



Christmas Newsletter

Madras College Newsletter

December 2003

What are we like?

It's hard to be a teenager or a teacher, even a parent. Teenagers are shown in the newspapers as untidy, uncaring, unfit, uncharitable, unemployable, violent, drunken, drug-ridden and idle. Teachers are said to have long holidays, to let discipline go haywire, let standards drop and are always complaining. Parents are blamed for setting a poor example, for giving in weakly to their children, for not pushing them harder, and for taking them off for holidays school during term. Well, they got one thing right!

So what is the truth at Madras?

Continued on page 2.

In the Frame



(Photograph by permission of St Andrews Citizen)

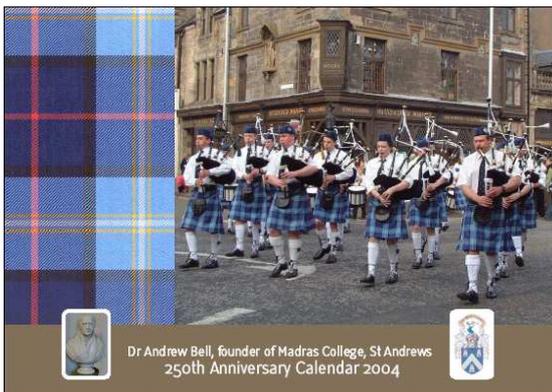
Christiana Spens (S5), Rachel Moore and Anna Magdalino (S6) won prizes for their entries in this year's Focus Environment Photography Competition sponsored by Chevron Texaco.

In the "People and Environment" category, Christiana came second and Rachel runner up; Anna won second prize in the "Wildlife and Habitats" category. The photos were chosen from more than 500 entries from schools throughout Scotland.

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Madras College Anniversary Calendar 2004 - buy now to avoid disappointment!



An illustrated calendar has been produced to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the birth of Dr Andrew Bell, the founder of Madras College. The calendar includes many rare photographs from the College archives together with illustrations and photographs from other sources with a connection to the school.

Each month features a particular aspect of the school covering a century of its history, from the 1850s to the 1950s.

Orders can be placed via the South Street Office, telephone 01334 412500 or by email <enquiries@madras.fife.sch.uk>.

Cost is £4.00 per calendar (postage is £1.25 extra – first class). Supplies are limited so order quickly to avoid disappointment.

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Most pupils at Madras are not untidy. They keep to the agreed codes and they make an effort to look respectable. A former pupil now working with us says that she finds attitudes on all sides regarding uniform about right. We have identity without looking like the Scots Greys. It is true that pupils look far better when outdoor wear is peeled off, and that parents could certainly help by ensuring that this part of the dress code is adhered to. The hoodies are still the best value in town.

Madras pupils are caring, more even than we fully know. So many individual stories of generosity and personal care come to light each year. Charity events and collections are bigger and better than ever.

“Uptake in clubs, societies and teams is at an all-time high.”

Everyone gets involved. One of the Ministers of State who happened to be visiting us on Armistice Day was astounded that the pupils observed the traditional silence at 11 o'clock with no teacher in sight to tell them what to do.

Work? Employers give excellent feedback about people they have taken on, temporary or permanent. The work experience programme for S4, which has just finished, gave wonderful opportunities to hundreds and many highly complimentary comments were received from employers. Glowing tributes swamped the occasional problem.

Standards in examinations are holding up well although we are never complacent and will always strive to improve the “pupil passport” to the land of opportunity in which we live. Recent examinations for S4 showed high personal standards of commitment, organisation and application. Parents reading and helping in the use of the diaries comment very favourably on the normal expectations in homestudy.

That passport is not just the academic attainment, either, but the growth as people, as citizens and neighbours, the achievements that are taken into life. The private and personal lives are not the business of the school, but it is worth

commenting that the immature excesses of a few are not the true representation of the many. In the school's social events we have high expectations and excellent standards, which are only very rarely broken.

What about fitness? In physical fitness we are generally doing well, even though the national picture is bleak. There are literally scores of opportunities (almost all run by staff for no reward) each week for pupils to burn off the excess calories of the national diet. Uptake in clubs, societies and teams is at an all-time high. You can't pass either building or Station Park at 4.30 pm to 5.00 pm any evening or on Saturday morning without realising the scale of team and club events. The

late buses are packed most nights. Those who are not on the route are each a hike home or a

phone away from a parent or neighbour taxi. It is very pleasing also to see so many parents and friends and former pupils attending games, concerts and other events.

