



Christmas Newsletter

Madras College Newsletter

December 2016

Rector's Message

This year, as in previous years, we began our term with an analysis of our SQA results and a rush of activity changing and securing our S5/S6 course choices following the SQA results.

With regard to our SQA results I am very pleased to report to you that in 6 out of the 7 traditional measures of attainment (e.g. 5 at Higher in S5) we recorded increased attainment, for the third year in succession and for the second year in succession Madras has been placed in the Sunday Times Top 50 schools in Scotland as the sole representative for Fife.

The attainment report on schools has been changed this year from the 7 traditional attainment measures and now reports on Literacy, Numeracy, one or more at National 5 in S4; one or more at National 6 (Higher) in S5, four or more at National 6 (Higher) in S5; one or more, 3 or more, 4 or more, 5 or more at National 6 (Higher) in S6 and one or more at National 7 (Advanced Higher) in S6.

In Literacy S4 and S5 we recorded 93% and 92% respectively. In Numeracy we recorded 74% and 71% respectively - our highest recorded level (and above our comparator scores). In one or more National 5 in S4 we recorded 83% and in the 7 other key measures mentioned above we recorded increased attainment in 6 of the 7 measures with a slight decrease of 0.9% to 30.3% for one or more National 7 (Advanced Higher) in S6.

All in all a very successful set of results which I know are the best in Fife and are amongst the best in Scotland. I can only say again - very well done to all our pupils, parents/carers and staff for the very hard work

you have put in to achieve these overall attainments which I know are reflected in individual results.

As ever we have been working on improvements to our curriculum and have introduced further option choices in our Senior Phase, notably the introduction of National 5 and National 6 (Higher) Psychology, an S2/3/4 gardening group within our Youth Achievement Programme, a Foundation Apprenticeship Programme, Civil Engineering (Fife College) National Certificate and a TEFL course (with St Andrews University).

We have further developed our P7/S1 transition programme to include identifying the core Numeracy gaps in pupil knowledge/skills (which will be individual as well as collective) through a detailed analysis of our Numeracy transition process. The programme involves a strong partnership with our primary cluster colleagues. Indeed we delivered a very successful inset day programme to all cluster primary staff (and Madras College Maths staff) on "being secure in Maths". As well as this the programme is linked to our November primary roadshows to engage with future Madras S1 parents/carers on how we are identifying and then addressing those core Numeracy gaps.

Throughout the term our pupils have supported links with St Andrews University (linking with the undergraduate Sutton Trust Internship programme; the Madras FP Girls (providing music and presentations at their annual lunch event); the Tayside and Fife Hospital Charity, concert at The Caird Hall (Madras pupils performing); our S1 - S3 Charity Toy Drive (for Christmas) - to name but a few. As well as this our pupils have engaged in a wide range of trips,

excursions (which includes going to Ohio, USA) and a wide variety of out of school experiences.

I would like to thank everyone for their support of the school but particularly the staff for their continued hard work and endurance in the face of illness, absences and austerity and I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

David P. McClure.

Bake Sale - Children in Need



Christmas Toy Drive





Music Department



The music department has enjoyed another very busy start to the session with lots of school and community events.

- **Carol singing at the Community Hospital**

Mrs Nisbet took a choir of singers to the hospital where they delighted patients, staff and members of the public with their Christmas carol singing.

- **Christmas Concert**

The annual Concert and Christmas Market took place on Thursday the 16th of December. The showcase of talent included the Junior Choir, Senior Girls' Choir, Senior Mixed Choir, Staff Choir, Junior String Orchestra, Senior String Orchestra, Wind Band, Clarsach Group, Trombone Trio, Senior Brass Quintet, Pipe Band and several other ensemble and solo items. The performances were excellent and well received by the appreciative audience.

The evening also included the Christmas Market which was supported by the S2 Enterprise Group, Kiel Exchange Group, Design and Technology Group, Senior Youth Achievement Group, Home Economics Department and World Challenge 2018 Sri Lanka.

- **Fife Youth Orchestra Concert**

The music department organised a trip to see the Fife Youth Orchestra perform at Auchmuty High School on Wednesday the 26th of October. The pupils, Mrs Miller and Ms O'Donnell were so impressed with the orchestra and all enjoyed the varied programme. Congratulations to Madras pupils; Mandy Jackson S5, Joanna Burns S5, Katie Grieve S4 and Zoe Mitcham S2 who have joined the orchestra this year.

