



Summer Newsletter

Madras College Newsletter

June 2002

Rector's Note

When the Normans conquered England in 1066 they brought with them a system of homage and fealty in which land and power, which meant the same thing in the middle ages, were held upon certain conditions known later as the feudal system. Those conditions were set by the top people, the king, the great nobles, the lesser nobles, the squires and so on. This "feudal system" spread to Scotland during the following century. What it meant was that for centuries our countries were controlled by rules made by a tiny elite of powerful men. As both England and Scotland became constitutional monarchies during the latter years of the 17th century, fusing into one state in 1707, the ancient way in which power was exercised was gradually replaced by a more and more democratic system. Today if we give homage and fealty it is because we choose to do so, not because we have an obligation. This seems a proper moment to make that choice.

Homage is defined as formal public acknowledgement of allegiance, acknowledgement of superiority or dutiful reverence. Fealty is the acknowledgement of the obligation to be faithful. These ancient words seem to have particular relevance to Madras College this session, for it is a year when several of our finest staff are about to depart, having given splendid service to the school for many years. We may not go so far as to speak of reverence or superiority - a college is by definition a body of colleagues with common functions and privileges - but we most certainly can admire the constancy, faithfulness and allegiance shown to the school by those about to leave us. Some brief details about departing colleagues are included in the "Staff Notes" section. Shall we see their likes again?

Those of us remaining will of course remember that people who make fine contributions are best celebrated by the results of their good works - good policies and procedures, good systems, good departments, good relationships, and good repute. We then have the obligation to be faithful, to carry on the good work in deed and in spirit, keeping a balance between continuity and change, being prepared to stand up and be counted if the latest "fad from afar" seems as relevant or useful as a horse to a Venetian.

In other ways it has been an important year for the school. We have at last managed to achieve some combined focus by councillors, officials and school

representative groups on the long-term future for the fabric - the buildings - of Madras College. A response by the Council is eagerly awaited so that plans may be put in motion for improvements, short and long term, to the learning and teaching facilities of the school.

The promised consultation about school dress produced interesting results, most pupils backing the status quo with only minor amendments, but clear that we should apply our dress code in a consistent way. Parental views and support have been sought, and will be further canvassed in the new session.

Another area in which consistency of standards will be vital is the new statement of "Ground Rules" covering common expectations about the way we should work, study, coexist and cooperate in this large school. This simple text was achieved after exhaustive consultation by staff and pupil groups. A statement of the agreed wording of our Ground Rules is printed on page 7 for the information of parents.

The life and work of Madras College power on. We are becoming better at coping with the constant change expected of us and are moving closer to having a culture of change in the institution. The concept of "the learning school" in which we do not resist change so much as evaluate its potential benefits may not be so far away. This cool appraisal of the merits or otherwise of change may also help us to manage some of the strains and stresses of modern

education. Echoes of this are also appearing in the school agreements all teaching staff are negotiating within "McCrone", our national scheme for the profession for the 21st century. There is, however, a long way to go, much to be done. As things are at present teachers work well beyond the target of 35 hours per week (a recent survey suggested that about 44 hours was average), and it is difficult to imagine when this figure will be achieved given the current workload and expectations. The Council's plans under the McCrone scheme to increase time for teaching by reducing administrative burdens are awaited with interest.

Lastly, all of the above makes no sense unless we put the pupil, and cooperation between parents and staff at the centre of our thinking. It is therefore most heartening to have had so many examples this session of productive dialogue and activity between pupils, parents and staff. I wish to thank most deeply all those who have assisted in joint enterprises this session. How interesting that "enterprise" is to be the next buzzword in Scottish education. We've been at it for years!

On behalf of all staff I wish all parents and pupils a well-deserved, sunlit, invigorating and even perhaps enterprising holiday.

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STAFF RETIRING

This session will for years be remembered as the one at the end of which three long-established promoted staff retired - Mr Halliday, Mrs Fraser and Mr Lindsay, and three other members of staff retired - Mr Linton, Dr Malcolm and Mrs Tait.