And so on, through inter-house events - casts of hundreds enjoying the friendly competition - lunchtime fun(d)-raisers, debates with our nearest and dearest in the East and throughout the land - in talking we never seem deficient. That talk is very productive, such as in the six Year Councils and the Whole School Council now in existence. In the words of the advert “It's good to talk”.

In the following pages, in reading the local press articles or the “Diary”, you gain a wider view of the school, its life and its rhythms, its successes and its hopes. We will never be anything, however, unless we recognise that together we are stronger than as 1940 individual pupils and staff.

So are we just wonderful in everything? Of course not. Slovenly behaviour such as dropping litter in our own back yard is a curse in modern Scotland. Our shame is shared and we should put it right without further ado. If every adult in Scotland looked after his or her corner of the environment, gave the right message of care, economy and conservation - as in several societies

around the world - litter would not be a problem for the young.

Also, we still have the good old split site to make all the activities and work, care and effort more difficult. The School Board, elected members of Council and Parliament and various others are looking at how best to resolve this long-standing problem. Plans are also being drawn up to reorganise the staffing and departmental structures in line with national and Council changes, a process which has taken up much time and energy this term.

The message is that we are getting there. It can be difficult, we have to keep thinking and talking. We have to work together. The good and the successful greatly outweighs the bad and the unsuccessful, but we have to be sure to include everyone possible in the positive side of school life. Finally, despite the politically correct lead given by the Parliament...

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all!

L S G Matheson, Rector

MOG Squad

Every Monday a group of S6 pupils, Krystin Ingram, Alison Brodie, Megan Bell, Daniel Pow, Blair Rennie and Jonathan Strandberg give up most of their school day to the MOG squad. The Madras Outdoor Group (MOG) is run by Mr Dickson, a Physics teacher, for around 10 pupils in S2 and S3 who find coping with school challenging. The volunteers became involved as part of the Peer Tutoring initiative, wherein S6 pupils give their time to help younger pupils academically or socially. This particular scheme required adventurous and outgoing sixth years. The first few sessions have involved them kayaking and canoeing in Anstruther and they are looking forward to the 8 weeks ahead of rock climbing in Dundee. One brave volunteer Krystin says she finds MOG squad ‘challenging, but really good fun - for us as well as the kids’.

Exchange with Kiel (Germany)

The organisation of the senior school exchange in June 2004 will be starting soon. This year the Madras group go to Germany.

Staff Notes

This has been a term of many changes in teaching and non-teaching posts. Mrs Phillips (Mathematics), Mr Forbes (Business Education), Miss McGrath (Drama), and Mrs Hill (Home Economics, part-time), joined us in August. Also at the start of session Mr Duncan (Design and Technology) took up an acting Guidance post for S1, and Mrs Smart (Greyfriars Primary) a one-year secondment in Special Education. Two probationers were welcomed in August, Dr Dobson in Physics and Mr Hunter in Art and Design. September saw Mrs Pitman taking over from Mrs Nielson as part-time Pupil Support Auxiliary, and Mrs Seenan starting a one-day per week Library job-share. After the October holiday Mrs McNeill returned from her maternity leave, Miss Hyslop was appointed in Drama, and Mrs Dobie started her career break. In November four Teaching Auxiliaries were appointed to vacancies, Mrs Painter, Mrs Cameron, Mrs Weston and Mrs Redpath. Mr Austin (Design and Technology) left to take up a post in Montrose Academy. Miss Stewart commenced maternity leave in December. Lastly, we look forward to welcoming Mr Scott in Design and Technology and Miss Simpson in PE at the start of next term.

Great to Hear

The following is an extract from a letter sent by Torith Limited:

I am writing to thank you for your school's participation in the Torith Construction Challenge 2003 in support of National Construction Week.

I cannot tell you how thoroughly impressed I was with the pupils who attended. The exercise we set them was extremely challenging and very hard work throughout the whole day. None-the-less, the pupils excelled, their behaviour was exemplary and their enthusiasm inspiring, all of which is a credit to your school.

I would also like to thank the staff who attended (and participated in) the event. They were good sports and also worked hard.

Fife Young Drivers Roadshow

Two hundred and eighty fifth year pupils attended a Roadshow in Glenrothes.

