



# Summer Newsletter

Madras College Newsletter

June 2013

## Rector's Message

It is my great pleasure to write to you this week as Rector of Madras College. Since joining the school at the end of May I have been privileged to engage with over 40 classes where the young people have shown me their work and shared their thoughts about their learning. This experience combined with several discussions with staff and enquiries from parents have formed the basis of our Board of Studies' (Rector and Depute Rectors) review of our progress. Consequently we believe there are four key priority areas which should be addressed in our improvement agenda for session 2013/2014: the ethos and image of the school, exam attainment, further development of the curriculum and greater rigour in our quality assurance (and self-evaluation) process. Consultation with the school staff on our improvement priorities is currently under way and I would welcome parent/carer/pupil comments on the improvement agenda. To achieve this, a hard copy consultation form will be issued to all parents/carers/pupils via the pupil schoolbag (or by request to the office) for your consideration and return to the school office.

As a school we are already embracing the changes we feel are fundamental to the improvement of the school and I sincerely ask for your support in the delivery of these changes. To support the image and ethos of the school we are looking forward to all pupils from S1 through to S6 wearing the Madras College school uniform. I am also looking forward to meeting, daily, with groups of pupils to hear their views on the school and Mr Millar will be forming a group of pupils to discuss and determine a revised set of school values.

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## Mathématiques sans frontières



L to R: Georgia Butler (S5 Captain), Matthew McAnaw (S4 Vice-Captain),  
Chris Fyfe (S4 Captain), Ethan Dickson (S5 Vice-Captain)

Once again our S4 and S5 teams retained the shield as Scottish winners in the Mathématiques sans frontières competition. This competition requires the pupils to work effectively in teams and tackle mathematical problems set in both English and foreign languages – a true cross-curricular challenge.

44 days  
of summer  
Online  
Planner



Fife Council has created an online activity planner for children and young people to get the best out of this summer in Fife! Visit [www.fifedirect.org.uk/summer](http://www.fifedirect.org.uk/summer) and browse through the activities or click on the map of Fife to see what's available nearby.

The Outdoor Fife website is also packed full of ideas offering somewhere to go or something to see, no matter what the weather! Visit [www.outdoorfife.com](http://www.outdoorfife.com) for some inspiration.

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To support attainment, the school will move to the traditional attainment model of horizontal year teams to allow greater focus on attainment of all pupils and individual pupil need. We will still retain our house system for registration and competition and will also review our “vertical” support structure in the delivery of targeted support for those pupils who are identified as requiring this support.

To support improved rigour in our quality assurance (and self-evaluation) process we will be moving to a rolling programme of department reviews. The first three departments to be reviewed in the new session will be Mathematics, Social Subjects and English who have volunteered to be first.

Consultation continues regarding the proposals for a single-site for our school and Mr John Urquhart (Depute Rector) has been asked to represent the school in the 2013/2014 discussions regarding this issue.

We feel there are really exciting times ahead for the school and we are very much looking forward to the new S1 joining us in the new session and to taking the school forward with vigour and rigour.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for welcoming me to your school and for your support in my first few weeks as Rector. I sincerely hope that next session is a rewarding one for all of our pupils and I wish you and your family a very pleasant summer break.

*David P. McClure.*

# Staffing News

Dr Cuthbertson, Mathematics Department, is retiring. Mr Gourlay is on secondment to the SQA and acting as PT in his absence is Mr Trewartha. Mrs Drylie, Modern Languages Department, is retiring after 14 years at Madras.

Two members of staff are moving to Glenwood Secondary: Ms Burns (Music) and Mrs Nisbet, (Home Economics), while Mr Fox (Biology) is moving to Lochgelly.

Mr Walker, Design and Technology Department, is taking a year out and heading to Egypt to teach.

Mr Dewar, PTC Expressive Arts, is leaving after 15 years at Madras. Also leaving Madras are Ms Bassilious, (English Department), Mr Clifford, (Physics Department) and Mrs J Dobie (PE Department). We also say goodbye to Mr Shively, Library Assistant and most recently, supply teacher.

Lastly we say goodbye to our 3 probationer teachers: Mrs Cairra; (Social Subjects), Mrs Malecki (Business and Computing) and Mr Mackenzie (Biology). Our grateful thanks to them all for their commitment and dedication and we wish them good health and every success in the future.

Our thanks to SQA Co-ordinator, Mrs Adamson and her team of Invigilators, Readers and Scribes, and to all the supply staff who have worked with us this term.

