



Easter Newsletter

Madras College Newsletter

March 2015

Rector's Message

The main focus for the senior school since Christmas has been the delivery of the National Curriculum with all the work which this entails. Encouraging our S4, S5 and S6 pupils completing folios, unit assessments and practical assignments, while trying to maintain a balance with all of the other elements of school life such as the Music Festival, Debating, Sport, Top of the Bench competition and Peer Tutoring as only some examples of the wider curriculum opportunities which have taken place.

As we look back on the term, it is hard to believe the amount of energy which staff and pupils have expended in the run up to Easter. Even now, as we break for the Easter fortnight, we have in place a busy Easter school programme across the two weeks with 43 half-day sessions for pupils to attend should they require some extra support during the break, especially since the SQA exams start only one week after our return from the Easter fortnight.

This term has also involved our S1, S3, S4 and S5 pupils making their option choices for the year ahead and I sincerely hope that the reports, subject information guides and support from staff (and parents) have helped everyone involved to make well informed choices.

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School Meal Charges

The cost of a 2-course school meal is increasing from 1st April. The cost will be **£1.90** per day for pupils and **£3.10** for adults.

Madras Team Gets Favourable Reaction



L to R: Coach Christopher Fyfe, Robbie Knight, Lawrence Brown, Tiger Mitchell, Joe Tough and Coach William Naismith

On Tuesday 27th January, Madras College triumphed in the regional final of Top of the Bench, a national competition organised by the Royal Society of Chemistry.

The team of Lawrence Brown (S2), Robbie Knight and Tiger Mitchell (S3) and Joe Tough (S4), led throughout, and finished the eight rounds with a comfortable 12.5 point advantage.

The contest was held at the Chemistry department of the University of St Andrews; questions ranged from naming obscure glassware, cracking cryptic chemical conundrums and culminated in a quick-fire buzzer round.

The final consisted of three other schools, High School of Dundee, Arbroath High School and Queen Anne High School, who had also progressed through three previous knockout rounds.

The pupils, representing the whole Tayside region, are now looking forward to the British final of Top of the Bench at the University of Loughborough on 25th April.



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The reporting (and tracking of progress) was delivered through our outgoing Management Information System, e1, which was delivered with a range of difficulties and IT hiccups. This term the school has been working on familiarisation with the incoming Information System, SEEMiS and after Easter all tracking and reporting will be carried out through SEEMiS, which is a very differently presented system. Visually (for reporting) the difference to e1 is significant and will take a bit of getting used to.

The winter has been quite long and our South Street campus has, as ever, borne some of the brunt of this. As a consequence, the wearing of school uniform in South Street was often masked by the need to wear warmer attire and some pupils lapsed into their former habit of not bringing their blazer to school. However, winter is behind us, spring is upon us and it is expected that all pupils will once again be able to demonstrate the support of their school by proudly wearing the Madras colours and uniform. This will be particularly important during the SQA exam period as it also supports the security of the campus during the exams.

In S1, S2 and S3 we have continued our focus on uniform, good order and responsibility towards learning, all of which have been in strong evidence in all of my corridor and classroom visits throughout the term. Even now, after almost two years of Headship at Madras, I am never failed to be impressed by the commitment to learning which I see in all subject areas. As well as this, the S6 Peer Tutors and the S3 Prefects (unique to Madras) have carried out their duties extremely well and are becoming an established strength within the school.

Our mid-session review of the current Improvement Plan concludes that we have developed a successful progress tracking system but, since it is linked to the outgoing e1 information system, one of our key priorities for next session will be to replicate the concept and implementation of our tracking in a new system, hopefully linked to the SEEMiS information system. 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. If you have comments or thoughts regarding these priorities, or others not listed, please e-mail the school office or contact the Parent Council through our chairperson, Mr Paul Brown.

Curriculum for Excellence

- Review Form Time input
- Continue to develop our CfE courses
- Continue to develop the new GLOW package
- Further develop our “partnership” CfE courses
- Further develop our DAS curriculum.

Attainment

- Review our tracking arrangements
- Further investigate the new INSIGHT data toolkit
- Review our reporting arrangements (SEEMiS)
- Develop our department attainment support/help arrangements
- Review our S4-S6 attendance monitor.

Self-Evaluation

- Continue to develop our self-evaluation systems.

Employability

- Develop a business partnership portfolio to support the employability agenda for Madras pupils.

The school handbook for Session 2015-2016 has just been completed and is available for viewing on our website. 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 2015-2016 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 continued support you have given me throughout the whole session and to wish you all a very enjoyable Easter break.

David P. McClure.