This was a very hard hitting and emotional presentation depicting 3 young people who were involved in a car crash. Various professional people spoke to the pupils including a policeman, paramedic, doctor, firewoman, a mother who had lost a son in an accident and Findlay, a young man who

was in a wheelchair as a result of a motorbike accident.

The whole experience had a profound effect on all who attended making them think seriously about how they should conduct themselves when behind the wheel of a car or on a motorbike.

Great Valley High School-Madras College Exchange



(Photograph by permission of St Andrews Citizen)

All Talk!

This year is setting up to be a year full of debating for Madras College pupils. Not only are there lunchtime debates in the Kilrymont Road and South Street buildings but also the Inter-House Debate saw the Blackfriars team go all the way to victory.

A workshop on debating skills was run by Kirsty Russell from St Andrews University to a small but keen band of pupils. Three teams of S3 pupils have been entered into the Courier Debating Competition, one team are into the second round, with the other two yet to compete, but have high hopes. Unfortunately our team of S5 pupils in the English Speaking Union (ESU) Debating Competition were knocked out in the first round of a very fierce contest. So far the most success has come from the Law Society of Scotland Debating Tournament where two S6 pupils (Catriona Kay and John-Jo Ryan) are through to the second round. All the competitions are in their early stages so hopefully this year will prove to be a very successful one to carry on the great tradition of debating at Madras.

Michelle Pyne returns to the US soon after a very successful stay in Scotland. After Christmas Kirsty McBeath who hosted Michelle and Lindsay King travel out to experience American life. Lindsay will be hosted by Becca McKnight who took part in the exchange last year.

AFTER CLASS

Next term a Homestudy pilot will be offered to groups of third year pupils with a view to raising attainment in their subjects. These classes will run after school and be supervised by staff volunteers, S6 peer tutors and university students. The outcome of this will be reported in our Spring Newsletter.

Fundraising Fun

The South Street Charities Committee organised a charity disco on 28th November for S4, S5 and S6 pupils in aid of Children in Need. The theme of the night was the 60s and 70s and over 100 pupils attended as well as some staff members. There were some fantastic costumes concocted by the pupils including velvet flares, kipper ties and even punk inspired fashions! Along with the retro music, the colourful decorations and some hilarious party games, the night was enjoyed by all who attended. Through ticket sales and donations over £300 was raised.

The Retrodress Non-Uniform Day for Children in Need held in the Kilrymont Road building on Friday 21st November raised £1,017. Madras College has donated an impressive sum towards this very worthy charity.

Enterprising Maths Competition in the West

The team of Alasdair Downes, Sana Eljamel (S3), Thomas Davies and Sarah Leenhouts (S4) won through to the National Final of the Enterprising Maths Competition on Friday 28th November after winning the Fife Regional heat in June. The venue was Laurel Park Primary School near Glasgow University, a last minute switch of location due to the bad fire at Jordanhill. The team were a great bunch to take – putting in plenty of preparation despite the split-site. We had to leave on the 0656 train from Leuchars and did not return until 1930 – a long

day but no complaints and perfect behaviour. Their poster, completed on the day, is displayed at the top of the girls' stair in Kilrymont Road.

Although we came 23rd of 39, we did well, particularly given the long journey, and had a great time. We even managed a quick visit to George Square to see the Christmas decorations while waiting for our connection home. The dedication shown by the pupils is shown in their willingness to pay £5 towards their travel costs. We should be very proud of them.

Space Camp in Houston

Sarah Dunn, an S5 student of Madras College is over the moon that she has been chosen to attend a once in a lifetime experience at the Scottish Space School 2004. The School will take place at the NASA Space Camp, Johnson Space Centre in Houston, Texas next year.

Sarah is a student of the Scottish Space School Foundation, a world-leading programme managed by Careers Scotland, the Scottish Executive and NASA. It is designed to increase participation and motivation of school students in science and technology and to help young people to understand how the subjects apply to real career choices.

This is the second recent honour for Sarah who won the Royal Astronomy Society's Mars Newspaper Competition in the 14-16 age group, with her "Seeing Red" article.

Davey Rendle, also of S5, has been selected to attend a residential Scottish Space Summer School at the University of Strathclyde.

Film Visits

Film visits to the Dundee Contemporary Arts cinema continue. S5 and S6 pupils of French recently went to see the highly-acclaimed French film about a rural one-teacher school in the Auvergne region of France: *Etre et Avoir*. Those studying German are going this week to see *Goodbye Lenin!* – a splendid film about the end of the former German Democratic Republic.



