



# Christmas Newsletter

Madras College Newsletter

December 2012

## Rector's Message

The end of this term brings with it a rush of events and activities and represents one of the busiest times in the school calendar. Assessments, prelims, college and university applications, shows, concerts and festive parties create an end to the term that is hectic and enjoyable.

The Christmas and the New Year period is a time for reflection, for celebration and for looking forward. This newsletter illustrates some of the many successes that we have enjoyed since the session began. It is an opportunity for us to be proud of what has been achieved and for all of us to share in our many successes. I am pleased that we are able to continue with our regular diary page in the Citizen. This continues to be an effective, popular means of celebrating our achievements, providing information about the school and highlighting forthcoming events. We have recently developed Twitter as a means of communicating in an efficient manner to staff, pupils and parents and information was circulated about this via ParentMail.

continued on page 2

## Pupils Perform at St Andrews Community Hospital



As part of our charity work we regularly perform at St Andrews Hospital for the residential patients.

On Wednesday 28th November sixteen S1 and S2 pupils performed to patients in Ward 1 and the Renal Unit. The patients enjoyed the singing, fiddle playing and dancing.

Courtney Hogarth, Aidan McDerment and brothers Joshua and Nicholas Crisp all took part in a film produced by award-winning social enterprise company Teeny Tiny Films and commissioned by the Royal Caledonian Education Trust. The film tells the story of military children and their experience of having parents deployed abroad.

Forces Kids – ‘This is My Life’ captures the real life experiences of over 30 primary and secondary school pupils who have a parent or family member serving in the armed forces.

Well done to the pupils who contributed and thank you to Mr Wishart who did the filming in school.

## Help for Forces Kids



### INSIDE

Staffing .....	2
Drama Snippets .....	3
Ohio Exchange .....	4
Biology Practicals .....	5
Modern Languages .....	6
Library News .....	7
Curriculum for Excellence .....	8
Sport .....	9
Information .....	10

# Staffing

This term we welcomed the following staff: Ms Bassilious (English Teacher), Mrs Duncan, Principal Teacher Home Economics, (job share), Dr Nabi (Chemistry Teacher) and Mrs Thain (English Teacher).

In October Mr MacMillan (Chemistry) and Mrs MacMillan (English), retired from teaching and moved to the sunnier climate of Italy. Dr Boyd (English), left to take up a teaching position in the Borders.

Congratulations go to Mr Reid who was appointed as Principal Teacher Curriculum, Support for Learning and Mrs Hill as PT Home Economics (job share).

On the last day of term we say goodbye to Mrs Smart, Acting Depute Headteacher, who is moving to Waid Academy as Depute Headteacher. We also say goodbye to two members of the Support for Learning Department – Mr P Gibbins who is taking up the post of Principal Teacher of Department of Additional Support at Glenrothes High School and Mrs McGowan who is retiring after forty years as a teacher with Fife Council. We wish them all well and thank them for their invaluable service over the years to Madras College.

Our thanks to all the supply staff who have worked with us this term.

continued from page 1

Madras College has a justifiable reputation for the impressive range of opportunities it provides for all its pupils. I am grateful to all the members of staff who devote so much of their time to this very important part of school life. On their behalf may I thank you for your continuing support for all we seek to achieve. On behalf of the staff and pupils I wish you a happy Christmas and a relaxing holiday in preparation for what I know will be a busy and fulfilling New Year.

*Ian Jais*

# Home Economics Department

## Festive Season Reaches Madras!

Pupils and staff have embraced Christmas by making a range of Christmas items. The S1 and S2 classes made Chocolate Truffles. S3 created a forest of Gingerbread Star Christmas Trees.

Hospitality classes in the seniors have built and decorated a beautiful village of Gingerbread Houses. In Activities, the class made and decorated a Christmas Cake.



Not to be outdone the Textiles Classes have made Advent Calendars, Santa Stockings and Christmas Tree Decorations.

## First Aid

In school we are able to provide a basic level of first aid to pupils who sustain an injury during the course of the day. With the exception of pupils for whom we have an agreed protocol, we are unable to deal with illness other than by contacting parents and arranging for pupils to be taken home or to hospital if they become unwell. If your son or daughter is unwell please think carefully before sending them to school. Please ensure that you keep us abreast of any changes in your contact details.

