



Christmas Newsletter

Madras College

December 2023



Rector's Message

Dear Parent/Carer,

It's once again December with our Christmas Break approaching and we've been working hard to support all of our pupils in their learning. It's been a busy term with many highlights, including a range of school trips and excursions, for you to look at over the next few pages.

I'd like to begin by mentioning our S4 pupils, many of whom sat their A/B assessments over November and into December as they work towards their first experience of examinations. The marking, feedback to pupils and parents evening has been completed, leaving us all of term 3 for further study and improvement.

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 regularly on the weekly bulletin.

School Attendance

I'd like to start by thanking you for your continued and ongoing support with school attendance. We're in a stronger position again for this session to date, with the overall attendance for our school currently at 90.3% at the time of writing, up from 88.6% last session.

While I'm pleased to see more of our pupils in school for more of the time, we have more to do together to try to reduce absence even further where we can. I've taken the opportunity to recognise and celebrate those pupils who have achieved 100% attendance, and will do this on the last day of term. We'll also recognise those who have been able to improve their attendance in school over the session to date with an event in January – with more details to follow early in the new term.

Contents

Rectors Message	Page 1—3
Visit from and Oscar Winner	Page 4
Channel 4 Comes to Madras	Page 4
Social Subjects News	Page 5
More Social Subjects News	Page 6
Chemistry: Top of The Bench	Page 6
Drama Department News	Page 7
Business and Enterprise	Page 8
Home Economics News	Page 9
More Madras News	Page 10
Computing Department News	Page 11
Biology Department News	Page 11
DAS News	Page 12
P.E. Department News	Page 13
Maths Challenge News	Page 14
Music Department News	Page 15—17
Dates for Your Diary / Contact Us	Page 17



Rector's Message (continued)

S5/6 Prelims

Our S5/6 assessments are up next and will pupils will complete their Prelim Assessments from 22nd January through until 7th February. The S5/6 Prelim Timetable will be shared shortly and a separate letter, detailing arrangements for the Prelim diet. Individual assessment arrangements will also follow in January.

SQA Exam Performance

With regards to our 2023 SQA exam results, I am pleased to let you know that the performance of pupils was again very strong, reflecting the teamwork and commitment from all in school and at home. Some highlights include: S4 Literacy and Numeracy performance at Levels 3-5 continues to improve over time and for the first time, exceeds virtual comparators figures at all levels. This means that have out performed national comparators in both areas – an excellent result!

Our S4 Level 5 results were the strongest set of S4 results so far with over 64% of pupils achieving five or more passes – nearly 3% above our national comparator figure. By the end of S6, almost 43% of pupils had gained five or more passes at Level 6 and our Advanced Higher (Level 7) pass rate continues to be significantly above any national measure, with nearly 65% of S6 achieving at least one pass and over a quarter achieving three or more passes.

These successes and the associated skills and knowledge the come with it help our school leavers to secure a positive post-school destination and I'm pleased to say that almost 96% of all our leavers were in a post-school positive destination at the follow up stage, 6-months after leaving us. This figure is 2.5% stronger than the national picture and builds a good case

Wellbeing supports

Ensuring wellbeing of all of children and families is a priority and during any holiday period, I'm keen to ensure that while the school may be closed, you have access to further supports should you need them. Please see below for a range of links and resources that you can access at any point.

Foodbanks and Community Cafes in Fife - [Foodbanks and Community Cafés | Fife Council](#)

Fife Council Cost of Living Support - [Cost of Living Support \(fife.scot\)](#)

NHS Fife: Right care, right place - [Right Care Right Place | NHS Fife](#)

Fife Women's Aid - [Home - Fife Women's Aid \(fifewomensaid.org.uk\)](#)

Samaritans- [Samaritans | Every life lost to suicide is a tragedy | Here to listen](#)

Barnardo's [Barnardo's Scotland | Barnardo's \(barnardos.org.uk\)](#)

Course Choice for session 2024/2025

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





Rector's Message (continued)

Parents' Evenings

This term has also seen a return to in-person parents' evenings at Madras College. From my perspective, it has been fantastic to see so many of you attend for the evenings and to see around the school building and learning spaces. I hope that the opportunity to meet face to face has helped you to connect just a little more with our school community.