(Photograph by permission of St Andrews Citizen)

Recipe for Success

Again this year the Chef from Glenrothes College comes along on a Tuesday after school to pass on her skills to S1-3 pupils. The culinary delights range from *Crispy Salmon with Stir-Fry Cabbage* to *Calzone Pizza*. The class is very popular, as you would imagine.

Home Economics pupils from S3, S5 and S6, as part of their course, have completed *The Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland Elementary Food Hygiene Certificate*. This allows pupils to sell food to the public and command a higher wage if they are working part-time in the food industry.

Ohio Exchange

The windy morning of Friday 10th October saw 22 pupils and 2 teachers leave for the American state of Ohio. The 11 or so days were jam packed with activities that kept them very busy. A trip to Cedar Point Theme Park was a big plus as it houses the tallest, fastest roller coaster in the world and was tried by most of the group. As well as that the Ohio State University American Football Team had a match on the following Friday. This meant most of the group experienced the 105,000 seater stadium crammed with die-hard fans. Some of the other activities included a tour of the school, university, some hiking, frisbee, golf, an ice-hockey match, masses of shopping and plenty of parties. Everyone truly loved their time there and cannot wait to host the Americans. Let's hope we can offer them a truly valuable Scottish experience.

Whole School Council

The inaugural meeting of the Whole School Council met in the Kilrymont Conference Room in October with a full agenda and much excitement. Five S6 pupils hosted the event in which two democratically minded representatives from each year group attended, from S1 upwards.

The discussion included issues such as future fundraising events, hygiene conditions in the school, and the pressing problem of over-crowding.

This Council, the first in Madras College's long history, will to be run *by* the pupils *for* the pupils. The Council seeks to establish a stronger link of communication and co-operation between the school's Rector, management, staff and the student body.

Andrew Ayton (S6) the Chairman of the meeting enthusiastically commented "It is a good way of uniting Kilrymont and South Street and understanding the general opinions of Madras College students - it is the best thing that ever happened to Madras!"

Since that first meeting in October further discussion has taken place on lockers, bus conditions and social areas.

PTA

PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION

The opening meeting of the PTA took place on Thursday 25th September with the topic of 'Homestudy'. Mrs Easingwood and Mr Mackay were joined by Mr Airlie and Mr Watson in outlining the school's new 'Homestudy' Policy. This was followed by a presentation of the Study Skills Programmes given to pupils across the year groups by The Learning Game and Performance Seminars, organisations who focus on various aspects of learning. To conclude, parents and staff met in small groups to discuss the topics in greater detail. Parents were appreciative of the links between home and school on Homestudy.

• Indoor Car Boot Sale

This event, the first at Madras, was a great success. Over 25 stalls were set out in the Kilrymont Road building to raise funds for the school. Many thanks to all those who helped out on the day and to those who supported the school by attending - £300 was raised. In the past funds have gone to provide each year group with Planners.

INTERACT

So far this year the Interact Council have raised over £600 for charity by holding two charity fundraisers, with £400 being raised in one event alone.

The current Interact project is the Rotary Shoebox Scheme – where pupils are asked to fill shoeboxes with toys etc, which are then sent to Eastern European children and families.

DSE Trip to Glen Tilt

In the last week of the first term a group of 7 S1-3 pupils and 3 staff from DSE had a very enjoyable and memorable overnight visit to the school's bothy at Glen Tilt. Our first stop was the swimming pool in Perth where we showed off our swimming skills. Next was a trip to Scone Palace where the Scottish kings were crowned. After a guided tour of the palace we all enjoyed crowning each other on a replica stone of destiny. (Many thanks to the Drama department for the loan of a crown.)

After this insight into life in a palace it was on to the slightly less luxurious surroundings of life in a bothy! The weather was great and we all enjoyed the ghost stories around the campfire. The good weather stayed with us the next day and we were able to explore the area. Everyone had a great time and we are all looking forward to the next trip to Glen Tilt.

BURNS SUPPER 2004

Preparations are already under way for our Burns Supper on Thursday 29th January. We hope to build on the successful tradition of this annual event, bringing together juniors and seniors, parents, guests and staff to celebrate our national bard. Good company, a lively programme of music, verse, speech and dance, and a good meal are all anticipated. Tickets will be on sale through either of the school offices from Monday 19th January, priced at £4.00.

Pick Up A Pen

Pupils are busy writing for the Pushkin Prize.

