupils he has brought with him from Kiel.

Travel, however, is not all in one direction. At Easter forty pupils enjoyed a football coaching holiday in Koblenz. The Senior Choir has just returned from a highly successful tour of Norway. Forty four pupils leave this week for a visit to Le Touquet and Paris. Nine intrepid mountaineers from the Hill Walking Club are going for a fortnight's climbing in the Alps. Thanks to the support of various local organisations and the commitment of a group of parents, twelve of the school's golfers are to spend a month in the United States. As a result of an initiative by the New St. Andrews Japan Golf Trust, two pupils, Andrew Gilchrist and Mark Alexander, will spend three weeks in Japan. This takes no account of the many outings and excursions which are more directly related to the work of the subject departments as, for instance, various museum visits by the History Department, the Geography Department's field work trip to the Highlands and the Classics Department's annual excursion to Hadrian's Wall. The S3 Activity Week was introduced this year as an experiment in giving pupils educational experiences that were not necessarily classroom based. It was an outstanding success. That was due in part to the positive attitude of the pupils, but it was even more dependent on the widespread support it received from the staff and on the skill with which massive organisational problems were overcome by Mrs. L.A. Brown and Mrs. Bridges. It also cost a considerable sum of money. If parents wish children to benefit from our extra-curricular programme in all its aspects, then their support for ventures such as '£9,000 by 90' is essential. There has of course been a gratifying response to that appeal. The total sum raised so far is well over £6,000. The recent Fund Fayre, which produced an impressive £3,600, was not just a matter of raising money. There was even greater value and reward in having parents, staff and pupils working together for the common purpose of creating a day which everyone enjoyed.

This year the variety of the school's activities is matched only by the number of successes it has gained. It is clearly a vintage year. The only possible comment on the list which follows is 'Well Done, Madras!' The outstanding event has been winning The Times 'Tournament of the Mind' competition. Reaching the final, as the school did last year, was a considerable distinction. To repeat that success and to go on to win the competition outright was even more remarkable. The team, all from S3, were rewarded by a day in London to receive the trophy. The Convenor of Fife Region is to recognise their achievement at an official reception to be held early next session. The school benefits by being given over £5,000. of sophisticated computer equipment. The golf team (Philip Lawrie, Stephen Simpson and Iain Landsburgh), provided the second major success of the term by winning the Scottish Schools Golf Foundation Championship at Barassie. This earned them a place in the international part of the competition which was played at St. Andrews. However, local knowledge was not the advantage it seemed. They were under too much pressure to do well, although the fifth place they finally gained in no way detracts from their earlier achievement. Other golfing distinctions gained by the school include three players (Elizabeth Brown, Martin Brown and Stephen Simpson) selected to represent Fife in The Scottish Schools Championships at Nairn, a third place for the school team in the Fife Girls Golf Championship and an individual first for Gillian Beatt in the handicap section of the event.

In the practical examinations of the Associated Board of the Royal School of Music, the school gained 29 passes including 14 merits and 9 distinctions.
In/

In the annual Mathematical Challenge competition for pupils from Fife, Tayside and Central Regions, Kandy Mitchell, Nicola Starritt and Paula Starritt won major prizes, twelve other pupils were highly commended and the school was second overall.

The school's Young Enterprise company gained an award for the best report in the Fife Area and we gratefully acknowledge GB Paper's share in this achievement. In the National School's Business Competition 'Beat the Boss'¹ which the school entered for the first time, our team were placed fourteenth nationally. Two of our footballers (Michael Gray and Simon Kerr) played for the Fife School's under 18 side in the final of the Scottish Cup. The success of the SI Hockey team in winning the inter-school's cup competition at Cupar was just too late to be mentioned in last term's newsletter. The school's three cricket teams have won 16 out of the 22 games played so far. There have been many good individual performances and the strong commitment displayed by the players has been particularly pleasing. Two pairs, (Bruce McIver and Alan Morris, Eilidh Smith and Fiona Cameron) were successful in the Junior Midlands Tennis Doubles. Suzanne Cairns won the under 15 hurdles in the Fife School's Athletics Championships. Our own sports produced brilliant weather and six new records. Priory won the House Championship for the fourth year in succession. Sandy Duncan and Sara Scott were Senior Champions. The Chess Club had two players (Gordon Baisley and Douglas Newton) playing for Dundee District against Northumberland. One of three teams from the Bridge Club, making their first venture into competitive play, gained third place in an inter-school tournament organised by the Scottish Bridge Union. In the Tayside Classical Association's annual Latin and Greek Speaking Competition, Rosalind Ashcroft gained first place in Greek and Madras was the only school to have finalists in every section of the competition. There are also some noteworthy individual achievements. Sara Smith was one of three national winners in a British Film Institute competition in which the contestants had to write a diary about their impressions of a whole day's television viewing. Peter Lord is one of five pupils selected to represent Fife at the London International Science Fortnight. Kirsteen Berry and Jackie Lumsdaine have been selected by the Rotary Clubs of N.E. Fife and St. Andrews respectively for leadership training awards. It is encouraging to see that girls are breaking into what has previously been something of a male preserve.