Mr Halliday came to Madras as Assistant Rector in 1984. He supervised and coordinated the development of Standard Grade and Scotvec courses across the school to implement the new principle of "certification for all". He showed a rare grasp of content and structure of the curriculum while in charge of this process and also in his creation of course choice options and SCE (later SQA) examination arrangements. Soon he was to be put in charge of the timetable, an immense and complex operation in Madras. While Mr Halliday carried out such tasks with speed, skill and efficiency, he was also an important member of the senior management team, as year head, as faculty link for technological subjects, but most of all as a quiet and persuasive teacher and colleague who always strove to achieve positive outcomes from difficult situations. Generations of Madras pupils will remember Mr Halliday most of all, however, for his famous assembly stories - the 17 camels, etc. He has done much in recent years to reorganise the school day, change the S3/4 curriculum to offer eight courses to most pupils, but most of all to timetable the Higher Still programme in the senior school. During the last 10 years he has also served on several national committees for the Scottish Secondary Teachers' Association. He served the School Board with distinction for many years as teacher member.

Mrs Fraser came to Madras in 1980 as Chemistry Teacher, became Senior Teacher in 1989 and was appointed as Principal Teacher of Chemistry in 1993. During her time in Madras she contributed to many significant changes to the curriculum which were taking place - her Principal Teacher in her early years, Mr Christie, noting how well she had assisted with Standard Grade, Scotvec Modules and Revised Higher. She had also been in charge of the re-writing of the S1/2 Science course between 1988 and 1993, a major exercise involving all Science colleagues. Once appointed as PT in 1993 Mrs Fraser used her talent for organisation and leadership to the full, showing the necessary determination, diplomacy and wider understanding of

school or pupil needs that mark out the skilled head of department. She thus leaves a strong and successful department with an impressive esprit de corps and desire to continue to do great things in the future. During her 22 years Mrs Fraser has also taken part in a wide range of activities, has given outstanding service to school debating and public speaking, and has represented colleagues in both Parent-Teacher Association and School Board.

Mr Lindsay came to Madras in 1969 as teacher of English, his first post. His career has therefore spanned the introduction of the comprehensive system, the raising of the leaving age to 16, Munn and Dunning discussions leading to Standard Grade, TVEI, Alternative Higher, Revised Higher, Modules, 10-14, 5-14, and now Higher Still. In 1972 Mr Lindsay became Depute Principal Teacher of English to Mr Edgar, then in 1985 Principal Teacher. His early work in liaison with primary schools gave a solid foundation to the 5-14 programme while his regional work in Standard Grade helped the department to get to grips with the new challenge. Thus it has been in more recent years with the various initiatives being faced and implemented. A manager of a very large department Mr Lindsay has also made contributions to the wider life of the school. Most noteworthy have been his early work in using information technology to assist the school's presentation of official publications and his regular use of his rare literary talent, particularly in verse. The school Burns Suppers were for over a generation a forum for engaging flights of poetic fancy. All have suffered or celebrated his acerbic wit! Other school events have benefited from Mr Lindsay's famous skill, such as at the S6 Ball of 2001 when, as requested, he mentioned all 200 or so members of the year. Of the many characterful teachers Madras has produced Mr Lindsay must surely have a special place.

Dr Malcolm, Biology Department, came to Madras in 1980. Despite his background of high academic qualifications and university teaching he

rapidly became established as an enthusiastic and stimulating teacher whose individual and informal style was appreciated by pupils of all stages and abilities. Dr Malcolm, able to communicate his personal interest in Biology, brought a breadth of knowledge and a joy in learning for its own sake that rubbed off on pupils in his classes. His connections in the golf world and his great interest in the history of the game were used to very good effect during his teaching career, in local competitions, in coaching of teams of girls and boys, in writing of annual golf reports and in his influence in establishing golfing exchanges. In the Ohtawara Exchange he has also contributed annually to the hosting of Japanese visitors by leading a group visit to the Highlands. Dr Malcolm has donated many family artefacts to the school archive ensuring that generations of pupils and staff derive benefit from these original sources of school history.

Mr Linton, Design and Technology Department, came to Madras in 1981. His interest in both the traditional and modern sides of the subject was clear from the outset. For a time, indeed, he worked in the Computing Department having taken extra training courses in microprocessors and interfacing. Overall, however, his main interest was in the craft side of the subject, in which he was able to bring the best out of many pupils. This was also true of his interest in pupils with special educational needs. Mr Linton gave active support to his teacher association and contributed particularly in matters of safety policy and practice.

Mrs Tait, Modern Languages Department, joined the staff at Madras in 1990. Able to teach both French and German she brought a clear and orderly classroom style from which pupils benefited. This clarity and sense of purpose ensured that all of Mrs Tait's pupils knew what was expected of them and most responded accordingly. As a result the SCE (later SQA) performance of her classes was never in doubt. Mrs Tait also assisted colleagues in many curricular developments in both her languages.

