



*Madras College*

# *Newsletter*

*Summer 1990*

It is pleasant to end the session with an account of another eventful and successful term. Yet even before the term ends, next session begins to demand more time and thought as timetables are completed, new courses are planned and staff changes are made.

One feature of next session is already clear. The school will have more pupils. This year the roll has been about the 1490 mark and it was expected to remain at much the same level. However, there has been a steady trickle of new arrivals throughout the session and many more pupils than usual have indicated their wish to return for a fifth or sixth year. The final total will depend on how many actually decide to come back once results are known, but in any event numbers next session are likely to be somewhere between 1530 and 1550.

For the first time in several years extra staff are being recruited, although mostly on a temporary basis, as permanent appointments to several promoted posts are still to be made. One long awaited new appointment has been confirmed within the last few days. We extend a warm welcome to Mrs Elizabeth Higgins who will take up her duties as Librarian during the summer holidays.

## Goodbye to Mr Hodge

The other side of the coin is that, sadly, number of staff who have given the school out-standing service over many years are leaving. Chief among these is Mr Lindsay Hodge. Firstly, as Principal Teacher of Mathematics from 1962 —1972 and, after a brief spell on the staff of the Training College, as Depute Rector since 1974, he has done more than any other single person to unite the school, set its standards, shape its character and guard its traditions. He has been unsparing in giving his

time and energy to the school and its activities, untiring in his concern for the happiness and welfare of each individual in the school community, whether staff or pupil. As teacher, as administrator, as colleague and friend he has been a source of support and encouragement to us all. He has been so much part of the Madras scene for so long, his departure is hard to accept. He goes with our thanks for a unique record of service, with our good wishes for the future and with an assured place in our affections and in the history of the school.

Others are also going at this time whose contribution to the life and work of the school we gratefully acknowledge. Mrs Mona Reilly whose patience and understanding have been invaluable qualities in her work with pupils with learning difficulties retires after 15 years service. Mrs Margaret Smith, whose blend of scholarship and enthusiasm for her subject has done so much to keep the flag of Classics flying, is leaving after 20 years to follow a new career. The retirement of Dr Eve Soulsby is another great loss to the school. After some part time service in the mid 60s she joined the staff in 1971 and became Principal Teacher of Geography a year later. During that time she has been a power in the Geography world both regionally and nationally and the important place which the subject holds in the curriculum today is in no small measure due to her hard work and total dedication. Mr Arthur Edward, whose career began in the Burgh School in 1959 and continued here after the amalgamation with Madras retires as a teacher of Art, although he was also a maker of music, much in demand at staff functions and concerts because of his skill with the guitar. The crests at the main entrance doors to the South Street Building and the representations of primitive art which decorate the side panels of the Kilrymont stage are tangible evidence of his craftsmanship. Mr William McGavin, technical teacher and Principal Teacher of Guidance is another veteran of the Burgh School whose service also goes back to 1959. He has given several generations of pupils

a good start in life by practical training in technical subjects and by practical advice about future careers, since he was an acknowledged expert in this field long before any formal Guidance structure existed. The school, and especially S2, his year group this session, will miss his considerable influence and his avuncular presence. By contrast Miss Adele Burns, who joined the PE Department in 1986, is a comparative newcomer to the staff. However, she has already made her mark as a teacher and, as she leaves to undertake a course of further study, she deserves a special word of thanks for her hard work with the hockey teams. Another young member of staff whom we are sorry to see departing because of regional redeployment is Mr Richard Wotherspoon and we take this opportunity to thank him for the valuable work he has done in the Art Department this year.

Filling promoted posts on a permanent basis is a long, slow process. In order to bridge this gap, the following acting appointments have been made, although changes on such an extensive scale have the effect of a chain reaction: Acting Depute Rector: Lyn Brown; Acting Assistant Rectors: Mrs Maureen Mobeck and Dr Robin Waterston; Acting Principal Teachers: *Guidance*: Mrs Isobel McGregor; *Geography*: Mr Derek Scott; *Home Economics*: Mrs Catherine Grant; *Mathematics*: Mr Kenneth Nisbet; Acting Assistant Principal Teachers: *Home Economics*: Mrs Ann Anderson; *Mathematics*: Miss Linda Keatch.

