



Summer Newsletter

Madras College Newsletter

June 2012

Rector's Message

As we take part in all our end of session celebrations, it is appropriate to review the year past and to lay plans for the year ahead. In leading Madras College this session I have been well supported by staff, pupils and parents. Our development priorities included Raising Attainment, Curriculum for Excellence and Improvement through Self-evaluation. In all these areas we have made significant progress.

In December 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.

Work to develop a single site Madras College has continued throughout the session with the focus being on the remodelling of Kilrymont. In that regard, the design team produced proof of concept drawings showing the possibilities this affords and we fulfilled our statutory requirement for consultation. The new Administration has now decided to undertake a further review of sites.

Our school values are organised under three headings that to us express the essential elements of a successful school; Achievement, Ethos and Partnership.

Achievement is not only measured by success in exams, important though this is, it encompasses the whole range of experiences that make up school life and in this Madras excels.

Ethos is about the relationships and values that underpin all work we do.

Madras College Lights up the Olympic Games



Two weeks prior to the Olympic Torch reaching St Andrews, 230 S2 pupils re-enacted a scene from the *Chariots of Fire* film by participating in a race along the West Sands. This was the spectacular finale of a 2-week interdisciplinary study around the Olympic Theme.

The iconic scene from the opening titles of *Chariots of Fire* film was again recreated by Madras College pupils when twenty of them had the honour of running along the West Sands behind the Olympic Flame when the Olympic Torch came to St Andrews.

Partnerships provide the contexts within which we work. All pupils appreciate the support, encouragement and praise that come from both school and home. There is no doubt about the beneficial effect of this very important and necessary mutual support. Partnership with the community in its many guises is important for Madras. Work experience provides a valuable insight for fourth year pupils and we are grateful to all the providers who contribute to this worthwhile activity. We are grateful for our continuing links with the University of St Andrews, Elmwood College, Adam Smith College, Dundee College, RAF Leuchars, The Byre Theatre, the R&A, the Links Trust, the Rotary Club of St Andrews and to the many organisations in North East Fife with whom we are associated.

The following examples illustrate the way in which Madras College lives up to its values.

The 2011 SQA examinations showed notable performances from pupils in English, Maths and Computing Studies at standard grade, and English, Chemistry, Physics, Modern Studies, Computing, Drama and Music at higher. In academic year 2010-11 of 247 leavers: 45% - Higher Education, 31% - Further Education, 2% - Training, 16% - Employment.

Our Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme has had a successful year with 13 silver and 22 bronze awards achieved and all expeditions went very well.

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From our Eco Club, Rebecca Gorgon was successfully nominated to be placed on the Young Scottish Green List 2012. As part of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations the Eco-Club was involved with planting over 500 trees on the outskirts of St Andrews. They were joined by members of the St Andrews Community Council, the University, local residents, the Botanic Garden and primary schools for this task. The Club is also working alongside the St Andrews in Bloom committee and Rotary Clubs to introduce a small wildlife meadow area into the South Street lawn near the music buildings.

In Drama the year began with 3 pupils Jacob Brown, Lydia Upton and Finlay Paul heading to Glasgow to take part in The BBC Off By Heart Competition.

The London trip, the tenth this year, was again a triumph, with 30 pupils going to see David Tennant and Catherine Tait in *Much Ado About Nothing* and taking in many other sights of the city. The Christmas production of *A Christmas Carol* played to packed out audiences in December, and January saw evening performances of the standard grade productions. January also saw 3 pupils, Alan Sunter, Rory White and Cameron Mackay entertaining guests at The Fairmont Hotel with a musical evening featuring works by Robert Burns.

In March we hit the international stage with two S5 pupils, Imogen Craven and Jack Dillon being chosen to play roles in a short film called *Paper Boys* which was filmed on location in Tayport and premiered at the Cannes film Festival. Finally we have 12 pupils at the moment preparing to take their LAMDA (London Academy of Music and Drama) exams.

In Computing, for the second year running, Lewis Crawford and Will Hulme (both S6 pupils) won a prize in the 16+ category of the UK Schools Animation Competition which is a national competition run by Manchester University.