Other Staff News

In May Miss Ashley joined the Modern Studies Department and Ms Shields was appointed as Assistant Principal Teacher of Guidance. At the end of the session Mrs Gourley demits her acting duties as Principal Teacher of Learning Support as does Miss Hutchison as Principal Teacher of Guidance, Mrs Nicol and Mrs Welsh, respectively, resuming their duties. Dr Tomb, Principal Teacher of Chemistry and Mr Darge, Principal Teacher of English, take up their posts in the new session. Also joining us in Maths is Mrs Burrows. Lastly we would like to thank Fraulein Irnstorfer and Mademoiselle Mortolini for their excellent work as “assistantes” in Modern Languages this session.

Rock Band News

In the regional final our band ‘Frajisle’ (sic) might well have been placed first overall. They were awarded ‘best drummer’ and also ‘best vocalist’. Blair Rennie and his big brother Michael took these honours. One can only assume the band was ‘robbed’, in football parlance, as the other members, Michael Francis (lead guitar) and Allan Williamson (bass) are also highly-talented performers. A sad footnote to this is that Dennis Webster, regional instructor in guitar, whose idea the competition was, to commemorate the death of Donald Ferguson, guitar instructor, also died suddenly a short time ago. Dennis was an enthusiast who encouraged and gave opportunities and training to many young musicians. Our thoughts and sympathies go out to his widow and family.

In A Quad Garden

Steven Anderson, Stuart Ball, Christopher Beaton and Ashan Jayasekera (S6) spent Friday June 7th painting the benches in the quad and despite the very wet weather finished them all. The quad is a green and pleasant land with the tubs newly planted for the Quad Fete. Since almost all of the current members of the group have left school, Miss Jackson is looking for new helpers to maintain the plants. If you are interested please let us know!

School Dress Code

All parents have recently been sent a copy of the amended dress code shown below. Many thanks to all who assisted in this exercise. Our expectation is that all pupils will keep to the code thus indicating their commitment to school. As always parental support is vital and it is hoped that items purchased in preparation for next session will reflect the agreed code. Sales of fleeces and hoodies are going particularly well. Orders may be placed at any time via the school offices.

- Plain navy or black v-necked jersey or sweatshirt
- Formal black or navy blue trousers or skirt
- Plain white or light blue shirt or polo shirt
- School tie
- Dark footwear
- Labelled fashion or cult items are not acceptable school wear
- Safety and Security: Pupils’ clothing must not place them at risk of accident. The length and width of trousers and the height of heels on shoes are two aspects of dress that may cause injury. Pupils are therefore expected to wear clothing that does not add to personal risk.
- For school events a high standard of appearance is expected. Staff will make expectations clear to pupils for particular events.
- Additional items of school wear may be made available for pupils to purchase. These are, at present, the school fleeces, hoodies and scarf.

Duke of Edinburgh’s Award

On Wednesday 19th June, the school held a presentation of certificates and badges for the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award Scheme. Mr J Macgregor, Senior Manager (Education) issued the 7 Silver and 15 Bronze certificates.

Currently we have over 70 pupils involved in the Award Scheme: 44 pupils in the new S4 are taking Bronze, 20 of whom completed their qualifying expeditions of 24 km near Kenmore in Perthshire. The remaining 24 have just completed their expeditions in the Angus Glens. The Silver group have travelled

English Department Goes Online

Last year’s 2A decided to take the plunge and take part in an online novel writing project organised by learn.co.uk. The class was teamed up with two other schools: a writing group in Shetland from Brae High School and Dawley Primary School in England.

The first step was to decide on a genre. Perhaps rather predictably the group chose horror. Next, each member of the class was invited to write a short introduction about him or herself. These were e-mailed to the other schools, and we received their introductions.

Brae High volunteered to write the first chapter, Madras the second and Dawley the third. As a draft of each chapter was completed, the other two schools were invited to send in editing comments before the final draft was written.

The finished novel consisted of vampires, werewolves, monsters and lots of other terrifying things!

One class member wrote: “We thoroughly enjoyed writing the novel. It was fun thinking of ideas for the plot, continuing from chapter one, and editing the writing of the others. It was also interesting to see if the third school picked up on any of the hints that we left. Everyone in the class contributed in one way or another. Overall we felt that the online novel was a great class project and an enjoyable experience”.

to Knoydart to take part in the 48 km exercises.