Following the S5/6 and S1 evenings we carried out a survey to help us with our forward planning. The responses we received were very positive with almost all respondents feeling that they were welcomed into Madras and that the feedback provided to them helped them to understand how their young person is progressing in their learning. In addition to this most respondents felt the evenings were well organised.

School standards and expectations

A New Year provides a great opportunity to make a strong start and reflect on standards and expectations across our school.

With that in mind, I'd like to ask for your support with school uniform and helping to ensure that all pupils 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 can offer a range of supports with regards school uniform if required – please ask.

I have also asked that school assemblies over the first couple of weeks in January focus on our agreed school values, classroom expectations and the different ways that pupils can access additional support, if required.

In closing, I hope that everyone is able to take some time to relax over the Christmas break and I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year when it comes.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. K. Currie
Rector



Visit from an Oscar winner!

Oscar winner brings a slice of Hollywood to Madras College

Former pupil Chris Burdon brought glamour and excitement when he returned to the school for the first time in 40 years with the Oscar he won in March. An acclaimed sound engineer, Chris won the Academy Award for Best Sound as part of a team working on "Top Gun: Maverick". The S1 year group and the National 5 Media class were invited to be the audience for an interview with Chris, hosted by S1 Year Head Mr Wishart. During the session, Chris told students about his time at Madras, starting his career with the BBC and, of course, what it was like to be flown first class to Hollywood and to win an Oscar! He also showed exclusive clips explaining how he worked on the winning film. Some staff and pupils were then lucky enough to hold the Oscar - a truly once in a lifetime experience and inspirational moment.



Channel 4 Comes to Madras



The S2 yeargroup were lucky enough to take part in the 4Schools project run by Channel 4 in November. Starting with a whole year group assembly entitled 'Big Careers on the Small Screen', this interactive session got pupils thinking about all the jobs involved in TV production. This was followed up by workshops in which students were assigned job roles in groups and had to work together to create a new digital series for Channel 4's digital first content arm - Channel 4.0 on Youtube. The session encouraged students to learn more about job roles in the industry, understand their skills, explore their creative side and see how one day they could get paid to work on something they use every day - social media!

Social Subjects News



RME and RMPS



So far this year we have had a very positive start across **S1**, with pupils engaging with our Belief Matters introductory topic. In particular we have had some great class discussions on the question of 'Is there a God?' and even conducted

some in class votes on the question of God. It has been fantastic to see pupils begin to explore such big questions with interest and enthusiasm. **S1** have now moved on to a unit on Buddhism.

S2 have been studying the topic of racism, with some great assessment posters produced at the end of the topic (see picture). They have now moved on to our new developed course on Christianity, which has tied in nicely with the run up to Christmas.

Our **S3** classes are coming to the end of their Ethics topic, where they have covered a wide range of moral issues, including driverless cars, cloning, cannibalism, saviour siblings and organ donation. It has been great to see pupils thinking stimulated as they work out their own viewpoints.

In **S4** we have seen pupils on rotation, where we have been exploring the arguments for and against abortion, taking this one issue as an opportunity to analyse different viewpoints and the principles behind them.

Our **National 5** class have recently sat their AB tests and have begun work on their assignments, taking time to choose their topic question. **Highers** likewise have begun their assignments and are working towards their pre-**lim** on 6th February (Nat 5s will be sitting theirs during class time to be arranged). Our topics this year include Medical Ethics, Origins and Buddhism.

Wishing you a happy and safe Christmas holiday from Mr Webster and Mrs Matheson.

