



Christmas Newsletter

Madras College Newsletter

December 2022

Rector's Message

Dear Parent/ Carer,

As we approach the Christmas break and look back on the first two terms of this session, it is clear there has been a great deal achieved and for us all to be proud of. In addition to my regular update, you'll also be able to read about a wide range of activities and pupil achievements from across the school – so please do read on!

A key activity at the beginning of the session has been to review our SQA results from 2022. The teaching staff have spent significant time scrutinising individual, class and cohort performances in order to learn as much as possible. I'm delighted to be able to report that results from pupils completing assessments and sitting exams has been very strong indeed and is reflective of the hard work put in by pupils, families and school staff. These results are even more pleasing given that it was the return to traditional exams after a three year break.

There are many highlights but I have picked just a few. These include improvements in the number of pupils in S4 achieving key qualifications at levels 3, 4 and 5. These qualifications are critically important in enabling pupils to access new courses in-school or in a post-school destination. For us, this meant that almost 85% of S4 pupils achieved 5 or more qualifications at level 4 and over 62% of that same group achieved 5 or more qualifications at level 5, both greater

than our virtual comparator values and significantly higher than the Fife average. Senior school results at level 6 and 7 (Higher and Advanced Higher) were also very strong, with almost 35% of S5 pupils achieving 5 or more Highers in one sitting, with that figure rising to almost 72% of pupils gaining 5 or more Highers by the end of S6. By S6, nearly 50% of pupils achieved at least one Advanced Higher, with many more going on to achieve three Advanced Highers. Importantly, these figures at Higher and Advanced Higher exceed both pre-pandemic levels and virtual comparator values and support our continuing trend of improvement in attainment for young people over time.



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You'll be aware that for this session, we implemented our new guidance structure for pupils to ensure that, as far as possible, pupils, siblings and families can be supported by the same guidance teacher from S1 to S6. In almost all cases, pupils are now taught in their personal and social development classes by their own guidance teacher, providing a weekly opportunity to meet and work together. As a result, I would expect this to further strengthen the relationships between school and home and improve the quality of pastoral support available to all.

Welcoming parents into our new school last session was difficult and I am pleased that we've been able to remedy this and host several events so far this session covering P7 transition, junior and senior curriculum evenings. As I write to you, final rehearsals are taking place for the Christmas Concert and an opportunity for you to listen to the fantastic range of musical talent from across S1-6. The 17th of January heralds the return of our Careers Fair and with it, another opportunity to connect with us and find out more about the world of work from a wide range of local employers and education institutions. More information on the Careers Fair afternoon and parent evening will follow early in the new year.

In a similar way, school excursions and trips are back on the agenda following relaxation of Covid-19 mitigations. These trips add a great deal to the life and work of the school and I'm grateful for the support of staff who give freely of their time and energy to make these happen. This includes many of the seasonal events that take place over the school year. Christmas Ceilidhs have been running over this last week of term and all

pupils have been invited to put their ceilidh dancing skills to the test. The awarding of prizes in each event has kept the standard of dancing high! In January 2023, we'll see the return of the Burns Night, hosted for the first time in our new school and a great leadership opportunity for our senior pupils who will organise the content for the evening.

In November and December, our S4 pupils were hard at work completing a range of assessments, many of these taking place in the formal setting of the assembly hall. The marking, feedback to pupils and parents evening has been completed, leaving all of term 3 available for further teaching, consolidation and improvement. While the initial data from assessments looks promising, there's always more to be done and we will continue to look at what further supports we can offer to ensure that all pupils meet their potential.

Please remember that Study Support will continue to be available to all S4-6 pupils across faculties and has been running throughout terms 1 and 2. Study Support provides an excellent opportunity for further advice and practice so please take some time to talk through what sessions could be suitable. The study support programme is highlighted on the weekly bulletin and can be found by clicking [here](#).

Our S5/6 assessments are up next and will pupils will complete their Prelim Assessments at the end of January. The S5/6 Prelim Timetable is available and can be accessed pre-Christmas by clicking [here](#). A separate letter will be issued shortly, detailing arrangements for the Prelim diet. Individual assessment arrangements will also follow at the same time.