Every year more and more pupils are expressing an interest in the scheme. Organising expedition training, both in school on a weekly basis and on occasional weekends, planning and organising the qualifying ventures and overseeing the pupils’ work on the Skill, Service and Physical Recreation sections are time-consuming and we are extremely grateful to the members of staff who so willingly give of their own time to support the pupils in the scheme.

Drama Snippets

- Advanced Higher students will be visiting Dundee Rep Theatre to see a production of *The Seagull* by Anton Chekhov.
- Rita Henderson, who recently directed at the Byre Theatre, will be visiting the department to work with senior pupils on devising and directing.
- Teacher Miss Ogg has been working hard with the Junior Drama Club. Members of the club devised their own ideas and performed their presentations over lunchtimes to packed audiences.
- All S1 and S2 Drama classes were given the opportunity to demonstrate their skills in the recent Drama Festival. This gave pupils a great sense of achievement through lunchtime performances in front of their peers.
- Thomas Barbour has gained entry to the National Youth Theatre in London and will be involved in productions next Easter. Jenny Beaton will be working as part of the National Youth Theatre's Stage Management team over the summer.
- The school will be performing in the Byre Theatre main auditorium next spring. Other production plans are being considered including a junior school devised drama production and an S4 film production.
- Several pupils have been involved in Children's Panel training recently and Morgan Griffiths (S4) will be acting the lead character in a training video being filmed soon.

Madras Musical Mystery

As part of the Three Day Activities, the DSE Drama class spent a day filming "Madras Musical Mystery". The film production had its world premiere at the Byre Theatre on Monday 17th June. Family and friends of the cast attended the glamorous event and enjoyed a reception afterwards.

The film has a fine mix of tension, humour and special effects. It sees Daniel O'Donnell, the well known singer, come to town, and many of the "mature" residents decide to spend their pensions on attending his (expensive) concert. It is discovered however, that O'Donnell is in fact a fake, a con-artist (as opposed to a musical artist) who has been swindling the OAPs of Madras. In a bid to reveal the truth, the locals join forces with the police and eventually "trap" the criminal, whilst finding love along the way.

The cast members included Carolann Hunter, David Kerr, Becky Moore, Christopher Nicol, Jennifer Rae, Daniel Redpath, Philip Steel and Gilly Stewart. The film was Directed/Co-edited by Miss A Ogg, with Mr M Latona as the Technical Adviser/Co-editor and Mr P Gibbins as cameraman. The cast have received Pupil Commendations for their superb contribution and commitment to task.

Exchange with Kiel, Germany

On Saturday 22nd July, the visit to our exchange partners in Germany begins. This is, believe it or not, the forty-fifth exchange between Madras College and our partners in Kiel, the Kieler Gelehrtenschule.

S3 Visit to France

The annual S3 visit to Paris and Brittany was, as always, a great success. In Paris, the Eiffel Tower, Montmartre and the tour of the city by night were the highlights, followed by the Mont Saint-Michel in Brittany – and the oyster-eating competition in Cancale, where the record was again broken: nearly six dozen oysters this year! This year's team of S6 helpers were the best yet! Applications are now coming in for next Easter's event.

PIPE BAND

As this article is committed to paper, the Pipe Band, led by Pipe-Major Emma Rebbetts, is just back from playing at the Royal Highland Show where they had a successful day and drew considerable crowds. Many Fifers, residents past and present, of St Andrews, some from as far afield as Canada, and other members of the general public introduced themselves in conversation between sets. In all these exchanges, it was clearly apparent that Madras College is held in exceedingly high esteem. The Band, as ambassador, is proud to be a part of this and to further enhance the reputation of the school whenever possible. Other events this term include an appearance for the Quad Fund on home turf, the usual Summer Concert, Retreat at the University of St Andrews Graduation Ball, Bow Butts Bandstand (3 pm on Sunday June 30th, if you are passing) and Anstruther Lifeboat Gala on August 10th. While the band rarely goes out alone to raise funds for charity or other worthy causes, in this past twelvemonth they have participated in a wide range of such events, attracting crowds and contributing to raising a combined sum estimated to approach £20,000 overall.

Senior School Visit to Loches

Preparations for the senior school visit in the October holiday to Loches, St Andrews' partner town in France, are well under way and we hope to repeat the success of last year.