Higher Modern Studies

The Modern Studies Department Higher, Classes, had the opportunity to take part in a question and answer session (via Teams) with the UK Ambassador to South Africa. This was a fantastic opportunity to learn about South Africa and its role in the world



@AJPhillipson and officials Lily Zheng and Calum Peterson on their virtual visit to Madras

Fundraising for Fife Women's Aid

The Charities Committee raised money for Fife Women's Aid by holding a "Wear it Orange Day" and collecting donations across the school. This was part of the United Nations 16 Days of Action, against gender based violence, initiative.



More Social Subjects News

Fife 'KFOR and Kosovo +25'

In January the school will be hosting a photographic Journalist display, relating to the people of Kosovo and their experiences of conflict. The photographs were taken by Nick Sidle who was embedded in KFOR. The photographs highlight the hardships and also the friendships that developed during the conflict. The school intends to create their own exhibition based around the issues raised by conflict and the way young people deal with and experience conflict. This is an important project for the school, which will explore the rights of children. It also allows us to discuss the many issues which conflicts around the world create for young people. Given the context of global conflicts taking place today across the world, we hope this will have resonance for the pupils taking part in the project. The accords with the school values of diversity and respect.



Chemistry: Top of the Bench



Madras college once again, with a new team, competed against 14 schools and are now in the regional finals of the Top of the Bench quiz (sponsored by Royal Society of Chemistry). In the finals they are against High school of Dundee, St Leonard's and Kinross High school on 23rd January.

Good luck Team Madras!



Regional Final for Top of the Bench 2023–2024
L—R: Fergus Waterston S3, William Monks S2, Oisín Buckley Zapf and Aarthi Thejus S2



Drama Department News

S1 Pantomime Byre Theatre trip

On Wednesday 6th and Thursday 7th of December our S1 pupils visited the Byre Theatre to see the Pantomime 'Cinderella' which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Pupils attended the morning show and walked back to school in time for lunch. This was a great start to the Christmas festivities and helped get everyone into the holiday spirit.

Theatre for Health and Wellbeing

Our Theatre for Wellbeing sessions have continued this term. In partnership with the Byre Theatre these sessions are led by Drama Practitioner Noah. This session the group of S1-S3 pupils have been working on building self-esteem and developing group work skills.



Fife Shakespeare Schools Festival

This year our Fife Shakespeare Schools Festival will take place on Tuesday 16th of January at the Byre Theatre. This year's festival is directed by S6 pupil **Bethany Dalton-Dowey** with a cast of S1-S5 pupils. Their performance will be of Macbeth and rehearsals are progressing well. Tickets are available from the Byre Theatre website and the evening will include plays from three other Fife schools - Kirkcaldy High School, Beath High School and Dunfermline High School.

S5 Director

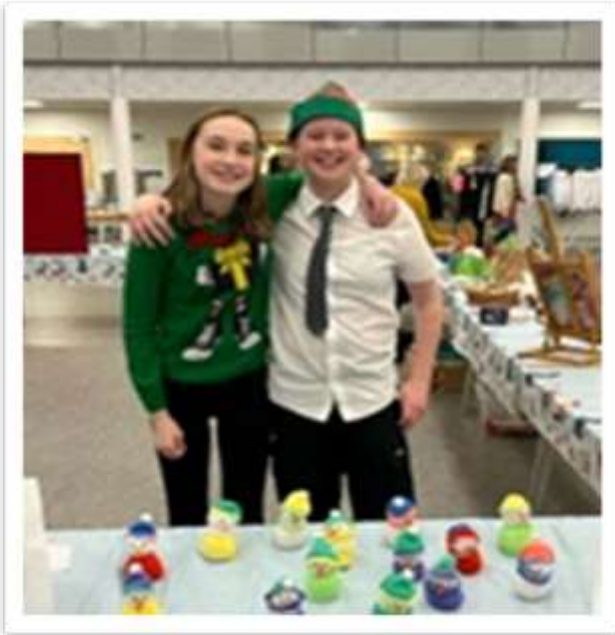
On Wed 8th of December, a group of talented S5 pupils performed the premier show of 'The Screaming Storm' a play that was written and directed by Madras S5 pupil **Conor MacRae**. Conor also organised the group of pupils and directed his play. The evening was a great success and well done to all those involved.