## Rotary Chef Competition

This Competition is being run in conjunction with the St Andrews Rotary Club. S5 and S6 pupils were asked to submit a menu for a healthy two course meal which could be made within one-and-a-half hours. Competition was hot, but Ryan Denyer, Chloe Gray, Katie Lamb and Martha Winter are set for a cook off on Tuesday 8th January. The winner will go to the district final at the end of January. Good Luck to all!

## S3 World of Work Chefs in Action



Five of Fife's finest Chefs gave demonstrations to our S3 pupils. We are all very grateful to Chris from Clayton Restaurant, Scott from Rusacks, Martin and Jack from the Old Course Hotel and Ian from the Fairmont. All pupils and staff enjoyed the opportunity to see and hear about the work that a Chef does. Pupils were very interested to see the fast action chopping skills, though some were too scared to watch! Lots of questions were asked about working in a kitchen, and all were very happy to taste the dishes that were prepared. A very successful themed week for the S3 year group in Home Economics.



# Drama Snippets



## London Trip

Thirty pupils from Advanced Higher Drama and English classes thoroughly enjoyed the annual theatre trip to London accompanied by Mr Darge, Mr Dewar and Mrs Esler.

After the long coach journey pupils visited the Globe Theatre to see round the building. Luckily, they were able to gain a quick glimpse of Stephen Fry and Mark Rylance warming up for their performance. One of the evening performances watched by the team was *The Taming of the Shrew*.

Pupils reached for the sky in the London Eye before travelling down the Thames by river cruise to Greenwich. There, opportunities were provided to visit Greenwich Market, the recently renovated Cutty Sark, the Maritime Museum and the Royal Observatory.

The other production watched was a performance of Strindberg's *Miss Julie* at the Barbican Centre. This was an updated version delivered in French and starring Juliet Binoche. After the show the group enjoyed a meal at a Greek restaurant.

The trip ended in the traditional manner of being given time on the Sunday morning in Trafalgar Square to visit the National galleries before the trip home.

## A Midwinter's Night Dream?

Advanced Higher Drama pupils recently visited the Royal Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh to see a production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. The production was enjoyed by all, especially since it was set in winter time rather than summer with setting and costumes to match.

## Jump to it!

S4 Standard Grade Drama pupils recently visited the Rothes Halls in Glenrothes to see the National Theatre of Scotland production of *Jump*. This visit forms the basis for the pupils' SQA exam evaluation and was unique in being performed by pupils rather than professional actors. The show was based on the activity of Parkour and was a thrilling combination of physical theatre, choreography and storytelling based on the participants' real stories. Madras pupils were delighted to be able to have a question and answer session with the show's Director and the Parkour experts involved with the show. This included Staff member Morag Wilson's son Stuart, a leading proponent of Parkour in Scotland.

## Conflux

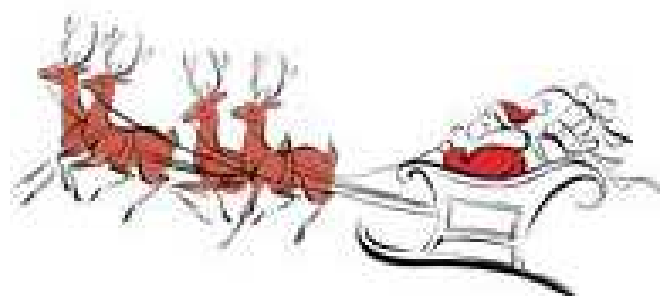
Senior Drama pupils were delighted to be asked to participate in the St Andrews Day Festival at the end of November. They worked with Street Theatre specialist company Conflux to perform in the streets of St Andrews as part of the festivities. An underwater theme was developed with lots of active participation including huge fish, underwater businessmen and scootering along the streets. This was an excellent opportunity for pupils to develop the complex skills required to perform outside.

## Creative Dramatists

Senior Drama pupils have all been busy devising and presenting their own dramas.

Higher and Advanced Higher pupils create their own small group productions in which they cover all the production roles including acting, direction and technical skills. The performances are then presented to invited audiences and evaluated.

We Wish You  
A Merry  
Christmas



# Sponsored Walk in aid of Rachel House



The 4XL Class organised a sponsored walk across the Tay Bridge and along to The Tay Rail Bridge and back. The walk was in aid of Rachel House Hospice, Kinross and the class raised £616-83. In the picture Liz Rankin from CHAS is seen accepting the cheque from the group. Thanks to all pupils, staff and friends who kindly sponsored the 4XL class.