## Some successes —

The Easter Newsletter recorded several successes in the Fife Schools' Swimming Championships, but Pauline McLean, who won the Front Crawl and the Butterfly was not included in the list. She now gains the honourable mention she should have had with apologies for the omission.

The Under 13 and Under 18 Football teams both reached the finals of the Fife Schools' Cup. Although neither team was fortunate enough to win, they brought great credit to the school by going so far and by maintaining high standards of play throughout a testing competition.

In the North East Fife Sports Council Junior Quiz the Madras College team of Richard Whyte, Michael Henderson, Alistair Clark and Gregor Cantley were the first winners of this new contest.

Three pupils from the Standard Grade Science section

class, Neil Brown, Roger Pugh and Stephen Sinclair won £30 for the school by gaining second place in 'The Great Egg Race', an inter-school technological competition.

The Senior Girls' Tennis team won the Midlands' Schools Tournament which gave them a place in the Scottish semi final where they were narrowly defeated by Dollar Academy.

School golf has not been so prominent this year, but three pupils, Philip Lawrie, Elizabeth Brown and Emily Thomson played for Fife in the Scottish Schools' Golf Championships.

A whole crop of good results were obtained in the Fife Schools Track and Field Championships in which our athletes accumulated 6 firsts, 7 seconds and 6 thirds across a wide range of events.

A team of S3 pupils entered the Regional Fire Prevention Quiz and did well to reach the final at their first attempt.

Ross Phillips and Moira Phillips have been given Youth Leadership Training Awards by the Rotary Club of North East Fife. Vidar Nilsen and Carl Roemmele will be representing Fife Scouts at the World Jamboree in Korea.

Poster competitions associated with the forthcoming Open Championship attracted entries from some of our young artists and produced some good results. The Crime Poster Competition sponsored by Fife Constabulary was won by Waid Academy, but two pupils from S2, Lesley Gillan and Alison Smith, were third and fourth respectively. The Litter Poster Competition sponsored by the R & A was won by Christopher Crowe S3, Alison Smith S2 gained second place and Catriona Chisholm S1 was third.

The classicists enjoyed their usual run of success in the annual inter-school Verse Speaking Contest with two firsts (Greek and the Project Competition) and three seconds (Junior, Intermediate and Senior Latin). Madras were the only school to gain a place in all the finals.

Even though they did not manage to repeat last year's victory, the team who entered the Times Tournament of the Mind contest are to be congratulated on reaching the final for the third year in succession.

The pupils of the Mathematics Department have achieved a remarkable run of team and individual successes. Andrew Priest gained an award at Grade B in the senior section of the British Mathematics Olympiad. This considerable distinction was matched by equally good results in the junior section in which three Madras pupils, David Mar-

tin, Paul Phillips and Ian Story qualified for the final stage. Four awards were made to Scottish schools. Madras gained two of them. David Martin's Silver Medal ranked high in its class and Paul Phillips' Bronze Medal was well deserved.

In the Mathematical Challenge Contest which is open to schools in Central Fife and Tayside, Madras usually does well, but this year our results were outstanding. Nineteen schools took part. No other had more than four awards, Madras gained seventeen —11 prizes (including the first which was won by Nicola Starritt) and five honourable mentions.

The outcome of the Secondary Schools' Mathematical Project Competition was similar. Madras was the only state sector school to feature more than once on the prize list. A group of S1 pupils gained a Certificate of Merit and the S3 group and individual entries achieved honourable mentions.

Just this week a team of S1 pupils provided the finishing touch to this remarkable record by winning the Fife Junior Mathematics Challenge Trophy in the annual inter-school contest at Auchmuty.

Lorna Sinclair was one of the six national prizewinners in the Royal Bank Royal Scottish Academy Design Competition. Along with Mrs. Alma Smith, Principal Teacher of Art, who was given a cheque for the school, Lorna received her award from Lord Younger, Chairman of the Royal Bank, at a special presentation ceremony at the Royal Scottish Academy. We congratulate Lorna on a very fine achievement.