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Planning for next session has started and course choice for all pupils in S1, S3, S4 and S5 will take place next term. To support this, the guidance team will be working closely with all pupils to go through coursing advice. Course choice information will be available to parents for all stages, including clear information on learner pathways and progression routes through subject areas.

A New Year provides a great opportunity to make a strong start and reflect on standards and expectations in our school. With that in mind, I'd like to ask for your support with school uniform and helping to ensure that all young people return to school after the Christmas break 'dressed for work' and clearly identifiable as a Madras College pupil. I fully appreciate the current financial climate and there are a few areas of support with regards school uniform. Click [here](#) and scroll to the bottom of the page to see how we can help.

I have also asked that teachers take the first couple of weeks in January to remind all pupils about our agreed school values, classroom expectations and the different ways that pupils can access additional support, if required. Year group assemblies will focus on these themes as well.

Finally, before you move on to look at the wide range of activities and pupil achievements from across our school, I'd like to thank you for your continued support and wish you a merry Christmas and all the very best for the New Year.

Yours sincerely,



Mr K Currie
Rector



Art Department News

The Holy Trinity Tree Festival

This year the school was delighted to support The Holy Trinity Tree Festival, in aid of Maggie's. Pupils and staff in the Art and D&T departments created beautiful hand made decorations which adorned the stunning trees within the church. It was a spectacular scene once they were all lit inside such a beautiful building. Decorations were then available to purchase at the school Christmas concert and all proceeds from these sales are off to local charities.

Our proud Charities captains with the Madras tree.



Biology Banter

The Biology Department has had another very active session.

The S3 Biologists have just completed their third-year exam allowing recommendations to be made about a suitable level of study; either N4 or N5 in S4. We look forward to welcoming a large number of them to certificate classes.

Higher and Advanced Higher Biology students have enjoyed an educational visit to Edinburgh Zoo, where the Zoo staff lead sessions about Evolution and Animal Behaviour. There was time to visit the rest of the Zoo as well – a great time was had by all!

Additionally, the Advanced Higher have been working through a number of other practical activities; a biodiversity survey of the school grounds, an early river pollution survey on the Kinness Burn, a Barnacle survey with St Andrews University on East Sands and a new evolution practical at the University labs involving Lego modelling! Fun and education combined! Further activities are in the pipeline – including a University lead chromatography practical.

Mr Runciman (PT Biology)

Zoo trip... 'Spot the Panda',

'Animal Behaviour lesson',

'Penguin'



Kinness Burn Survey



Evolution with Lego...



Chemistry News

Chemistry Prize

Rosa Vaughan was awarded the Dr Craig Gray Memorial Award from the Royal Society of Chemistry, for the best performing pupil in SQA 2022 exam in Higher Chemistry. Rosa is a very hardworking pupil who has shown an instinctive aptitude for Chemistry and her exceptional performance in the SQA Higher was deservedly rewarded by the Royal Society of Chemistry. Rosa received her prize at the Science and the Parliament Event 2022, that took place at Dynamic Earth, Edinburgh on 23rd November. Well done Rosa, a fantastic achievement.



Top of the Bench

Madras college has once again reached the Finals of the Top of the Bench, Secondary school Chemistry competition organised by Royal society of Chemistry. They were up against 11 other battle-hardened Chemistry quiz teams. An outstanding achievement, well done people! The Regional Final will take place on the 24th of January in the Department of Chemistry, St Andrews University.



From left to Right: S2- Anton Morrison, S3- Brodie Waterston, S4-Xander Gray and S3- Sofia Benssassi

Computing News

Esports Community Cup

Wednesday 26th October saw senior pupils take part in the first ever Dundee & Angus College Esports Community Cup qualifiers. Team “Completed It Mate” made it through to the quarter finals which took place on Thursday 17th November.

Although “Completed It Mate” did not progress into the semi-finals, they had a great day out and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.



Team “Madras”



Team “Completed It Mate”

Department of Additional Support

continuing DAS collaboration with the Old Course Hotel

Just an update on our DAS pupils working in the Old Course...

In November, our visit to the Old Course allowed our pupils Kieran Lewis and Demi Millar to experience working in the Pro Golf shop. They learned how to fold and stack the golf t-shirts and gained an insight into stock control.

Although this has been fun for our pupils, it has also allowed them to achieve National 2 in Hospitality, Employment Skills and Retail and Customer services.

