

MADELEY SCHOOL

PRINCIPAL’S POST: PARENT EDITION



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of another eventful and rewarding term at Madeley High School, I would like to extend my sincere thanks for your continued support. Our school community remains a source of immense pride and this term has been particularly significant.

First and foremost, I was delighted to share the outcome of our recent Ofsted inspection, which took place in February. Inspectors recognised the remarkable progress our school has made, describing improvement across all areas as “**significant**”. While this was an ungraded (Section 8) inspection, the report confirms what many of us already know - that Madeley High School is a thriving, ambitious and truly special place to learn and work.

Among the many highlights of the report, I was particularly pleased that inspectors recognised the **inspirational drive for all pupils to succeed**, the **exceptional personal development offer** and our pupils' **impeccable behaviour**. Their comments about pupils “oozing confidence as ambassadors of Madeley High School” and the positive relationships seen throughout the school are a direct reflection of the values we strive to live by every day.

The report also praised the quality of teaching, especially our **bold curriculum choices, support for pupils with SEND** and the strength of our reading interventions. I would encourage you to read the full report, which is available on our website. It captures the spirit of Madeley High School - our ambition, care, and commitment to every pupil.

Beyond Ofsted, this term has also been packed with achievement and enrichment. Our students have represented the school with distinction in sporting fixtures, music performances and Duke of Edinburgh Award activities. The commitment shown by our staff and the enthusiasm of our pupils in all areas of school life has been outstanding.

As always, our Year 11 students continue to impress us with their resilience and determination as they approach their GCSE exams. They are a credit to themselves and to the school. We wish them every success in the weeks ahead and we will be doing all we can to support them as they prepare.

Finally, I would like to thank our staff team for their continued professionalism and care. The strength of our community lies in the relationships we build together and I am incredibly proud to lead a school where pupils, staff and families work in such strong partnership. I would also like to thank all parents who have wished me well during my recovery and I'm looking forward to being back on site early in the summer term.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable Easter break.

Warm regards,
Lee Nixon
Principal



Important Dates:

- End of School Term - Friday 11th April at 3.05pm
- **School re-opens on Monday 28th April**
- Thursday 8th May - Year 11 GCSE Exams start
- Thursday 8th May - Year 7 Parents/Carers Afternoon Face to Face (2.00pm - 6.15pm)
- Friday 9th May & Saturday 10th May - DofE Bronze & Silver Practice Expedition
- Sunday 11th May - DofE Silver Practice Expedition only



The school will close at 1.15pm on the above date and school transport will collect to reflect the earlier close



• Drama

Year 7

In Drama this term, Year 7 students have been exploring different genres and their conventions. The final genre being melodrama, where students have explored the stock plot and stock characters. Students have learned lines for their characters and some have even had a sword fight as part of the assessment.



Year 8

The focus for Year 8 this term has been to film and edit in the style of a TV show. Students have been given a script set in a school and filmed on different locations around the school building. Students have looked at roles such as directors, producers, continuity and actors.



Year 9



For the Year 9s, this half term has focused on stage combat and learning how to fight on stage safely and without hurting each other or themselves. The main focus has been safety, consent and making it look real. Students have been working on a sequence of 6 moves to create their believable fight.



• Drama

At the beginning of March during the weekends, Mr Sargeant has been working with Emmy Winning Director, Paul Norton Walker. Paul has directed things such as 'Shameless,' 'Riviera,' 'Free Rein' and most recently Series 2 of 'Ex Wife.'



Mr Sargeant is excited to bring this working technique into the school's Drama studio.

• English

On Thursday 6th March, we celebrated the culture of reading with World Book Day. The day started with a quiz for students to guess which members of staff the favourite books belong to. Students from KS3 were rewarded with new books to delve into for being the 'Best Dressed' in their year group - there was some phenomenal efforts across the school with some KS4 students engaging too! There were also some amazing efforts to decorate the form's doors to reflect their favourite reading books, with 7SLL taking the winning prize. Staff did not disappoint either with an array of costumes and character fancy dress including Paddington Bear, Dora the Explorer, Bob the Builder and Wonder Woman. All of which sparked conversations about literature and books. A fantastic day was had by all!