## Retirement of Mr Jones

Mr Jones left the school at the end of May after 6 years as Rector. His time at the school will be remembered for his strong leadership and commitment to see a new Madras built.

Although Mr Jones has retired from Scottish Education, he has taken up post as Principal of a school in Dubai.

We wish him all the best in his new post.

### *‘A Buzzard’s Kill’*

*by Campbell Paton (S1)*

A buzzard circles through the air,  
Searching for rabbits’ hidden lair.  
Up and up, she glides over the land;  
Wings spread out like fingers of a hand.

Well-trained eyes scan the grouse,  
Waiting for her first main course.  
A rush of wind, she takes her aim,  
Driving down to kill the game.

Wings cupped over her precious meal,  
Hiding from predators to steal.  
Content with her kill, she’s had her most,  
Ready to digest. Perched on the old gate post...

## English Teachers

Mr Hynes and Mrs Comber have been invited to write materials to help teachers teach ‘Robinson Crusoe’ and ‘Tally’s Blood’ for the new English National 5 course by Education Scotland. Both teachers have also presented workshops to provide practical ideas for lessons embracing: plot, setting, presentation of character, structure, style and theme, and to highlight parallels and contrasts in the texts as a whole. Their most recent presentation was in Edinburgh and very well received by teachers.

## From Pupil to Teacher

Andrew Wallace, who was once a pupil at Madras College, recently visited a number of English teachers at school to observe lessons and to discuss the similarities and differences encompassing the Scottish and English educational systems. He was keen to learn how the systems compared in terms of: the way literature is assessed, approaches to inspections, their distinct values and merits. Findings will be presented back to his peers who are completing their PGCE teacher training course in England.

# Mathematics Department News 2012/13

Pupils in the Mathematics department have continued to experience a wide range of activities and opportunities that are afforded by the new CfE courses. Classes have been applying their numeracy and mathematics skills to decorate and carpet houses, design new food containers, build towers, design wall murals and investigate the mathematics involved in operating a hair salon. As well as their normal classroom lessons some pupils took their learning outside and got involved in 'National Pi Day' and 'Red Nose Day' celebrations, videos of which can be found on the school website.

Our pupils continue to excel in the many National maths competitions they are given the opportunity to participate in. In the junior, intermediate and senior UKMT and SMC Maths Challenges we achieved an impressive haul of bronze, silver and gold certificates, and retained the shield as Scottish winners in the Mathématiques sans frontières competition.

The Maths department staff showed their charitable side when they got together and hummed their favourite film and TV theme tunes for a Red Nose Day charity CD. A limited run of 200 CDs sold out in less than 2 hours and raised £200 for Comic Relief – fortunately audio clips are not available on the school website!

Some staffing changes have seen Mr Gourlay temporarily leave the department on a secondment opportunity with the SQA and the end of this term will see Dr Cuthbertson retire after 6 years at the school. He will be putting his puzzle-setting skills to good use and may be responsible in the future for the mathematical puzzle in your daily paper that takes you the entire weekend to solve! We all wish him well and hope he enjoys his well-earned rest.

## Speedway Championships



Cycling in Madras has gone from strength to strength with the Speedway team reversing their loss to Queen Anne High School away, then combining with them to make a Fife Select who fought a close match against Edinburgh Falcons on the purpose-built outdoor park at Redbraes. This match proved to be ideal preparation for the Scottish Schools Cycle Speedway Championships which were held a few days later in Glasgow and the four riders John Law, Vasilii Hill, Glen Burnett and Jack Bremner displayed superb bike handling skills to win this national event; an impressive result from a team just a few months old and still developing.

The cycling squad also competed in the Fife Schools' Criterium held on the Kirkcaldy High Street as a precursor to the Tour Series televised event. Madras narrowly missed out on the team prize but individual rider, Jack Bremner, stormed through the event on a mountain bike and won against other riders on proper road bikes!

The team travelled again to Glasgow to spectate at the British National Road Race Championships where some of our riders hope to compete in the not too distant future!

Next term will also see the squad travel to Peebles to take in the Tour of Britain and a visit to the Chris Hoy Velodrome in Glasgow to try out the track.



# Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award group has had another very successful year. We will have 3 students at the garden party in July receiving their gold awards. There have also been 14 silvers and 12 bronze awards issued.

On the expedition front we have 8 golds, 17 silvers and 20 bronzes all fully involved and successfully navigating the Scottish mountains. The weather so far this year has been nicer to us – though colder (especially in the wind) it has been generally drier.