Sculpture in the Quad

S3 Art and Design pupils took part in a sculpture event at the end of May at Kellie Castle, Pittenweem. This initiative by the National Trust for Scotland also included Bell Baxter and Waid Academy pupils. This gave the pupils the opportunity to work with sculptor, Kenny Munro and produce large-scale plaster heads. Some chose portraiture, others

animal and mythological themes. This event also coincided with the opening of the new Lorimer Sculpture Exhibition where the general public can view his studio in its eerie 'Marie Celeste' surroundings.

The impressive results by Madras S3 can be viewed in the South Street Quad.

The Maths Challenge Contest 2002

In this year's event Madras College achieved an excellent total of 19 Gold and Silver awards. This is the best result for the school since 1998.

The Prizewinners were entertained in the morning by Mr Bill Richardson, Chairman of the Nation Committee responsible for the Mathematical Challenge Competition, who led the assembled 140 budding young mathematicians through a series of stimulating problem solving exercises. Audience participation was the order of the day and the Maths Challengers rose to the occasion with a dazzling display of their problem solving skills.

There was general agreement that the day had been a great success. Thanks must go to the staff of the Mathematics Department at St Andrews University for hosting the event and for making the day such a memorable one.

'The Three Sisters' by Anton Chekhov, performed by Madras College Quad Theatre Company

Chekhov's longest play, 'The Three Sisters' is not an obvious choice for a school production, but under the inspired direction of Mrs Esler, this one was a resounding success. The direction of a cast of eighteen on a tiny stage was masterful. The simplicity of the set and the smallness of the quad Theatre all helped to enhance the feelings of intimacy, even claustrophobia, which the play evokes.

All three of the sisters were very well cast. Sophie Palmer's quietly controlled performance captured the weariness, but rock solid dependability of Olga. Irina, played by Eleanor Scott, was just right. Her wistfulness for the past was very clear, as was her longing for happiness; all of which made her pain at the end very real.

From her first appearance, pacing relentlessly up and down, with a ramrod stiff back, Angela Orr as Masha dominated the scene. Her broodiness and frustration with her life and her ineffectual husband, played brilliantly by Ben Anderson, were very evident, as was her growing passion for Lieutenant Colonel Vashinin, played with verve and panache by Mr Latona.

Jenny Swingler as the appallingly selfish and flirtatious Natasha was a welcome relief from the intensity of the three sisters, and her husband, Andrie, played convincingly by Struan Paterson, was very much putty in her hands.

Mr Dewar as Dr Chebutykin was full of embittered wisdom and was frighteningly

convincing as an old person, as was Julia Higgins as Anfisa, the loyal servant. Jamie Watson and Fingal McKiernan gave effective performances as Captain Solyoni and Baron Tuzenbach respectively, backed up admirably by the rest of the cast: Mark Burns as Fedotik, Jo Edwards-Fox as Rode, Mr Lyden as Ferapont, Lesley Aitken, Christina Ciftci, and Meredith Palmer as maids.

The violin music expertly played by Dominic Esler, helped to set the mood, as the tension was slowly but inexorably built up. The final moments of the play, with the three sisters clutching at, yet supporting, one another, was very moving.

A review in the Sunday Herald of another Chekhov play began by saying that Chekhov was enjoying an 'annus mirabilis' in Scotland at the moment. Anyone who saw the Madras College Quad Theatre Company's performance of 'The Three Sisters' would agree.

Great Valley High- Madras Exchange

This long-running exchange continues into its twelfth year. This year Catherine Aitken (S6) is hosting Rebekah McKnight of Great Valley from August to the Christmas holidays. Catherine will then travel to Malven just outside Philadelphia for the period from January till May. We're sure the girls will enjoy their time in a different culture and will grasp all the challenges and opportunities the exchange provides.

The UK Schools Junior Maths Challenge Contest 2002

A remarkable 51 awards were gained by Madras College contestants this year. There were 12 Gold awards, 17 Silver and 22 Bronze. Special congratulations go to Sheila Norrie in S3 for achieving the top score out of all our contestants. In addition to her Gold award Sheila will receive a special 'Best in School' award. She has also been invited to sit the prestigious UK Junior Maths Olympiad. This 2 hour paper consisting of 16 questions should stretch her problem solving skills to the limit!