- **Hope Park Church – Blind Group**

Senior pupils performed at the Blind Group Christmas Party held at Hope Park & Martyrs church.

- **Hope Park Church – Memory Cafe**

During the festive period many of the pupils have provided musical entertainment for some of the local community groups. A group of talented Kilrymont pupils and Mrs Miller went along to the Memory Café held at Hope Park and Martyrs Church. The pupils sang and played a selection of Christmas and Scottish favourites.

- **Music Exam Success**

Well done to all pupils who sat instrumental exams this term. Trinity Results so far:

- S3 Joseph Mackie was awarded a distinction for his Grade 5 clarinet exam
- S4 Katie Grieve was awarded a distinction for her Grade 4 cello exam
- S4 Emily Keddie was awarded a pass for her Grade 3 cello exam

- **Rock Band Competition**

The Fife Rock Band Competition was held at Woodmill High School in October. Eugene Ritchie, Lawrence Brown and Peter Visocchi, all S4, represented Madras on stage, performing their own original material. Mrs Miller and Mr Watson took a coachload of pupils to cheer on the boys. Although the trophy was eventually won by a solo artist; the boys' performance was tremendous, receiving the following comments from the judges: 'The songs were well crafted and catchy. Good standard of musicianship and a driving rhythm section.' Well done boys.

- **St Andrews Voices Festival**

In the October holidays Isobel and Katie Grieve performed at the Byre theatre open lunch alongside several University groups. The girls entertained the audience with a selection of their own Scottish, classical and blues arrangements played on the cello, violin, piano and recorder – not all at the same time!

- **Talent Show**

The annual charity talent show was held in Kilrymont on the 27th of October. The evening showcased talented pupils from Kilrymont and South Street. The competition was judged by Mr Wishart, Mrs McClure and Mrs Payne. They had the impossible task of choosing the winners. Congratulations to Amy Brown S2 and Lena MacKay S2 for winning the Kilrymont section and Jack Parmar, S6 for overall winner.

- **Tayside and Fife Hospital Charity Concert**

The Senior Girls' and Mixed Choir were invited along to perform at this year's CLIC Sargent charity concert at the Caird Hall. Both choirs gave outstanding performances to a very appreciative audience.

Drama News

The Drama Department have had a busy session so far.

Organised jointly with the English Department, the annual London Cultural Trip took place at the beginning of October and a good time was had by all 30 pupils. All bar one of the Advanced Higher Drama class attended this trip and they were inspired by both theatre performances – 'The Entertainer' starring Kenneth Branagh and 'Macbeth' at The Globe Theatre. Pupils are now making use of interactive pieces and monologues from the plays seen in London for their Advanced Higher Acting exam.

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Business and Enterprise News

Trade Fair



Yet again this year, all S2 pupils have been working in teams to create, run and manage a small business enterprise. The Business and Enterprise Department teamed up with Home Economics and Design and Technology to deliver the 'Build and Bake a Business' project, the culmination of which was the annual Christmas Trade Fair, held during the Christmas Concert on 15th December. All pupils have been learning about the importance of creating high quality products and an effective brand in order to achieve high sales and beat the competition! The awards for best profit and best brand have been hotly contested and the results will be announced before the end of term.



Well done to all S2 pupils who made the project such a great success. All profits will again be donated to MND Scotland. Thanks also to Owen and Charmaine from Jannettas who conducted some expert judging of the trade stalls.



A Flavour of success

Once again, Owen and Charmaine from Jannettas paid a visit to the National 5 and Higher Business Management classes in November and December to give them a flavour of the success of this iconic local business. Learning about the evolution of the business over the years, reasons for its continued success and the important contribution employees make to the business allowed pupils to apply their theoretical learning to a real-life business. This is key to success in their course assessment as well as encouraging focus on reaching a positive destination in future employment or business enterprise. Testing the quality of Jannetta's products was a fitting reward at the end of the visit.

Many thanks to Jannettas for their continued support of the department.

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A very successful production of 'Twelfth Night' was staged at The Byre Theatre on November 1st as part of the Shakespeare Schools Festival 2016. We were delighted to have Mrs Patricia Esler back at the helm as the Director of this piece. All S6 pupils involved had a great experience and it was a lovely evening of sharing Shakespeare's work with two other schools – Queen Anne performing Hamlet and Grangemouth High performing Coriolanus.

The annual pantomime is due to take place this Thursday evening in the Kilrymont Assembly Hall – this year we are presenting the Madras College version of Aladdin.