In addition to this they also made three trays of truffles which they handed in to Balnacarron Nursing Home, Gibson House and St Andrew's Care Home last week.

Well done for all their efforts!

## Ohio Exchange

In the October holidays 15 pupils and 2 members of staff travelled to Columbus in OHIO to stay with host partners from Upper Arlington. The group enjoyed learning about the culture and lifestyle and took part in many fun activities. The highlights of the trip were the OHIO State

University Football Game, Trick or Treating, Chocolate Making, the Marching Band and the bizarre questions from the primary school pupils. Strong friendships have been formed and the group can't wait for their partners to visit Scotland in March.



## Active Schools' Ambassador Programme



The Active Schools' Ambassador Programme is aimed at young people and increasing their involvement in sport. Our aim also includes increasing the awareness of the benefits of a healthy lifestyle through sport and exercise. This year there are eight pupils across S5 and S6 who were chosen to represent Madras College and its catchment area. They are; Tamara Levy, Nicola Lynch, Hannah Caswell, Victoria Doherty, Kate Millican, Alex Anderson, Finlay Paul and Fraser Hayles.

This year we split into four groups to specifically focus on different projects; promotion, future stars, transition and leadership. Within these main projects we have developed further plans to increase the involvement in sport. The first being the afterschool dodge ball transition for P6's and P7's which has been organised by Alex Anderson. This will bring together those who will move into first year in the coming years. The second project is the 'Ambassadors Challenge' which has been developed by Victoria Doherty and Finlay Paul. This will take place on one of the PE afternoons and is an optional activity in which groups of pupils challenge us, the ambassadors, to a sporting competition. Such as a 2v2 netball match or how many goals can be won in a minute.

With the help of our peers we want to introduce less conventional activities to encourage everyone to join in on sports and to also increase the involvement throughout the school and community. By doing so, we hope to change the outlook on exercising in order to enhance involvement.

Nicola Lynch

# Art and Home Economics Creative Workshops



On Friday, 30th of November, two groups of pupils from the Art and Home Economics Department had the pleasure of attending Creative workshops offered by The Adam Smith College.

Higher Health and Food Technology and Standard Grade Home Economic students were treated to wonderful demonstrations by Chef, Scott Lyall. He made dishes using local produce, showing a wide variety of presentation skills which will help the pupils in their final practical exams.

Advanced Higher pupils had the opportunity to view the jewellery and textile work designed by students and lecturers from the college. They also took part in a needle felting workshop, aimed at introducing them to this versatile textile technique.

Thanks go to Brenda Heenan, the school/college Partnership Co-ordinator at The Adam Smith, and Dougie MacMillan who was the staff contact on the day.



# Biology Practicals

Advanced Higher Biology students have undertaken two practicals recently that involved working with St Andrews University staff and in the University Biology labs.



The first practical involved carrying out a survey of two species of barnacles on the harbour wall at the East Sands. Students became expert in identifying our native species of barnacles and comparing the numbers of these to an 'exotic' species, which has spread its way around the shores of the UK.



The second practical, in the University labs, involved measuring the feeding rates of blue mussels that had been collected locally. Students investigated how a change in salinity affected the feeding rates.



Many thanks to the University staff who made this possible for us!

# Modern Languages

## • **Winners**

The Modern Languages department has been having great success this session. The first win was in the SCILT competition to celebrate the European Day of Languages on 26th September. Activities included quizzes, building Eiffel Towers, a continental lunch for 90 pupils in Kilrymont, workshops in Arabic and Russian run by the University of St Andrews and an information evening for parents and pupils about the importance of Modern Languages. There were speakers from SCILT, the University of St Andrews and the Goethe Institut as well as former pupils and performances from current pupils in French and German. The department's efforts won first prize in the Senior Phase and we look forward to buying many educational goods with the £500 Amazon vouchers.

## • **Translation competition**

Hannah Gray and Jonas Neukirch (both S6) recently took part in a Translation Competition "Juvenes Translatores" run by the European Commission. Madras College was just one of four Scottish schools selected to take part.

The competition has been running since 2007 and is designed to promote language learning and translation throughout the EU. Juvenes Translatores also raises awareness about translation studies and the ever growing need for translators throughout Europe.