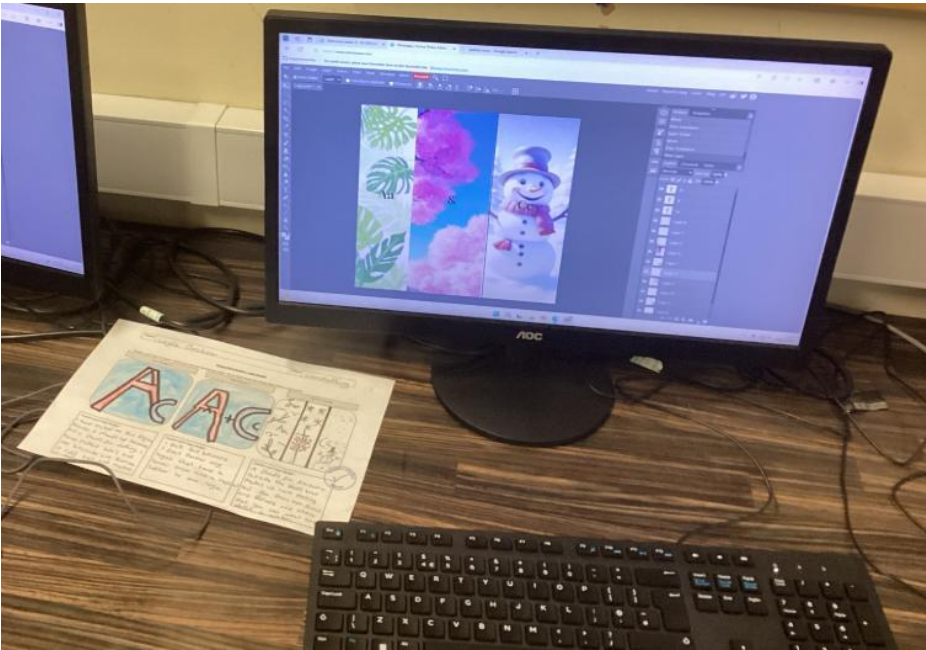




• Computing

Exciting Work in Computing and iMedia!

Our Year 8 students have been working hard on their business ideas, carefully planning and designing their own logos. They created a range of logo concepts before selecting the one that best represents their business. Now, they are bringing their designs to life using graphic manipulation software.



In Year 10, Computer Science students have recently explored the differences between lossy and lossless compression. To demonstrate their understanding, they designed some fantastic comic strips illustrating these concepts in a creative and engaging way.



Meanwhile, Year 10 iMedia students are in the process of completing a practice run for their second piece of coursework. This involves creating and editing videos and audio, with students developing detailed storyboards and planning key elements for their final projects.



Well done to all our students for their creativity and hard work!

• Spanish



A huge well done to Year 11 for their hard work and dedication in preparing for and completing their speaking exams between the 7th and 9th of April. Your commitment, focus and resilience throughout the process have truly paid off and we are incredibly proud of how you rose to the challenge. Keep up the fantastic effort - 25% of your Spanish GCSE completed! Remaining exams: listening and reading on Tuesday 10th June and then writing on Tuesday 17th June.

• Neurodiversity Week 2025



As expected, there was an amazing response to Neurodiversity week 2025. Over 300 pupils accessed awareness resources and we had over 50 competition entries from across both key stages.

Our winners were: Tye S, Matilda E and Florence L.

Matilda's winning design has been turned into physical badges that will be on sale, with all proceeds going to charity.

• Year 11 Design & Technology

It has been an extremely busy and productive last half term in Design and Technology. The Year 11s have shown resilience, maturity, independence and pride in every single lesson and the whole team would like to thank them all for making the lessons a pleasure to teach. The final submission for the NEA is the first lesson back after Easter. One final push is needed now to get over the finish line. Come on Year 11, you've got this!

• Message from Miss Bentley, Head of Year 8

"This week will mark the last of my first full term at Madeley. I have very much enjoyed getting around the school and getting to know many of the wonderful Year 8 pupils that I have the privilege to be working alongside. Thank you to all students for being so incredibly polite and welcoming and for not being offended when I get names mixed up! Also, thank you to all parents and carers for your warm welcome, which was greatly felt at our recent Parents Afternoon and Evening on Tuesday 2nd April. Spring Term at Madeley has been great; I am very proud to be Head of Year 8 as this means I get to see and hear about all students' wonderful achievements.

I am looking forward to our Summer Term and am confident it will be another great term to round up the year for our students. This term will be full of fun trips, activities and opportunities for students to continue to excel and display their full potential. I hope all students have a great and safe, Easter break and I look forward to hearing all about it once we return on the 28th of April."



