



# Easter Newsletter

Madras College Newsletter

March 2013

## Rector's Note

This term has seen a significant amount of work directed towards senior pupils encouraging them to achieve their full potential in the SQA examinations now only a few short weeks away. Study opportunities, sessions on revision techniques and a focus on pupils knowing what they can expect to achieve have all been put in place and, for the first time, we are running an Easter School. Pupils in S3 are now completing the broad general education phase of Curriculum for Excellence and have chosen their subjects for the first 2 years of their senior phase.

The Burns Supper was a great success with excellent speeches and high quality entertainment. It was a good example of departments collaborating to produce a very enjoyable event showcasing some of our very talented pupils. Our team of reporters have made good use of the Madras Diary as a regular means of informing the community of our work. As the term ends we look forward to a successful SewArty Exhibition.

We are preparing for our annual Great Assembly that takes place in the Holy Trinity Church. The twin themes of the assembly will be reflection and celebration. We will have the opportunity to look back over the year, to celebrate our successes and to look forward with optimism and confidence to the future. I am very grateful to Rev Rory MacLeod for allowing us the use of the Holy Trinity and for playing an important part in the Assembly. He has also chaired the Parent Council this session and I am grateful to him for the efficient manner in which he has directed the meetings.

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## Liberal Democrat Conference

*Written by Cameron Glass,  
S5 Higher Modern Studies Pupil*



Pupils from Madras College pictured with Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg

On Friday 15th March, a mixture of Higher Modern Studies and Higher Politics pupils attended the Liberal Democrat conference in Dundee. At the conference pupils attended talks on topics such as banning snaring in Britain and why victims of crime should get financial compensation. Pupils also attended a motion proposing the standardisation of cigarette packaging,

which turned into a heated debate and resulted in a marginal win for the motion. The conference was interesting, informative and an altogether enjoyable experience. Our day concluded with the opportunity to question Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg. Thanks to this trip out, higher Modern Studies and Politics classes can expect a visit from Scottish Liberal Democrat leader, Willie Rennie.

## Three in a Row!

The Madras College Warhammer 40k team have retained their national title after winning the School's League Final in Glasgow. Jacob Lamb, Theo Upton and Johnny Watson S6, are old hands, having represented Madras for the last three years, but special mention should be made of Jack Laird S2, who made his first appearance for the school at this event. The boys were required to use tactics and, at times, encyclopaedic knowledge of the rules, in a closely fought tournament, to beat teams from George Heriot's School, Mintlaw Academy and local rivals, St Andrew's High School. The team hope to represent the school and Scotland at the UK finals in Nottingham in June.

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Our mid-session review of our development plan concludes that we are on track to deliver all our development priorities this session. These are: Improvements in Performance, Curriculum for Excellence and Improvement Through Self-evaluation.

Our focus next term turns to planning for session 2013-14. During the in-service day time will be spent on gathering information that, along with other evidence, will allow us to identify school development priorities for next year. Time will also be spent developing the senior phase of Curriculum for Excellence.

On a personal note I have been offered and accepted a position to open a new school in Qatar. I move to my new post in June and have agreed with the Director that my final day as Rector of Madras College will be Friday 24 May.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your support and to wish you an enjoyable Easter break.

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## Young Enterprise



They took quite a while to make their final product choice but this year's Young Enterprise group 'Higher' represented Madras College very well at the Fife Area Board Trade Fair in St Andrews on Saturday 1st December. The group, led by joint Managing Directors Abby Wilson and Flora Chirnside (both S5), has produced 'My 1st Aid Kit' aimed at promoting first-aid knowledge and skills amongst young children. The kits have been selling very well and the group's promotion and selling skills have received positive acclaim.

# Modern Languages

## Euroscola

Ben Peddie (S6) was chosen to represent Madras College at the annual visit by young people from all over Europe to the European Parliament in Strasbourg. The trip took place over a cold five days in February. During the stay the pupils took part in many group activities, conducted in French, with their fellow Scots and prepared for the day's visit to the debating chamber of the European Parliament. Ben felt that the street survey, carried out in French, was very rewarding and entertaining since many people did not know basic facts about Scotland.

The Scots also hosted a ceilidh for other nationalities in their hostel after the visit.

As usual many thanks must go to the Rotary Club of St Andrews for sponsoring a pupil to take part in this very valuable experience.

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## Kiel Exchange

The 56th Kiel Exchange will take place in June. We are looking forward to welcoming 25 pupils and 2 members of staff from the Kieler Gelehrtenschule. Visits to Dunnottar Castle and Edinburgh are planned. The German pupils will also attend some lessons with their Scottish partners. Read more about the visit in the summer newsletter.