In their own words "If Europeans are to be united in diversity, as the EU's own motto puts it, we need to be able to understand languages other than our own". The winners will be invited to an awards ceremony in Brussels on 11th April 2013.

## • **Euroscola 2013**

In February a group of pupils from all over Scotland will spend five days in Strasbourg, the highlight of which is a day in The European Parliament in Strasbourg. Ben Peddie (S6), selected as a candidate from Madras College, will be sponsored by St Andrews' Rotary Club. During the visit there will be intensive workshops in cultural and linguistic aspects of the trip.

## • **Languages for Work Purposes**

The Modern Languages faculty has been selected as one of three secondary schools in Scotland to take forward the Scottish Government initiative of mother language plus two foreign languages. This will involve the setting up of two new courses for pupils in the Senior Phase in 'Languages for Work Purposes' in both French and Mandarin next session. Pupils will learn vocational language which will also have an input from the Travel and Tourism teachers and Business Education department.

## • **Kiel-Madras Exchange Olympic Success**



A class 'choc' full of medal winners!

With a view to entering an Olympic competition organised by the UK-German Connection, the 55th Kiel-Madras Exchange group took part in a number of Olympic related activities when in Kiel in June. On our return from the October break we were delighted to find out that we had been awarded a bronze award (£500). We are the only Scottish school among the prizewinners. Our activities are showcased on the UK-German Connection website ([www.ukgermanconnection.org/olympics-competition-results](http://www.ukgermanconnection.org/olympics-competition-results)).

## • **Looking ahead to the 56th Kiel Exchange**

Preparations are already underway for the 56th Kiel-Madras Exchange visit. We have already recruited new exchange members from S3 classes and look forward to hosting a group of 25 pupils from Kiel in June 2013.

## • **Finally....**

We are now recruiting for the first St Andrews Madras-Loches French exchange. The French will come to Scotland in June 2013 and we will go to France in September 2013.

## Music & French Joint Performance

Friday 14th December saw a performance by members of the Advanced Higher Music class and the Advanced Higher French class. The audience consisted of third year French pupils, some university students, members of the Senior Management Team and other invited guests. This was the culmination of a joint project between Madras and the University, led by Dr David Evans of the French department in the University of St Andrews. He has been coming to school twice a week for the past few months to deliver a poetry module with our Advanced Higher French class on the musicality of poetry and at the same time has been working with the Advanced Higher Music pupils with the aim of having a joint 'performance' at the end of the period of teaching.

This performance provided a perfect opportunity to showcase this example of Curriculum for Excellence in practice in that it is an excellent example of cross curricular working. It also exemplified the collaborative work which is taking place between Madras College and the University. The performance was well received by the audience.

## Carol Singing

During the last week of this term senior music classes are carol singing in the foyer and the S5/6 Charity Committee are performing in the wards.

### Carol Singing Competition Results

<b>Junior</b>	1st	Priory
	2nd	Blackfriars
	3rd	Castle
<b>Senior</b>	1st	Priory
	2nd	Blackfriars
	3rd	Castle

## LIBRARY NEWS

### • New staff

At the start of term we were delighted to welcome Mr T Shively as a part-time member of the Library staff, and have appreciated the way in which he has enthusiastically supported staff and pupils in a range of activities and projects.

### • Visits

On the afternoon of 27th November, a party of 29 senior pupils, accompanied by Mrs Higgins, the Librarian and Ms Cortazzi, head of English, had the privilege of attending a compelling poetry performance at Kirkcaldy High School by Liz Lochhead, to celebrate Scottish Book Week. Liz is the Scots Makar, or National Poet, and her presentation brought her poetry to life as she emphasised her delight in the use of rhythm and pace, and her witty use of language.

### • St Andrews Cathedral

Kilrymont Road Library hosted the University of St Andrews' "Reconstruction of St Andrews Cathedral" team, who brought in computers and consoles for pupils to experience a virtual reality exploration of the Cathedral as it would have been at the time of Robert the Bruce, for the History Department in October; and Mrs Higgins and Mr Shively accompanied the pupils on their visits to explore the Cathedral ruins and to attend workshops to learn about some of the trades involved in building the Cathedral.