The show starts at 7.00 pm and tickets are £3. These can be bought on the door. We are hoping for a good turnout for this production which has been written, directed, performed and staged by pupils.

Champions Once Again

A team from Madras College has for the 2nd year running defeated the competition in the final of the Investment Challenge for North-East Scotland schools, a competition run in partnership with BNP Paribas which aims to introduce young people to the excitement and challenge of the financial services industry. Working in pairs to analyse market and media information and make effective investment decisions, the team of Vincent Clark, Jonah McElfratrick, Jamie Jennings and Jamie Scobie (all S6) were able to earn a total profit of over £260,000 from their investments. This made Madras, once again, the most successful school in Scotland!

Well done also to all pupils who took part in the qualifying round.

Modern Languages Department

Spanish Exchange 2016



The second exchange programme visit to Madrid took place this term in September and everyone agreed it was just as successful as the first visit in 2014.

Eighteen S4/5 pupils, along with Mr Irving and Mrs Maix, travelled to the Spanish capital to stay with their school partners for a week. As well as spending time each day at the school, there were visits to the beautiful old towns of Toledo and Segovia and a walking tour of the city centre itself. Other highlights included a visit to the Prado Museum and the city's Retiro Park.

On the final day Madras pupils helped out in English classes, some of which took place outside due to the sunny autumn Spanish weather there (see photo).

Here are just a few comments from our current Higher Spanish class who took part:

"I had an amazing time, got to live the Spanish life for a week with people who will be my friends for life! Great opportunity to get to know a new culture and use my languages."

"I benefited from the exchange a lot. I had an opportunity to use and improve my Spanish skills and I experienced Spain and specifically Madrid culture first hand. Everyone was extremely friendly and I would do it again if I had the chance."

"The Spanish exchange was a fantastic experience. Through the course of the week I went to many different places. My favourite bit of the exchange was seeing a bull run with my partner Juan. I would strongly advise that anyone presented with the opportunity to participate in any exchange should definitely do it!"

The Spanish school were delighted to host us once more and have already told us they are looking forward to the next exchange!

Kiel Exchange

SOMETHING TO CELEBRATE!

Preparations are well underway for next year's exchange. 2017 will mark the 60th anniversary of the Kiel Exchange which we understand is the oldest, unbroken German school to school exchange in the UK.

The durability and longevity of this unique partnership has perhaps exceeded the expectations of its creators, the late Dr John Thompson, former Rector of Madras College and the late Professor Karl Dietrich Erdmann, former professor of Modern History at Kiel University. The instigation of the exchange in the post war years could perhaps be regarded as a visionary gesture of international reconciliation.

If you know of anybody who has taken part in the exchange over the past 59 years, please ask them to get in touch as the current exchange pupils are going to be undertaking a project on the history of the exchange and how it has changed over the years. Information about the planned Diamond Jubilee Ceilidh (Kielidh) on Saturday, 24 June 2017 will appear on the school website in the coming months.

THE 60TH EXCHANGE GROUP



Thirty pupils from S3 and S4 are looking forward to hosting their partners for 10 days in June. After a most successful and enjoyable visit to Kiel in June, the S4 pupils will be renewing friendships and the S3 pupils will be meeting their partners for the first time.

Herr Schoeneich, the head teacher of the Kieler Gelehrtenschule, who visited St Andrews for the first time on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the exchange, will be returning to mark another important milestone in the history of the exchange. Frau Sandler-Steer, the leader of the Kiel group, took part in the exchange herself as a pupil and has led the group since 2004.

It is hoped that a number of special activities and events will run alongside the normal exchange programme. The pupils are busy fundraising to make this possible and our star bakers held a bake sale at the Christmas Market at the Christmas Concert.

Modern Languages

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UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS SCHOOL OF MODERN LANGUAGES

“Meet and Mingle” Event

Ten senior Madras pupils studying French, German and Spanish in S5 took part in an Open Day held at the languages department, along with schools from Fife and all over Scotland.



Pupils were able to put questions they had about language learning, university and living abroad to current Modern Languages students directly, and then afterwards continued relaxed, informative conversations over refreshments together.

This was a great opportunity for teachers and pupils to meet with staff and undergraduates, to learn more about courses in Arabic, French, German, Italian, Persian, Russian and Spanish and to share experiences.

Pupils returned to school with an enthusiastic and informed approach to further study in languages.

FRENCH CINEMA TRIP

On Friday 4th November 2016 a group of over 50, S4, S5 and S6 pupils attended a film festival at the DCA to see the French film “Ma Révolution”.