Many thanks go to all the staff in the Old Course, especially Melanie Watt who organised everything for us. All the staff have been very helpful and hospitable and they made our pupils feel at ease and they thoroughly enjoyed the experience. We hope to continue our collaboration in the future.

Folding shirts in the Golf Shop



Pupils learning how to make a bed the Old Course way.



Drama News

Blood Brothers Trip

On 25th of August 100 pupils from Madras College Music and Drama departments embarked on a trip to Perth Theatre to see Blood Brothers the acclaimed musical by Willy Russell. The bus left Madras at 12pm to allow enough time to get to Perth for the matinee performance at 2pm. This was the first trip pupils have had to the theatre in nearly three years and was great production, the tense ending had pupils on the edge of their seats.

Steamie Trip

Higher and Advanced Higher Drama pupils visited Dundee Rep to see 'The Steamie' a much-loved Scottish Theatre Production by Tony Roper on Thursday 8th of September. As part of the SQA requirements for these courses' pupils must visit the theatre to write about a play for dissertation or final exam. 'The Steamie' provided lots of opportunities for pupils to discuss acting performances and use of production skills.

Fife Shakespeare Festival

This year marked the return of the Fife Shakespeare Festival since its premier in 2019. The festival allows local schools to celebrate the work of Shakespeare and have opportunities to perform in professional theatre spaces. This year a group of pupils from S2 – S4 rehearsed and performed an abridged version of 'The Tempest'. The pupils rehearsed from August, to ensure the play was ready for performance on Monday the 21st of November. On this day pupils travelled to Fife College for a day of work shops and rehearsals before the performance at Fife College St Bryce dale's campus in the evening. The pupils were accompanied by two S6 helpers, Mr Darge and Mrs Garrie. Our pupils alongside pupils from Kirkcaldy High School successfully performed for two sell out audiences. Both casts of 'The Tempest' and 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' performed excellently and provided the audiences with an evening of fantastic entertainment. Well done to all involved.



Drama News

Panto Success

Well done to our pupils, James Mitchell (S6), Cintra Nemecek (S5), Erin Reid (S4), George Masters (S4), Sen De Majo (S4) and Fergus Ward (S1) who have successfully gained a part in this year's Byre Theatre Panto of 'Snow White'. After a round of tough auditions pupils from Madras College were selected to perform alongside the adult cast. Our pupils will be performing in alternate casts throughout December.

This is fantastic achievement.



Byre Theatre Health and Wellbeing

This term we have been very fortunate to have Noah Tomson from the Byre Theatre in school delivering workshops with some of our learners. Noah a Drama practitioner and artist has been running Drama sessions which build confidence, promote positive self-esteem and allow young people a space to focus on their own wellbeing. This has so far been successful and well received by the learners involved.



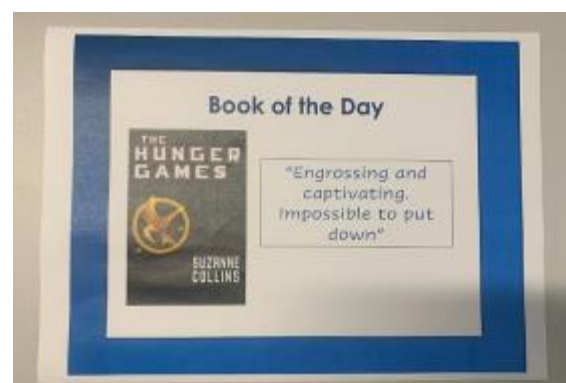
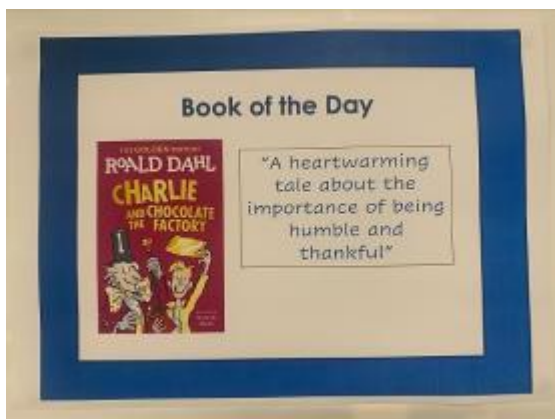
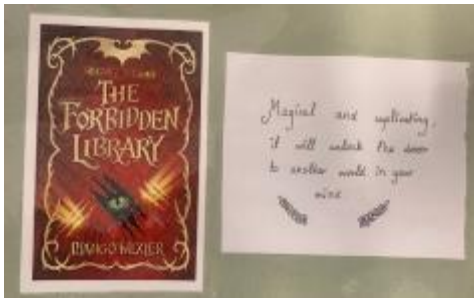
English News