### • Bookfair

The Library has run a bookfair at Kilrymont Road, offering pupils and staff the opportunity to buy books and stationery at half-price, but more importantly, to give pupils the opportunity to browse the three large cases of books, to suggest the titles they would most like to see in the School Library. Third year helpers have been putting into practice some of their "skills for work", a topic which has been the school-wide focus of the past two weeks. The bookfair is still running as we go to press. If we make enough money in sales, there will also be commission in books, which will give a much-needed boost to our stock!

## Satie's Vexation

On Saturday December 8th Calum Grewar (S6) sat down at the piano in the South Street Music House. He rose from the piano 24 hours later!

Erik Satie composed Vexations and attached instructions for it to be played continuously 840 times - this would take approximately 20 hours. Calum surpassed this and played the piece close to 1000 times!!

Why? Both as a personal challenge and to help raise funds for his year abroad in Guyana teaching science through Project Trust.

Many friends and staff stopped by to wish Calum well during this marathon - their support was deeply appreciated. Well done Calum!

## Enterprise and Employability



The S5/6 Enterprise and Employability class (Craig Foggo, Cameron Campbell, Keiren Neil and Martin Blewett) and S6 Prefects sold wristbands and Pudsey Keyrings for Children in Need. Miss Birmingham's Journalism class "Designed a Pal for Pudsey" and raised £10.01. Even although the school was closed to pupils on Children in Need day they managed to raise £331.70 in total. A big thank you to all who contributed.

## Business Trade Fair

A really enjoyable and successful Trade Fair was delivered by the pupils of S2 Business on 29th November 2012. The pupils had been working hard for the past few months coming up with enterprising ideas for their class products and company name. Once decided, the pressure was on to source raw materials, produce the goods and devise eye-catching promotional materials for their individual companies.



Pupils developed some impressive sales techniques on the day with almost all stock sold out within the first 30 minutes. Thank you to everyone involved who enabled this event to be a fun and practical learning experience for our Business pupils. It's not over yet ..... the judges will soon be letting us know which classes have won the coveted trophies for most profit and best brand.

# Curriculum for Excellence

A large part of our work this session has been to develop our model for the senior phase of Curriculum for Excellence. This will begin in June when our present S3 pupils move into S4. Engagement with parents, employers, Elmwood College and the University of St Andrews began last April when our initial thoughts were discussed. That early discussion resulted in us thinking again about the number of courses we should offer in S4 and S5 and we concluded that 6 was the optimum. However, a 30-period week does not allow this to be delivered in a balanced manner and so, with effect from the timetable change in June, we will adopt a 35-period week. The start and finish times will remain unaltered and each day will consist of 7 periods. To allow for travel between South Street and Kilrymont and vice-versa, period times cannot be the same in each building. Details are:

Kilrymont		South Street
08:45 – 08:55	Registration	
08:55 – 09:40	1	08:45 – 09:30
09:40 – 10:25	2	09:35 – 10:15
10:25 – 11:15	3	10:15 – 11:10
11:15 – 11:30	Break	11:10 – 11:35
11:30 – 12:15	4	11:35 – 12:25
12:15 – 13:00	5	12:25 – 13:05
13:00 – 13:50	Lunch	13:05 – 13:55
13:50 – 14:35	6	13:55 – 14:45
14:35 – 15:20	7	14:45 – 15:30

This also allows us to look again at the period allocation to courses in S1 – S3 and to bring about a better distribution of time.

Much of the in-service time for the remainder of this year will be devoted to preparations for the new courses we will be delivering from June. In this we are progressing well. Staff are attending briefing sessions run by the SQA and we are confident that all will be in place for the change of timetable.

While a significant amount of time is being devoted to the developing curriculum, we continue to focus on our other development priorities and the attached summary of our Standards and Quality and Improvement Plan details these. In particular we are continuing our focus on ensuring that the quality of our learning and teaching is of the highest standard by identifying and sharing good practice.

## Community Sports Leaders UK



The Community Sports Leaders UK, Level 2 course kicked off this August with 14 senior pupils registering for the 40-hour programme which includes a 10-hour voluntary work placement. Over the course of the programme the pupils will be learning a range of sports coaching and leadership skills, whilst also gaining qualifications in a number of sports.

Over the past 4 weeks the 14 Sports Leaders have been planning and leading fun activity sessions for primary children in Greyfriars, Canongate and Lawhead primary schools. This has provided them with the opportunity to gain some experience in planning and leading sports and activities with young children.