Sewarty



On Wednesday, 18th February, the Art and Home Economics Department showcased some of the finest work of students this year so far. Exhibits included S2's reworking of famous paintings such as Monet's "Impression Sunrise" and Van Gogh's "Sunflowers". Third Year self portraits, done in a variety of mediums, were another highlight as were the Department of Additional Support's pastel drawings of Hamish the Cat.

Pupils from Home Economics also displayed items of clothing which they had made, including skirts, dresses and even a jacket. There were also a variety of cuddly cats done in patchwork and a cot cover (see page 7 for more pictures).



The exhibition ran for two days and many parents welcomed the opportunity to see the talent of our pupils at the S1 Parents' Evening. Several of them commented on the extremely high standard throughout and at the enormous amount of work involved in putting the displays together.

Top of the Form Quiz



This term, Madras took part in the Top of the Form Quiz, organised by the Rotary Club of Glenrothes and held at Auchmuty High School.

Answering a variety of questions on such topics as “Around Fife” and “Science and Nature,” the team, comprised of Nina Munro (S4), Lawrence Brown (S2) and Jack Walker and Christopher Fyfe (S6), acquitted themselves well, scoring highly in the “Politics” and “News” rounds. Beath High School emerged victorious, defending their title from 2014. Madras will be training hard for next year’s event!

Fife Literature Quiz

Last week, two teams of S1 and S2 pupils travelled to Kirkland High School for the annual Literature Quiz. All of the secondary schools in Fife took part, answering ten rounds of questions ranging from Classic literature to contemporary literature and cartoon characters!



The competition was very close, with only a few points separating the top teams. Madras Team 1 came fourth overall. The pupils really enjoyed the experience of competing against other schools. “The day was really fun” commented one S1. “I liked the spot prizes and the fact that we all got a book to take home at the end” said another.

Carnegie Medal Shadowing Challenge

Every year a group of avid readers from S1 take on the Carnegie Medal Shadowing Challenge. This entails reading eight books in eight weeks and seeks to challenge even the keenest of readers. This year, the books cover a number of topical and thought provoking issues and themes such as slavery, family relationships, disability, Aboriginal culture and death. Each pupil will post reviews on the shadowing site and then vote on a winner as the Carnegie committee does the same, via a live stream from Carnegie Headquarters.

Twelve Angry Men

This term, 40 senior pupils and 4 English teachers travelled to Edinburgh to see a performance of “Twelve Angry Men” starring Tom Conti, at the Kings Theatre, Edinburgh. This text is studied in Higher English and pupils welcomed the opportunity to see a live performance of a text with which they are very familiar. The show was extremely well received and despite the apparent simplicity of both the set and the plot, had the pupils discussing both for much of the two hour journey home!



Fife Schools’ Burns Competition 2015

INSTRUMENTAL

S1/2	1st	Katie Grieve
	2nd	Isobel Grieve
S5/6	1st	Joanna Stark

SINGING

S3/4	3rd	Eilidh McGhee
S5/6	2nd	Alex Shield

SPEAKING

S1/2	2nd	Matthew Roe
S3/4	1st	Shannon Stewart
S5/6	1st	Matthew McAnaw
	2nd	India Butler

World Book Day



World Book Day was celebrated in style at Madras this year. All of S1 and S2 were given the opportunity to take part in a series of activities in the School Library. Assisted by Depute Mrs Robertson and Librarians Mrs Higgins and Ms Fraser, pupils were invited to take part in quizzes and games, all with a literary twist.

Comic Relief

This year Madras College did an astonishing amount of fund raising for Comic Relief.

- **Bake Sales**

There were three different bake sales all supporting Comic Relief.

On Tuesday, 10th March, Kate Ballantyne and Lucie Maix made £60 from their cake stand.

On Friday, 13th March, a number of S3 girls and the Practical Skills Class made and sold a selection of Red Nose Day themed cakes and biscuits during interval and lunchtime for Red Nose Day. Together they raised over £200 for Comic Relief.



- **Wear Something Red**

On Red Nose Day, further money was raised from a 'wear something red' day in which pupils were allowed to accessorise their uniform with something red, a guess the teddies name stall held by Bradley Jackson and a red nose scavenger hunt around the school.

Thanks to all the pupils and members of staff who helped out with the events or supported the schools efforts.

Money Raised

Kilrymont Road Staff and Pupils

raised a grand total of

£684.52

for Comic Relief

PHYSICS DEPARTMENT NEWS

Physics Challenge

Alasdair Reid (S6) gained a Merit for the Oxford University Physics Challenge.