Scottish Book Week

This term from 14th – 18th November, we celebrated Scottish Book Week. Across the school, teachers displayed what they were reading and encouraged their classes to ask for recommendations for reading. In our

English classes, some of us spent time thinking about books that we'd loved

over the years and writing one sentence reviews for other students about these to be displayed around the English department. Some of these were even featured in The English Department 'Book of the Day'. Books featured included The Hunger Games, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and The Hobbit. One review described Charlie and the Chocolate Factory as "A heart-warming tale about the importance of being humble and thankful".



The history and accessibility of Scots language

Len Pennie, a vibrant young Scottish poet and Scots language advocate, visited the English Department in December to speak to S4s about the history and accessibility of Scots language. We liernit aboot where hunners a auld Scots phrases came fae, listened tae a wee poyum, and hid a brow time.

English News

Burns Competition

Members of the St Andrews Burns Club came to judge our Burns recitations.

All winners will now be asked to perform at the Burns Supper in January and invited to enter the Fife Burns Competition.

S1 Girls

1st place - Aarti Thejus (also winner of overall junior girls)
2nd place - Iona Randall-Wight

S1 Boys

1st place - Robert Hutchison
2nd place - Murray Sproul

S2 Girls

1st place - Esther Holsteen
2nd place - Sophie Wright

S2 Boys

1st place - Jose O'Keefe-Machado
2nd place - Jonah Thompson

S3/4 Boys

1st place - Andrei Morrison (also overall winner of senior boys)

S5/6 Boys

1st place - Holton Foster-Whiddon

S5/6 Girls

1st place - Alicia Winward (also overall winner of senior girls)
We look forward to World Book Day 2023 in the 2nd March where we hope we can inspire more to try a new book.



Home Economic News

Rotary Club - Young Chef



The Home Economics department are delighted to share that four pupils from S2 and S3 will be taking part in the district final of the 'Young Chef' competition. The competition will be held at Perth College at the end of January and the competitors will each have two hours to cook a three-course meal. The pupils have an amazing opportunity to be coached by Craig Sneddon, Executive Head Chef of The R&A who is a



member of the Masterchefs of Great Britain. Tatiana Wozniak, Billy Moss, Jack Hogg and Anya Raval are all working very hard in the run up to Perth.