From Modern Languages, in February Lyle McAdam, supported by the Rotary Club of St Andrews, attended Euroscola in the European Parliament in

Strasbourg. The following week the Advanced Higher class spent the February break in Paris. This Summer a group of six pupils from Fife will visit China and we are fortunate that two pupils from Madras College have been selected. Hannah Gray and Megan Robertson will receive intensive Mandarin lessons as well as visiting many cultural sights during their three-week trip.

The Intermediate 1 Mandarin class took part in an HSBC competition in which they presented a play in Mandarin. They were successful in the Scottish heats and attended the final in London, where they were praised for their performance and good accents.

This year once again Madras College presented pupils for the Scottish Languages Baccalaureate, again the only school in Fife to do so. The three sixth year girls, Eleanor Cruickshank, Maisie Peebles and Caitlin Rottger produced excellent Interdisciplinary Projects, with all three achieving Grade A.

Finally, Eleanor Cruickshank (S6) was one of only three Scottish pupils to be appointed as a UK-German Youth Ambassador. She has already attended a conference in London and in July will be attending a conference in Berlin.

Junior pupils were given the opportunity to experience working with Scottish sculptor Kenny Munroe at Kellie Castle. Out of only 12 places, 2 of our new S6 pupils have been given the opportunity to take part in the Summer School art programme running at Balmungo House and through her own networking Anna Zaitseva has been offered a work placement with Scottish Artist, Author and Illustrator Alasdair Gray.

Our charities committee have raised funds for Macmillan Cancer Support, Cancer Research, Breast Cancer Campaign, Breast Cancer Care, Kilts for Kids - Children 1st, The Scottish Poppy Appeal, Cash for Kids - Tay fm, Sports Relief and Children in Need. In excess of £7000 was raised through non uniform days, bake sales, Open Mic sessions, selling badges and poppies, a Ceilidh, Pipe Band performances and sports activities. The charities group also performed and entertained at various

residences for the elderly throughout north east Fife and in St Andrews Community Hospital.

This session as part of our Behaviour for Learning strategy we have awarded in S1, 174 bronze, 154 silver, 128 gold, 71 double gold and 28 platinum awards, and in S2 68 bronze, 23 silver, 9 gold and 1 double gold awards.

For the first time in Madras, 4 pupils have achieved a Gold Youth Achievement Award.

Last July 27 pupils, staff and parents visited and worked in 3 schools in rural Namibia. This year 35 pupils and staff are returning to Namibia. They have worked hard to raise funds to purchase and transport materials. Through sponsorship from Tullis Russell we have already sent 3 crates of resources including computers, books, stationery and overhead projectors.

During the year pupils have been involved in visits or exchanges to Japan, USA, Canada, France and Germany.

These are only a few examples taken from the very many successes we have celebrated this session many of which have featured to illustrate the ways in which we are able to live up to our aims and values.

S3 Suspended Timetable

From Wednesday 30th May to Friday 1st June, our S3 timetable was suspended to allow S3 pupils to participate in a range of residential and one day activities. Pupils visited Paris, London, Manchester and Alton Towers. One adventurous group cycled '50 Wild Miles'. In addition to these residentials, pupils had opportunities to participate in single-day activities both in school and out. In school, forensic CSI, Indian cooking and A Play in a Day were popular choices. Out of school, Go-Karting, M&Ds, Paintballing and Theatre trips were all very successful. A huge thanks to staff who organised these activities.

MUSA

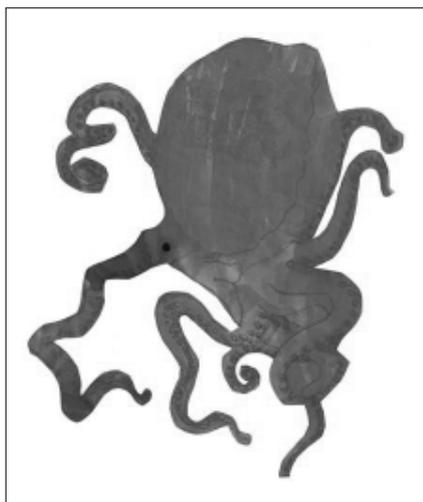
Young Artists Competition

The MUSA Young Artists Competition is organised by the University of St Andrews Museum Collections Unit. This is a Fife wide competition which this year had 682 entries.