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## Happy Easter



## French Exchange

The Modern Languages Faculty is launching an exchange with the Collège in Loches. The French pupils and staff will arrive in St Andrews on 13th June and stay until 20th June. We will go to Loches with 33 pupils and 4 staff on 18th September, returning a week later. Plans are already being put in place for a full itinerary that will include visits to the Châteaux of the Loire, Tours, Futuroscope, the school and Loches itself.

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## Immersion Course in China

Two pupils from Madras College have been selected for an immersion course in China this summer. The pupils will visit many cultural sights as well as taking part in an intensive immersion course in Mandarin.

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## Der Besuch Der Alten Dame

A small group of senior pupils attended a performance of Dürrenmatt's play performed by the German Society at the University of St Andrews. It was an excellent production and the S5 pupils are now looking forward to reading the play next year.

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## UK-German Youth Seminar in Berlin

Megan Pettegree (S5) is one of 30 young people from the UK selected to take part in a youth seminar in Berlin with 30 young people from Germany. Topics for discussion are: education, citizenship and sustainability. We look forward to hearing more about the seminar on Megan's return.

# S3 Business and Enterprise

## Year Group Competition: *Impress the Dragons*

Working in groups, pupils were asked to develop an idea for an innovative product/service which would be judged by a team of Dragons to determine which team might be the most worthy of the Dragons' cash.

The product or service could be an improvement to a current product/service or something completely new. It could be as weird and wacky as they wanted - aiming to show creativity and innovation!

The groups then prepared a short presentation detailing: Name of product/service, features of the product/service that will attract customers, price to be charged to customers, potential target market and where the product will be sold.



Congratulations go to the winning group consisting of Genevieve, Ruth, Eilidh and Emily with their product called Toast Magic. Keep an eye out in shops – it could be stocked soon – price £45.

# Model United Nations



Over the weekend of 15th – 17th March Mr Swift and Ms Cairra accompanied 11 Madras pupils to the George Watson's Model United Nations Conference in Edinburgh.

Alongside the Madras delegation school pupils travelled from all corners of the UK and further afield (Ireland, Spain, Germany, Norway, Georgia) to debate political, economic and social issues from a global perspective.

The Madras pupils represented South Africa across six different themed committees and in the General Assembly where they debated with other delegates the merits of social enterprise and responded to an international oil crisis.

Alongside debating and seeking international resolutions there was time to socialise with other delegates at a ceilidh and disco.

Pupils were also given the opportunity to attend lectures delivered by experts and academics.

This event enables pupils to develop a wide range of research, presentation and negotiation skills.

Mr Swift would like to congratulate all involved for their efforts, participation and attitude across the weekend.

If any pupil is interested in finding out more about Model United Nations they should speak to any of the pupils involved or Mr Swift.

## Inspiring Enterprise Conference

Thirty pupils from S5/6 Higher Business Management attended a 2-day conference in February, designed to inspire our budding entrepreneurs, future leaders and managers. Apart from enhancing presentational skills and business knowledge, the course encouraged teamwork and promoted self-confidence in our Business students.



A programme of seminars and workshops were delivered by representatives from a range of business environments.

This year's programme provided our senior Business Education pupils with an opportunity to be involved in problem-solving activities in relation to design production and development, social media, financial planning,

marketing and human resource management.

All the teams had a really enjoyable 2 days giving original and humorous presentations of their own.

The trophies and prizes for this year went to "Mix Events" who took on the role of an Events Management company.



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## Local Chef Visits Hospitality Class

It's the time of year when all the Hospitality classes are preparing for their final practical exams!

Chris Crawford, chef at Clayton Caravan Park Bar and Restaurant, recently visited to demonstrate the dishes Intermediate 2 Hospitality will make. He prepared Tomato and Coconut Soup, Sweet and Sour Chicken with fried Rice and Pear and Ginger Tart using his vast experience of skills and food preparation techniques. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the visit and will benefit from this experience.

The Hospitality Intermediate 1 class will be making Curried Carrot and Apple Soup, Melba Toast and Fisherman's Lasagne. All the recipes can be found on the SQA website, have a go!

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## Auschwitz Visit

In September, S6 pupils Kathleen McConnell and Natasha Liu attended a seminar in Edinburgh to join two hundred other pupils from around Scotland with the Holocaust Education Trust. This was the initial meeting where they had the opportunity to listen to the testimony of a Holocaust survivor, Zigi Shipper. It was inspiring to hear that he remained positive after the traumatic experience and had embodied the idea of not hating.

