



Easter Newsletter

Madras College Newsletter

March 2014

Cycle Speedway

Madras cyclists secured the inaugural Fife Inter-Schools Cycle Speedway Championship at Queen Anne High School in March. The final leg of this five-team, four-match series of tournaments was attended by Fife Provost, Jim Leishman who presented the impressive trophy to the winning squad.



Madras went into the final round with a 12-point advantage and in a closely fought competition riders Cameron Semple (S3), John Law and Jack Bremner (S4) and Vasili Hill (S2) gained the required points to win the tournament outright, therefore allowing the reserve riders to take the final races and experience the win. Paul Paterson (S1), Glen Burnett (S4) and Brodie Millar and Lewis Alsop (S2) completed the squad and each received a medal from Provost Leishman.

Next term will see the return of the Scottish Championships where the boys will be keen to retain the title they won last year in Glasgow.

Rector's Note

Since Christmas the main focus of the senior school has been directed towards encouraging our S4, S5 and S6 to achieve their full potential in the May SQA examinations which are now only a few short weeks away. The S4 and S5/6 Year Teams have been working very hard to ensure that all of our senior school pupils are on track or are re-coursed following a rigorous process of tracking and linking with pupils, principal teachers and parents. Study opportunities and sessions on revision have been running parallel to the final round of internal assessments as we approach the spring break. We have also put in place an Easter Support School Programme which has been copied to pupils and parents and which we hope will be well attended.

In S1, S2 and S3 we have continued our focus on good order, respect and responsibility as well as ensuring that we review our approaches to coursework assessment and resources for the Broad General Education, in light of the most recent information from the SQA and Education Scotland. This also includes a lot of work from our S1/2 and S3 Year Teams in tracking the progress of pupils and in supporting the course choices our S1 – S3 pupils have been making, in particular our S3 pupils as we start to develop our timetable for Session 2014-15 and prepare the pupils for transition to South Street and S4.

We are preparing for our annual Great Assembly that takes place in the Holy Trinity Church where our theme will be dealing with change. I am very grateful to Reverend Rory MacLeod for allowing us the use of the Holy Trinity Church and for playing an important part in the Assembly.

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School Meal Charges

The cost of a 2-course school meal is increasing from 1st April. The cost will be **£1.80** per day for pupils and **£2.90** for adults. Milk cartons will be **35 p** each.

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Our mid-session review of our practices and improvement plan concludes that we need to give significantly more attention to our assessment approaches and homework approaches (in S1 – S3), with much greater attention to linking with feedback on learning, linking with parents and looking at smarter ways to evidence SQA attainment while trying to reduce the workload and stress on pupils and staff. We have also been able to identify a set of generalised improvement priorities for next session and would welcome your thoughts on these proposed priorities which are listed below. (The proposal for 'Period 1' is to create a pupils support/improvement programme within the traditional registration time, linking to numeracy, literacy, study skills and employability skills for our S1/S2/S3 pupils.)

If you have comments or thoughts regarding these proposals, or others not listed, please email the school office or contact the Parent Council through our Chairperson Paul Brown.

Attainment

- Develop a coherent framework for assessment (linking to tracking, target-setting, transition, feedback and employability skills)
- Develop a coherent homework approach (S1 – S3)
- Further develop our S1 – S6 tracking system
- Further develop our delivery of the achievement agenda
- Investigate the new Senior Phase Benchmarking Toolkit as a measure of school success
- Review our approach to whole school support

Curriculum for Excellence

- Develop a 'Period 1' rationale and implementation
- Continue to develop our CfE courses
- Develop the new Glow IT package to support pupil learning

Ethos

Further develop our improving the image of Madras agenda (through ethos and expectations)

Leadership

Develop a more substantial PT/PTC role approach

Parent Link

Investigate a new e-format reporting system

Self-evaluation

Further develop our self-evaluation systems

The school prospectus for Session 2014-15 has just been completed and should be available for viewing on our website just after the Easter break. The school will also issue an SQA examinations and study leave arrangements information letter to S4/S5/S6 pupils before the start of the Easter break and this too should be available for viewing on our website just after the Easter break.

Our focus next term will be on planning for Session 2014-15 and supporting our pupils in their exams, their learning and their transition to the next stage – as appropriate to each individual. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for the huge support you have given me since my appointment earlier in the session and to wish you all a very enjoyable Easter break.