The P.T.A. has been mainly concerned with the Fund Fayre already mentioned, but the opportunity to see Mr. Timothy Neat's award winning film about the songs of Robert Burns was much appreciated by the members who attended. The meetings are always good value but with the coming of school boards they perhaps have an even more important part to play in keeping parents well informed. In that connection, the first meeting on Thursday, 7th September is of particular interest, since Mr. Magnus More, the Director of Education has very kindly agreed to speak to the association on the subject of school boards.

Although there has been some improvement, the standard of school dress is still not all it should be for a school of our stature. As a guide for those buying new clothes for next session, the uniform rules are set out overleaf. I would emphasise one or two points. The school colours are navy and there is really no reason for black to be worn as widely as it is. This applies especially to sweaters and skirts which at present come in far too wide a variety of styles, colours and shapes. The public image of the school would benefit greatly if denim jackets and jackets with slogans were not worn to school. A return to the blazer would obviate many of these difficulties and this is being recommended to the incoming first year, to the increasing number of pupils who have been awarded colours and indeed to all those who are likely to be representing the school officially at sporting and other events.

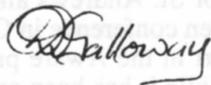
It is appropriate at this point to express our gratitude for a number of gifts, some of them substantial, which the school has recently received. There are several new awards - The Russell Cook Shield for Endeavour in memory of a recent Former Pupil; the/

the Margaret Forbes McLeod Scholarship in Mathematics in memory of a much-loved teacher of the subject; the Lorimer Prize in French, the Newnham Scholarship in Music which existed previously, but has been re-endowed on a more generous scale by the late Prof. Newnham's widow. A most unusual gift was two beautifully framed sets of school medals won by Miss W.M.A. Howden, dux of the school in 1923, and her sister Miss M.J. Howden, dux in 1915. The Library has benefited from several gifts of books; from the support given by parents whose purchases at parents' nights amounted to £1,415. and, most recently, from an anonymous gift of £500. I should also like to acknowledge the generous support which the school has received from many firms, organisations and individuals in the local community, particularly in connection with the recent summer fete and in many other ways throughout the year.

The school is grateful to all those who helped as invigilators at the S.C.E. examinations, particularly Mrs. Gilroy who retires after 6 years as Chief Invigilator. Her hard work in ensuring that the examinations proceed as smoothly as possible has been much appreciated by us all. The supply teachers are another group whose help is vital and, as always, I would wish to acknowledge their contribution to the work of the school. Two in particular, Mrs. Ann Oliver (Mathematics) and Mrs. Brenda Wyse (English) deserve a special mention, since they are not to be with us next session.

Along with my very best wishes for an enjoyable summer holiday, my final word of thanks goes to staff, parents and pupils for all their help and support in making this a uniquely successful year.

Yours sincerely,



RECTOR

Forthcoming Events

School Holidays

The school re-opens for pupils on Tuesday, 22nd August, 1989

October Holiday Monday, 2nd October, 1989

Autumn Holiday Monday, 16th October, 1989 to Friday, 20th October, 1989

Christmas Holiday Monday, 25th December, 1989 to Friday, 5th January, 1990
(All dates inclusive)

In-Service Day Monday, 21st August, 1989

P.T.A. Meeting Thursday, 7th September, 1989, at 7.30 p.m. in the Kilrymont Road Building. "School Boards" by The Director of Education, Mr. Magnus More.

Note on School Uniform

Boys - Madras College Blazer, navy blue V necked sweater, white shirt, school tie, grey trousers, dark shoes.

Girls - Madras College Blazer, navy blue V necked sweater, white blouse, school tie, navy skirt of medium length, navy or black tights, no obtrusive jewellery.