



Easter Newsletter

Madras College Newsletter

March 2003

Rector's Note

The year 2003 is a special year in the life of Madras College, since it is the 250th anniversary of the birth of our school's founder, Andrew Bell. While we shall celebrate through many events this year we should also reflect on what we might learn from our founder.

We live in an age of doubt, of challenge to old values, and of a social revolution. What can Andrew Bell possibly tell us all these years on? He might be thought of as someone who made an important contribution in an altogether calmer and more stable world. How wrong this would be. Bell was born seven years after the Battle of Culloden, which marked the destruction of one half of Scotland's society, culture and power. As a young man he spent time in the American colonies and knew personally several of the leaders of the rebellion against British rule. Later he worked in India as part of the foreign power dominating that splendid and complex ancient civilisation. He lived through the French Revolution and the short but remarkable empire of Napoleon Bonaparte. Andrew Bell's life also spanned the greatest revolution of all, the change of British society from being mainly rural and agricultural to being predominantly urban and industrial. By the time of his death in 1832 Britain was being described as "the workshop of the world". We had become the biggest empire the world had ever seen.

Yet through all of this extraordinary period of change Andrew Bell seems to have known what he was doing. He travelled from one part of the world to another with apparent confidence, and always seemed to find favour with the leaders of society. His work with the army orphans in Madras was what made him famous in his own time. It was his idea and he put it into practice with great energy, defending his right to be its creator with no little determination. He

comes across as a single-minded person, driven by the desire to do something important during his life, surely a lesson for us all. The money that he made during his career was used for projects he had planned. At the time of his death he was closely involved in the building of Madras College.

What then is the central idea of Bell's work? In his own words it was the "principle of mutual instruction" as developed in his Madras System. For us, therefore, he is saying that the best learning is when we are influenced and instructed by each other, when the learner in one subject or topic can become the teacher in another. A modern example might be adults seeking advice from their children on the use of computers! Vitality for us, however, is the notion that learning should be seen very flexibly and that we should all stay humble within a learning school.

This was beautifully illustrated for me recently in two ways. Firstly by the information just received from a researcher of Bell's history that he often entered a classroom and took the part of the humblest learner in the elementary class, just to show others that no-one was too high and mighty to learn the simplest lesson. Secondly, during the special 250th anniversary concert last Thursday, former pupil Norman Beedie, concert pianist and professor of Music at the London Guildhall, stated before he played so memorably for us that of all his emotions on returning to his old school after 37 years the strongest was humility. From the eldest to the youngest that certainly made us think.

Thus, while the Convener of Fife Council, Tom Dair, rightly told us last Thursday afternoon at the end of our ceremonial parade to Andrew Bell's birthplace, that our founder was "an unsung hero" of Fife and of Scotland, this same man was

probably the most humble of heroes. Let us therefore commit ourselves to being humble heroes in whatever we do, heroic in accepting challenges great or small, humble in the manner in which we live and work. If Andrew Bell has left us that he has left us something very important.

Staff News

Not so many staff changes as usual took place this term. Miss Anderson arrived in January to act as maternity relief for Mrs Shields, Assistant Principal Teacher of Guidance and Teacher of Religious Education. Mrs Maix, Modern Languages, took maternity leave from February, as did Miss Sanderson, Business education, last week. Miss Ritchie, Word Processor, returns to Madras next term.

It is worth pointing out to parents that despite these limited staffing changes it has been a difficult session so far for arranging cover for colleagues who are absent for illness or other reasons. In many subjects we do not have "supply cover" available at any price, a problem being encountered throughout Fife and indeed the whole country. As a consequence there is greater pressure on our own staff to cover during their preparation, correction and management time. These problems have been drawn to the attention of the Council and the Scottish Executive but it is unlikely that the situation will improve in the short term. As always, of course, it is our aim to reduce to a minimum any adverse impact on the learning of our pupils.