Pantomime Success

Congratulations to our Madras pupils that are taking part in this year's pantomime at the Byre Theatre. **Cintra Nemecek (S6), George Masters (S5), Sen De Majo (S5), Erin Reid (S5), Fergus Ward (S2), Lily Robson (S1)** and **Emily Green (S1)** have all been successful in gaining a part with the young cast in the production of Cinderella. This is a huge achievement, and we wish them the best of luck with the performances.



Business and Enterprise



S2 Business and Enterprise

All S2 classes have been working this term to create a small business as part of their enterprise project, where the objectives were to make a product to sell at the school's Christmas market and create an effective brand for their business using an effective marketing strategy. A range of products were available to purchase at the market from Christmas decorations, children's activity packs, treats and stocking fillers.

All sellers did a fantastic job on the night to try and earn the highest profit for their team. Congratulations to the following award winners.
Best Profit – Joyful Jingle Feet (2Y3)
Best Brand – Pawfect Presents (2X5)

Investment Challenge

Teams from Madras College qualified for the Investment Challenge final for north-east Scotland schools, which took place at BNP Paribas offices in central Glasgow. The competition is an online simulation, where players take on the roles of Media and Investment Analysts, buying and selling shares in fictional companies in order to generate the highest value share portfolio.

Once again, our teams were victorious, demolishing the competition to finish in the top 2 spots. Congratulations to S6 pupils **Camran Kouhy, Sarah Kouhy, Noah Kurz** and **Conor McCowan** who came out on top, generating over £100,000 profit from their initial investment. They were joined at the final by **Liam Clark** and **Cameron McDonald** (S5) and **Keir Paterson** and **Logan McPherson** (S6). All players displayed excellent communication, team working and analytical skills in their excellent performances.

Thank you also to all pupils who took part in the qualifying round.



Home Economics News



Over the past two terms Home Economics have been busy developing practical skills with our young people and building the knowledge that underpins the subject area.

We are very lucky to be well supported in donations of autumn fruits and also fabrics from our school community allowing us to minimise waste both in food and textiles.

Apple Donations

We were delighted again this year to have over 1000 apples donated to the department and we used these across all classes. We had apple scones, apple kuchen, apple tarts, apple turnovers and apple cobbler, to name a few. We are so grateful for the support from our school

Cook's Club

Term two saw the return of cook's club for S1 pupils, this year run by Miss. MacLean. There has been fantastic participation from the young people involved and they seem to have thoroughly enjoyed all of their baked goods

Fashion and Textiles

Our Fashion and Textile classes are another area where we are so grateful for the donations. Every item we make in the school is created from upcycled materials. This includes all items made by our certificated classes



Christmas Cooking

The last two weeks of term sees the Home Economics department embark on Christmas cooking and engagement has exceeded all expectations. S1 pupils have been making chocolate truffles, packaged in cellophane bags and ribbon as a lovely homemade gift. However, we are not sure how many of these are making it home! S2 made Penguin cookies using a chocolate dough and melted boiled sweets to create a stained-glass window. 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.

Lamb for St. Andrews Day

During November S3 pupils had the opportunity to try cooking with lamb. 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 S3 pupils made Lamb Keema Curry - delicious. Hunters of Kinross kindly sourced the lamb for our school.

More Madras News



Uniform Exchange

The school continues to develop the uniform exchange to help promote sustainability. Uniforms have been put on display during recent parent evenings and the school the Christmas concert. If you have any uniforms you would like to hand in you can do this in reception. It is also possible to drop them off at the Larick Centre in Tayport. If you have any questions regarding the uniform exchange do not hesitate to contact Mr Robertson.