• **U14s Hockey**

At the end of March, the U14s Boys’ and Girls’ Hockey teams competed in the National State Schools Hockey Festival. This is the third time we have taken a boys’ team but the first for the girls. The teams were competitive in each of their games and were congratulated for their sportsmanship and politeness by the umpires. Many thanks to Mark Morris and MTM solar for sponsoring the Girls’ Hockey shirts!



• **PE**

Year 8/9 Boys Newcastle Schools Rugby Tournament

An outstanding effort from the whole squad resulted in 2nd position behind tournament favourites - Clayton.

Results -

- Madeley 25 v Chesterton 5
- Madeley 5 v Clayton 20
- Madeley 15 v Orme 20
- Madeley 15 v SJF 10



Netball

U14 Girls Netball



A massive well done to the girls who produced an outstanding performance to beat Tytherington 21-9 which put them through to the Sisters n Sport National Vase semi-final for the first time ever!! Despite a spirited display they were unable to beat Merchant Taylors and book a place in the national final.

U16 Girls Netball

The girls had a fantastic Day at the Sisters n Sport National Netball Finals at Loughborough. Despite defeats in the Vase semi-final to Winchcombe School and Blessed Thomas Holford in the 3rd/4th place play-off, the girls performed magnificently and were outstanding ambassadors for Madeley.



Football

Year 7 Girls Football



WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS!! Well done to the Year 7 Girls’ Football squad who were undefeated and claimed the title of Newcastle Schools Football champions!

Y7 Boys Football



The boys made a faultless start to their Newcastle Schools football campaign with 3 wins out.



• **Science**

On Thursday 27th March, 17 of our Computer Science students attended a Masterclass at Staffordshire University, hosted by the Shaw Education Trust. The session focused on key topics from Paper 1, with an emphasis on tackling long-answer questions. Our students demonstrated excellent knowledge and reasoning skills, showcasing some impressive responses. The experience really put their recall to the test and helped reinforce their understanding of crucial exam content.



A number of our Combined Science pupils had the opportunity to attend a GCSE Science Masterclass at Staffordshire University designed to support them to improve their disciplinary knowledge and exam skills ahead of the GCSE exam series. Pupils were all engaged and found the sessions "really useful" and "helpful to focus on exam technique."

• **Maths**

This Year’s Pi Day assembly was a math-filled journey through time! Students gathered to celebrate the wonders of π (pi). Mr Bedford took the students back to the origins of pi - from ancient Babylon and Archimedes, all the way to its modern marvel of being calculated to over 200 trillion digits!

Following the historical deep dive, students got to generate their own evaluation of π with mathematics by recreating Buffon’s Needle experiment - a fascinating way to estimate pi using probability and geometry. With rulers, needles (or matchsticks) and lots of enthusiasm, each year contributed to finding their own approximation of this magical constant. The closest guess was from the Year 7s who managed to get an estimation of 3.15... Very close!





• Music

Year 7

This year group have worked tremendously hard this term on their African drumming assignment and Samba projects. There have been some stand out performances from all classes, such as 7GO, 7FS, 7AQ to name only a few. Well done Year 7 for a brilliant effort on your practical and theory work for both of these projects!



Year 8

Year 8 have been working on Soul and Rock n Roll music for this term's topic as well as revising for the Year 8 music listening exam, which went extremely well for certain classes, such as 8BL, 8GR and 8OR in particular! Well done to all of the performers from each class who have displayed some excellent performance skills in these genres of music.



Year 9

Year 9 have now opted for their chosen subjects and with music being quite popular this year, all pupils have excelled in their practical and music theory work this term. They have undertaken the Year 9 listening and music theory exam which proved to be very challenging for all the students! There were some stand outs such as Mathilda, Freddie B, Joseph W, Lucinda and Lucia to name only a few! Year 9's Rock project also went down a storm with some pupils belting it out with confidence and expression! Well done Year 9, I am going to miss teaching you all next year but I welcome the pupils that have decided to opt for this subject, as there is so much more to learn in music!



Year 11

As Year 11 NEA work comes to a conclusion, all pupils have been hard at work to submit their compositions and performances for assessment. The students have been extremely resilient despite the workload in other subjects, they have stayed behind after school to ensure their work is submitted to the very highest possible standard. I am extremely proud of their efforts and determination to complete this work before the deadline, which takes a lot of commitment! So well done Year 11, and I hope you all achieve the grades that you deserve for such a challenging term's worth of work!