School Begins

Monday 21st April 2003

Language Round-up

In February Advanced Higher German pupils took part in a special course in Bell Baxter organised by the Goethe Institute. . . and Higher German specialists attended a performance of 'Der Besuch der alten Dame' by the Swiss author, Friedrich Durrenmatt at the University of St Andrews in March . . . The Kiel Exchange is currently being organised while the S3 French Trip is ready to go.

The modern Languages Lunch Club is now meeting and the first event was a food tasting. What a great turnout there was with pupils sampling food from Germany, Spain and France. Some dishes were met with more enthusiasm than others but already pupils and staff are looking forward to the next meeting.

Widening The Curriculum

Various activities have been introduced this session to broaden the educational experience of groups of pupils. Some have been focused directly on how to learn, others have given pupils the opportunity to concentrate on team building and develop personal and social skills in school and beyond. These are early days but initial signs suggest that development is being made.

The Yo Yo Club

This club, run by staff volunteers at lunchtime, has been a major success this session. First, second and third year pupils who sometimes find lunchtimes more comfortable in school enjoy a variety of computer games. The group has been fortunate to secure funds to buy some of the latest strategy and team building CD Roms.

Public Speaking

Sarah Dunn, Keir Lawson and Michelle Thaddeus (all S4), reached the National semi-final of the E.S.U. Public Speaking Competition and Thomas Foster and Stuart Ball (S6) and John-jo Ryan (S5) reached the same stage in the Mace Debating Competition.

School Meals

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Fife Council have informed us that as from Monday 21st April 2003, the charge to pupils for a standard school meal will be £1.50.
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Any overall increases on snacks are displayed in the cafeteria.
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GREEN FINGERS

Spring is here and the newborn Green Fingers Club has blossomed into action at Kilrymont Road: many trees and shrubs have been planted in the grounds; the greenhouse has been cleaned, an automatic watering system installed in it and seed sowing has begun in earnest. As well as all this trellis painting is going on and on and on.

First, second and third years have responded well to the club and many exciting projects are in the offing - the planting of a bog garden, the creation of a Madras college shield entirely made up of bedding plants.

We meet once a week after school. An Action Plan is posted and volunteers are warmly welcome to join at any time. Gardening knowledge is much appreciated but not essential; enthusiasm, however, is!

Better look out 'Groundforce'!

StAnza in School

The children's programme in school has again been extremely successful. The Poetry Competition has been enjoyed by the Junior classes. There have been so many thought-provoking entries some of which we heard at The St Andrews Bay Hotel Community Ceilidh on Saturday 22nd March. Catriona Liggat (S1) was senior winner of Poetry and the Garden for 5 to 14 year olds; Sarah Gillespie (S2) was one of the senior runners-up.

Last month, poets Matthew Sweeney and Rowena Sommerville were in workshops with S4/5 and S1/2 respectively. Their presence has certainly enhanced the English curriculum.

Litter Lifting

The school was delighted to receive first prize in the recent Schools Environment Competition run by The St Andrews Preservation Trust. After a successful pilot in November the litter pickers will return for a six-week period next term and lift litter in key areas round Kilrymont Road and South Street and its lanes. We shall keep our readers informed of trends, developments and maybe even some success with the support from pupils, ensuring litter ends up in the right place! We shall have two squads running concurrently and if any pupils or parents would like to become involved in the initiative to raise awareness of the problems of littering please contact Mr C Mackay in the Kilrymont Road Building for more information. It would be great to hear from you.

Debate Team

On Friday 28th February at 7.00 pm, The Grand Final of The Courier Schools Junior Debating Competition took place in Lower Parliament Hall, St Andrews. The Competition was jointly sponsored by The Courier and The Royal Bank of Scotland, and was organised by The Courier in conjunction with The University of St Andrews Union Debating Society. Out of the 72 entrant teams, the finalists comprised of 3 teams from Grove Academy, Kinross High, Dollar Academy and Lindsay Forbes and Claire Field of Madras College. Alison Colvin, Daisy Radford, David Watson and Sarah Gillespie, all of Madras College, reached the Semi-Finals but unfortunately did not make it to the Final.