Olympiad

In the British Physics Olympiad Stanley Ho, Jack McLean, William Naismith and Alasdair Reid, all S6, achieved commendations in the A level paper.

Eilidh Smyth achieved a bronze award with Sophia Zomerdijk-Russell, Erica Cumming and Michael Sharp achieving commendations for the AS level paper for S5 pupils.

Nathan Allan, Chloe Lee, Matthew Mitcham, Louisa Naismith, Cara Nicholson and Chi Vo, all S4, all achieved Bronze in the GCSE paper.

These are good results for papers based on the English examination system with different course content.

HEADSTART

Engineering Course

Sophia Zomerdijk-Russell has been selected for HEADSTART 'Insight into Engineering' course at Salford University.

Scottish Space School

Sophia Zomerdijk-Russell and Eilidh Smyth have qualified for the next round of the Scottish Space School competition. They will spend a week in June at Strathclyde University competing in team and individual challenges with the possibility of an all expenses paid trip to the Lyndon B Johnson Space Centre in Houston, USA.

Nuffield Science Bursaries

Seven pupils across the sciences have applied for the prestigious Nuffield Science Bursaries, where pupils undertake paid science research during the summer holidays. We will have to wait till May to hear if any have been successful.



Drama Department News

March has been a sensational month in Drama.

- Parents Night Shows for National 4 and National 5 have been a great success. Presented three nights in a row: Pupils have been performing *The Wall*, *Sparkleshark*, *Tally's Blood*, *Men Should Weep*, *The Exam* and *Shelter*. Plays that tackle real issues of stress, sectarianism, lost love and homelessness performed by very talented youngsters.
- Higher drama students have made it through their final acting exam with creativity, speed, ingenuity and alacrity. Magnificent performance feats, stretching their acting abilities to absorb and portray differing characters using separate extracts.
- Advanced Higher presented performances of *Pygmalion*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Hamlet* to a packed house of family and friends. They performed with creativity, thoughtfulness, insight and depth of emotion. Their final acting exam having been completed, they are ready to tread the boards of life.

Music Exams

Congratulations to the following pupils who recently sat Trinity College Music exams:

DISTINCTION

Grade 3 Cello	Katie Grieve
Grade 4 Piano	Cameron Dritschel
Grade 7 Piano	Michael Sharp
Grade 5 Saxophone	Jonathan MacLeod

MERIT

Grade 3 Piano	Amber Rendall
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Bell Baxter Centenary Competition

The annual inter-school music competition between Bell Baxter, Madras and Waid was held this week and the three selected Madras students, Michael Sharp (Piano), Alexandra Shield (voice), Joanna Stark (Cello) gave fantastic performances. 1st place went to Joanna Stark S6 and joint 2nd went to Michael Sharp.

FIFE FESTIVAL OF MUSIC ACHIEVEMENTS



YOUNG MUSICIAN 2015 WINNER

Congratulations to Joanna Stark who won the very prestigious Young Musician Class. She gave two outstanding performances on Piano and Cello.

Excellent performances were also given by Michael Sharp and Ellenor Waddell.

It was a great night of music-making and Joanna was a very worthy winner.

SOLO CLASSES - OUTSTANDING AWARDS

Open Clarsach Class

Ellenor Waddell

String Open Class and Piano Open Class

Joanna Stark

Piano Open Class

Michael Sharp

Piano Open Class

Arran Tarvet

Advanced Piano Class

Katie Grieve

Guitar Advanced class

Arin Beaver

COMPETITIVE GROUP CLASSES

Platinum Certificates

Senior Choir

Senior String Orchestra

Folk Group

Young Chefs at Madras College

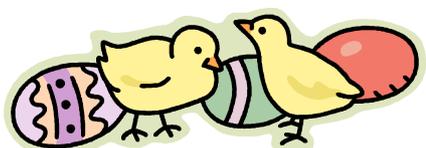


Five enthusiastic contenders subjected themselves to the stress of a "Cook Off" at Madras College, St Andrews, for a place in the Regional Finals of the Rotary Young Chef of the Year Competition 2015.

Organised by the Rotary Club of St Andrews, the hotly contested competition's Chief Judge was Craig Sneddon, the Head Chef at the Royal & Ancient Golf Club. Craig has previously been a Lecturer at Glenrothes College and has experience at Salon Culinaire competitions at National level.

Craig said "It was a very close call between Dayna Clark, who was runner up and Radu David, who was the overall winner. All contenders did very well under time pressures you see on television at Master Chef level"! Craig will mentor Radu in January for the Regional Final at Dundee College in February.