The theme chosen for 2012 was 'Fantastic Creatures' to link with the University's Edwardian natural history collection, housed in the Bell Pettigrew Museum. After attending these workshops, many of our Art Department S3, S2 and S1 pupils submitted a piece of work. The winning entries are on display at the Gateway Galleries between 2nd June and 25th August.

Really well done to our Madras College prize-winners Nathan Kermode, 1st Prize in Category F; Clodagh Ryan, 2nd Prize in Category E; Rebecca Gorgon, 3rd Prize in Category E and Rebecca Phin, Special Merit Category E. We look forward to attending next year's workshops and again entering the competition.

Nathan Kermode
1st Prize - Category F



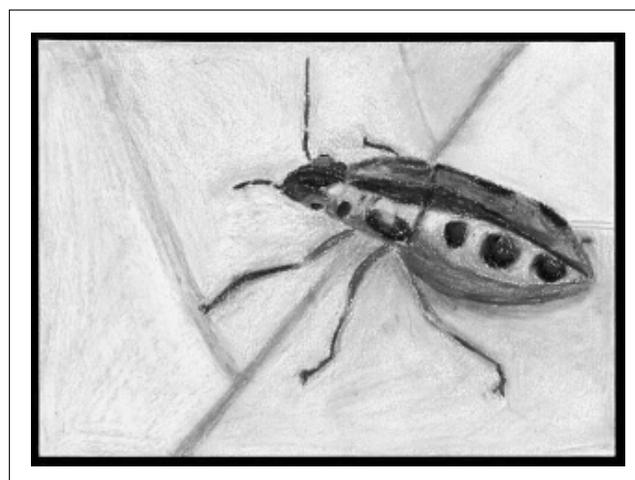
Rebecca Gorgon
3rd Prize - Category E



Clodagh Ryan
2nd Prize - Category E



Rebecca Phin
Special Merit Prize
Category E



Staffing News

This term we welcomed back Mrs J Soares, Mathematics and Mrs C Hoy, Modern Languages from maternity leave. We welcomed Ms A Reid, Home Economics.

We said goodbye to Mr S Duffy, PT Physics (Mrs Lindsay replaces Mr Duffy), Mr A Smallwood, Modern Studies and Mrs A Fox, PSA Support for Learning early this term.

On Thursday we say goodbye to Miss Y Logan, Probationer Modern Languages, Miss S Macnab, Drama, Miss J Petrie Art, Ms E Gillingham PSA, Support for Learning, Mr A Thorburn Business Manager and welcome Mr A Cummings as his replacement.

Lastly on the leaving front, but certainly not least we say goodbye to four members of our teaching staff who have notched up between them an impressive total of 83 years teaching at Madras College: Miss M Latto, PT Guidance and Geography Teacher; Mrs W Steven, PT Home Economics; Mrs P Esler, PT Drama and Miss K Watkins, PTC Classics and RMPS. We wish them all well for the future.

Our thanks to our new SQA Chief Invigilator Mrs Adamson and her team of Invigilators, Readers and Scribes and to all the supply staff who have worked with us this term.



Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme has had another fantastic year. Over the past 12 months we have had 3 pupils achieve their Gold award and those will be presented at the garden party in July. We are also finally managing to master the eDofE system and have had 13 Silver and 22 Bronze awards presented.

The current intake got off to a great start in October with enlarged groups of 22 Bronze and 25 Silver. The Gold group was not full but a focused 10 pupils will have been on expedition by the end of term. The expedition season this year has (at the time of writing) gone off very successfully. The bronzes had the soggy trip for their qualifier but all swam through it in style. The Glen Tilt trip (Silver and Gold practice) and the Cairngorm trip (Silver qualifier) were much better than forecast, such a bonus after many years of river crossing challenges.

A **huge** thanks has to go to the DofE staff for all their hard work and commitment. This year has been a year of renewal of some staff training, so the time voluntarily given has been extended. Thanks also go to the St Andrews Community Trust and to the Parent Council for their financial assistance. This has allowed us to renew some badly ageing kit ensuring the pupils stayed safer and dryer. A final **well done** should go out to the pupils for the **massive** improvement in kit returned this year, still some room for extra cleaning and drying but so far our losses are much reduced.