Furthermore the Active School Ambassadors and Sports Leaders have both led sport and activity sessions during the In-service day with around 50 primary children attending. This event was a big success with children participating in club-golf, netball, football and dodgeball.

## Burns Competition

Our annual Burns Competition took place at the end of November and we were delighted to see an increased number of junior participants. The judges from the St Andrews Burns Society were delighted at the standard of the competitors and commented on our pupils' enthusiasm and confidence. The winners were:

<b>Recitation</b>	S1	Girls	Elle Hanton
		Boys	Bradley Jackson
	S2	Girls/Boys	Dayna Clark
	S4	Girls/Boys	Matthew McAnaw
<b>Singers</b>	S1	Girls	Eilidh McGhee
		Boys	Matthew Garty
	S2	Joint Winners	Katie Peoples Chloe Anderson

The senior competition will take place in January. There is an opportunity to hear these performances at our Burns Supper in January. All welcome.



# SPORT

## Extra Curricular Clubs

We now have around 340 young people participating in sports activities after school at Madras College. It is thanks to all the staff and volunteers who give up their time to offer a wide range of sports activities.

If you are interested in helping out we are looking for parent volunteers to coach activities after school. You really could help us to make a big difference and most importantly give more children the chance to take part in fun activity or sport sessions. Please do not be put off if you haven't done anything like this before as full training and support will be offered from the outset.

Anyone who wishes to become a volunteer in their local school will be required to complete a Disclosure Scotland PVG application. Active Schools will pay for this form to be processed.

If you would like more information or would like to take on a volunteer role please contact James Fenna Email: James.Fenna@fife.gov.uk

## Girls Hockey

The girls' hockey teams are all enjoying and working hard in their new training venue. Thanks to our active schools co-ordinator, James Fenna, liaising with St Andrews University sports department, the second years, third years and seniors are all training on the university artificial pitch which is proving to be very beneficial due to the floodlights and playing surface. Their progress has been evident and in the Fife Schools' Tournaments both the second and third years won their respective events while the senior girls were runners up in their tournament.



S3 Girls Hockey Fife Champions pictured at Station Park

Saturday fixtures have met with mixed results. Most notable have been the third years who have only lost one game so far.



## Double Silver Medalist

Hannah Pitkin (S2) won two Silver Medals at the Scottish Youth Swimming Championships for disabled and sensory impaired children. With close races, she really fought for her second place. The medals were awarded by 'Jim the Swim' Anderson, six times paralympian. Well done Hannah.

## Senior Boys' Basketball Club

The senior boys' basketball team has had a fantastic start to the Fife League. They are unbeaten with a 5-0 record, and are top of the table!

Congratulations to all players involved, and looking forward to the second part of the season in January.



# INFORMATION

## Fife Council

### *School Closure Information for Parents*

As early as possible on the morning of severe weather or other situations such as water, heating and building problems, there will be an update of what information is available and that parents can access from their home. Further updates will be given throughout the day.

- Sign up for School Closure Alerts on Fife Direct ([www.fifedirect.org.uk/Doitonline](http://www.fifedirect.org.uk/Doitonline)) and look for school closure alert
- Mobile phone - [m.fifedirect.org.uk](http://m.fifedirect.org.uk) (from your mobile phone browser)
- E-mail alerts on closures to your personal account
- Facebook - Go to [www.facebook.com/fifecouncil](http://www.facebook.com/fifecouncil)
- Twitter - Go to [www.twitter.com/fifecouncil](http://www.twitter.com/fifecouncil)
- FifeDirect online website
- Radio bulletins - we contact Kingdom FM (95.2 and 96.1), Radio Forth (97.3), Radio Tay (102.8 and 96.4) every time there is a change in service
- Television bulletins - STV and BBC
- Online news sites - especially the BBC
- Daily press including the Courier
- Automated telephone closure line on 08451 55 11 99 and choose from the options given
- Mobile phone service - <http://lookinglocal.gov.uk/LookingLocal/>
- Digital Television (Red Button on Sky and Virgin Media under Interactive Services, Local Services)