A big change for us is the staff. A huge commitment is put in voluntarily by them and underpins the whole ability to run the award. Sadly (for us anyway) we have waved goodbye to Mr Gibbins (in November), Mr Jones (in May) and Mrs Nisbet (in June), and over the summer Mr Fox moves on to pastures new. Mr Walker also leaves us temporarily to go to Egypt (he can't hack the rain anymore!).

A huge thank you must go out to all the staff for all the hard work, pupil-chasing and bureaucracy that goes on. Next year's award may well need to be scaled down but those involved are sure to have a great time even if Scotland reverts to form and the weather (and midges!) return.

## Increase to School Meal Charges

In April 2013 the price of a secondary school meal rose to **£1.75** per day.

Over and above the cost of a school meal, milk cartons are charged at **18 p** per carton and the breakfast club is **50 p**.

# M U S A

## Young Artist Award 2013

This award is an annual Art Competition, which had 417 entries from all across Fife. The competition is organised by the University of St Andrews Museum Collections Unit and supported by the Fife Branch of the National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies.

The theme for this year's competition was X Marks the Spot to link with the University's outstanding objects of gold and silver.

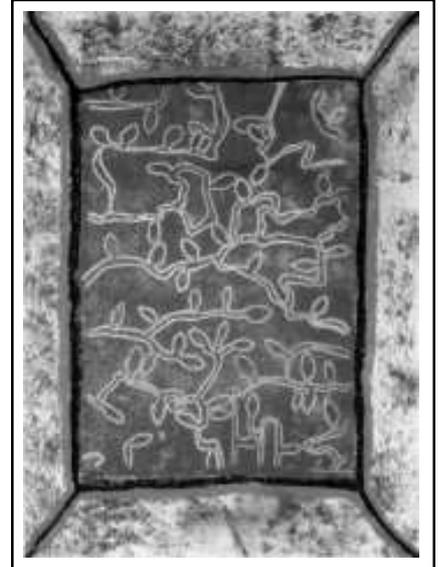
Entries were judged by Dr Julian Luxford from the School of Art History, University of St Andrews, Susan Richmond and Elizabeth Black from the Fife Branch of the National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies and Alison Hadfield from the Museum Collections Unit. Winners were chosen on the basis of: originality and creativity, confident handling of materials, boldness and impact and an obvious link to collections at MUSA.

Four Art pupils from Madras College were recognised for their efforts and were awarded prizes: 1st prize in category F: Liam Mason (S2), 2nd prize in category E: Alastair Primmer (S1), 3rd prize in category E: Hannah Thorne (S1), Merit in Category E: Nicole Smith (S1).

A very special thanks must go to Naomi Muir, Curatorial trainee, and Matthew Sheard, Learning Access Curator, who came into the school to deliver workshops to the pupils. Winning entries are displayed at the Gateway Galleries between 25 May and 10 August.



1st: Liam Mason



3rd: Hannah Thorn



2nd: Alastair Primmer



Merit: Nicole Smith

# Modern Languages

## Baccalaureate

This year, once again, Madras College presented pupils for the Scottish Languages Baccalaureate - one of only two schools in Fife with presentations for this award. The two 6th year pupils, Hannah Gray and Jonas Neukirch, produced excellent Interdisciplinary Projects, both achieving Grade A.

## Competitions

### • Translation

Hannah Gray and Jonas Neukirch (both S6) competed in an EU-wide competition for translation from and into a range of European languages. Although not overall winners, they performed well in this competition.

*The Modern Languages Department has had great success in two competitions:*

### • European Day of Languages

The European day of Languages entry was awarded first place with a prize of £500 Amazon vouchers for the department. This included videos of the day's activities, including language workshops in Russian and Arabic conducted by lecturers from the University of St Andrews and a Parents' Evening with speakers from across Scotland.

### • UK German Connection

The department's entry for the UK German connection competition for two schools working together on a project was a joint project from Madras College and our exchange school, the Kieler Gelehrten Schule, on an Olympic theme. This picked up third prize with £250 for each school.

## Euroscola

In February, Ben Peddie (S6), supported by the Rotary Club attended Euroscola in the European Parliament in Strasbourg. Ben acquitted himself well and asked a question in the Parliament.

## Conference

Megan Pettegree was selected along with 29 other young people from the UK to take part in a conference with 30 German youngsters in Berlin. Topics included environmental issues and education.

## China Trip

This summer a group of six pupils from Fife will visit China and we are fortunate that two of the pupils from Madras College have been selected. The pupils are Fiona Powrie and Sam Bowden (S6). They will receive intensive Mandarin lessons as well as visiting many cultural sights during their three week trip.