Lamb for St. Andrews Day

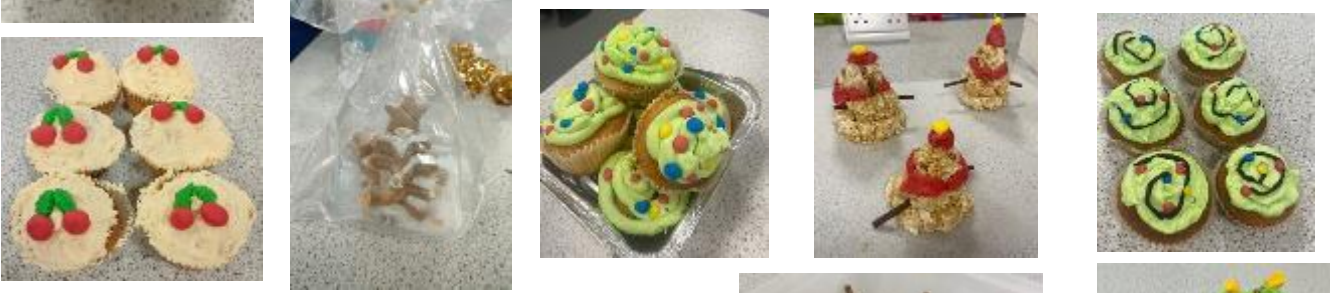
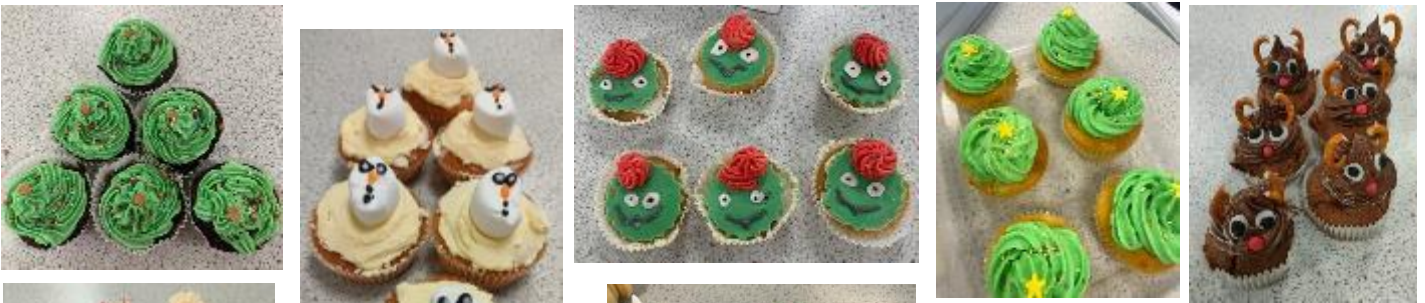
During November S2 and S3 pupils had the opportunity to try cooking with lamb for the first time. Quality Meat Scotland (QMS) and United Auctions (UA) are raising awareness of Scotch Quality Assured Lamb as a local and sustainable protein source. As part of the campaign, QMS and UA have worked with local butchers and farmers across Scotland to create a lamb bank and donate lamb to schools. In 2021 30,000 pupils across Scotland were able to cook with lamb in school thanks to this initiative. At Madras our S2 pupils made Oaty Lamb Burgers and wrapped them in their hand made naan breads and in the same week our S3 pupils made Lamb Naan Pizzas - all delicious. Hunters of Kinross kindly sourced the lamb for our school.

Christmas Cooking

The last full week of term sees the Home Economics operating at capacity from a practical standpoint for our BGE pupils. We like all of our pupils to have the opportunity to take part in some fun Christmas cooking and so far, engagement is exceeding all expectations. S1 pupils have been making chocolate truffles, painstakingly wrapped in cellophane and ribbon as a lovely homemade gift. However, we are not sure how many of these are making it home. S2 are making Penguin cookies using a chocolate dough and melted boiled sweets to create a stained-glass effect. Finally, our S3 have been designing and then decorating Christmas themed cupcakes and we have seen a huge variety from reindeer to wreaths to Grinches. We hope you enjoy some examples of the amazing work they created on the next page.



Home Economics News



Mathematics News

Scottish Enterprising Maths Challenge

Congratulations to both of our teams who participated in the Scottish Enterprising Maths Challenge. The two teams travelled to Glenrothes High School in September to participate in the Fife heat and performed extremely well placing first and second in the overall competition as well as winning the poster competition! An absolutely fantastic achievement against the most talented young mathematicians from across the region.

The strong performance in the Fife heat meant that both teams qualified for the National final held at Glasgow Science Centre in November. Another strong performance allowed both of our teams to place inside the top ten, a fantastic achievement in a competition against the fifty other teams that participated. The pupils also had the opportunity to discover the many wonderful interactive displays and exhibits at the Glasgow Science Centre as part of the day.

The winners of the Fife heat and tenth in the National final were

Daniel Armstrong (S4),
Rodrigo Braunecker-Sicilia (S3),
Oisin Buckley-Zapf (S3) and
Lucca Hartman (S4).



Runners up in the Fife heat, winners of the Fife poster competition and seventh in the National final were

Fraser Hermiston-Scott (S3),
Lucy Lin (S4),
Stuart Monks (S4),
Brodie Waterston (S3).



Well done to everybody involved!

Further information about the Scottish Enterprising Maths Challenge can be found here <https://www.scottishmathematicalcouncil.org/wp1/enterprising-mathematics/>

Music Department News



Music Department New Staff

This term the Music Department has welcomed a new member of staff. As a former pupil of Madras College, Miss Waddell, is very familiar with the department. Not only is she a clarsach player and piper she looks forward to starting a Music Tech club and taking full use of the recording studio.