• Art

As we finish another whirlwind term, we would like to congratulate all our Year 11 artists and photographers who have completed their GCSE exams and to remind them that they have one final push to the deadline of Tuesday 6th May, for their coursework.



Last week, we took 66 of our Year 8 students out to the Gladstone Pottery Museum. The students had a tour around the old workings of the factory learning about all the roles and lives of the people who used to work there as well as having a go at making some bone China flowers and ceramic painting. It really was an insightful day out, made even more pleasant for the sun shining down on us. The pupils were fantastic and extremely engaged.



• Food

Our Year 8 food students have been working on pasta over the past couple of weeks. Learning about the function of each ingredient, how it is made both at home and in industry, also the differences between fresh and dried pasta. They have then used the knowledge learnt to make their own pasta dishes with great success. Well done Year 8s!





• History



Madeley School entered the Nationwide art and Education Project '80 Candles for 80 Years.' In January, 2 representatives from Year 9 travelled to London to take part in the National Ceremony Memorial Event to mark the 80th anniversary of the Holocaust. This event was attended by the Prince and Princess of Wales as well as the Prime Minister and was televised on BBC 1. As part of this project a group of Year 9 students were tasked with creating a candle holder in memory of a Holocaust victim. This candleholder has now become part of a pop-up

exhibition which will tour the nation with the aim of spreading the stories of the people and communities affected by the Holocaust. The schedule for the exhibition is currently being finalised and we will hopefully be able to share this in the not-too-distant future!



• IT Department

We are very happy that the rollout of new staff Windows 11 PCs to all classrooms has been completed and next year we will finally be using 100% 1 to 1 iPads through the whole school.

Most student PCs have also seen upgrades and will soon be completely moved over to powerful windows 11 PCs for all students to use. As improvements have rolled out, we have seen a significant reduction in breakdowns helping staff to teach with reliable and speedy equipment that is again improving the quality of education here at Madeley.



The above photo is of the recently renovated IT Suite that will see the last of our updated PCs in the coming months.

• Attendance

As we approach the summer term, we have seen an increase in parents and carers asking for school to authorise family holidays in term time. Schools are no longer permitted to authorise under the new regulations set out by the DFE and Staffordshire County Council, as they are not deemed exceptional circumstances. Please refer to our recent attendance newsletter which was sent out to Parents/Carers by email and is available to view on the website, for further guidance on this.

• Safeguarding

Now the weather is changing, please can we ask parents and carers to talk to their children about the risks of swimming in lakes and rivers. In the Summer term, we will be undertaking some work with all students around this topic and more information will also be sent home to you all. Please see the link below if you need further guidance in the interim:

www.safekids.org/blog/five-hidden-hazards-open-water

There are a wide range of Support Services that families can access, many of which you may not be aware of. We have copied a link below to Staffordshire Connects which can direct you to a wide range of services available to our community:

www.staffordshireconnects.info/kb5/staffordshire/directory/home.page

Please be reminded our website has a dedicated page to Safeguarding, with a range of information, guidance and services you may find useful.

• Term Dates 2025 - 2026

Autumn Term 2025

Staff: Monday 1st September - **STAFF INSET DAY** (School Closed to Students)

Staff: Tuesday 2nd September - **STAFF INSET DAY** (School Closed to Students)

Staff & **Year 7 & 11 Students only**: Wednesday 3rd September

Staff & **All Students**: Thursday 4th September - Thursday 23rd October

Staff: Friday 24th October - **STAFF INSET DAY** (School Closed to Students)

Holiday: Monday 27th October - Friday 31st October

Staff & Students: Monday 3rd November - Thursday 18th December

Staff: Friday 19th December - **STAFF INSET DAY** (School Closed to Students)

Holiday: Monday 22nd December – Friday 2nd January

Spring Term 2026

Staff & Students: Monday 5th January - Friday 13th February

Holiday: Monday 16th February - Friday 20th February

Staff & Students: Monday 23rd February - Friday 27th March

Holiday: Monday 30th March - Friday 10th April

Easter Sunday: Sunday 5th April

Summer Term 2026

Staff & Students: Monday 13th April - Friday 22nd May

May Day: Monday 4th May

Holiday: Monday 25th May - Friday 29th May

Staff & Students: Monday 1st June - Friday 17th July

Staff: Monday 20th July - **STAFF INSET DAY** (School Closed to Students)

Have a Happy Easter break!