Prior to the Debate, the finalists were treated to an evening meal at the St Andrews University Student's Union. The Motion debated was "This House Believes Spare the Rod and Spoil the Child". It was a lively and interesting debate, and the Proposition won the Division. Marc McBride and Rachel Ashby won the Competition for Grove, while Richard Hollingword and Christopher Dale of Dollar came second. Claire Field and Lindsay Forbes of Madras College said, "We've thoroughly enjoyed all of the debates, and would like to thank the teachers for their help and support."

Inter School Debate

The annual debating competition between the 3 North East Fife secondaries was hosted by the Rotary Club of Cupar at Bell Baxter High School on Wednesday, 15th January. The Bell Baxter Rector, Mr Douglas Campbell welcomed the debaters, their supporters and Rotarians and thanked Rotary for its sponsorship. President Scott Blyth, of the Rotary Club of Cupar, explained why Rotary encourages young people to develop speaking skills and invited the pupils to debate the following motions: (a) "This House would put youth before experience", (b) "This House would abolish the current system of student loans", (c) "This House believes that in today's society packaging is more important than content".

The debating and questioning were contested with humour and the overall standard was high, so leaving the 4 judges including Alex Clark, with difficult decisions. The winners were – best Chairman: Mairi McInness (Madras College), best 1st Proposer: Hamish Findlay (Madras College), best 1st Opposer: Jennifer Miller (Waid Academy), best 2nd Proposer: John-jo Ryan (Madras College), best 2nd Opposer: David Riffkin (Madras College), best Vote of Thanks: Leo Edward (Waid Academy). Winner of the Waid Academy Centenary Trophy – Madras College.

Music Notes

January saw the annual Burns Singing competitions in the school with some 700 pupils taking part overall. At a special presentation, some 90 pupils received their certificates from Mrs L. A. Brown, Depute Rector of Madras, for singing Burns songs excellently in class. A further, smaller, group went on to the school competition and received trophies and prizes from members of the St Andrews Burns Club at the school's annual Burns Supper. This included two new glass trophies engraved by David Joy specially for the competition. Winners of the school competition are, as we write, competing at the Fife Burns Singing Competition.

To give expert insight to the young singers, Catriona Scott (née Chisholm) a Former Pupil who has distinguished herself in the study and practice of Scottish traditional music, held a number of workshops under the aegis of the Singing Programme. She gave fascinating glimpses of the times of Robert Burns and the meaning of his songs and provided many practical hints on interpretation and presentation.

Singers Ruth Wells and Robbie Hogg gave fine renditions of Burns Songs and pipers Andrew Littlejohn and Barry Johnston (Former Pupil turned Piping Tutor) led the band in a Scots medley at a Fife Young Fiddlers' concert in the Byre Theatre. Advanced players and singers from all years of the school recently gave

a concert for the Townswomen's Guild of St Andrews and a group of pipers played the guests in to the opening of the Stanza Poetry Festival at the Byre Theatre.

March 27th 2003 marked the 250th birthday of the founder of our school, the Rev. Dr. Andrew Bell and will long be remembered for the parade round town led by the Madras College Pipe Band, the major concert featuring a specially composed 6/8 pipe band march in honour of Dr Bell (written by Roderick Barron, Piping Tutor, who presented the manuscript of the tune to Rector, Lindsay Matheson) and the fabulous playing of Former Pupil Norman Beedie who left school 39 years ago and is now professor of Piano at the Guildhall School of Music, London. Oh, and the weather was excellent too!

FUNDRAISING

After studying the problems of children in developing countries, two first year pupils, Annabel Lamb and Megan Keillor, started a collection for Oxfam in both Modern Studies rooms in Kilrymont Road.

The excellent sum of £69.45 was raised in just over two weeks. The girls are to be congratulated for their initiative and for their responsible attitude to being citizens of the world.