Talent Show

The charity talent show was held on Thursday 6th October. The audience were thoroughly entertained with the varied performances that included dancers, singers and instrumentalists. The event was held together seamlessly by the very entertaining compering of Johnnie Kennedy S6 and James Mitchell S6.



Thank you to Anya Mohammed & Ola Topolewskathe S6 Charities Captains who helped to organise the event.

Well done to all the performers. Special mention to the Junior winner, Anna Fettes-Fifield S2 and the Senior winners Clara Downes S6 & Daniel Wahl S6. The overall winner was James Mitchell S6.

Pipe Band Performance at The Dunhill

Madras College Pipe Band beside the Old Course at St Andrews after performing at the Alfred Dunhill Golf Links Championship Prizegiving October 2022.



Music Exam Success

Well done to all pupils who sat instrumental exams this term.

- *Robert Fleming, S5 was awarded a Distinction for his Grade 5 Piano exam.*
 - *Abel Cotnoir, S5 was awarded a Pass for his Grade 4 Viola exam*
 - *Tara McGhie, S4 was awarded a Distinction for her Grade 6 Saxophone exam*
 - *Jose O'Keeffe-Machado, S2 was awarded a Merit for his Grade 3 Violin exam*
 - *Jonah Thomson, S2 was awarded a Distinction for his Grade 3 Violin exam*
 - *Mark Stevenson, S2 was awarded a Distinction for his Grade 3 Violin exam*
 - *Anton Morrison, S2 was awarded a Distinction for his Grade 1 Piano exam*
-

Music Department News



Fife Youth Orchestra

Congratulations to the Madras pupils who performed in the Fife Youth Orchestra Concert at Auchmuty High School 2nd November. The orchestra thrilled the audience with their high standard of playing and varied programme of pieces. The programme included Three pieces from Swan Lake, Highlights from Wicked and The Great Gate of Kiev from Pictures at an Exhibition. Fife Youth Concert Band and Sinfonia application forms are now available.

Daniel Armstrong S4 - Cello
Andrew Armstrong S6 - French Horn
Thomas Robertson S4 - Cello
Katie McGhie S6 - Trumpet
Tara McGhie S4 - Clarinet
Matthew McGlashan S5 - Oboe
Niamh Day S6 - Violin
Robert Fleming S5 - Double Bass
Daniel Wahl S6 - Violin
Kaila Bartlett S5 - Percussion
Daniel O'Riordan S6 - Cello
Callum O'Riordan S4 - Viola



Burns Singing Competition

The annual Madras Burns singing competition was held in school on Monday 28th November. Representatives from St Andrews Burns Club were delighted with the vocal performances.

Burns Singing Results

S1 Girls winner – Sophie Berry
S1 Girls runner up – Anna Torrance
S1 Boys winner – Robert Hutchison
S1 Boys runner up – Euan Miller
S2 Girls winner - Mhairi MacIntosh
S2 Girls runner up – Lynn Januschke
S2 Boys winner – Mark Stevenson
S2 Boys runner up – Akito Close
S3/4 Girls winner – Anna-May Dury
S3/4 Girls runner up – Annabelle Grieg
S3/4 Boys winner – Daniel Craig
S3/4 Boys runner up – Thomas Robertson
S5/6 Girls winner – Nadira Dawood
S5/6 Girls runner up – Clara Downes

Hope Park Church – Partially Sighted Group

On the 12th of December Mrs Nisbet and a group of Senior pupils – Cole Tooman S6, Lewis Thompson S6, Clara Downes S6, Isla Hedley, Daniel Wahl S6, James Mitchell S6 and Zaara Nabi S6 sang at the annual Christmas party. The seven talented pupils gave an hour long concert to a very appreciative audience.

Performance at the St Andrews Day Celebrations

Madras College Pipers and Drummers lead the St Andrews Day Torchlit Procession to the West Sands ahead of the Firework Celebrations.



Music Department News



Inter-Music Competition

The first Inter-House Music Competition took place in November. The event was organised by the Creative Captains Andrew Armstrong S6 & Katie McGhie S6 and judged by Miss Waddell.

Congratulations and well done to everyone who participated.