Following this visit they travelled to the town of Oswiecim (Auschwitz) where they visited a Jewish cemetery to learn about anti-Semitism that still exists today. Afterwards, they visited the two concentration camps where an expert showed them the reality of the camps and the conditions the prisoners faced. The first camp, Auschwitz, contained some of the belongings of the victims including glasses, shoes and suitcases which really brought home the scale of the Holocaust. The second camp

## Young Chef

**M**adras College has been whisked into a frenzy after hearing the news of a certain fifth year pupil's culinary success in the Rotary Clubs Young Chef of the Year contest. Katie Lamb (S5) recently creamed the competition when she not only won the school 'cook off' but also the Northern Scottish heats.



The first stage of the competition took place at Madras College where Chloe Gray, Martha Winter, Ryan Denyer

and Katie Lamb were given 2 hours to cook a 2-course menu demonstrating a range of skills.

The budding chefs' original menus were presented and scrutinised by two Rotary Club members and renowned local chef Craig Sneddon, head chef from the Royal and Ancient Golf Club in St Andrews.

The Northern Scottish heat took place in Aberdeen where the stakes were even higher – having to invent and prepare a unique 3-course menu in 2 hours that would be presented to yet another panel of tough judges.

Although the difficulty of the competition had increased, Katie again excelled, progressing to the semi-finals which were held in Newcastle on 16th March, where Katie narrowly missed out on a place in the finals, although the judges praised Katie's skills and working methods.

Throughout the competition she has had the invaluable support from Craig Sneddon, head chef from the Royal and Ancient Golf Club.

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## Staffing News

The Support for Learning Department welcomed the following permanent teaching staff this term: Mrs E Boyd, Mrs L Durie, Mrs L McLuskie.

Mr H Watson was appointed Acting Depute Headteacher and Miss J MacLaren was seconded to Mr Watson's post of Principal Teacher of Guidance.

We said goodbye to Mrs Thain (English Teacher) who has left to take up a teaching post in Aberdeen.

Our thanks to all the supply staff, probationers and volunteers who have worked with us this term.

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# Drama



As part of fourth year drama, Ms McGrath's classes were proud to present the following productions to family and friends on 26th February 2013 in the South Street Quad Studio. Each group explored the dark and light side of 'Fairy Tales', writing, directing, blocking and acting in their own devised pieces.

- **Once Upon a Pageant**

A tale of narcissism and beauty, a talent show with a twist, a shout, a dance and a song.

- **Beauty and the Beater**

When domestic violence destroys a family and guilt becomes all consuming.

- **Why is a raven like a writing desk?**

A tale of ordinary madness or extraordinary perception, retelling Alice in Wonderland as a dark and tragic place.

- **Curtain Call**

When money buys a production of Romeo and Juliet, what is a director to do, work with the new producer's untalented daughter or find his new Juliet?

- **13 Whitechapel Street**

A house permeating evil, with unsatisfied

spirits which claim the would-be tenants . . . . black magic mind control with a dangerous outcome.

- **Cat or Rabbit**

'Wild cat Productions', 'Run Rabbit Run Productions' and 'Cool for Cats Productions' are working hard on their own versions of Romeo and Juliet with a view to performing next term. At present the classes are casting and auditioning for a lovelorn Romeo or . . . . two, and of course a beautifully clever Juliet or . . . . two? Watch out for performance dates in 009 or 007.

- **Baby Dragon Productions**

The amazing First Year of the Dragon have created 'Baby Dragon Productions' and are working hard on their topical magazine show, creating news stories, fashion features, sports reports, cookery demonstrations and dance drama.

## English Department

*It has been a busy time  
in the English Department!*

*Allow us to give you a flavour  
of what has been happening.*

### Everest The Northface

On Friday, 1st February, film maker, adventurer and writer, Matt Dickinson visited Madras College to speak to a captive audience of S3 pupils.

Matt Dickinson gave an account of his 8,840 metre climb up the North face of Everest in the most challenging conditions. His talk was illustrated with an inspiring slide show which captured a sense of the giant scale of the mountain and its challenges.

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### Stanza Poets Visit Madras

Ron Butlin, the Edinburgh Makar, or poet laureate, came to share his experiences and work with S1 pupils at Madras on Wednesday, 6th March. He spoke of his memories of being a school boy when he enjoyed day dreaming and allowing his imagination to wander.

Andrew Forster also visited S2 Madras pupils on Friday, 8th March to share and perform his poetry.