D McClure, Rector

Staffing News

This Friday we say farewell and grateful thanks to Mrs Irene Nicholson who has served up many cups of tea and coffee for over 12 years to Madras Staff.

This term Miss McKimmie, Modern Studies teacher left to take up a post at Rossie Young People's Trust and we welcomed Mrs Tennant to the Department.

We also welcomed back Miss Bassilious to the English Department and Mr Waterston to the Support for Learning Faculty.

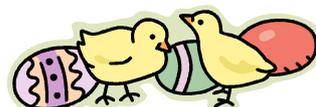
Last but certainly not least we would like to thank all the temporary and supply teaching staff who have worked with us this term.

Farewell to Ms Grubb

Ms Grubb leaves Madras College on Friday, 28th March to take up her new post in West Calder High School as Depute Headteacher.

In her time with Madras College Ms Grubb has been our lead person with responsibility for all matters connected with Targeted Support from P7 transfer to S6. Her expertise has been outstanding and her knowledge and leadership will be extremely difficult to replace, she will be a very hard act to follow.

We wish Ms Grubb the very best in her future career at West Calder High School and know that she will take with her many fond memories and anecdotal stories. She will be sorely missed by staff and pupils.



Fife Festival of Music Achievements

Over 100 pupils from Madras College performed in the Fife Music Festival. There were some terrific performances from individuals and groups taking part in competitive and non-competitive classes.

Congratulations go to Ellenor Waddell (S4) who won the Clarsach advanced class, Sam Vincent-Kilbride (S2) who won the Guitar advanced class, Hannah Visocchi who won the 18 and under Vocal Solo: Light Opera/Musicals/Gilbert and Sullivan.

In the group classes Platinum awards were given to James Primmer (S6) and Michael Sharp (S4) for their piano duet performance and to the Senior Choir. Gold awards were given to the S2/3 Choir, the Wind Band and the Folk Group.

The S1 choir, Junior fiddle group, Clarsach group and the Pipe band all gave great performances in the non-competitive class.

Eco Rotary Forum



Twenty pupils representing S1 - S6 attended the Schools Forum at the Scores Hotel on Tuesday 4th March. Our pupils, alongside pupils from Waid, Bell Baxter and St Leonards were divided into four discussion groups in order to discuss four topics: Nuclear Energy, Replacement Fuels, Fracking and Wind Power. These topics were presented by four students from the University of St Andrews. Overall, the day was a great success and the Rotary have offered Madras places in future events.

Fife Schools' Burns Competition

Congratulations to all taking part in the Fife Schools' Burns Competition. The following are the results:

S5/6 Speaking

1st - Matthew MacAnaw

S3/4 Singing

3rd - Verena Stephens

S5/6 Singing

2nd - Joanna Stark

S5/6 Instrumental

1st - Joanna Stark

Events Management



To demonstrate their skills in planning, organising and evaluating small-scale events, pupils in the Events Management elective worked in small groups to organise various events to raise money for selected charities.



A mixture of bake sales, coffee mornings and X-Box competitions were successfully put together and a total of £245 was raised. Donations were made to Cancer Research UK, Teenage Cancer Trust, Children in Need and MacMillan

Business and Enterprise S2 Trade Fair



Although the Fair took place in November, it has taken a while to bring together all the results of the different areas we were assessing to finally arrive with the results for the "Best Brand" and the "Best Profit". Whilst every group did really well on the day with their ideas, products, promotional material and selling expertise, there can only be one winner for each category. During assemblies in February, the award for Best Brand was presented to 2C2 "Scrafty Keyrings" and the award for Best Profit went to 2C3 "Banging Beads and Cracking Candles".



Cancer Support, showing the pupils' commitment to social responsibility. Pupils are now developing their skills further by organising an event for all S3 pupils to celebrate their time at Kilrymont before moving on to South Street and the senior phase of learning.



Inspiring Enterprise Conference



Thirty pupils from S5/6 Higher Business Management attended a two-day conference in February, designed to inspire our budding entrepreneurs, future leaders and managers. Apart from enhancing presentational skills and business knowledge, the course encouraged teamwork and promoted self-confidence in our Business students.