## Mothertongue Plus Two

## Foreign Languages

The Modern Languages faculty has also been selected to be part of the Scottish Government Pilot of 1+2 (Mother tongue plus two Foreign Languages). The selection by the National Centre for Languages was based on the range of languages taught in Madras College. The faculty was awarded £8000 for this important project which sees the launch of the Languages for Life and Work Award in the new session.

## 1st French Exchange

The first French exchange between Loches and Madras College arrived on 13th June. Their activities included trips to the Discovery in Dundee and to Edinburgh. This replaces the previous exchange with Poitiers. The return leg to France takes place in September. Next year sees the launch of a Spanish exchange.

## 56th Kiel Exchange Visit



Twenty-five S3 and S4 pupils took part in the 56th Madras-Kiel Exchange from the 10th June – 20th June.

The recent spell of good weather helped to make the exchange all the more enjoyable.

The pupils visited the National Museum of Scotland and Dynamic Earth in Edinburgh. Visits to Stirling, Dunnottar Castle near Stonehaven and Verdant Works in Dundee also featured on the programme.

The German pupils took part in a music lesson with Mr Bell and the German and Scottish pupils competed against each other in a number of sporting activities organised by Mr Munn. The German pupils were also introduced to golf down at the driving range.



Thank you to all pupils who performed at the Farewell Evening. The ceilidh which followed the talent show passed all too quickly. We now look forward to returning to Kiel in 2014.

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# Creative Arts Students Showcase their work, at the “Sew Arty” Exhibition



Creative Arts students from all year groups within Madras College presented their work to parents and the public in their annual “Sew Arty” exhibition which was held on 26th and 27th March.

The exhibition contained a diverse selection of two and three dimensional work from the Art and Home Economics departments, and was a great demonstration of the diversity of art, craft and design produced by students throughout the year.

Special thanks go to S6 pupils Calum Grewar and Geir Darge for their musical accompaniment on the opening night.



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# Being Proud to be a Madras Pupil

It has long been recognised that one major aspect of a successful school is that pupils have a strong set of values which include a recognised pride in their school and a respect for their community. Alongside high attainment and good behaviour, the wearing of school uniform is a major influence on how the community and others perceive a school and the calibre of its young people.

We are asking that all young people, from S1 through to S6 wear school uniform from the start of the new session in August 2013. Madras school uniform consists of: school blazer, school tie, plain white or light blue shirt or blouse, plain black or navy blue or Madras College jumper/cardigan, plain black or navy trousers or skirt and dark shoes. For those pupils who are appointed as senior prefects the school blazer will display braid and school badge.

## **What is not considered Madras College uniform?**

- Clothing which could potentially encourage disputes. For example: football colours such as tops, scarves, hats etc.
- Clothing which could cause offence to others. For example: shirts or tops with political slogans, anti-religious slogans, disrespect for others slogans, etc.
- Clothing which could cause health and safety (in the work place) problems. For example: some items of jewellery, baggy clothing, clothing made from flammable material etc.
- Clothing which carries advertising. For example: tobacco, drugs etc.

- Clothing which supports inequality. For example: expensive designer logos (which not all can afford), etc.
- Clothing which is leisure orientated. For example: low cut and /or cropped T-shirts, leggings, shorts, short skirts, jeans, denim jackets, baseball caps etc.

## **What other form of dress is considered suitable?**

- Ethnic/cultural dress which reflects a young person's culture or religion.

## **Being Safe in the school**

Madras College does not have a locking entry/exit system in either site which means the school is potentially vulnerable to external visitors. To ensure the safety of pupils and staff in an estate with this potential, four things need to be embedded in the practices of the school.

- 1 All pupils should be in school uniform while in school so that we know who is a pupil and who is not.
- 2 School managers should have a physical presence around the school to monitor classes (for learning) and monitor corridors, etc (for truants and intruders).
- 3 School staff should alert management if they suspect an intruder is on the premises. Since all staff (especially new staff) cannot be expected to know all 1300 pupils by sight we would expect an alert call for anyone not in uniform.
- 4 All staff and visitors to the school should display their "Fife Education" badge while on the premises.

## **How will we support Uniform?**

It would be naïve of the school to expect that there may not be times when a pupil at Madras College will forget (or mislay) an item of uniform on a given day. To support pupils when this happens the school will purchase and retain a stock of school uniform items which can be issued (on loan for the day) to any pupil. If a pupil has lost part of their uniform, the loan system can be extended until the item has been replaced—or the parent/carer can purchase (outright or in payments) the item from the school.