Art



Anna Beedham took First prize in this year's St Andrews Photographic Society's Kodak Cup. Pupils from Madras and St Leonards, along with Photographic Society members, were invited to submit a themed collection of 3 photographs for the award. Entries from the school came from the folio work of Erin Gourlay, Libby Brewster, Rachel Roberts and Anna (all S6).

The judging was hosted by St Leonards in the lecture theatre of their Drama department and all of Madras entries were praised for a variety of qualities. Anna's were described as having a 'style and panache that bodes well for her art studies'.

St Andrews Art Club have once again generously offered the S6 pupils their clubrooms in Argyle Place (opposite the West Port) for an exhibition from Thursday 29th until Saturday 31st May, 10.30 am to 5.30 pm. This exhibition is open to the public.

Learning Performance Day

At the end of February third years enjoyed a day learning how to improve the memory. The Learning Performance Seminar Company brought eleven presenters to the school and each worked with a class set leading them through a variety of games, competitions exercises and chants. The pupils themselves were amazed at how much they could remember and liked the friendly fun and relaxed atmosphere. A very healthy 91% voted the day either very good or excellent. And the main message . . . Memorising comes first and then Revising.

Intermediate Maths Challenge 2003

The UK Mathematics Trust runs the annual UK Maths Challenge contests. There are 3 sections: Junior for S1 and S2 (this will be held at the end of April), Intermediate and Senior for S5 and S6 (this was held in November and the results are available on our website). This year Madras College entered 77 students from S3 and S4 for the Intermediate Section which was held on Thursday 6th February. Throughout the UK more than 170,000 students took part in the contest on that day, an increase of 3.6% on last year.

The results this year for Madras College contestants were outstanding with a total of 54 awards, the highest since 1998 and the second highest ever. There were 12 Gold, 21 Silver and 21 Bronze awards. What is even more remarkable is the fact that the cut-off scores for these awards are determined nationally, usually on the basis of the top 6% gaining Gold, the next 12% gaining Silver and the next 18% gaining Bronze. We would like to congratulate all our contestants on their exceptional performance.

Special congratulations go to Craig Gilmour (S4) whose score of 105 (out of 135) was sufficiently high for him to qualify for the prestigious follow-up 'IMOK Maclaurin' (Olympiad Paper). In addition we congratulate Ben Falconer, Sarah Dunn and Ian Brown (S4), Calum Normand, Liam Keane and Hamish Hepburn (S3), who all gained scores high enough to qualify them for the 'Pink Kangaroo' (a European follow-up Paper). This year therefore sees Madras College with an all-time record number of second round qualifiers.

Tapas Trip

Mrs Harding and Mr Irving accompanied a good number of S2 to S6 Spanish pupils to a restaurant in Edinburgh. They all took the opportunity to speak Spanish and sample a variety of tapas. An evening to savour . . .

. . . and on to more culinary matters

Cancer Research

A group of S4 pupils in supporting this organisation prepared bacon rolls for the staff at morning break on 7th March. This also was part of their Access 2 course about running a business enterprise. With the help of the Home Economics department the group organised the whole event preparing 80 rolls in the process. £100 profit was made. All pupils were delighted with the event.

Careers Convention

Many pupils and parents sought advice from over 50 consultants from universities, colleges, local employers and the professions at our Careers Convention this term. Jointly organised by the school, the Rotary and Careers Scotland, the event was extremely popular with the year groups who have been recently involved in making course choices and all agreed that this new time-slot was appropriate for all concerned.

The Chef's Club

This club continues to appeal to the pupils at Madras. The senior club, now at full capacity, cook on a Thursday afternoon. Delights have ranged from chocolate profiteroles to chicken fajitas. The strawberry and chocolate towers were a particular favourite. The junior club who again meet on a Thursday have had the privilege of two chefs' expertise since August. National award winning chef Pamela Fowlis from Glenrothes College fires the S1 to S3 pupils with enthusiasm for treats such as calzone and crepes tropicale. Feeling peckish?