Burns Recital Competition

There was a great turn out for the Burns Recital Competition in November. Judges from the St Andrews Burns Club were impressed with the confident delivery and performance skills of all taking part. The results were:

Junior (S1 and S2 boys and girls)

1st Place: **Robert Hutchison**—Winner of Maronski Shield for Junior Boys Presentation

2nd Place: **Matthew Garrie**

3rd Place: **Erin Ridgewell**—Winner of Allan Russell Trophy for Junior Girls Recitation

S3 and S4 Boys and Girls

1st Place: **Esther Holsteen**—Winner of David Joy Vase for Senior Girls Recitation

2nd Place: **Vishaka Abeyesuriya**

Seniors (S5 and S6 Boys and Girls)

1st Place: **Jan Tero**—Winner of A.B. Paterson Vase for Senior Boys Recitation

2nd Place: **Thomas Robertson**

3rd Place: **Andrei Morrison**

All winners will be invited to perform at the school Burns Supper in January



Craigtoun Park Project

Madras College have formed a working partnership with Craigtoun Park and the Friends of Craigtoun Park committee.

A group of pupils are attending Craigtoun Park to work on an area that has been given over to the school. The group have begun clearing an area and plan to turn it into a vegetable plot and sensory garden with the reinstatement of a water feature and pond.



Computing Dept. News



Bebras Challenge

During the week beginning 24th November, National 5 and Higher pupils took part in the Bebras Computing Challenge.

The Challenge introduces computational thinking to students. It is organized in over 60 countries and designed to get students all over the world excited about Computing. Each pupil answers questions that focus on computational and logical thinking.

Congratulations to our Senior Group

Top 3 Winners:

Rodrigo Braunecker Sicilia	130 pts
Fraser Hermiston	124 pts
Brodie Waterson	122 pts

Congratulations to our Elite Group

Top 3 Winners:

Lucca Hartmann	131 pts
Daniel Armstrong	128 pts
Logan Wright	125 pts

GCHQ Challenge

Thursday 14th December also saw the National 5 and Higher classes take part in the annual GCHQ Christmas Challenge.

This year's Challenge featured seven complex puzzles, masterminded by GCHQ's in-house puzzlers. They were designed to test a range of problem-solving skills and encouraged the use of teamwork to reveal the final festive message.

Congratulations to our quickest team, comprising **Lucca Hartmann, Howard More, Xander Gray** and **Kieran Beat**, who completed the challenge in under 40 minutes.



Biology Department News



Edinburgh Zoo Trip

The Higher and Advanced Higher Biology students recently enjoyed a trip to Edinburgh Zoo. Pupils attended talks about the Evolution of Species and Animal Behaviour. Some lucky pupils & staff managed to spot one of the Giant Pandas (*Ailuropoda melanoleuca*) roaming around their outdoor pen, munching on some bamboo! A nice reward for those brave enough to make the arduous trek up to their enclosure.



DAS News

Department of Additional Support



DAS Trip to The Byre Theatre

On the 5th of December the Madras DAS pupils enjoyed a trip to The Byre Theatre to see the pantomime 'Cinderella'. This was courtesy of St Andrews Rotary Club – who funded the cost of the tickets. Pupils and staff thoroughly enjoyed the pantomime.

Thanks again to the Rotary Club for enabling our pupils to have such positive experiences year after year.



North East Fife ASN Sports League

Earlier this term, the Madras DAS made the short trip to Bell Baxter to participate in the North East Fife ASN Sports League. Madras were up against number of other DAS departments from Fife. The guys represented the school very well. After the first round of fixtures (football) - Madras sit in fourth place. Next term, the plan is for Madras to host for the next round of fixtures.