The film explores the themes of friendship, adolescence and relationships; relating directly to contexts explored in the National 5 and Higher courses. “Ma Révolution” tells the story of Marwann who, while trying to impress his beautiful classmate Sigrid, reconnects with his Tunisian roots during the Jasmine Uprising. The film offered our pupils the opportunity to hear native French, as spoken by their peers, see the lesser known side of the French capital and learn about an important historical event in Francophone culture.

EUROSCOLA

Euroscola is a 5-day trip to Strasbourg, sponsored by the Rotary Club. This year one of our S6 pupils, Ewan Redpath, has been selected to go to Strasbourg in February 2017. Ewan is currently studying Advanced Higher French and it will be a wonderful opportunity for him to meet pupils from all over Europe, visit the European Parliament and enhance his language skills. Bravo Ewan!

Geography Rocks!

It’s been another couple of busy terms in the Geography Department. As is tradition, field-trips were the priority in September for the senior phase, allowing pupils to collect a variety of data to help answer a range of research questions for their assignment. Once again we headed north to Dalwhinnie with our National class, and south to the beloved Yorkshire Dales for our annual Limestone pilgrimage. It’s a wonderful opportunity for some outdoor learning and once again the trips proved a great success. The advanced class have also been out and about collecting data for their folio. At the start of December they ventured to Tentsmuir’s National Nature Reserve to collect information about sand dune succession and human impact. We’ve also been establishing links with the University of St Andrews which will hopefully lead to Fife-wide collaboration between Higher and Advanced Higher geographers and the University – watch this space!!

The junior phase has also been busy with our young geographers learning about their local environment, ice ages, rivers and the iconic geology figure that is James Hutton. Following this they progress to earthquakes, volcanoes and tsunamis in S2. Volcano day is approaching fast! Our S3 have had their first rotation of geography covering crucial issues facing our future planet – climate change, supervolcanoes and the world of water. To quote Michael Palin, *‘Geography students hold the key to the world’s problems. Geography is a living, breathing subject, constantly adapting itself to change. It is dynamic and relevant.’*

Library Bookfair

One of the highlights of the term for the Library was our annual Scholastic Half-Price Bookfair. During the two-week period, all S1 and S2 pupils were able to view the bookcases and nominate the book they would most like to see in the Library. We are delighted to have taken nearly £1000 in sales - which means that books worth nearly £2000 are being read in the community! We earn commission on sales, so have been able to add about £200 worth of books to stock for pupils to enjoy. We were helped by a dedicated team from S1 and S2 who gave up intervals and lunchtimes to help. Many thanks to all who supported the Bookfair!

LANGUAGE AMBASSADORS

Following the success of last year’s ‘Language Ambassadors’ initiative, S6 Madras pupils have been invited once again to local Primary Schools. The S6 pupils visit once a week and have been supporting P6/7 classes in their language learning. This has proved very popular with the primary pupils, but the scheme is not only beneficial to them; the Madras pupils also benefit from this new responsibility and improve their organisation and communication skills.

Lessons from Auschwitz

By Matthew R. Mitcham

On the day of the American election, Eve McGladdery and I travelled to southern Poland with the Holocaust Educational Trust to visit Auschwitz: a site of unprecedented horror.

Eve and I flew to Poland at 3.00 am on a flight full of well-informed, but nervous school students. The flight landed and more than 200 other students including Eve and myself boarded coaches and set off for the Polish city of Oświęcim - the town chosen by the Nazi Germans for the infamous Auschwitz camp (Auschwitz being the name given to Oświęcim by the Germans during their occupation of Poland).

We saw a Jewish cemetery first, rebuilt by what was left of Oświęcim's Jewish community. We

Speaker of the House of Commons

This autumn Madras College had the pleasure and privilege of having a Skype interview with John Bercow, Speaker of the House of Commons. This was an event attended by the school's Advanced Higher Modern Studies class and the Higher Modern Studies and Politics classes. The conversation lasted for just over an hour and was extremely interesting to all present.

The Speaker displayed an incredible knowledge of the workings of parliament and government in the UK, which students will find most useful for their studies. The material included topics ranging from the prospect of another Scottish Prime Minister to predicting Andy Murray becoming world number one.

The pupils of Madras College had a morning of education and fun due to Speaker Bercow kindly giving up time to speak to us and we would like to pay him our warmest gratitude.

then moved on to visit Auschwitz I and then later visited Auschwitz II (Auschwitz having consisted of three camps: Auschwitz I, Auschwitz II - Birkenau and Auschwitz III - Monowitz).