## —and some events

A great deal of activity seems to have been packed into the term. For pupils in S4, S5 and S6, the first month and more was taken up by Certificate examinations. We take this opportunity to thank Mrs MacLeod and her team of invigilators for their hard work in ensuring the smooth running of an increasingly complex operation. It was decided to repeat the Three Day Activity programme which was introduced for S3 pupils last year. It proved equally successful and popular and S3 pupils enjoyed taking part with staff in a variety of outings, excursions and activities which included, among others, Indian cookery, cycling round North East Fife and visiting York. S1 Social Education groups arranged a series of Any Questions sessions and put panels of staff and senior pupils through some very testing interviews. S6 departed in style with a Summer Ball which was by far the best in recent years, outstanding alike for its formal elegance and excellent organisation. As a means of helping S5

with the transition to S6 an induction afternoon was held to allow pupils to meet in discussion groups and consider various issues such as the value of returning for a sixth year and the greater responsibility it involved. The new S6 have already attended several university open days, while the artists among them spent a day at Tentsmuir working on the beach with College of Art students to create works of art out of the materials to hand. The annual visit to Hadrian's Wall was as well supported and as successful as usual. The 33 pupils who took part in the 34th Kiel exchange have benefited from the valuable and enjoyable experience of spending three weeks living and working in another country. The other major excursion overseas was made by the junior choir whose visit to Orleans left them little time for relaxation but greatly enhanced their reputation for fine singing. Otherwise, the term has been comparatively quiet musically. The Early Music Group took part in a concert in Hill of Tarvit House to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the birth of Sir David Lindsay and they will also be giving two performances at the International Early Music Festival in Glasgow at the beginning of August. The senior choir were invited to sing in St. Giles Cathedral in Edinburgh. The summer concert was varied, lively and well attended.

The annual Sports were successfully completed at Station Park in weather conditions which were fair but less brilliant than some other years. Several groups of pupils have visited the Glen Tilt cottage which is now rather grandly designated for official purposes as the school's field centre. Some money is being spent on essential maintenance which is being carried out by staff volunteers and on upgrading the sleeping accommodation. One indoor activity deserves a special mention. The Bridge Club has been active in both buildings throughout the year and though no great successes have been recorded, the players have gained valuable experience by taking part in inter-school competitions in Dundee and Edinburgh and by attending a seminar and friendly match in Glasgow in connection with the City of Culture events.

The school has benefited from several generous donations. We gratefully acknowledge a cheque from the F.P. Girls' Club for the purchase of computer software; a large number of books for the Library and the Modern Languages department from Dr Delaney; the Calder Pier Trophy for the most improved Sports person of the Year from Mr William Martin, and a handsome new debating trophy for award in Kilrymont Road from the parents of Craig Buchanan,

Links with the local community were fostered by a

visit to the school by the members of the St. Andrew Society. They were taken on a tour of the historic parts of the South Street building and viewed an exhibition of the school's trophies and other memorabilia. Another valuable link was to establish contact with the Neighbourhood Engineers. This organisation provides technical help and advice in many areas of the curriculum and it is hoped that valuable devel-

opments will arise from this most lively and stimulating initial meeting.

Another term and another session are coming to an end. All that remains is to thank staff, parents and pupils for their support and cooperation with out which it would have been impossible to achieve so much and to hope that everyone will enjoy the opportunities for rest and relaxation which the long summer holiday provides.

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### *Some useful dates for your diary*

**Autumn term:** Tuesday 21st August—Friday October 12th 1990

October holiday (single day): Monday 1st October 1990  
October holiday week: Monday 15th October—Friday 19th October

**Winter term:** Monday 22nd October—Friday 21st December 1990

Christmas holiday: Monday 24th December 1990—Friday 4th January 1991

Five days in session 1990—91 have been designated by the Region as In-Service days for teachers. They are as follows:

Day 1.....Monday 20th August 1990  
Day 2....Thursday 6th December 1990  
Day 3.....Friday 7th December 1990  
Day 4.....Friday March 8th 1991  
Day 5.....Wednesday April 24th 1991