PERFORMANCES

Madras College annually presents four major concerts showing the work of the Music Department. The Summer Concert saw the culmination of the Traditional Music Residency in the form of two items within a programme also featuring Pipe Band, Wind Band, Madras College Singers and soloists. Rob MacKillop, Musician in Residence conducted an item for orchestra and Morag Ann Elder, also brought in as part of the residency, directed the Fiddle Group in their contribution. Rounding off the year, Fiddle Group and Orchestra will play to the last at the closing assemblies, concluding the official business of the school year.

Wind Band

Under the watchful eye and energetic directorship of Mrs R Craib, Instructor for Woodwind, the Wind Band again prepares to squeeze into the Bandstand to delight their following. These concerts frequently attract a crowd of about 200 townsfolk and visitors and it would be a pity if the efforts of staff and players alike – preparing an hour's worth of repertoire with no repeats is a staggering feat for a school band – were not to have such a hearing in their home town. However, it is hoped that the Community Council which promotes the series of Bandstand concerts will be able to find volunteers willing to run the events in years to come following the 'retirement' of Archie Strachan from this activity after many years of dedicated involvement.

Hadrian's Wall Excursion



Fifty pupils and staff visited Hadrian's Wall this term in a joint Classics and History venture. Due to foot and mouth restrictions being lifted, the group were able to walk on the Wall from Steel Rigg to Homesteads and at Walltown Crags.

LITTER LIFTING

Due to greater supervision in school areas the amount of litter has dropped this term in the Kilrymont Road Building. However pupils are still urged to use the bins provided as the public area looks so much better. Next session will see an expanded litter committee to address the litter issues in and around both sites of Madras College.

In addition, the school has presented a community initiative, the Mill Project (Madras Is Litter Lifting) to The St Andrews Preservation Trust who will inform us of the results next term. We look forward to that.

REWARDING EXPERIENCE

As part of the School Development Plan this session, a target area has been 'Rewarding Positive Behaviour - Department Strategy'. What follows are two accounts that reflect general departmental success in the exercise.

• Social Subjects Positive Behaviour Programme

This year, the Social Subjects Faculty ran its own Positive Behaviour Programme.

Within Geography, History and Modern Studies individual S2 pupils were awarded points for being organised for class, by bringing their Planner, and for behaving in a positive way by avoiding punishment exercises and detentions. These individual points were then aggregated to produce a class total and at the end of the year the class with the most points became the S2 Class of the Year.

Congratulations to 2B therefore for achieving a very high level of organisation and behaviour and in doing so becoming the S2 Social Subjects Class of the Year. We hope you enjoyed the celebration party!

Congratulations also to the rest of S2. The teachers within the Faculty were most impressed with the levels of effort

and application from all class groups. Well done!

• English 'Success Certificates' to extend to S2

At the start of the session, the English Department introduced a new system of Certificates, designed to reward good effort and positive attitude. This has proved to be extremely popular with pupils, and staff have found it very useful in motivating classes.

All teachers in the department have a rubber stamp, which is used to record a 'success' in the pupil's planner. The definition of 'success' is wider than simply a high score in a test. It could reward the conscientious use of the reading log, for instance, or a piece of work that a pupil has produced on his/her own initiative. The teacher makes a note in the planner every time a stamp is used, and this is a good way of letting parents know about the pupil's achievement.

Any pupil accumulating five such stamps is awarded with a Bronze Certificate. Ten leads to Silver, and fifteen to Gold. The certificates, signed by the class teacher, are also signed by Mr Mackay, the Assistant Rector with responsibility for the year group. He has

made a point of coming to classes and handing over the certificates in person, which has not only raised the profile of the exercise, but has also given him an opportunity to give words of encouragement to those who only have a stamp or two to go!

The experiment has been so successful that the department has decided to extend it into S2. The statistics for this session are interesting. There were 324 pupils in S1. Of these, no less than 161 gained Bronze Certificates – almost half the year group. A Silver Award was awarded to a further 57. There were 15 awards of Gold Certificates. This is quite an achievement for the pupils concerned.

Classical Success

There was another Lizzie Lawrenson (S5) Classics success, this time nationally in the Gilbert Murray essay competition.

The second year team won the Junior Latin Speaking Cup again. The school has now won it nine times since Mr Cleland introduced the event in 1974, more than any other school. There were places and finalists in all sections including Greek.