They had a special talk on oral storytelling by guest speaker Jan Silver, a visiting student. Jan was a member of the Celtic Re-enactment Society focusing on the role of the Bronze Age "tribes" Sennachie, teller of myths, history and stories.

Jan discussed the importance of the oral storytelling tradition followed by an enthralling story about a young woman who was half silkie and half human. The pupils loved it!

Pipe Band News

This autumn has seen the largest-ever number of pupils taking up pipes and drums with both beginners' classes full to overflowing. That augurs well for the future by dint of regular weekly work from all. While their busy public performing season is over, members of the Piping and Drumming Programme have again been bag-packing to raise funds. This is still and will most likely remain an essential feature as the costs always exceed the contributions paid by parents. However, successful fundraising is good team-work and bonding.

Senior Maths Challenge 2003

The UK Senior Mathematical Challenge is an annual contest run by the UK Mathematics Trust. This year there were 60,620 entries from 1,573 schools and colleges throughout the United Kingdom.

Seventy-one Madras College students took part on Tuesday 11th November. Awards for the contest are set nationally and this year the top 6.3% gained Gold, 14.3% gained Silver and 19.2% gained Bronze.

Again this year our results were very good with one Gold (Natalie Jackson, S6), 14 Silver and 12 Bronze. Impressive results indeed and all contestants are to be congratulated on their effort and enthusiasm.

AWARE Out and About

Fourth year pupils have just completed their work experience placements. We were very fortunate to manage to place nearly every pupil this year. Placements ranged from working in a car body repair unit to experiencing work in the Crop Research Centre at Invergowrie. The majority of pupils enjoyed the placements and feedback from the companies has been extremely positive.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Congratulations to the 24 participants who have recently achieved their awards, 22 at Bronze level and 2 at Silver level.

The Bronze and Silver groups are running at capacity with 30 pupils. Expedition training is underway at all three levels: Bronze had a successful day's walk early in November on Bishop Hill.

Members of the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award group began their training for their four-day expedition with a two hour Canadian Canoeing session at East Neuk Outdoors, much to the delight of Nick Cole-Hamilton, President of the Madras College Pirate Appreciation Club. The Cap'n expressed his pleasure at seeing teenagers getting out onto the water. Their progress in just a few hours was remarkable and the mix of fifth and sixth year pupils emerged damp but in high spirits.

S6

Peer Tutoring

We have currently matched 112 S6 Peer Tutors across the school. After their training earlier this session they have been working with individuals and groups of pupils in and out of the classrooms supporting them in their learning. Sixth years are also a regular presence in Kilrymont Road at lunchtimes as well, meeting the younger pupils, helping in the playgrounds, monitoring and trying to reduce litter round the school and immediate community.

Singing Programme

Numbers this autumn have been higher than ever with 75 pupils now taking part. With a mix of vocal instruction and performing in groups large and small, the formula is a successful and safe way to develop the young voice. Mr McGeoch, Principal Teacher of Music who leads this programme, has studied the workings and development of the adolescent singing voice extensively over many years, frequently attending the conferences and workshops of the British Federation of Young Choirs of which the Singing Programme is a long-term member.

Clubs at Kilrymont

Over the term the number of pupils attending outdoor sports practices during the week has broken all records. In the junior sports 30 plus pupils is not unusual at any one practice and on Thursdays on the Kilrymont Road playing fields the total over 160!

Take, in the region of 28 pupils, put them on the playing fields at lunchtime at Kilrymont Road and you have the core of the *Cross Country Club*.

109.com, a lunchtime computing club, has increased numbers of S1, S2 and S3 pupils. Plans are already in place to open another room to accommodate the growing interest.

New club of the term is *The Space Club* run by Mrs Phillips of the Mathematics department.

ROVING REPORTERS



(Photograph by permission of St Andrews Citizen)

Those of our readers who take the St Andrews Citizen have been kept up-to-date with events in the school this term through the columns of the Madras College Diary. So far the Diary has featured four times and our aim is to publish fortnightly next term. We hope to develop a Former Pupils' File and we would be delighted to hear news from them.

You can contact the school through <enquiries@madras.fife.sch.uk>. We look forward to hearing from you.

Accentuating the Positive!

Members of 'The Learning Game' have been in school recently to offer an interactive programme to all S1 pupils. Through a variety of activities pupils were made aware of the value of positive thinking in the process of learning and in building self-confidence.