Madras College uniform can be purchased on-line or ordered from Marks and Spencer stores. Details are on our web-site or can be obtained from our offices.

The school is moving to a position of high expectations of standards in teaching, learning, attainment, achievement, pupil leadership and respect. Parental support for wearing of uniform will greatly help to ensure that we achieve our high expectations, that we improve our image and reputation and that Madras College once again takes its place among the top schools in Scottish Education.

# SPORTS NEWS

## Dates for Your Diary

### • ATHLETICS

Three days after his outstanding win at the Fife Schools' Multi Events, Struan Christie (S1) competed in the Scottish Schools' Triathlon Event at Grangemouth Stadium on Saturday 1st June. The three events were 600 m, Shot Putt and Long Jump. Struan finished in 2nd place, which is an excellent result at this level. Not only did he jump 5.05 m, which was the best jump in his age group, but he broke the school club record by 30 cm, which has been held since 1973.

The following Saturday, 8th June, four pupils represented Madras College at the Scottish Schools' Individual Track and Field Championships; Struan Christie (S1) – 100 m and 80 m Hurdles, Emma Malcolm (S2) – 75 m Hurdles, Abbie Hendry (S2) – 100 m and Corryn Christie (S5) – 200 m. Emma and Abbie performed well in their heats enjoying the experience at international level, but were unable to progress to the next round. Corryn finished 4th in her heat and qualified for the final, finishing in 8th place in Group A. Struan was 1st in his heat, 3rd in the semi-final and finished in 5th place in the final of Group D, 100 m. However in his heats in the 80 m Hurdles, Struan recorded a time of 13.08 s, which was fast enough to reach the final. Once again he found himself on the medals podium, winning a bronze medal in a time of 13.32 s, an outstanding achievement.

### • FIFE SCHOOLS CROSS COUNTRY

At the end of the Spring Term, 40 pupils travelled to Beveridge Park, Kirkcaldy to compete in the Fife Schools' Cross Country Championships. The weather was cold, but running conditions were ideal for all our pupils ranging from S1 to S5, with the snow holding off until all races were complete.

Sara Keracher (S1) finished 2nd in the Girls' Individual race. The S1 Girls Team finished in an excellent 1st place. (The top 4 finishers from each school count towards the team placing); Sara Keracher 2nd, Sally Hasselgren 5th, Isla Browne 7th and Zoe Duncan 9th. The S2/3 Girls' Team also matched the S1 girls' success, finishing in 1st place; Eve Primmer 6th, Eilidh Smyth 7th, Abbie Hendry 9th and Beth Constance 17th.

The S1 Boys were also successful coming home in 2nd Team Place; Struan Christie 4th, Alastair Primmer 5th, Campbell Palmer 12th and Keigan Reilly 13th. In the S2/3 Boys race, Jack Bremner won an individual bronze medal, helping his team to finish in 4th place.

### • HOCKEY

Sophie Pettegree (S3) was selected for the Midlands U15 Hockey Squad to compete in the Inter-District Championships held at the beginning of June; she scored 4 goals, helping Midlands finish in 3rd place.

### SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

(all dates inclusive)

Mon 7 to Fri 18 Oct 2013

Mon 23 Dec 2013 to Fri 3 Jan 2014

Thurs 13 and Fri 14 Feb 2014

Mon 31 Mar to Fri 11 Apr 2014

Fri 18th Apr 2014

Mon 5 May 2014

Mon 2 Jun 2014

Mon 30 Jun to Fri 15 Aug 2014

### INSERVICE

Mon 12 and Tues 13 Aug 2013

Fri 15 Nov 2013

Wed 12 Feb 2014

Tues 3 Jun 2014

## Contact Us

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### WEB-SITE

[www.madras.fife.sch.uk](http://www.madras.fife.sch.uk)

## Sports Day Winners

S1 Champions	Struan Christie	Sally Hasselgren
S2 Champions	Angus Paton	Abbie Hendry
S3 Champions	Jack Bremner	Jade McLaren
Senior Champions	Ross Marshall	Corryn Christie (1st Equal) Megan Pettegree (1st Equal)
Inter-house Sports Day Cup		Castle
Adam Scott Memorial High Jump Trophy		Daniel Duthie
Primary Relay Champions		Canongate Primary School

### End of Term

**Friday 28 June 2013**

### School Closes

**KR - 12.20 pm  
SS - 12.30 pm**

### New Term Begins

**Wed 14th August 2013**