Staffing for the trips is at times very tight and the group would welcome interest from anyone willing or able to help out. At bronze level this is only usually with a day pack, at silver and gold it can involve a full expedition pack.

Model United Nations Conference



In March S5 pupils Tamara Levy, Chloe Armour, George Simpson, Brodie Slaven, Oliver Cocris and Alexander Fyfe travelled to Edinburgh in order to take part in the Model United Nations Conference, held at George Watson's College. The pupils were given Australia to represent in a number of debates surrounding political, economic, environmental, health, media and human rights issues. Topics such as 'Vulture Capitalism', 'Hacktivism' and 'Universal Healthcare: Right or Privilege?' were successfully debated by all the Madras delegates. The conference was thoroughly enjoyed by all and we hope to return next year with a full delegation of twelve pupils and a new country to represent. Special thanks should go to Mr Swift for giving up his weekend to keep an eye on six diplomats in the making!

Alexander Fyfe

Maths Department News

It has been another busy term for the Madras' Maths Department both for pupils within the classroom and for those taking part in National competitions. On March 15th two groups, fourteen S4 and eighteen S5 pupils took part in the Mathématiques sans frontières Competition. The groups were given a number of problems to solve, two of which were written in and had to be answered in a foreign language. We were notified that both teams had finished in the top ten in Scotland in their respective age groups. The captains, Paul Sinclair and Georgia Butler and vices, Ethan Dickson and Jonas Neukirch, were invited to find the announcement of the final results at Heriot-Watt University. They were delighted to learn that the S4s finished second in their section and the S5s won their section and won the overall competition in Scotland.

Over 300 pupils from all year groups took part in this year's UKMT Maths Challenges, achieving an impressive 115 merit certificates overall. This included 12 Gold and 39 Silver. Special

congratulations go to Paul Sinclair, Emma Ruskuc, and Rory Barnett who achieved Best in School in their respective year groups. In this year's Scottish Maths Challenge the pupils achieved four Bronze, three Silver and one Gold certificates. The Gold (Andrei Ruskuc) and Silvers (Lewis Crawford, Simon McLaren and William Naismith) were invited to the awards ceremony at Stirling University. Lewis scored 38/40 narrowly missing a gold certificate.

It was not only in National Competitions that Madras students strived for Gold as the S2s took part in the Maths Mini Olympic Games as part of their curriculum themed fortnight. Students were involved in events such as the 'Cotton Ball' Putt, the 'Straw' Javelin and the 'Paper Plate' Discus. Highlights of these events are available on the Madras College website. These games proved so successful that we believe London is planning something similar later this year, obviously, though, on a much smaller scale!

55th Kiel Exchange



Eighteen S3 and S4 pupils, accompanied by Miss Orem and Mr Irving, have just returned from Kiel. The programme was varied and the visit was very successful.

The programme included day trips by rail to Hamburg and to the Island of Sylt. On the trip to Sylt the group visited List, the most northern point in Germany. The pupils also attended Music and History classes and took part in a number of Olympic themed activities with their exchange partners with a view to entering a competition organised by the UK-German Connection.

Towards the end of our visit we experienced the 'Kieler Woche', a world famous sailing event.

A number of Madras pupils contributed to the Farewell Evening which was rounded off as usual with Scottish dancing.

During the visit Miss Orem visited the War Cemetery in Kiel to lay flowers at the grave of a Madras FP, Thomas Andrew Drysdale, whose plane crashed near Sylt in 1941, and to take a photograph of the grave for the Madras Archives.



Modern Languages Open Day

University of St Andrews

Seven senior pupils studying German attended the Open Day, accompanied by Miss Orem. The pupils had three taster sessions in languages other than German. These included Arabic, French, Italian, Persian, Russian and Spanish. These sessions were followed by mini lectures. At lunchtime we had a guided tour of the museum (MUSA) on the Scores. In the afternoon we took part in a quiz. At the end of the day the pupils had an opportunity to find out in a question and answer session with some language students what university life is really like.