November saw 'The Learning Game' again in school offering a Discovery Course to S3 pupils. Over 2 days pupils explored how the brain works, the importance of relaxation, how to develop powerful self-belief and how to become a more effective learner.

S3 Visit to France

The organisation of the S3 visit to Loches at Easter is well under way. The programme of visits has been drawn up and will include at least one day spent in a French school: the Collège Georges Besse, the school in Loches for 12 to 16 year olds. The senior pupils from S6 who are helping on the visit will have the opportunity to visit the Lycée Alfred de Vigny. Other visits will include a whole day in Tours, two of the famous Loire valley castles and Futuroscope, a science-based theme park near Poitiers.

Greenfingers Club Hibernates

The Greenfingers Club have tucked up their tools and plants for winter so have no more after school meetings. However they have been meeting at lunchtimes to put the finishing touches to their Diahatsu Green Garden design in a competition to design a biodiversity garden for Chelsea Flower Show.

On Their Best Behaviour!

Advanced Higher Modern Studies pupils have been fortunate in being able to interview three MSPs (Tricia Marwick, Ian Smith and Ted Brocklebank) as well as PC Steele, Community Safety Police Officer. These interviews have been interesting, stimulating and have enabled the class to evaluate different perspectives on law and order issues.

S4 Impact

At the end of their Prelim exams on Friday 28th November, S4 were treated to an entertaining presentation by the Impact Group from Careers Scotland about choices for their future. In the style of *Lord of the Rings*, *Bo' Selecta!* and *Eastenders*, S4 were told that an SVQ Level 4/5 at college is of the same standard as a Degree at university! When asked, S4 joined in pantomime style - for further information contact <www.careers-scotland.co.uk>. Thanks go to the Baptist Church for the use of their building.

BFG

The Senior Book Club started this term: BFG – *The Book Fix Group*. It has a small membership, mainly S4 but some S6 too. It has been interrupted by Prelims and AWARE, but the weekly book exchanges, internet searches and lively discussion should start up again in the new year.

The Old Order Changeth?

Classics had the interesting experience of having a student teacher who was a former pupil. Esther Reddish was a pupil here from early 1990s and when asked if there was much change in the school then and now said that she was delighted to find it much the same.

What she realised now, that she hadn't as a pupil, was how much travelling staff did between buildings and how this increased their organisational difficulties considerably.

Top of the Bench

Congratulations to the Chemistry quiz team of Alistair Cushnie (S6), Shona Leenhouts (S4), Sarah Gillespie (S3) and Phillip Woollins (S2) on winning the first round against Kirkcaldy High School in the Top of the Bench Competition.

Cornerstone

After the success of last year's collections for Cornerstone – Levenmouth Homeless Trust – the pupils have again responded magnificently by donating over 500 items of food and toiletries for parcels to be distributed to the homeless in North East Fife this Christmas.

Music News

After the very successful events of late September when we remembered the founder of the school, Dr Andrew Bell, in a series of master-classes, workshops, rehearsals and a concert, music groups have developed their repertoire for Christmas concerts (which brought in over £1,000 at the door - profits going to local charities), mini-concerts (witness the highly apposite venture in Mr Bell's Higher Music class – the 'Wednesday Treat') and beyond. With groups appearing at Balnacarron and also for the Fife Society for the Blind, the Music department continues to fulfil an important community function.

Stratford-upon-Avon Trip

Following on from last year there was another successful trip to Stratford-upon-Avon in late September. Mrs Esler, Mr Dewar and Mr Darge accompanied 30 pupils from Higher and Advanced Higher English and Drama classes. They took in *Cymbeline* and *Richard III* at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre along with Shakespeare properties, a backstage tour of the theatres, Warwick Castle and the obligatory bit of free time for shopping. The general consensus was that the plays were challenging and rather long but everyone wanted to return next year, and for longer!

Modern Languages

POSTER COMPETITION

Congratulations to Sarah Gillespie. Last year in S2 she won the prize offered by the Scottish Association for Language Teaching for the best poster advertising her region. Sarah's poster offering the delights of Fife to a French audience was awarded the top prize in all of Scotland. This year her design introducing herself, her school and St Andrews to French-speaking aliens (!!) won the top prize in the best secondary French category. What will it be next year?

Drama

Advanced Higher pupils, accompanied by Mrs Esler, interviewed Ken Alexander about his direction of Tennessee Williams' *Glass Menagerie* played at the Byre Theatre. The team were royally treated by Ken who provided interesting insights into his directorial process with actors and production team.