A programme of seminars and workshops were delivered by representatives from a range of business environments. This year's programme provided our senior Business Education pupils with an opportunity to be involved in problem-solving activities in relation to design production and development, social media, engineering, marketing and human resource management.

All the teams had a really enjoyable two days giving original and humorous presentations of their own. Each group had a scenario to work within – connected to either a hotel chain, music festival, events management, political party or transport company. The political party with their snappy slogan “You’re Only Young Once” came second but the prize for this year went to “Travel Travel” who, not surprisingly from the name, had to design a new transport system.

A BUSY TERM FOR S4

It has been a very busy term for the current S4 year group.

With the new Curriculum for Excellence National Courses being implemented this year, the S4 cohort have had to work extremely hard to meet course deadlines and pass unit assessments. The pupils have applied themselves with a positive attitude and risen to the challenge.

A group of pupils recently presented at a S3 Assembly to raise awareness of the demands of S4.

57th Kiel Exchange

Preparations are now well underway for the 57th Kiel Exchange visit.

A group of 17, S3 and S4 pupils, accompanied by Miss Orem and Mr Munn, will travel to Kiel in June. The S4 pupils are looking forward to meeting up with their partners whom they hosted last year. The S3 pupils will meet their partners for the first time.

We hope that news of the trip will feature in the summer newsletter.



Glow is the national intranet for Education which is available to all pupils and staff working in Scotland's schools. It offers access to high quality learning and teaching resources with material written specifically for the Scottish curriculum. Glow provides a trusted and safe environment for pupils and teachers and is available anytime, anywhere across Scotland and beyond.

Fife Council has now enabled schools to make use of the new products such as:

- The Launch Pad
- Cloud Storage - each user will have upto 25Gb of storage.
- Office 365 Web Apps - Word, Excel, Powerpoint, Lync, Sharepoint, One Note.
- Glow Mail (Outlook)
- Video Conferencing
- Collaboration Tools
- E-Portfolios



At Madras College all our S1 to S3 pupils are being given access to this facility this term with the intention of rolling this out to our senior pupils later in term.



S2 Crest Projects

All S2 physics pupils were given the opportunity to achieve a British Science Association Bronze Crest Award. This requires the pupils to select an aspect of physics that they are interested in and carry out research on it. Pupils then have to present their findings to their peers. These projects allow communication, research and presenting transferable skills to be improved. Projects ranged from "Dark Matter" to "the Physics of Dance". Pupils should find out after Easter if their entries were successful.

SCOTTISH SPACE SCHOOL

Congratulations go to Stanley Ho and Thomas Shaw (both S5) for being accepted into the highly competitive Scottish Space School which is held in June at the University of Strathclyde. The boys will face team building and problem solving tasks. If successful, the boys may get the opportunity to go visit NASA in Houston, USA.

British Physics Olympiad

For the first time in many years, pupils in the senior school competed in the British Physics Olympiad. National Five pupils competed in the GCSE challenge and performed really well. Twenty-eight achieved Commendations, 7 achieved Bronze Certificates and special mention goes to Romy Niven and Ellie Gudgin (both S4) who achieved Silver Certificates. All pupils involved should be proud of their achievements as the GCSE follows a different syllabus.

Pupils from the Higher classes also participated in a competition for their level and we should hear soon about their achievements.

Summer Headstart Course

Stanley Ho has been successful in gaining a place on a Headstart course in the summer. He will get the opportunity to experience university life by attending lectures and activities. Headstart has been established for more than 16 years as a charitable trust providing hands-on Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) activities and engineering taster courses to encourage young people into technology-based careers.

S4 Laugh in the face of exams

The "Tree of Knowledge" company returned to Madras on the 12th and 13th March to lead sessions to groups of S4 pupils.

Rocky Mountains Ski Trip April 2014

Twenty-six pupils and three members of staff are going to the Rocky Mountains in Denver during the Easter holidays to ski and snowboard in Winter Park, Colorado.

This will be the second time the school has visited this fantastic resort in the Rocky Mountains.

Scottish Qualifications Authority Exams

The SQA exam diet runs from Tuesday 28th April to Friday 6th June. A copy of the timetable can be found on:

http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/ExamTimetable2014.pdf

Study leave will begin for S4/5/6 on Friday 25th April at 3.30 pm. The new academic session will begin on Wednesday 4th June. A programme of activities is being created in school and in partnership with Fife College for pupils to opt into. More information will be given to pupils after the Easter break.