French Exchange

We will shortly be arranging our next French exchange with Poitiers which will take place in 2013. We will host in June and go to France in September. This opportunity will be offered to all pupils currently in S3 and S4. We expect letters to go out in September giving information on this popular exchange.

Music Trip to Germany

On Friday 29th June 62 pupils and 7 staff will set off to Germany on a week's concert trip. The Senior Wind Band, Pipe Band and Junior and Senior Folk Groups (including dancers) will represent Madras and Scotland at an international Music Festival in Andernach near Koblenz as well as performing in the spa town of Bad Neuenahr and in the town square at Linz am Rhein.

The trip is not all work however as the group will also visit Marksburg Castle, go shopping and swimming in Koblenz and enjoy the thrills at Phantasialand Themepark. Should be a good start to the holidays.

Dunhill Links Golf Championship



Tommy Alexander, bass drummer, with the Pipe Band at the Prizegiving Ceremony



The Pipe Band marching off the 18th Green on the Old Course

The Big Music

Novel by Kirsty Gunn

Imagine capturing the Scottish mountains, the icy seas and the vast grey blue skies in a book. Imagine mirroring the powerful tunes of bagpipes on white pages in black ink. Imagine recreating in words the shape of a human life and his memories by sweeping them into a novel. Well, Kirsty Gunn's new novel 'The Big Music' sets out to achieve the impossible by creating a new kind of world in her book.

Fifth and sixth year students at Madras College welcomed Kirsty Gunn to their library on Monday, 18th June. Kirsty gave the group the treat of a book reading, which was followed by Gary Gowans' original and beautiful film inspired by the novel. Next, the artist Merran Gunn displayed photographs taken from her painting commissioned by Dundee University in honour of the novel. Gail Low, who lectures in English, and is an archivist with a passionate interest in how books become books took photographs of the event for Dundee University's archives. Our students were given the chance to see how a group of creative professionals can work together to inspire and produce art.

Following the presentation, our students were able to choose one of three workshops on offer: either creative writing, art or media. The creative writing workshop entailed an exploration of the theme of loneliness, followed by the opportunity to capture this emotion in words. Meanwhile, students involved in the art workshop produced a mini collage booklet of text and images. Media students enjoyed a series of stimulating mini films and animations illustrating different media techniques, as well as a presentation on how skills in graphic design might help find work in the future or help serve the community.

We would like to extend our thanks to Gail Low, Kirsty Gunn, Merran Gunn and Gary Gowans for their generosity and time in extending this magical opportunity to our students.

Nuffield Science Bursary Scheme

Three S5 science students have been selected to take part in the prestigious Nuffield Science Bursary Scheme where they undertake paid research in the summer holidays.

Lily Hua is studying the CRISPR system for prokaryotic antiviral defence at the University of St Andrews. Andrei Ruskuc is studying Characterised control of pulsed DC reactive Di-electric sputtering also at the University of St Andrews and Ewan Mackintosh is Investigating Carbonisation in the textile industry at Scott Fyffe in Tayport.

Ewan has also, along with Jacob Lamb, been accepted on the HEADSTART insight into engineering programme.

Johnny Watson has been selected to assist the University of St Andrews University Astronomy Department with their Planetarium Road Show at the Royal Highland Show.

Nineteen pupils in Miss Gray's S2 Physics class have successfully completed the CREST Bronze Award. It had proved so popular that from now on, all S2 pupils studying Physics will be given the opportunity to achieve this award. Well done to the pupils and Miss Gray!

A Portrait of Madras

Copies of this fascinating photographic record of

A Year in the Life of the School

is available through the school office - £29.



INFORMATION



YOUR M&S



We are pleased to announce that our school has joined M&S' 'Your School Uniform' initiative that enables you to purchase school uniform with the school's emblem and help the school at the same time.

You can buy our school-specific uniform from our dedicated online shop at www.marksandspencer.com/yourschool. There you will find the range of Madras College uniform including embroidered products along with plain trousers, skirts, shirts and more. Please note that both the Madras blazer and tie will be available for purchase by the end of June from M&S.

Alternatively, Madras Uniform can be ordered by going into any Marks and Spencers store or by calling 0845 603 1603.