We will welcome the other DAS departments to our new school - to come and take part in the throwing event called 'Boccia'.



MacMillan Coffee Morning / Christmas Fayre

In November the Madras DAS held a MacMillan Coffee Morning. The pupils all pulled together tremendously, taking on various roles to ensure the event ran smoothly. Parents and carers were invited in, staff and senior pupils who were available to attend were also able to come along and enjoy some of the baked goods and drinks that were on offer. It was a massive success and the Department raised well over £100 for MacMillan. Well done to all involved! Many thanks to our school community and parents/carers for supporting the Christmas Fayre on the 19th December.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas!

P.E. Department News



This term, our sporting teams have been busy on pitches and courts across the region with our Football, Netball and Basketball teams out in force in recent weeks.

Football

Our S1 Football team has been training every Thursday while our S3 and Senior teams have both played fixtures representing the School. We would like to congratulate **Kyle McMulkin, Kieran Herd, Aria Moore and Aimee Marlow** for all being selected to represent Fife in the Football select squads. Both Kyle and Kieran are part of the team which is due to play in the semi final of the Scottish cup after Christmas.

Basketball

Basketball has been extremely popular this term. We have over 30 pupils playing each week. The senior boys' team has played 3 fixtures, winning their most recent fixture against Viewforth High School. We would like to thank our Young Ambassadors for supporting the delivery of our junior Basketball. **Aiden Alexander and Rachel Lindsay** regularly give up their lunchtimes to help coach

Netball

Netball has been very popular and very successful this year. The S1-3's train every Tuesday and the S4-6's train every Thursday. We have S2, S3 and Senior teams all competing in the Fife league. The teams are doing very well and their commitment to the club is really showing through the games. The S1's will get an opportunity to compete in the league next year as there is no S1 league. The S1,2,3 and senior team will get a chance to compete in the fife tournament in the up coming months which will be the S1s first opportunity competing against schools in Fife. We would like to thank **Rachel Sandeman, Rachel Lindsay and Bethan Thompson** who help support the netball clubs.

SSAA Road Race Championship

We would like to congratulate the pupils who competed in SSAA road race championships in October. This was a fantastic opportunity to compete nationally. We would like to especially congratulate **Harriet Reid** placed 2nd out of 117 competitors, **Fearne Jarret** who placed 3rd out of 117, **Harry Robinson** who place 4th out of 108 competitors, **Lyll Tulleth** who placed 9th out of 108 competitors and **Imogen Jarrett** who placed 3rd out of 119 competitors. This is an amazing achievement and a fantastic opportunity to represent Madras College nationally.

Italy Ski Trip

We also currently have 45 pupils away on the ski trip in Italy. This has been arranged by Mrs Mackenzie, Miss Dawson and Mr Young in the PE Department. We are looking forward to hearing all about the trip on their return.



Our other extra-curricular clubs, Volleyball, Badminton, Hockey, Table Tennis and Fitness have all been training and playing at both lunchtimes and after school. These clubs are all very popular and will hopefully play against other schools in the new year. We would encourage everyone to join a club after Christmas!

Maths Challenge News



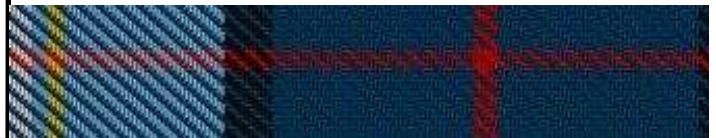
The Maths Department are delighted to share news of a very successful start to the academic year for pupils in the Maths challenges that have run so far.

UK Mathematics Trust Challenges

In October we had 39 S5/6 pupils competing in the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust Challenges. The challenges encourage mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency in using mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems. They are designed to make students think, most are accessible to the majority of young people who participate, yet still challenge those with more experience. Of the pupils competing three achieved gold awards, three silver and 16 bronze. A special mention goes to the three young people who qualified for the Kangaroo papers which are the follow-on round to each of the challenges. The Kangaroo papers are by invite only with a few thousand young people across the United Kingdom being invited at each level. The qualifiers were **Stuart Monks** (who gained a merit!), **Daniel Armstrong** and **Ash Simmons**. Well done to everybody who participated.