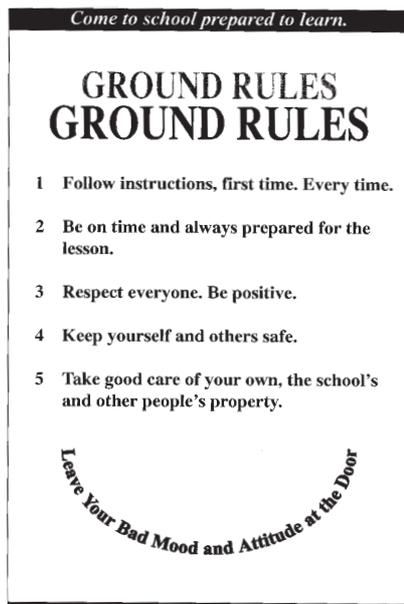
GROUND RULES

This session, a major initiative for both staff and pupils has been the creation of Ground Rules for School.

In November, Dr Geoff Moss, a Behaviour Management Specialist, involved teaching staff in a day of activities focussing on positive classroom management. From that, came a revision of the existing code of behaviour.

Consultation with pupils took place via Social Education classes and representative groups and thus the **Madras College Ground Rules** below were created.

(The similarity in the content of 'staff' rules and 'pupil' rules was remarkable – pupil wording giving that essential touch of modernity!!)



Charity Choices

It has been a busy term for the Charities Committee who, with the help of Kilrymont Road classes, have donated over £1,000 to Sponsor a Child, Teenage Cancer Trust, Cornerstone in Cupar and The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association. The committee now comprises members of staff and pupils from S3, 4 and 6. Already plans are being made for next session's activities!

Madras College pupils raised over £600 in the Kids Aloft Fun Run. The children from Belarus are at present enjoying themselves in St Andrews.

Associated Board Exams

In addition to presenting candidates for SQA Music exams at all levels, the Music Department also presents a number of candidates each session for the practical exams of the Associated Board of Royal Schools of Music. While, in many schools this is now a thing of the past – for lack of time or interest, who knows – the size of the entry (some 30 candidates this time) indicates our strength in this area and declares a continuing dedication to high standards. Instrumental Staff presenting the candidates – all of whom passed comfortably – are to be congratulated once again for their high quality work and ability to add value to their core work.

Burns Competitions

After their success in the school Burns Singing Competition, our team of three almost swept the board at the Fife Burns Competition. With Mr R Bell, Assistant Principal Teacher of Music at the helm, they cruised to victory with Alastair Downes taking second in the S1/2 class and Sonia Stevenson and Rowan MacKinnon-Pryde crossing the line first in their (S3/4 and S5/6) classes respectively. In the National competition, all three performed impressively against stiff opposition and Rowan took first prize in her class. Madras College has now won this class in the National three times in recent years. The points system used in this competition meant that the efforts of all three contributed to the awarding of Fife Region as the overall winner for this year.

Madras College Diary

Some of our readers may remember the regular feature of The Diary in the local press, mainly the St Andrews Citizen. Meetings between the school and the local paper are taking place to organise bringing news from the school into more immediate focus. Plans are ready to relaunch The Diary in October. Watch the columns!

Football Champions

The first year team captained by Jon Reid lifted the Fife Schools Under 13 Shield last month with fine wins against Beath, Buckhaven, Dunfermline and St Columba's. This made up for the disappointment of losing in both finals of the Buckhaven Tournament earlier this term. Congratulations go to Chris Chimiak, James Sinclair and Jon Reid on being selected for the Fife Development Coaching group. Great prospects for the years ahead?

Old Boys XI in the Final

Madras College staff football team fresh from their victorious 1-1 draw against the pupils have worked their way into the final of the Fife Staff Cup having defeated Glenwood High School and Fife Primaries in their section. They beat the might of Balwearie High School in the semis, 1-0.

BAA Youth Games

On Friday 24th May a team of pupils from Madras represented Fife in the BAA Youth Games in Edinburgh. This event was held at Meadowbank Stadium and the Commonwealth swimming pool. The athletics team of Chris Nicol, Philip Steel and Daniel Redpath, all performed well in the shot putt and 60m sprints. They also formed part of Fife's relay team. Overall the athletes came second to Edinburgh.

The swimming team of Becky Moore, Daniel Gibson, Adrian Coultherd and Robert Mitchell, competed in individual and team medley events. Again Edinburgh pipped the Fife team for first place.

The opening and closing ceremonies were quite spectacular and the children were great ambassadors for both Madras and Fife.