S1-3 winner Anna Fettes-Fifield S2

S1 -3 runner up Euan Miller S1

S4-5 winner Tara McGhie S4

S4-5 runner up Sophie Dykes S5

S6 winner Lewis Thompson

S6 runner up Cole Tooman

Well done George Turnbull S6 Pipe Major

A big thank you to George who has had a very busy term representing the Pipe Band at many events in school and in the local community. These events include the Remembrance Day assemblies, St Andrews Charity Ball and a solo performance in Market Street for St Andrews day.

Fife Youth Jazz Orchestra

The FYJO concert took place in Abbotshall church, Kirkcaldy in December. Robert Fleming S5, J Shackman S5 and Martin McLellan S6 performed to a packed audience conducted Richard Michael.

National Youth Orchestra of Scotland

Congratulations to Daniel Armstrong S4 and Callum O'Riordan S4 who have been selected for the development orchestra and Andrew Armstrong who has been selected for the symphony orchestra in 2023.

Christmas Concert



The annual Concert and Christmas Market took place on Monday the 19th of December. Over 150 Madras pupils performed. The groups included the Junior Choir, Senior Girls' Choir, Senior Mixed Choir, Staff Choir, Folk Group, Junior String Orchestra, Senior String Orchestra, Junior Wind Band, Senior Wind Band, Clarsach Group, Junior Guitar Ensemble, Senior Guitar Ensemble, Jazz Group, Lower Strings Ensemble, Piano Group, Pipe Band and Pipes and Piano

Duet. Congratulations to all the pupils and staff who helped make the evening such a success.

Before the concert and during the interval the Christmas Market was open and this year the event was supported by S1-6 Pupils, Mr Forbes, Madras Pride, the Parent Council, Mrs Duncan and the Home Economics Department.

PE News



PE Sports Teams October – December 2022

Football

- S1 Boys played a friendly tournament against Bell Baxter S1's in December at the School Astro. The tournament was played with an excellent attitude and the team can't wait to play in their next competition.
- The S2 football team are top of the Fife Schools League. They are also in the quarter final of the Fife Cup and will play Beath High School.



- Senior boy's footballers performed very well drawing 1-1 at home with Balwearie in the league. Goal Scorer: Billy Thompson. Senior boy's footballers lost narrowly 2-1 to Woodmill in the Fife cup. Goal scorer: Billy Thompson.
- S1/2 Girls Football team came 3rd in the SFA Spars Cup. Goal scorers: Orla, Issy and Tegan.



Huge thanks to our coaches: Girls Coach – Miss Couper, S1 Coach – Mr Young, S2 Coach – Mr Morgan, S3 coach – Mr Munn, Senior Coach – Mr Aitken

Hockey

The S2 hockey girls came 2nd in the Scottish Hockey Aspire Festival at the start of December.



Huge thanks to our coach: Miss Dawson

Rugby

The Junior Rugby team won all of their matches in the NEF League, huge well done to all involved.



Huge thanks to our coach: Mr Suttie

Basketball

The Senior and Junior Basketball teams took part in and won a cluster league tournament, hosted by Madison Garland at Madras College.

Huge thanks to our coaches: St Andrews University Students.

Swimming

We had 22 pupils from Madras College competing in the Fife Schools Swimming Championships. This was held at Michael Woods Sports Centre in Glenrothes. We had great success with many pupils winning in their categories.



PE Sports Teams October – December 2022

Netball

- The S1 Netball team are developing their skills and teamwork in preparations for friendly matches in the new year and their tournament that will take place in May at the Michael Woods Centre in Glenrothes.

- The S2 Netball team have played 2 matches in the Fife Schools Netball League, they have lost both games, but are enjoying the experiences and improving each game. Our recent match saw us host Woodmill High School. We had 3 S1 pupils make their debut for the S2 team due to low numbers for the S2 squad. All



girls played extremely well, special thanks to Iona, Nicole and Florence. We lost 13-4, to a strong Woodmill team. Scores were: Sophie Wright and Florence Dempster. Player of the Match: Lucy Franks. Next Matches for the League will be played in the New year and the girls also have their Fife Schools Tournament in March.

- The S3 Netball team have played 2 matches in the Fife Schools Netball League, they have lost both games, but are enjoying playing matches again and learning to gel as a team. Player of the Match: Annie Mackenzie. Next Matches for the League will be played in the New year and the girls also have their Fife Schools Tournament in February.