Scottish Mathematical Challenge

The Scottish Mathematical Challenge is a problem-solving competition for individual pupils in Scottish secondary schools and upper primary schools. It has been running since 1976 under the auspices of the Scottish Mathematical Council. The aim is to promote mathematics as a source of interest and pleasurable achievement. Each year there are two rounds of problems for Secondary schools. 21 young people have participated in the first round, with the second round questions now available for completing. Pupils can ask their teacher for the questions or they can be found online at [Problems Menu \(wpr3.co.uk\)](http://wpr3.co.uk). Answers need to be submitted to the university by Friday 23rd February, so we are asking they be handed in to their class teacher by Monday 19th February.



Scottish Enterprising Maths Challenge

Two teams participated in the Scottish Enterprising Maths Challenge. An event where each team comprises of two S3 and two S4 pupils. The two teams travelled to Bell Baxter High School in September to participate in the Fife heat and performed extremely well placing third and fifth in the overall competition. Their performance resulted in one team qualifying for the National final held at Glasgow Science Centre in November. The team, **Rodrigo Braunecker-Sicilia** (S4), **Oisin Buckley-Zapf** (S4), **Robbie Spence** (S3) and **Platon Nikolaev** (S3) went on to place 18th out of 52 teams from across Scotland. The young people conducted themselves impeccably and were a credit to the school.



Next Term... We are hoping for strong participation in the up and coming Maths challenges next session. Young people should look out for chances to participate in the Junior and Intermediate United Kingdom Mathematics Trust Challenges, as well as *Mathématiques sans Frontières*. *The latter* is an annual international mathematics competition for senior schoolchildren, centrally run by the Académie de Strasbourg since 1989. This interclass competition involves a number of mathematical puzzles where one of the puzzles is posed, and must be answered, in a foreign language. Each class works as a team to tackle the puzzles in the allotted time.

Music Department News

Talent Show

The charity talent show was held on Tuesday 31st October. The audience were entertained with varied performances including rock bands, ballet, singers and instrumentalists. 3rd place **Lottie Niven S1**, 2nd place **Lexie Brown S5** and the worthy winners were **Robert Fleming S6**, **Abel Cotnoir S6**, **Jasmine Shackman S6**, **Holton Foster-Whiddon S6**, **Mairi Stewart S5**, **Luke Farquhar S5** and **Ian Cotnoir S2** (the Jazz Group). Thanks to **Sophie Dykes** and **Camran Kouhy** for hosting and **Sarah Kouhy** for organising.

University Project - Choral Project

In October members of the Junior choir were invited to participate in a choral project. The pupils worked with members of the award-winning British vocal ensemble Guesualdo Six and had a fabulous choral experience. The project was organised and funded by St Andrews University.

Visually Impaired Group St Andrews

In December, Mrs Day and a group of Senior pupils – **Lexie Brown S5**, **Mairi Stewart S5**, **Callum Gillespie S6**, **Luke Farguhar S5**, **Amelie Trow S6** and **Thomas Robertson S5** performed at the annual Christmas party. The six talented pupils gave an hour-long concert to a very appreciative audience.

Christmas Concert

The annual Christmas Concert and Market took place on Tuesday the 12th of December. It was a sellout evening which involved over 150 talented pupils. The groups included the Junior Choir, Senior Girls' Choir, Senior Mixed Choir, Staff Choir, Junior Trad Group, Senior Trad Group, Junior String Orchestra, Senior String Orchestra, Piano Ensemble, Junior Wind Band, Senior Wind Band, Clarsach Group, Guitar Ensemble, Brass Ensemble, Flute Quintet, Lower Strings Ensemble, Jazz Group and the Pipe Band. 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-S6 Pupils, Mr Forbes and the staff of the Business Education Department, Miss Dawson and the pupils involved in the World Challenge, the LGBT Group, Mrs Duncan, Mrs Pangbourne, Mrs Steedman and Mrs Payne.