S4 Pupils National 5 Cake Decorating



Model United Nations

‘Munich’ Conference



Model United Nations (MUN) involves students assuming the role of delegates from various countries serving on UN committees. Committees may discuss human rights, the media, politics, economics or disarmament among others topics. Participants research issues and formulate negotiating positions based on the real interests of the countries they represent. Depending on the committee they are assigned to, delegates may develop global environmental policies or advise the UN Security Council on the use of economic sanctions.

MUN is a growing extra curricular activity at Madras College with a regular lunchtime club and after school debates. On 4th February Madras College sent fifteen pupils to Inveralmond Community High School for the inaugural ‘MUNICH’ Conference spread over three delegations; Israel, Rwanda and Iraq. The conference was a huge success with twelve MUN first-timers in the group. The Rwandan delegation took home top prize by winning the Best Delegation award and Zack Bedford was awarded best delegate in his committee. Alongside this, eleven delegates were commended or highly commended for their performance in their committee.

The event was well-run and enjoyed by all delegates. All recognised the value of the experience they gained and skills developed. MUN always welcomes new members interested in getting involved.

Zack Bedford, Abby Wilson, (S6)

International Conference

George Watson's College

On the weekend beginning 14th March, twelve passionate Madras College debaters travelled to George Watson's College in Edinburgh for their internationally renowned Model United Nations Conference. Schools travelled from across the UK and as far afield as America, Iran, Germany, Norway and Portugal to take part. This was the third consecutive year that a Madras delegation has attended this prestigious conference.

Model United Nations involves delegations representing UN member countries while debating important global issues. Amongst many other issues delegates discussed UN involvement in internal conflicts, tackling preventable disease, the rights of prisoners and regulation of the media.

This was a successful conference for Madras who represented Brazil. All involved performed admirably and four delegates won individual awards. Genevieve Jagger, a first time attendant and the youngest from Madras was awarded highly commended in the Human Rights committee as well as winning best junior delegate in the same committee. Jamie MacLeod was also highly commended alongside winning best junior delegate in his Political committee. Becky Adams was awarded highly commended in the Media committee and Ewan White was commended in the Environment committee.

The entire Madras Delegation were complimented on their positive attitude both at the conference and for the preparation they put in beforehand.

Conflict Resolution Event



On Wednesday 5th March, twelve third year pupils went to the University of St Andrews to take part in a day dedicated to international relations.

Madras were asked to be China and eight other schools from Fife each played the part of either Russia, USA, UK, France, Israel, Iraq, Iran and Saudi Arabia.

We were given a crisis and during the four sessions we could make different agreements or actions for or against other countries, trying to maximise outcomes for our own country.

This event was based on the principles of a Model United Nations conference.

At the end of each session, the media would do a round-up of the day's events and maybe twist a few of the stories to create additional drama.

The Madras delegation enjoyed an excellent day. All learned more about international relations, developed skills of negotiating and worked with different pupils from across Fife. The day also provided an excellent introduction to what Model United Nations can offer.

In and Around the PE Department

It has been another busy session of physical activity and sport at Madras College. With most of our Teams nearing the end of their respective seasons the following is a brief overview of what has been going on in and around the PE department since August.

The Swimming and Cross Country House Matches took place in early December with the Football Hockey, Rugby and Netball for all year groups in late February.

With Sports Day to come and the other departmental House points still to be awarded, Castle have a marginal lead over Priors with Blackfriars a close third so there is still all to play for in the summer games and athletics next term.

The PE Department would like to express our sincere thanks to all pupils, parents and staff for their help, support and understanding to date this year.

Football

The 1st XI won 10 of their 13 games played, losing both the league play-off and the Fife Cup Quarter Final to their old nemesis Queen Anne High School; they were finally defeated in the last 16 of the Scottish Cup by an in-form St Columba's RC High School from Dunfermline.

The U14 side reached the Fife Cup semi-final and have a Scottish Plate quarter-final to play in the last week of term while the U15 side, coached by Mr Dagless, were defeated in the last 16 of the Scottish Cup by Aboyne Academy in Aberdeenshire but have a Fife Cup Final to look forward to after Easter against Kirkcaldy High School.

The S1 team started their summer football campaign with a resounding win in the East section of the Scottish Schools' Football Association Cashback Sevens in Cupar.