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### Stanza Poetry Competition

As well as enjoying special visits from poets, the S1s also had the chance to work with post graduate students with a view to creating poems on the theme of nature and the environment. A number of these poems were entered into the Stanza Poetry Festival competition and the second prize was won by Iona Byers. Congratulations, Iona!

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## World Book Day



On March 7th pupils celebrated World Book Day. It is a day set aside every year to celebrate reading, books, authors and illustrators. It's marked in more than 100 countries around the world and was celebrated in the UK.

Kilrymont classes spent time discussing their reading habits, sharing their favourite books, and reading a book.

## Radio 2 500 Words 2013 Competition

Many pupils from Kilrymont have participated in the Radio 2, 500 Words 2013 competition.

Chris Evans and the Breakfast Show team have received over 90,000 entries from across the UK and so far three of our pupils, Ewan Redpath, Amber Rendall and Mandy Jackson, have made it to the next stage of the competition.

Their stories are now with the Scottish Book Trust for the second stage of the judging process.

The Top 50 will be announced by the end of April.

# SPORT NEWS

# INFORMATION

Madras College Sports teams continue to make excellent progress in both regional and National Competitions. Extra-curricular teams in netball, football, rugby and hockey all have opportunities to add to the success of the basketball team.

## • Basketball

The Senior Boy's team have just finished a very successful season.

Unbeaten in the league, they were crowned champions on 7th March. This is the first time in the league's 42-year history that Madras has won the title! On the same day they finished 3rd in the Fife Cup, after giving Queen Anne an excellent match – losing by only 3 points. (Queen Anne were Scottish Cup semi-finalists this year).

The following boys deserve huge credit for the way they have conducted themselves over the year: Calum Grewar (captain), Lewis Henderson (vice-captain), John McBain, Fraser MacFarlane, Samir Guy, Jacob Lamb, Gorjan Stojanovski, Matthew Don. Congratulations to all.

## • Netball

We have had, yet again, another successful netball term. The S2 team once again won the Fife Tournament on 31st January and the senior team came a very respectable second in their tournament on 28th February. The S1 team will compete for the title of Fife Champions on 28th March. The S1 and S2 teams made it to the last 16 of the Scottish Gold Cup and the S3 and senior team have reached the semi-finals of the Scottish Silver Cup. Both silver games will be played this week with the hope to progress to the National finals day next term.

## • Football

S1 boys' football team finished third in the regional seven-a-side qualifier, on a snowy day in Dundee, last week. They missed out on a trip to Hampden on goal difference, although by all accounts the paperwork was so wet at the end of the multi-team qualifier at Dundee University that staff had to sit down and work out the scores all over again to decide who progressed!

The senior boys lost the Fife cup semi-final on penalties to Woodmill High School on Friday night but may still be

crowned league champions if they can beat local rivals Waid Academy in their final game.

## • Rugby

Madras Rugby has enjoyed a strong finish to the year despite some terrible recent playing conditions. The senior boys lost a tight national semi-final away in Galasheils, but have high hopes of repeating last year's success in the upcoming 7s tournaments. S1 lost only once all season to compliment the S4 and senior teams taking wins against some of the more notable private schools across a productive season.

## • Hockey

Similarly Hockey teams remain competitive and the additional use of the University of St Andrews Astroturf has aided both training and game play.

## • Cycling

Finally Madras lost out narrowly to Queen Anne High School in our first ever Speedway match. Speedway is a cycling event consisting of 16 races, each with four riders (from teams of 8) racing for four laps around the games hall. Speedway has been an excellent addition to the activities available and it is hoped that the sport can grow next session.

## Contact Us

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## HOLIDAYS

*(All dates inclusive)*

### Easter

Friday 29th March  
to Friday 12th April 2013

### May Day

Monday 6th May 2013

### June

Monday 3rd June

### Summer

Monday 1st July  
to Friday 9th August

## IN-SERVICE DAYS

Tuesday 4th June  
Monday 12th & Tuesday 13th August

## PARENTS' EVENING

S2 Wednesday 15th May

## EXAMINATIONS

### SQA EXAMS

Friday 26th April  
to Friday 7th June

### S4 Art Exams

week beginning 15th April

## STUDY LEAVE

### S4 Start

Friday 26th April

### S5/6 Start

Monday 6th May

## NEW TIMETABLE STARTS

Wednesday 5th June

*(New S4 pupils report to the South Street building)*

## ACTIVITY DAYS

*(for S6 pupils at Station Park)*

Friday 3rd May