More Music News



Senior Wind Band at St Leonards Church

The Senior Wind Band performed to an appreciative audience at St Leonards church on Monday the 18th of December. The programme included a variety of Christmas carols performed by the Wind Band, Flute Quintet and Brass Group as well as solo items from **Tara McGhie S5**, **Kristen Falconer S4**, and a flute duet from **Hannah McGlashan S5** and **Frida Martin S4**. The groups were conducted by Mrs Ritchie and Mrs Miller.

Pipe Band performance at the Dunhill Cup

The Pipe Band spent time preparing for their annual performance at the Dunhill Cup however it was cancelled due to bad weather.



Fife Youth Orchestra Concert

After a residential weekend the Fife Youth Orchestra concert took place at Auchmuty High School on Wednesday 1st November. The programme included the 1st movement of Borodin's Symphony No 2, Brahms' Academic Festival Overture and highlights from Bernstein's West Side Story.

Congratulations to the following performers who represented Madras in the orchestra:

Kaila Bartlett S6 – Percussion
Matthew McGlashan S6 – Oboe
Robert Fleming S6 – Double Bass
Daniel Armstrong S5 – Cello
Tara McGhie S5 – Clarinet
Hannah McGlashan S5 – Flute
Stuart Monks S5 – Cello
Callum O'Riordan – Viola
Thomas Robertson S6 – Cello
Oli Sanderson S5 – Percussion
Poppy Thomas S5 – Percussion
Robert Hutchison S2 – Violin



Fife Youth Concert Band and Sinfonia application forms are now available. The minimum standard for these groups is grade 4.

Please contact Lynne.miller@fife.gov.uk for further information.



Even More Music News!

Burns Singing Competition

The music department welcomed members of the St Andrews Burns Club to the annual competition on the 28th of November. All the pupils performed extremely well making it very difficult for the judges. The winners and runners-up will compete in the Fife Burns Competition next term.

Burns Singing Results

S1/2 1st Place – **Robert Hutchison S2**
S1/2 2nd Place – **Euan Miller S2**
S1/2 3rd Place – **Matthew Garrie S1**
S3/4 1st Place – **Gabi Patino Mains S4**
S3/4 2nd Place – **Mark Stevenson S3**
S5/6 1st Place – **Lexie Brown S5**
S5/6 2nd Place – **Thomas Robertson S5**
S5/6 3rd Place – **Nadira Dawood S6**



Music Exam Success

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

- **Sophie Robertson S2** was awarded a Distinction for her Grade 5 Violin Exam
- **Jessica Masters S3** was awarded a Merit for her Grade 3 Drum Kit Exam
- **Jonah Thomson S3** was awarded a Distinction for his Grade 3 Violin Exam
- **Mark Stevenson S3** was awarded a Distinction for his Grade 3 Violin Exam
- **José O'Keeffe Machado S3** was awarded a Merit for his Grade 3 Violin Exam
- **Daniel Armstrong S5** was awarded a Distinction for his Grade 8 Cello Exam
- **Andrew Lu S1** was awarded a Merit for his Grade 6 Piano Exam

Dates for your Diary

Term 3 Begins:

Thursday 4th January 2024

Inservice Day:

Wednesday 14th February 2024

Half Term:

Thursday 15th February 2024

Friday 16th February 2024

Easter Holidays:

Starts Friday 29th March 2024

Ends Friday 12th April 2024

Contact Us



Bell Brae
St Andrews
Fife KY16 9BY



01334 659401



madracollege.enquiries@fife.gov.uk



www.mdras.fife.sch.uk