#### HOLIDAYS

##### **Christmas**

Monday 24 December 2012 to Friday 4th January 2013

##### **February (two days)**

Thursday 14th and Friday 15th February 2013

##### **Easter**

Friday 29th March to Friday 12th April 2013

##### **May Day**

Monday 6th May 2013

##### **June (single day)**

Monday 3rd June 2013

##### **Summer**

Monday 1st July to Friday 9th August 2013

#### IN-SERVICE DAYS

Monday 7th January 2013

Wednesday 13th February 2013

Tuesday 4th June 2013

#### EXAMINATIONS

##### **S5/6 Prelims**

Monday 14th January to Friday 1st February 2013

##### **SQA Exams**

Friday 26th April to Friday 7th June 2013

*Please note the S4 Art exams are week beginning 15th April 2013*

#### PARENTS' EVENINGS

**S1** Monday 11th February 2013

**S2** Wednesday 15th May 2013

**S3** Thursday 31st January 2013

**S4** Wednesday 16th January 2013

*(all dates inclusive)*

## Priorities for 2012-2013

### Improvements in Performance

- Evaluate SQA performance and set attainment targets
- Develop target setting, monitoring and tracking
- Meet learners' needs
- Develop, implement and monitor a home study policy

### Curriculum for Excellence

- Implement new courses in S3
- Develop the senior phase structure
- Integrate literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing into S1-3 courses
- Develop assessment and reporting

### Improvement Through self-evaluation

- Develop a structure to gather qualitative and quantitative evidence that supports self-evaluation
- Ensure that information gathered has an impact on learners
- Develop leadership within the faculty
- Develop leadership at a time of significant curricular change

## **Standards and Quality Report Summary 2011-2012**

**And**

## **School Improvement Plan 2012-2015**

## **Madras College**



### How well did young people learn and achieve in 2011/2012?

#### SQA Analysis statements for S4:

- 5 or more awards at level 5 is in line with national the national pattern
- 5 or more awards at level 4 is in line with the national pattern
- 5 or more awards at level 3 is in line with the national pattern and the second highest since 2001
- English and maths awards at level 3 or better is above the national pattern and the highest since 2001.

#### SQA Analysis statements for S5:

- 5 or more awards at level 6 is well above the national pattern and in line with expectations
- or more awards at level 6 is well above the national pattern and in line with expectations
- 1 or more award at level 6 is above the national pattern and in line with expectation.

#### SQA Analysis statements for S6:

- 1 or more award at level 7 is well above the national pattern
- 5 or more awards at level 6 is well above the national pattern
- 3 or more awards at level 6 is well above the national pattern.

### How well did the school support young people to develop in 2011/2012?

Our S1 Curriculum covers all curricular areas and offers choice

Our S2/3 curriculum allows for choices within curricular areas

Our senior phase plans are being considered by staff and parents

We high expectations of behaviour, attendance and achievement

Meeting learners' needs is monitored through a programme of classroom visits

The existing senior curriculum is being revised to maximise opportunity at all levels

### How well did the school improve the quality of its work in 2011-2012?

We have a greater evidence base for all quality assurance activities and these are used to inform school improvement.

We have developed an in-house CPD programme and series of focussed classroom visits.

There is a heightened awareness of quality improvement resulting from an EMT seminar, and use of DHTs as faculty links.

We have a simplified, focussed QA calendar resulting in more relevant QA activities.

We use our Teaching and Learning Community to share and spread good practice.

There is a greater focus on attainment and better use of performance data at all levels.

There is a greater understanding of the leadership role of PTC.

#### We are especially proud of the following achievements:

In December 2011 we completed a unique piece of work and published a book entitled "A Portrait of Madras College". Edited by Lorn McIntyre, Peter Adamson's photographs married to comments from pupils, staff and former pupils record a year in the life of the school with all its diversity.

For the first time in Madras, 4 pupils have achieved a Gold Youth Achievement Award. n Computing, for the second year running, Lewis Crawford & Will Hulme won a prize in the 16+ category of the UK Schools Animation Competition which is a national competition run by Manchester University. In the Scottish Languages Baccalaureate three 6<sup>th</sup> year girls, produced excellent Interdisciplinary Projects, with all three achieving Grade A. Madras DAS pupils returned from the 42nd Annual Disability Sport Fife Gala with a haul of 6 gold medals along with personal best times for every single member of the 10 strong team. The U-16 Rugby won the Bewin Dolphin Bowl competition. There were also wins for Madras Rugby in the annual Buckhaven High School tournament and The Perth 7's.