The experience we each had will stay with us for many years. We have taken away from our trip that we must always strive for peace and tolerance in our society and never again make the mistakes of the past.

Modern Studies

Cinema Visit -

I am

Daniel Blake -

Inequalities in the UK

Higher Modern Studies pupils attended a private viewing of the film "I am Daniel Blake" which examined inequalities in the UK. It was a very thought-provoking film.

Thank you to the New House Cinema for accommodating so many Madras pupils.

Perth Prison Visit

(by Rachel Coull)

On 9th November, a group of nine students went on a visit to Perth Prison to investigate the prison system for our Advanced Higher Modern Studies Dissertation. I was personally trying to discover if Prisons are fit for purpose, as this is my chosen research topic for my dissertation.

We were first introduced to Pauline MacFarlane, the head of operations, who gave us some brief background information about Perth Prison. She then handed us over to Steven Alston, who gave us the opportunity to ask any initial questions and asked us how we felt entering the prison. Due to the high security measures, we explained to Steven how it felt quite serious and intimidating, and how this matched our expectations as to how we thought we would feel upon arrival. This experience totally contrasted to the one we had at Castle Huntly, where we entered feeling as though we had walked into a school or a community building, as opposed to a prison.

Steven then took us through the exact process of how a new prisoner would be treated upon arrival after court. This experience helped us understand exactly how the prisoners must feel and allowed us also to analyse every procedure taken to ensure the security is of a high standard. This gave us the opportunity to learn about all the different technology and strip searches that must be used in order to make sure no drugs or mobile phones are brought into the premises. We learned that this is a huge issue within Perth Prison and despite all the work put into preventing it, it is impossible for the prison to be completely drug and mobile phone free.

Additionally, our visit made us aware of the amount of things going on inside the establishment that we would not know about otherwise. We learned about all the different education programmes and classes that go on during the day to rehabilitate prisoners as well as finding out about the ways that prisoners can continue to practise their religious beliefs. This really highlighted the degree of input the prison puts into getting prisoners back on track and opened our eyes to the extent to which prisons meet their aims in trying to prevent recidivism.

Overall, the trip to Perth Prison was a brilliant insight into what prison is really like and opened all of our eyes to the positives that the media doesn't always portray. We all thoroughly enjoyed ourselves during the visit and it undoubtedly will help us as we continue to write our dissertations on the themes of Crime and the Law.

Biology Banter

Once again, the Biology Department has had a very active session. Mr Young (probationer) left to take up a position in Newbattle High School near Edinburgh and we wish him well for the future.

The S3 Biologists have recently completed their third year exam which will allow recommendations to be made about a suitable level of study – N4 or N5 - as the students move into S4. We look forward to welcoming them to the South Street labs.

Higher Biology students have enjoyed an informative visit to the Bell Pettigrew Museum in St Andrews – backing up their knowledge of evolution. If you've never been, you should consider a visit. It is an excellent – world class – museum, right on our doorstep. The Higher classes have also benefitted from a visit from staff and students from Dundee University who came to deliver a coursework practical concerning the separation of fish proteins. Smelly but interesting!

As usual, the Advanced Higher students have been out and about making full use of local resources. We have carried out a kick-net pollution survey in the Kinness Burn, carried out a survey of barnacle species on the harbour wall on the East Sands (with instruction from Dr Peddie from St Andrews University), and most recently visited the St Andrews University labs to carry out a practical



on Blue Mussels' feeding rate (with Dr Heitler). Thanks to all St Andrews staff who help with these practicals.



The students have also had our regular tour of the University library – learning about referencing; and an excellent tour of the Botanic Gardens – to get project ideas. At the 'Botanics', we were introduced to Professor Sillars from the university, who is now helping with a student investigation into frog development. AH students are also looking forward another visit from Dundee University who are instructing students into the 'ELISA' antibody detection method.

In the meantime *all* students and staff are pressing ahead with prelim, assignment and project preparations...a busy time for everyone!!

World Challenge 2018 – Destination Sri Lanka

Twenty-one intrepid students have signed up for the experience of a lifetime. World Challenge aims to support and facilitate the development of young adults through life-changing experiences. Providing a safe environment for students of school

age to explore the limits of their comfort zone allows them to grow in confidence and resourcefulness, both of which are key qualities to build successful lives. The journey has started and fundraising is underway. Let the fun begin!