Overall organiser, Rotary Club member Eric Brown, a retired hotelier, was most impressed and delighted that Billy Smith, the Manager at Sainsbury's agreed to sponsor the ingredients and assist with menu details. Angela Duncan, Principal Teacher of Home Economics added "This Rotary International initiative is great for the school and the pupils taking part, and last year the Madras winner got through to the National Final".



Practical Skills Product Development Bake Off



Final Products



Winning Product

Practical Skills Class has been doing a Product Development Unit where they designed and made their own muffins. This work included choosing ingredients, costing the recipe, practising other recipes as well as designing and producing packaging before baking their final product. The products were then peer assessed with pupils choosing Anya McGladdery's 'Rainbow Swirl' as the overall winner.

Model United Nations 2015



Over the weekend of 13th – 15th March, six senior school pupils attended an international Model United Nations Conference held at George Watson's College, Edinburgh. Our pupils represented Kenya as they debated global issues and sought resolutions. Pupils debated tackling terrorism, combating Ebola, human trafficking and censorship of social media among other topics. All pupils demonstrated great knowledge, skill and enthusiasm across the weekend.

Genevieve Jagger (S5) and Jake Walker (S6) were also Highly Commended for their work in their particular committees.

Mathematics Department

Pupils in the Mathematics department have been busy applying their numeracy and mathematics skills in a wide variety of ways and contexts. Senior pupils have been kept busy with prelims and unit assessments as part of their National Qualifications and junior classes have been busy collecting, analysing and displaying data, researching famous mathematicians, and exploring the wonders of symmetrical designs!



The focus in South Street remains on preparations for final SQA exams and it has been great to see so many pupils making use of the extra study support sessions that staff are running at lunchtimes and after school. The Easter School that is running over the Easter holidays will provide further opportunity for pupils to benefit from additional support as there are a number of Maths support sessions taking place during this time. Pupils are being encouraged to produce an achievable revision plan which should include plenty of past/specimen paper practice in the run-up to their final exams.

Our pupils continue to excel in the many National maths competitions they are given the opportunity to participate in. In the recent intermediate UKMT maths challenge our S3 and S4 pupils achieved 17 bronze, 11 silver and 3 gold certificates between them. Mandy Jackson (S3) achieved the "Best In School" award and qualified for the next stage of the competition. Pupils from S4 and S5 had the opportunity to take part in the Mathematiques Sans Frontieres competition and we wait eagerly to find out if they have once again achieved a national top 10 finish.



S1 pupils and their 'Famous Mathematician' posters

The Easter holidays will see some staff changes taking place as Mr Gourlay returns to his post of PT Maths after a two year secondment with the SQA developing the new Higher and Advanced Higher courses. In addition, Mr Trewartha has just been appointed to a temporary position of PT Numeracy for the coming year. As a result of these changes we will bid a fond farewell to Mr Peter Donaldson who has been with us on a supply basis. All the staff and pupils who have had the pleasure of working with Mr Donaldson would like to take this opportunity to thank him for all the professionalism and enthusiasm he has shown in his time with us and wish him well in the future.

Sewarty Exhibition Photos



SPORT NEWS

ATHLETICS

The Scottish Schools' Indoor Athletic Championships were held at the Emirates Stadium Glasgow in February. Three pupils represented Madras College, Issy Olsen and Robert Sparks (both S2) and Campbell Palmer (S3). Issy competed in the 60 metres hurdles and the high jump. Although she did not win a medal she recorded a personal best jump of 1.50 metres, beating her sister's record, Alice Morrison (former pupil), who was also an excellent high jumper. Robert, competing in the 800 metres, missed out on running the final, but he also broke his personal best record by 2 seconds. Not to be outdone Campbell, running the 400 metres, also beat his record by 2 seconds, finishing in 9th place, just missing out on a place in the final.

SCOTTISH SCHOOLS' CROSS COUNTRY TEAM WINNERS

Boys Age Group 14-15



L to R: Robert Sparks, Antonio Boyd, Evan Shively, Alexander Thomson

OTHER SPORT NEWS

All news reports
from this term's sport
can be found on the school website

INFORMATION

HOLIDAYS

(All dates inclusive)

Easter

Friday 3rd April 2015
to Friday 17th April 2015

May Day

Monday 4th May 2015

June

Monday 1st June 2015

Summer

Monday 6th July 2015
to Friday 14th August 2015

IN-SERVICE DAYS

Tuesday 2nd June 2015
Monday and Tuesday
17th and 18th August 2015

SQA NATIONAL EXAMS

Tuesday 28th April 2015
to Friday 5th June 2015

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