Furthermore, each time you buy from our dedicated online shop on www.marksandspencer.com/yourschool, we get 5p cash back on every £1 you spend.

To find out more about how to make the most out of M&S' 'Your School Uniform', please see the information which is available on the school's website. If you prefer, we have some printed copies of this information available on request from the school office.

To further support the school's fundraising efforts, the Parent Council have registered for 'easyfundraising'. By logging on to www.easyfundraising.org.uk and signing in as a supporter of Madras College, you will be able to access Marks and Spencers as one of the suppliers. This will add to the school's fundraising efforts.

If you have any comments or feedback, please do not hesitate to contact Morag Wilson in the school office on 01334 659401 or by emailing morag.wilson@fife.gov.uk.

Athletics

• **Multi-Events**

At the recent Fife Schools' Athletic Multi-Events championships the pupils performed well. They each competed in 5 events throughout the day and received the following medals: Emma Malcolm (S1) and Eve Primmer (S2) won Gold, Angus Paton (S1) won Silver and Abbie Hendry (S1) won Bronze. Three of the pupils also finished in 4th place. This was a great achievement against many of the Fife Schools.

• **Track and Field**

Following on from their success at the Fife Schools' Multi Events, 45 pupils from S1 – S5 took part in the Fife Schools' Track and Field Championships held on Tuesday 12th June at Pitreavie Stadium. Many of the pupils reached the finals of their events, narrowly missing out on a medal, however Madras College returned with an excellent haul of medals; 6 gold, 13 silver and 11 bronze.



The following pupils won gold medals: Abbie Hendry (S1) – 200 m and 4 x 100 m relay, Emma Sharratt (S1) – Long Jump and 4 x 100 m relay, Emma Malcolm (S1) – 70 m Hurdles and 4 x 100 m relay and Megan Wilson (S1) – 4 x 100 m relay, Sophie Pettegree (S2) who broke the school record in the Javelin this year, threw a personal best of 23.96 m, Jack Bremner (S2) – 80 m Hurdles and Daniel Duthie (S4) – Long Jump.



Football

Madras College U18 football squad narrowly missed out on retaining the Fife Schools' U18 League Shield, but, needing a victory over Queen-Anne High School in the last game, they unfortunately drew 2-2 and finished runners-up to Queen-Anne. Madras also reached the last sixteen in the Scottish Shield.

Hockey

Sophie Pettegree represented Midlands U14 Mixed Hockey Team in May. She scored 9 goals in the Inter-District Tournament, scoring the winning goal for the 'A' Team, to finish in first team place.

End of Term

Thursday 28 June 2012

School Closes

at 12.30 pm

School Travel Passes

For the last few years, high school pupils have been issued with a myfife Card, which doubles as their bus pass if they are entitled to free school transport. Travel entitlement was shown as a coloured circle on the front of the card, for example a red circle for travel on a red bus route.

Due to changes in the National Entitlement Card Scheme, it is no longer possible to have a combined myfife Card and bus pass. Travel entitlement will be removed from the myfife Card from July 2012. A new, separate School Travel Pass will be issued to high school pupils instead. This will be sent to all entitled pupils' homes before the start of term in August. Pupils will retain their myfife Card - which can still be used for other services, such as libraries and school meals but myfife Cards will not be accepted for travel to/from school from August 2012, even if they still have the coloured circles printed on the front of them.

Please be aware that it is not possible to change the colour of the bus pass. If your child is experiencing a problem on the school transport this should be reported, in the first instance, to his or her Guidance Teacher.

i DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

School Begins

Wednesday 15th August 2012

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

(all dates inclusive)

Mon 8 to Fri 19 Oct 2012

Mon 24 Dec 2012 to Fri 4 Jan 2013

Thurs 14 and Fri 15 Feb 2013

Fri 29 Mar to Fri 12 Apr 2013

Mon 6 May 2013

Mon 3 Jun 2013

Mon 1 Jul to Fri 9 Aug 2013

INSERVICE

Mon 13 and Tues 14 Aug 2012

Thurs 15 and Fri 16 Nov 2012

Mon 7 Jan 2013

Wed 13 Feb 2013

Tues 4 Jun 2013

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