MAKE IT IN SCOTLAND

On 4th February 336 second year pupils and 14 members of staff travelled in convoy to Rothies Halls in Glenrothes to participate in a programme of hands-on interactive activities bringing pupils, teachers and manufacturing companies together in a unique and enjoyable way. The groups experienced a range of activities from arts and crafts to high-tech computer use. It was extremely beneficial for the pupils who have just finished their course choices. They could see the links between subjects in school and the world of work. Let's hope this initiative continues next year!

Comic Relief Breaks Record

The school raised over £2,600 for Comic Relief this year. This is our highest total yet thanks to a wonderful cross-building series of activities on Friday 14th March. Members of the Charities Committee sold 'wearahairdo' vouchers which entitled pupils and staff to a non-uniform day and the opportunity to show off loud hairstyles. In both buildings pupils and staff strutted their hair at morning break while at lunchtime at South Street several brave or daft S6 pupils had their bodies waxed in front of over 500 of an audience. Legs, stomachs and even an eyebrow went in the name of charity. Also roving video footage was shown much to the enjoyment of participants and spectators. At Kilrymont Road 'Stardom High' brought the house down! It was an outstanding success with 10 quality acts of dance and music from first to third years. The eventual winner with a hair-raising rendition of 'Can you feel the love tonight?' was sung by Derek Dishington (S1). Brown's Boys were in on the act also with Roy Orbison's 'Pretty Woman'. The advice from pupils was clear - don't give up the daytime job, gentlemen!

This day is always a high point in the school calendar and we would like to thank all pupils and staff for their contribution to such a worthy cause. Hopefully by now the hair dye will have washed out and soon enough waxed hairs will have grown back but the memory of the day will take a long time to fade.

Drama

The school will be presenting 'The Three Sisters' by Anton Chekhov in the Byre Theatre from Wednesday 30th April to Saturday 3rd May. Tickets are available from the Byre. More information next term.

Dining Hall South Street

The refurbished Dining Hall in South Street, which has just re-opened, has been very well reviewed by "customers". Despite the price increases mentioned elsewhere in the newsletter the Dining Hall remains the best value in town for staff and pupils.

SCHOOL BOARD

The Board has worked tirelessly with the School, Fife Council, local councillors and our MSP to improve secondary school facilities in NE Fife in the future. Members have attended many meetings in Glenrothes, St Andrews and Cupar to try and break the impasse that has held up secondary school development in the region for several years. There is good evidence to suggest that progress has been made and the Madras case has been forced much higher up on the Fife Council agenda. Part of this high profile activity has involved the use of educational forums. The Board held its fifth and latest one in a very well attended meeting, instigated by John Flegg, a parent member, in Wormit. The intention of these forums is to gauge parental and public opinion on the possible future development of secondary education locally, and to persuade Fife Council to hold a proper debate and thereafter to make publicly supported decisions about the long-term future of Madras College. Currently the main options seem to be a full upgrade of the existing buildings, or a new secondary school in North Fife which would have the effect of roughly halving the Madras College population. The next forum, open to all, is to be in the first week of the summer term, ie in April, and is to take the form of a 'hustings' about the future of local secondary education, and at which we hope all political parties in the May elections will be represented. A seventh forum, to be held in June, is planned on the wider topic of 'The Future Learning Environment'. In the meantime, through its pupil representatives (Samantha Purves and Andrew Ayton), the Board has begun a survey of pupil opinion and is currently talking to its teaching representatives to do the same. Parents and other interested parties are encouraged to send comments to the new website at www.madrasboard.org.uk. Professor Peter McKiernan, Chair of the School Board, said, "There is no question that the infrastructure of Madras is woefully inadequate for the efficient and effective teaching of a modern curriculum. We began our campaign over 4 years ago and we have received good support from the Council. However, we hear a good deal from disappointed folk who repeat 'A new school? Here we go again'. Hence, we

have made this issue a Board priority and have sustained our effort and will continue to do so."