Physics Department RAF Road Show

On 17th November the RAF came to Madras College Kilrymont to speak to the S2 physics pupils about the RAF and flight. The show started with a drone flying in from behind a screen. It had a camera on it which projected the pupils onto the screen. Then the three people doing the show came out from behind the screen and explained how useful drones were to us. They also said that one of the major problems was transmitting and receiving signals as they could be interrupted. They went on to explain to us the four forces of flight; these were thrust, lift, weight and drag. After the opportunity to ask questions they took us outside to witness a jet engine; it was really loud. It was altogether a great show.

Ailsa O'Riordan

SPORT

INTER-SCHOOL SWIMMING GALA



Madras took a strong team of 14 swimmers to compete in the DSF Swimming Gala at Lochgelly High School. All pupils represented their school fantastically well and won several medals into the bargain. Special mention must go to the girl's 4 x 25 metre relay team (Holly-Jane Gray, Danielle Adamson, Fiona Knowles and Chloe Hutchison) who won Gold in the event, with a very confident team performance.

SPORT

U15 FOOTBALL

Madras progressed into the third round of the Scottish Cup (U15 shield) with a hard fought 2-1 victory away to Arbroath High School. Madras have earned themselves a home tie against Blairgowrie High School in the next round; the tie is due to be played on the second last day of term. The U15 team are also still in the Fife Cup and are due to play Woodmill High School in the quarter-finals early in the New Year.

JUNIOR SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Following on from the swimming gala at Lochgelly was the SDS National Junior Swimming Championships in Tollcross, Glasgow. The Madras team swam so well in the event at Lochgelly that 8 of the 14 swimmers were selected to represent the Fife Team. It was an early start and long day, competing against swimmers from all over Scotland. However, it was very worthwhile as Madras won 5 medals (3 Silver and 2 Bronze) to contribute towards the Fife Team's tally.



Back row pictured left to right: Nathan Orr, Kieran Beaton, Laurie Doran, Thomas McIntyre. Front row pictured left to right: Chloe Hutchison, Holly-Jane Gray, Danielle Adamson, Callum Nicoll.



HOCKEY

The 2016/17 Girls hockey season is well underway here at Madras College. Saturday morning matches against Dunfermline and St Leonards have taken place. We also hosted the S3 tournament and represented the school at senior and S2 tournaments. The girls have shown great commitment, with attendance at training consistently high. The senior girls started off the season with a comfortable win over Dunfermline. They continued their success by coming a very commendable 2nd place at the Fife Tournament. Despite their determination however they were unable to hold off St Leonards at our fixture in early November. The S1 girls' application and enthusiasm has been incredible. We were able to field two teams against Dunfermline, one team comfortably winning and the other unfortunately losing. They then went on to play their first eleven-a-side game against St Leonards and put up a great fight. However the experience of the St Leonards players shone through and they were triumphant. St Leonards continued their winning streak against Madras S2 and S3 teams. Despite this the S3s were able to secure a good win over Dunfermline. The S2 girls were lacking a few players so borrowed a few S1s to make up numbers and put up a good fight.

BOYS' SENIOR TENNIS TEAM WIN FIRST ROUND OF THE SCOTTISH CUP

Mr Martin took the Boys' Senior Tennis team to Perth to play St John's Secondary school in the First Round of the Scottish Cup and they came away with a straight sets win.

The next round draw will take place in the New Year with a hopeful home match to redress the overall balance of these fixtures.



To finish off the term the S1/2s had a fun Christmas themed tournament which saw more than 35 girls descend upon the Kilrymont AstroTurf in full festive cheer. Eve Malcolm of S1 won the coveted prize of best decorated stick and Shannon Hamilton of S1 won the overall best dressed.

We are looking forward to resuming training and having more fixtures and the S1 Festival after the Christmas holidays.

EQUESTRIAN TEAM

HUNTER TRIALS AT FORESTERSEAT

2016 has been a successful year for Madras College Equestrian Team, with more pupils becoming involved in the events. So far the school has competed in 2 competitions.

At the start of the school year, two pupils competed at Kilgraston school's Hunter Trials at Foresterseat. Emily Smart riding Maeve finished 12th in the 70 cm class. Also competing that day was Tia Himpson riding The Dark Emperor. They finished 11th overall in the 90 cm class. Madras then had a record entry for the school of three teams and two individuals entered for Strathallan School Showjumping. Everyone jumped well on the day, but unfortunately no-one secured a place.

There are more competitions in the New Year, so fingers crossed for more success.