Team Madras

The school tennis teams continue to achieve success in competitions at national and district levels. Always enthusiastic in playing for the school despite busy schedules our players are keenly competitive. Three boys' couples and one girls' couple represented the school at the Midlands 15 and under Schools Championships at Kilgraston, Bridge of Earn. Lindsay Forbes (S2) and Kirsty Stewart (S3) reached the quarter finals while Darren Smith and Timmy Weir (both S4) won an exciting final against the number one pair from Glenalmond.

In the Scottish Schools Championships the team of Alison Bell, Lindsay Forbes, Erin Gourlay and Kerry McRitchie won through three rounds before losing to Waid Academy in a match played in the finest spirit.

The boys once more reached the final day at St George's School in Edinburgh. Following a very tight defeat in the semis the team of Graeme Hood, Euan Forbes, Steven Birell and Ross Carstairs took a creditable third place. Timmy Weir and Johnny Randall were also excellent squad members. The future looks very bright for Madras College tennis.

SPORTS DAY

Hot off the press, congratulations to Sports Day winners: Tara Hill (S1 Girls), Keith Simpson (S1 Boys), Freya Marks (S2 Girls), Andrew Reid (S2 Boys), Nony Mordi (S3 Girls), Andrew Kinnear (S3 Boys), Jennifer Ramsay and Fiona Thomson (Senior Girls), Rory James Scott (Senior Boys), Graeme Noble (Boys' Senior High Jump). The Inter-House Championship Trophy was won by Priory.

Careers Base

The Careers Adviser, Mrs Donna Cuthbert will operate from the new purpose built base in the South Street building. Pupils will be able to access information about college and university courses or employment opportunities either from books or from computer databases. Advice will be given during career interviews or drop in sessions at lunchtime. The base will have an Information Board to publicise jobs, courses and open days and the base will enhance the already good service provided by Careers Advisers.

Sun, Sand, Sea and Girls' Summer Fitness

The West Sands Beach Runners group (Mondays and Fridays after school) rose to an occasional dozen, but more often only the hardy few: the wind, rain, black skies and effort involved didn't draw the masses. Congratulations to Elizabeth Farnham and Hannah Mackenzie (S2) who truly made the grade with great commitment and excellent progress along that long windswept beach....

Dates for Your Diary

HOLIDAYS

Summer

Monday 8th July 2002
to Friday 16th August 2002

Autumn

Monday 14th October 2002
to Friday 25th October 2002

Christmas

Monday 23rd December 2002
to Friday 3rd January 2003

February

Thursday 13th February 2003
and Friday 14th February 2003

Spring

Monday 7th April 2003
to Friday 18th April 2003

May Day

Monday 5th May 2003

June

Monday 2nd June 2003

IN-SERVICE

Monday 19th August 2002
Thursday 21st November 2002
Friday 22nd November 2002
Wednesday 5th February 2003
Monday 28th April 2003

Track and Field

Ten Gold, 13 Silver and 7 Bronze—That was the total number of medals the school won at the recent Fife Schools Track and Field Championships!

Andrew Kinnear (S4) won the Gold medal in the High Jump with a jump of 1m 70 which equalled the Championship best; he won the 800m Gold also (Bronze at the Scottish Schools Championships). Other Gold medallists were Craig Moir (S2), Freya Marks (S3), Amy Gibb, Nony Mordi, Nene Udofot, Kyle Allen and Vicky Kirkwood (all S4) and Chris Dunstan (S4). Finally, Andrew, Freya, Amy and Scott Gates (S3) were selected for the Inter Area Track and Field Competition.

Fencing File

Chris McCall, 2B, has continued his fencing activities at home and abroad representing the school throughout the session. In the Under 13 competition in Durham in April he came second in the Epee; seventh in Dieppe and sixth in the Scottish Under 13 Foil.

Internationalist

Seth Thompson, S6, has also been attending American Football camps in the south of England every month and is hoping to be selected for the GB Lions final squad who will play in the European Championships in Glasgow this summer. We wish him well!

PTA 50/50 CLUB WINNERS

April

£25 Lunn Hynd, Radernie
£25 Mr & Mrs A J Winney, St Andrews

May

£25 Moira Watters, St Andrews
£25 Dr H A Barnes, Wormit

STOP PRESS

• Quad Fete total receipts £2,034.
• Well done to all concerned.
• Fund now over £33,000.