During the term the School Board has continued to support the school in various ways, such as encouraging the local authority to speed up the re-opening of all games facilities, responding to educational questionnaires, and trying to advance progress on such 'perennials' as improvements to toilets, and the possible provision of lockers in Kilrymont Road to reduce the problems of younger pupils carrying heavy school bags. The Board will strive to obtain a healthy solution to the latter problem. Visitors to our website will see a variety of health and safety articles on correct posture, the right kinds of school-bags to wear, scientific evidence of problems in later life if the advice is neglected and so on. Liz Rogerson and Archie Liggat, parent members of the Board, are keen to raise the profile of this issue within the school. Another of our parent members, Clive Palmer, with Fife Council is looking into the management of Risk Assessment in school activities and facilities.

One of the key roles of the Board is communication with parents. To support this activity, Isobel Falconer - a parent member, has designed and constructed a workable website. This will be loaded with useful information for parents and has a facility for communicating directly to Board members. There are currently about 20 hits a week and, though the site is still in its infancy, the Board hopes that parents will use it regularly and double and treble these hit rates. In addition to the website, Donald Macgregor, another parent member, frequently writes PR material for the local press. There has been a lot of coverage of the Forums and this success has paid off as the Courier has now agreed to take up the issue on an official level and runs articles during most weeks. Donald hopes to convey a lot more of the Board's activities to parents through a regular slot in the Citizen shortly.

The Board has been involved in influencing the Scottish Executive on the future profile of education over the next 10 years through the National Debate.

Cathy Dunn has handled the task for us and continues to stay in close touch with national educational issues. The Board thanks the teachers, the Rector and its secretary, Morag Wilson, for their help and support during some uncertain times. It also wishes all parents a very happy Easter.

Peter McKiernan and Donald Macgregor
March, 2003

Madras Outdoor Group

This session has seen the start of the Madras Outdoor Group which meets on Monday afternoons and aims to provide pupils with a range of opportunities to work with each other and develop skills in outdoor pursuits not normally accessible to them. Last term focused on indoor rock climbing at Edinburgh's Alien Rock with many pupils attaining the standards required for individual membership. This term there is a different challenge as pupils grapple with the strenuous skills required to ski successfully at the dry slope at Hillend. Next term will see the group attempting to climb some of Scotland's mountains learning safety and navigation skills along the way. The commitment and involvement of the pupils has been tremendous. Two sixth years and two University of St Andrews students give generously of their time to accompany the group.

The Learning Game

Learning Performance Seminars presented by The Learning Game, have been provided by Fife Council under the Study Support Initiative. All pupils in S4 and 5 were involved in one 2½-hour session this term. The seminars with groups of 50 in the South Street Library concentrated on Examination preparation and performance techniques. They emphasised positive attitudes to study and encouraged relaxation exercises in building up pupils' learning skills. Like the third year initiative, these seminars proved to be a resounding success. In preparation for SQA exams the timing could not have been better.

Sporting Chances

Rugby

The second year rugby team has continued to play an expansive and entertaining brand of rugby. Since the last newsletter they have played 9 Saturday games, winning all of them and scoring more than 100 tries. In the Midlands Midi Rugby at Cupar the squad were eliminated in the semi-finals by Howe of Fife and in the Jubilee Tournament for S2 school teams Madras were again second to Howe but both teams will progress to the National Finals at Murrayfield on May 11th. The balance was finally redressed in a recent full game where the team turned in a terrific performance to eventually beat Howe by four tries to one.

In a recent 7-a-side Tournament at Perth Academy the seniors lost narrowly in the final . . . several S3, 4 and 5 pupils have represented Fife in the Caledonia inter-area tournament . . . this season the school has travelled to six internationals at Murrayfield with over 40 pupils on each occasion.