Hockey



The fine weather this term has allowed all fixtures to be fulfilled with all 4 teams (S1, S2, S3 and a 1st XI) playing against Dunfermline High School, Morrison's Academy, St. George's School, Mary Erskine School, Robert Gordon's College and Dollar Academy.

Training has taken place at the University AstroTurf, which has enhanced the girls' skills. The senior and S3 teams trained on a Tuesday evening with the S1 and S2 training on a Thursday, from 4.00 pm until 5.00 pm. Further to this the numbers this year have been excellent with an average of 45 girls regularly attending practices.

Lydia Upton, Katie Duncan and Hannah McGinn from the senior Hockey squad have also been invaluable in helping to coach the S1 and S2 girls, regardless of weather and personal work commitments.

reached the quarter finals of the Silver section losing to Roberts Gordon's College in Aberdeen.

Netball

• S1

Following the 1st round of the Scottish Cup the S1 team progressed into the Bronze section. In the knockout stage they reached the semi-finals by beating Firhill High School and Cults Academy. They will play St Andrew's RC High School for a place in the final. Experience was developed further through friendly games against Woodmill, Beath and Queen Anne High Schools. The S1 Fife Schools' Tournament was held on Wednesday 26th March.

• S2

The S2 team secured second place in the Fife League behind Woodmill High School. They were knocked out in the semi-finals of the Fife Tournament by Buckhaven High School.

• S3



Following their victory in the Fife Tournament, the S3 team have also secured the title of Fife League Winners. In the Scottish Cup they

• Seniors



This term the Senior team were victorious in their Fife league games beating Glenwood High School 16-10, Auchmuty High School 30-3, and Buckhaven High School 15-8. These results allowed them to achieve 1st place in the Fife League. In the Scottish Cup excellent results in the 1st round placed them in the Gold section. In the last 32 a strong performance against Robert Gordon's earned a 45-40 win for Madras. St Andrew's Academy from Glasgow came to Madras in the last 16 to be knocked out by a result of 31-23 to Madras. The seniors face Duncanrig Secondary School in the quarter finals.

University-Madras Link

The link between Madras College and the University of St Andrews continues to flourish. The university sports staff and the PE department have worked together over the course of this session to provide a focused, structured, and hopefully, long term partnership. A lot of time has gone into targeting activities and pupil groups that can be mutually supported. Examples include our re-established basketball and volleyball programmes in both the junior and senior school led by university students; the sharing of facilities and equipment and the sharing of staff expertise to coach various activities across both establishments. Further to this those competing at national level in a number of sports have been given access to the universities gym and fitness suites in order to carry out an agreed Strength and Condition Programme that is specific to them in a bid to further support their development.

Athletics Sessions

With most of the extra-curricular activities winding up for the exam season, the PE department will again be offering athletics sessions after school where pupils can develop their performance across the full range of athletics events with a view to Sports Day, The Fife and Scottish Schools' Championships and the Commonwealth Games celebrations. The school tennis team will continue their season and the PE curriculum will focus on summer games and athletics. Further to this the Thursday morning training run which is open to everyone will continue throughout the summer term leaving the PE department, Kilrymont Road at 6.30 am!

Other Activities

In other activities that have been supported by parents, Madras has also had successful representation in the Fife Schools' Swimming Championships and The Scottish Schools' Cross Country Championships in Irvine.

In the latter competition Sam McInnes finished in an excellent 25th place in a field of over 200, S1 girls.

The four first year boys finished in 9th school team place: Alexander Thomson (33rd) Evan Shively (49th), Matthew Cuffley (73rd) and Archie Yarr (89th) with 180 boys competing in the U14 race.

Lunchtime Table Tennis

Table Tennis has proved a popular lunchtime addition to the extra-curricular programme and has provided a welcome alternative for pupils who want to play recreational or competitive table tennis.

Happy Easter



HOLIDAYS

(All dates inclusive)

Easter

Monday 31st March
to Friday 11th April 2014

Good Friday

Friday 18th April 2014

May Day

Monday 5th May 2014

June

Monday 2nd June 2014

Summer

Monday 30th June
to Friday 15th August 2014

IN-SERVICE DAYS

Monday and Tuesday
18th and 19th August 2014

PARENTS' EVENING

S2 Wednesday 15th May

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