The Senior (S4-S6) Netball teams have played a couple of matches in the Fife Schools Netball League. They have won one and lost one, the rest of their matches will be played in the New Year. The Senior A team also had great success at the Fife Schools Senior Netball Tournament, where they finished 3rd place overall.

Huge thanks to our coaches: S1 & S2 Coach – Miss McIntosh, S3 coach – Miss Watson, Senior Coach – Mrs Mackenzie

Volleyball

Training is going well and numbers participating are high. We are hoping to enter our Junior and Senior Volleyball teams into some events in the New Year.

Huge thanks to our coaches: Mr Paterson & Miss Watson.



Social Subjects News

Religious and Moral Education

So far this year we have been covering a wide range of topics across different year groups, with lots of stimulating class discussion.

S1 have been doing a unit called Belief Matters, thinking about big questions like what is the soul and is there a God? They have now moved on to a unit learning about Buddhist beliefs and practices.

S2 have been engaging with the issues of racism and homophobia and will move on to the issue of Islamophobia.

S3 have covered a wide range of ethical topics, many of which are connected with advancements in technology and medicine, such as the programming of driverless cars, the use of saviour siblings and organ transplantation.

S4 classes have come to RME in 6-week blocks during which we have had some fantastic engagement around the arguments for and against abortion and the ideas of bodily autonomy and sanctity of life.

In our senior phase we also currently have a joint class for our National 5 and Higher candidates, studying medical ethics, Buddhism and the origins of the universe and life. We also have one candidate doing advanced higher.

In staffing news, we have had a new addition to our department with Mr Webster joining the school staff for his probation year. He has particularly enjoyed opening up moral and ethical discussions with pupils and has appreciated the engagement they have shown with the subject.

As a department we would like to wish everyone a good holiday.



*Merry
Christmas*

Other News

Teaching English as A Foreign Language and Academic and Professional Skills

Thirty Madras pupils, a mixture of S5 and S6, were fortunate to work with St Andrews University. They undertook short courses in TEFL (Teaching English as A Foreign Language) and Academic and Professional Skills. The Classes ran from September to Christmas and our pupils gained valuable insights into university life as well as helping them to become effective students whether it be in Higher Education or Further Education. These courses help to develop their employability skills as well as just being great fun. It is one of these opportunities that Madras students can reference in their personal statements/ applications and CVs. Many thanks to Kirsty Duff and her team at the International Education Institute and to Dr Cassice Last and the CEED Team.

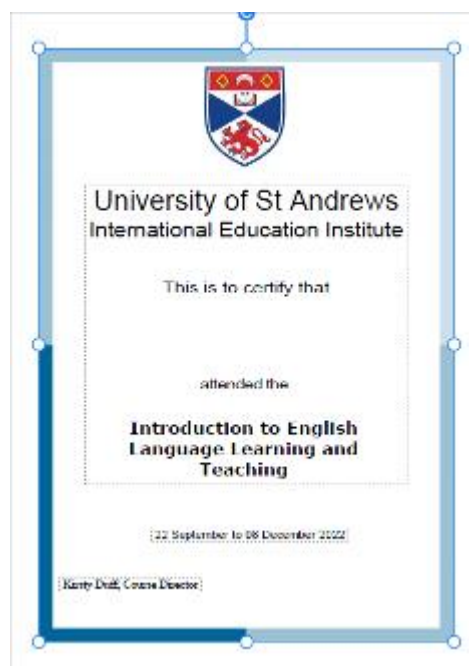
What the students said about working with St Andrews university

"It was really confidence boosting"

"Very helpful"

"Really helped with my planning"

"It gave me an insight into how beginners learn languages"



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 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.fife.gov.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
- The Scottish Government has lots of information on its **Ready Scotland Website** - readyscotland.org about getting ready for winter in your home, roads and community.



Dates for Your Diary

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

(all dates inclusive)

Thursday 22nd December 2022 -
Wednesday 4th January 2023

Thursday 16th — Friday 17th February 2023

Monday 31st — Friday 14th April 2023

INSERVICE

Wednesday 15th February 2023

Contact Us

BELL BRAE

St Andrews, KY16 9BY
Telephone (01334) 659401

E-MAIL

madrascollge.enquiries@fife.gov.uk

WEB-SITE

www.madras.fife.sch.uk

Twitter

@Madrascollge