SPORT

FOOTBALL

S1 Football Team

The S1 football team, led by Mr Dagless, escaped an away tie to Stornoway to play the Nicolson Institute thanks to Perth High School beating them in the previous round. The short trip to Perth however was not so successful and the hosts beat Madras in quite a comprehensive manner.



S2 Football Team

Mr Beaver's other football team, the S2 Boys, survived until the third round of the Scottish Cup with wins over Glenrothes and Carnoustie High Schools before being beaten in a home fixture against the talented football academy school St John's from Dundee. The team however are still in the Fife Cup and are competing strongly in the league.



S3 Football Team

Mr Munn – the only Mr Munn in Madras now that Munn senior has retired – has been working hard with his group of S3s.

Senior 1st XI

The senior side have had a productive year so far, fulfilling a number of fixtures in the League, Fife Cup and Scottish Cup. After early exits in the Fife and Scottish to Balwearie and Beath, the boys have remained competitive in the league with the highlight being an excellent 4-2 victory over Glenrothes which

epitomised the team's togetherness and resilience. With more games to come and a new set of strips, courtesy of Fife Autocentre, the second half of the season looks promising for Mr Anderson's side.



Girls Football

Mr Beaver continues to co-ordinate and motivate the girls' football group who have been injected with additional members from the new S1 cohort. The girls are playing regular fixtures against Fife schools and have progressed to the second round of the U14 Scottish Cup where they will play Aboyne Academy on 1st February, 2017. Another success was the Fife U14 Tournament where 10 teams played at Beath High School over the course of a day.

MADRAS SCHOOL OF FOOTBALL

With football growing in the school, Mr Anderson decided to bring all sides under one umbrella in the Madras School of Football. Thursday night sessions at the University of St Andrews have been a great success with pupils aged 11-17 years turning up in large numbers to develop their skills within a fun environment. More promisingly, Senior pupils have started taking their first steps into the sport and fitness industry whilst leading coaching sessions to the junior categories. Next year will be an exciting one with the School of Football continuing to grow and establishing links with several professional clubs to provide a better standard of coaching and further support our Seniors in their career development.

FOOTBALL TRIPS

As pupils have continued to behave and participate in PE, Mr Anderson, Miss Band and Miss Dawson also decided it was time to reward these efforts with the 'madrasantour' around the Premier League. Two trips have taken place so far to take in games at Manchester United and Burnley. The first visit to Old Trafford was highly successful with pupils also completing the stadium tour and visiting the newly opened National Football Museum. Following on from this, a different set of pupils attended the Burnley vs Manchester City match and enjoyed front row seats to get some snaps of their heroes. This trip ended with a training session at Burnley's impressive academy centre where pupils were put through their paces and had fun with UEFA licensed coaches. With another trip to Old Trafford scheduled for February and a Continental Tour next academic session, more opportunities are open for our pupils to continue to enjoy being part of such a vibrant department where their behaviour and effort is recognised and rewarded.

DANCE

The dance club has been in full action where the pupils have learned Hip Hop and Jazz so far. The pupils are working on creating their own group dance which they will present at the Fife 6,7,8 Festival in March 2017.

VOLLEYBALL

Another club growing in strength and numbers is the volleyball team who have two sessions a week under the guidance and enthusiasm of Colin Paterson, from the University of St Andrews. The Juniors train on a Tuesday and the Senior group, who stay back on a Friday, have enjoyed their first competitive match against a University development team and they are raring to go for more games and tournaments.

SPORT

SPEEDWAY

Following the success of the key Madras riders in the inaugural Fife Speedway team, the full school squad of 12 riders travelled to Queen Anne High School for a head to head competition. Madras ran out winners and were pleased to have 4 riders in the top 5 places.

The re-match will be at home in January prior to the start of the Fife Cup.

SWIMMING



A large Squad of Madras pupils competed in the Fife Championships at the end of October with a good haul of medals, including Golds for Anna Hedley S1 and Nicole Reynolds S2. Nicole, Cameron MacMaster and Keiran Spalding will represent the school at the Scottish Championships in January – good luck to all three.

BASKETBALL

The Senior and Junior Basketball clubs are becoming more established and the Seniors are looking forward to their Fife Tournament, but this year they should have several friendlies under their belt before the competition. They have played one game so far against St Andrews High School, Kirkcaldy, which, under the tutelage of ex-pupil Ti Ti Sweeney, they won in a high scoring fashion. There will be a return match and games against St Leonard's and Glenrothes High School in January, which should help provide further opportunities to develop team dynamics come the regional competition.

