

Unlike the other end-of-term newsletters addressed to parents throughout the year, the summer newsletter affords the opportunity to report not only on the events of this term but on developments covering the whole session.

By their very nature, these tend to be mainly on the curriculum side, where several interesting moves have taken place. First, in the French Department, three SI classes have been following a new course, "Tour de France", which aims, by audio-visual methods, to make pupils aware of French life and language. It is part of a national scheme, with Madras as one of forty schools piloting the materials. The results have been encouraging, and next session all SI French classes will follow the course while the three pilot classes will continue it into SII. The second development involves SIV general science pupils who next session will use teaching materials on forestry and coal produced as part of a Fife project which aims to show the application of science and technology to industry. The third innovation, also due to start next session, is an Outdoor Education course for SIII pupils which will combine outdoor activities with a scientific and geographical study of the environment. In the Kilrymont Road building, the conversion of the former Rural Science laboratory into an extension of the library will provide a Resources Centre for the storage of reference material. The most recent development involves the school in computer studies. As part of an experiment to test the application of S-ALGOL (a computer language developed by St Andrews University) the school has on extended loan a microcomputer system. Initially this will be used in the VIth Year Mathematics course, but it is planned to involve other departments and age-groups as the experiment develops.

As usual, the summer term is the time when the formal curriculum is extended by trips and visits. In addition to visits to such diverse things as the Highland Show, Antonine's Wall, University and College Open Days, the school cottage at Glen Tilt, several school parties have taken part in more extended activities. Sixteen SIII girls enjoyed a very successful week at the Army Outdoor Activity Camp at Barry-Buddon; a party of senior pupils spent a week on a Shakespeare course at Stratford and thirty-two pupils with staff visited Portugal and the Canaries on the "Uganda" Schools Cruise. While the German scholars have been in Kiel on the annual exchange visit, this year has seen the beginning of what I hope will be an equally successful and long-lived exchange scheme with a French school. Seventeen pupils and two staff from the Lycee 'Jean Mermoz' in Lagny, near Paris, have been with us since mid-June, and our pupils will visit Lagny next session.

Among the club activities, chess continues strongly with the 2nd Year team winning the Dundee League, and Helen Scott and Natasha Sykes representing Scotland at school-girls' international level. The Agriculture Club won 3rd Prize in the Schools' Project competition. This year's summer productions in drama and music have, each in its own way, broken new ground - the drama group by taking their impressive production of 'Everyman' to various parts of N.E. Fife, and the music group by tackling Benjamin Britten's "Noye's Fludde", culminating in a joint presentation of memorable quality in the Kilrymont Road Hall on 26th and 27th June.

On the sports side, both cricket and athletics have suffered through cancellation of fixtures. The cricket teams show considerable promise, and it is to be hoped that the formation of the F.P. cricket club this season will encourage continuity for those who remain in the area. In athletics, the school gained six firsts, two seconds and two thirds in the Fife Schools Athletics Championships, and Jacqueline McGregor won the Jean B. McIntosh trophy in the senior girls' 200 metres.

The Sports Champions for 1980 are as follows

Boys Senior Champion	Graeme Smith	2nd Year Boys Champion	Brian Webster
Girls Senior Champion	Sara Headen	2nd Year Girls Champion	Wendy Allison
Boys Junior Champion	(Michael Robson Alan Greid)	1st Year Boys Champion	James Keddie
		1st Year Girls Champion	Susan Lumsdaine
Girls Junior Champion	Caroline Lumsdaine		

At the end of the session we say goodbye to Mr James Pyper, Principal Assistant (Science) who has been the mainstay in Agriculture and Rural Science for the past decade. He came to us with a rich background of experience - Cambridge University, tea-planting in Ceylon and farming in the U.K. - which has been of immense value to staff and pupils alike. He has been a devoted member of staff always ready to help out and we wish him a well-deserved and happy retirement. Thanks and good wishes to Mrs Sinclair (Chemistry), Mrs Nowak-Solinska (Music) and Mrs Hopkins (Music) who leave at the end of the session, and to Miss Smith (Art) who has deputised for Mr Chisholm during his illness. It is good to see him back in the Art Department again, and to see Mr Watson is making good progress towards recovery. I should like to thank, too, those who have come to the rescue in covering periods of staff illness: Mrs Oxley (English), Mrs Lacombe (Remedial), Mrs Lohoar, Mrs McCallum and Mrs Wyatt (Science). To those pupils awaiting the results of S.C.E. and C.S.E. examinations I wish a satisfactory reward for their labours. Pupils who wish to consult guidance staff regarding changes of courses in the light of their results should phone or call at the school office in either building to make an appointment for 20th August when staff will be in school.

Outgrown blazers will be on sale in the Music House on 8, 11, and 29th July and 1st, 5, 8, 12 and 15th August between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.

At the end of an arduous but productive year, I should like to thank the staff for sustaining the day-to-day work of the school amid difficulties and yet managing to develop what we have to offer. I wish staff, pupils and parents an enjoyable and refreshing holiday.



Rector.

CALENDAR 1980 - 81

Start of session for pupils: Thursday, 21st August 1980

<u>October Break</u>	School finishes:	Friday, 17th October 1980
	School starts:	Monday, 27th October 1980
<u>Christmas Holiday</u>	School finishes:	Friday, 19th December 1980
	School starts:	Monday, 5th January 1981
<u>Easter Holiday</u>	School finishes:	Friday, 3rd April 1981
	School Starts:	Monday, 20th April 1981
<u>Summer Holiday</u>	School finishes:	Friday, 3rd July 1981
	School starts:	Thursday, 20th August 1981
<u>Single Day Holidays</u>	October Holiday:	Monday, 6th October 1980
	May Day:	Monday, 4th May 1981
	June Holiday:	Monday, 1st June 1981