Members of Heart Start have once again been welcomed into school to provide CPR training for third year pupils. In November, through Social Education periods, the Heart Start team with the support of sixth year helpers have put the younger pupils through their training in the Kilrymont Road Assembly Hall. The response has been excellent and Heart Start have been delighted with the responsible, effective attitude of sixth and third years alike.



(Photograph by permission of St Andrews Citizen)

SPORT SNIPPETS

• Athletics

Nony Mordi (S5), Freya Marks, Jonathon Marks (S4) and Keith Simpson (S3) were invited to attend the Bank of Scotland Talented Athletes Training Camp in October.

• Badminton

Tim Weir (S5) and Euan Forbes (S6) have represented Fife in area competitions. Hopefully these pupils and others will do well in next term's Fife Schools' Championships.

• Cross Country

Results of the Cross Country House Championships were as follows: S1 Boys – Duncan Richmond, S1 Girls – Fiona Bracegirdle, S2 Boys – Andrew Evans, S2 Girls – Ruth Dunn, S3 Boys – Craig Moir, S3 Girls – Anne Lloyd-Evans, Senior Boys – Andrew Kinnear, Senior Girls – Freya Marks.

Fiona Bracegirdle (S1) and Andrew Evans (S2) were selected to run for Fife in an inter-area race before the European Cross Country Championships in Edinburgh on 14th December.

• Fencing

In the Fife Open Youth Foil in Dunfermline in October, Matthew Wright came 4th, Sean Pitman 8th, Philip Woollins 10th and Euan James 11th (all S2).

Congratulations go to Chris McCall who on 16th November won his age-group Epee Competition in the British Leon Paul Series in Bath!

• Fife Schools' Football

Well done to Mark Brown (S6) and Scott Henderson (S5) who played in Fife Schools' Under 18 team who defeated North of Scotland Under 18 Schools 6-2 in the Scottish Cup section match at Golspie.

• Hockey

In September, the senior team won the Senior Girls Fife Schools' Hockey Tournament beating St Leonards in the final 1-0.

In addition, Nony Mordi (S5) has been selected to play for the Under 16 Midlands Schoolgirl Team.

• Roller Hockey

Darren Smith (S5) is a member of the Scottish Under 16 squad; Robbie Baxter (S3) and Jade Milne (S2) are members of the Scottish Under 14 squad.

• Swimming

Eight pupils from Madras took part in the Fife Departments of Special Education Swimming Gala last term. The event, at Lochgelly High School, involved 5 secondary schools from the region.

There were a number of excellent results including event wins for David Johnstone (S1), Daniel Gibson (S2) and Gilly Stewart (S3). All the pupils enjoyed the day and were great ambassadors for Madras.

The event was used to select a Fife team to attend the Scottish Disability Gala at Tollcross in Glasgow in November. The magnificent results were as follows: Melissa Leadingham (S2) – gold and bronze medal, Shaun Atkinson (S1) – gold medal, Gary Scott (S2) – silver medal, Becky Moore (S3) – bronze medal and Daniel Gibson (S2) – Achievement Certificate for a personal best time (4th place).

• Tennis

The boys' tennis team qualified for the Quarter Finals of the 2004 Tennis Championships for Scottish Schools. The girls just failed to qualify losing to a strong Waid Academy side. Both teams have entered the British Schools' Championships for 2004.

Ski Club

The Ski Club is off to a good start with lessons at Hillend this term. Twenty participants successfully achieved their Level 3, some with Merit.

Enthusiasm is high for snow skiing next term so we're looking for lots of snow on the hills and cool temperatures for good ski days.

HOLIDAY DATES

Monday 22nd December 2003 to Friday 2nd January 2004

Thursday 12th and Friday 13th February 2004

Monday 5th April to Friday 16th April 2004

Monday 3rd May 2004

Monday 7th June 2004

Friday 2nd July to Friday 13th August 2004

Fife Council Severe Weather Closure Information

All parents should have received the Winter Centre leaflet in November outlining revised arrangements about closures in severe weather.

Information may be obtained from four sources:

- www.fifedirect.org.uk/wintercentre
- ITV Teletext page 373
- Fife Council Winter Line 0870 126 1266
- Kingdom FM Radio (95.2 and 96.1) Radio Forth (97.3) Radio Tay (102.8 and 96.4)