NETBALL



It has been a busy and exciting term for the netballers with the Senior Girls competing in both the Scottish Cup and Fife League. In the regional Scottish qualifiers the girls qualified in Bronze position to set up the first National match away to Belmont Academy in Ayr on Thursday, 8th December. A very young squad took a while to recover from the 2.5 hour journey and conceded many goals in the first quarter but recovered well to draw the third and fourth. The drive back with a bunch of very tired girls was one of the quietest minibus journeys on record!

The whole Senior squad was back in action on the following Monday at the Fife Schools Tournament and both

teams, resplendent in their new kit, performed well, but just failed to reach the finals. The school are indeed very grateful to the Madras Ladies FP club who provided the sponsorship for the new beautifully designed dresses.

The Junior teams continue to train in numbers and are looking forward to their own tournaments, especially the S1 squad who played a friendly match against Beath High showing tremendous skill and spirit to win quite convincingly. We thank ex-pupils and top coaches Vikki Doherty and Megan Bannister for their weekly commitment to the girls.

JUNIOR GIRLS FITNESS

A new club run by Miss Band meets each Thursday combining a full range of fun fitness activities. The big uptake by the pupils underlines their commitment to their health and well-being and an afternoon's expedition is planned for a muddy assault course session later in the year.

FOOTNOTES

- We wish Rory Fraser (S4) all the best for the upcoming training camps for the Scottish U16 Rugby team. Rory has been selected for the Development squad training sessions throughout the next term and if successful he will represent Scotland in a major Tournament in Wales.
- Busy lunchtimes at Kilrymont with Dance on Monday, Ambassador-led Badminton on Tuesday, Dodgeball on Wednesday, Handball on Thursday and Drop-in Speedway on Friday! Not a bad set of options for all S1-3 Pupils.
- Megan Moss (S2) attended the Scottish Secondary Schools Fencing Championships representing the school in the Sabre and Epee categories. Megan fought well but just finished outside the Bronze Medal positions.
- Congratulations to our Senior Sports Ambassadors Emma Malcolm and Abbie Hendry who were successful in being selected for the Elite Ambassador coaching programme to be held in Sweden over two weeks in the Easter Holidays. Against tough competition in Fife the girls were two of a small group to be given this all expenses experience in this exciting country.
- Our Sports Leaders have been active in the community with their first coaching sessions taking place in a local Primary school. This group of pupils are proving to be a committed and competent set of leaders who successfully ran the Winter Games House competitions and they now look ahead to the Swimming and X-Country events and a Badminton Festival with Feeder Primary Schools.

Information

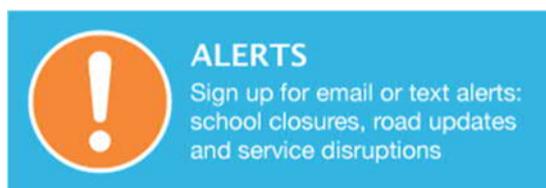
Fife Council

Information for Parents/Carers



As early as possible on the morning of severe weather or other situations such as water, heating and building problems, the main ways for you to stay informed are:

- **by text direct to your mobile phone or by e-mail.** To receive these you will need to sign up for this service via Fife Direct - to sign up for text or email alerts, please enter your contact details via www.fifedirect.org.uk/alerts, click on Alerts and under Alert Services click on Register with fifedirect.
- **by Groupcall text or e-mail alerts through your school - make sure that you have given up-to-date contact details to the school so that they can contact you by Groupcall**
- **on your mobile phone** - search for m.fifedirect.org.uk (from your mobile phone browser)
- **on Facebook** - follow-us on facebook.com/fifecouncil
- **on Twitter** - follow-us on twitter.com/fifecouncil
- **by radio bulletins** - listen to Kingdom FM (95.2 and 96.1), Forth One (97.3) and Tay FM (102.8 and 96.4)
- **by digital television** - red Button on Sky, channel 539 and Virgin Media, channel 233 , press red



Dates for Your Diary

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

(all dates inclusive)

Monday 26 December 2016
to Friday 6 January 2017

Thursday and Friday 16 and 17 February 2017

Monday 3 April to Friday 14 April 2017

INSERVICE

Wednesday 15 February 2017

Contact Us

SOUTH STREET

St Andrews, KY16 9EJ
Telephone (01334) 659402

KILRYMONT ROAD

St Andrews, KY16 8DE
Telephone (01334) 659401

E-MAIL

madrascollege.enquiries@fife.gov.uk

WEB-SITE

www.madras.fife.sch.uk