Football

It has been a hectic and successful year for the football teams at Madras. The skilful U18 team defeated Beath High School in the semi-final of the Fife Cup and play Kirkcaldy High School in the Final at New Bayview next term; in the quarter-final replay of the Scottish Cup the team narrowly lost to Larbert High School 1-3 after extra time; and were pipped 1-2 by Bell Baxter in the league and miss out on the play-offs by a point. On a personal level Mark Brown (S5) has been a regular for Fife U18s this year.

The U16 team has made steady progress into the Final of the Fife Cup defeating Kirkcaldy 4-3 at home in the semi. They now play Kirkland High School in the final at Warout Stadium on April 30th.

The first year team is going strong also, having won the D Garland Memorial Shield in the Glenrothes High School seven-a-side Tourney. The boys have also won through to the second phase of the Coca-Cola Sevens at East End Park in May.

Three pupils M Downie, S Morris and J Drummond (S1) all played for the SFA Fife Development squad against Perth and Kinross winning 8-2. James Sinclair (S2) has featured regularly in the second year Development squad.

Cross Country

At Fife Schools Championships this term the school won 4 trophies out of 6 and were second in another! The first year boys were winners of the Martin Shield, U15 boys winners of the P.Izzi Trophy, the U15 girls, winners of the Livingston Cup and the O15 Boys 'A' winners of the Post Presidents Cup.

A Gold medal went to A Evans (S1) and Bronze to R Scott (S5). This was yet again a remarkable achievement by the runners.

Hockey

The hockey teams have again been well supported this year with large numbers attending practices at all age groups.

Congratulations go to the second year team who were runners-up in the Fife Schools Tournament. At the first year Fife Festival, 32 Madras pupils participated out of a total of 90. Playing in warm, sunny weather at Station Park, the girls all enjoyed this non-competitive festival. More congratulations and good luck to Nony Mordi (S4) who is in the Scottish U16 training squad which is due to be finalised in April.

Fencing

Having had a busy and successful day in Glenrothes at the Scottish Secondary Schools Team Event this term, the U14 foil teams were 3rd equal and 5th with the U14 epee 4th.

On the individual front in U14 epee Christopher McCall (S2) was placed third having defeated the U14 British Champion. Quite a feat! Also, Chris was accepted onto the Scottish Junior Excellence programme to train with the national junior squads.

Ski Club

Even in a poor season the club has had three successful trips to the Glenshee ski area. About 30 pupils and 5 staff enjoyed the extremes of Scottish skiing!

Fife Badminton Championships

The Madras team performed well across the board with David Birrell (S1) gaining a hat-trick of gold medals and trophies: U13 Boys Singles, U14 Doubles with Alasdair Hill (S2) and U14 Mixed with Lindsay Forbes (S2).

Bruce Lamond (S1) took the silver in the U13 Boys Singles, making it an all Madras final. Gregory Weir and Iain Finlay (both S2) made it to the semi-finals in both singles and doubles at U14 level.

Julie Brown (S3) and Michelle Thaddeus (S4) played strongly to reach the semi-final stage in the U15 Singles; Ross Carstairs (S4) took silver in the U16 Singles with Tim Weir (S4) unlucky in his draw to go out at semi-finals in singles and doubles. Sandy Lamond (S3) continued his improved performance with a good showing in the U15 Singles and mixed doubles with Michelle, culminating in gaining silver in the U16 Doubles with Michael Sullivan (S4).

PTA

On February 11th we enjoyed a very successful evening on 'Curriculum Matters' where parents came along to listen to members of staff discuss the course choices that pupils make in S2, 4 and 5. The Computing and Art departments gave demonstrations of the various courses available and an insight into what each course involved while the Geography department introduced the group to Managing Environmental Resources. Additional input from senior pupils contributed to the value of the evening.

STUDYLEAVE 2003

(all dates inclusive)

- S4: Tuesday 6th May 2003
to Wednesday 4th June 2003
- S5/6: Wednesday 14th May 2003
to Thursday 5th June 2003

E-Mail

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Web-Site

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