

# MADELEY SCHOOL

## PRINCIPAL'S POST: PARENT EDITION



- **Brilliant Bamboo – Creative Freedom Project**



On Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June, pupils worked with the artist Alice McCabe in realising their designs for the phone box in the village by the church. This was the last session organised by Brilliant Bamboo as part of the Creative Freedom project. Over 10 days in school pupils have designed Bamboo planters, created ink drawings of bamboo that inspired a mural, taken photographs that they collaged into zines, developed engineering skills in building large Bamboo structures and finally designed and created a Bamboo and Flower art installation for the Phone box.

Pupils have met and worked with some fantastic local and international artists and the Brilliant Bamboo team have really engaged in developing the skills of the pupils. Around 130 pupils have taken part over 6 groups in Year 7 and 8.

The final session will be on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June, when pupils travel down to the Brilliant Bamboo site in Stoke, to help build a large sculpture and take part in different workshops.

A big thank you to the Reverend Tim Watson for use of the church and permission to decorate the Phone box, everyone at Brilliant Bamboo, Partners in Creative Learning (PICL) and the Parish Council for making this wonderful project happen.

- **Bikeability Level 3**

This week on Tuesday, 8 of our Year 7 students took part in the Level 3 Bikeability. All students did incredibly well and passed, despite all getting wet through on the day. It was great to hear that they all enjoyed it!



- **Year 11**

Today we saw our Year 11s, the Class of 2026, celebrate their journey here at Madeley in the Leavers' Assembly. They've worked incredibly hard throughout their time here, especially during the gruelling exam season, and they will get their rewards for all their hard work in August when they get their GCSE results.

Our Year 11 team, Miss Austin, Mrs Bascombe-Price, Mr Bedford, Mr Dawkins, Miss Hartley and Mr Walker will miss them all immensely.

They have been an incredible year group, and it's been a pleasure and a privilege to guide them through their time here and to see them grow in confidence and develop into the amazing young adults that they have become! We're all very proud of them! We wish each and every one of them all the very best for the future.

- **School Vacancy**



We currently have a vacancy in school for the role of Cover Supervisor. Details can be found on our school website under the Vacancies Tab:

<https://madeleyschool.schoolrecruiter.com/>

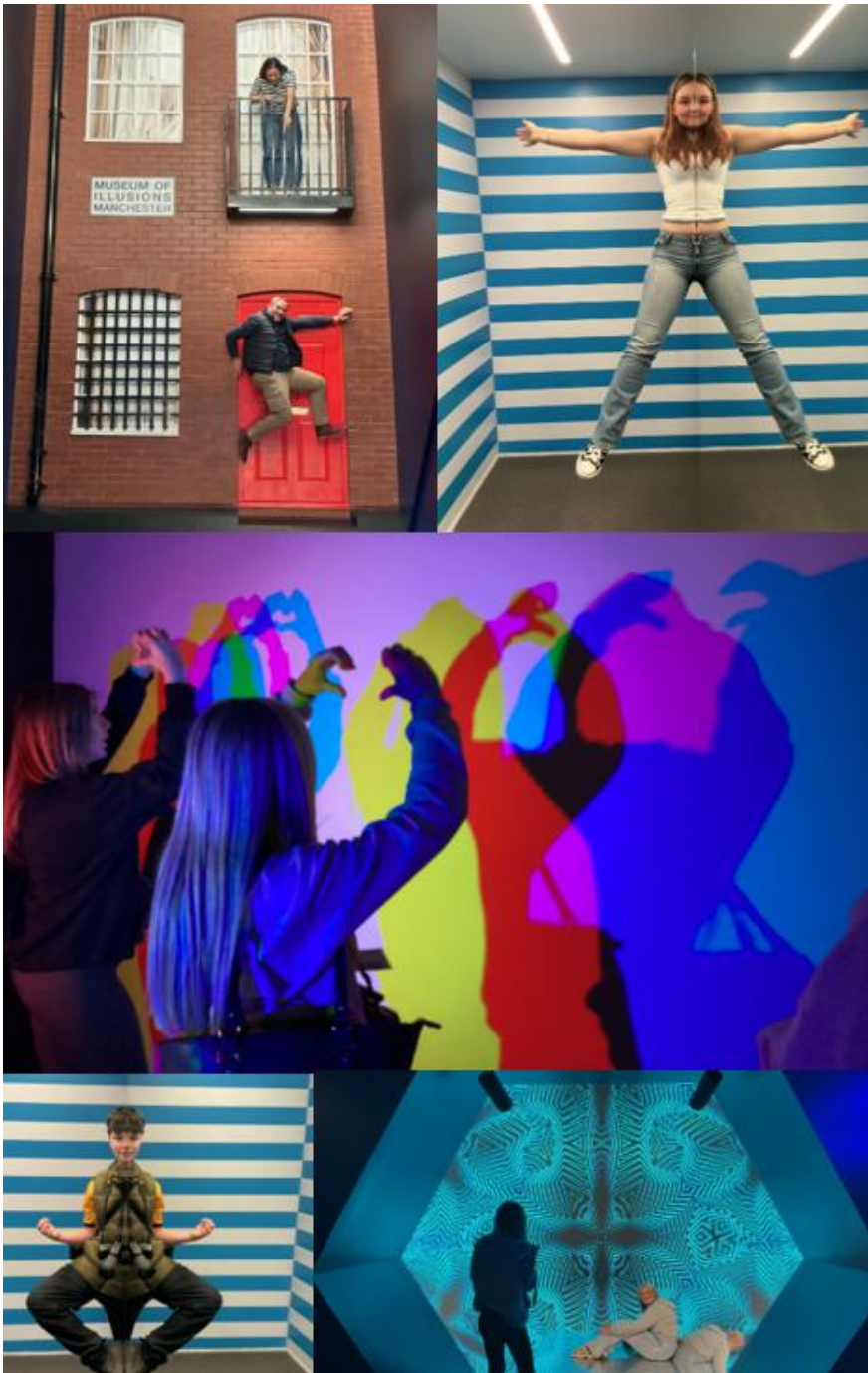
**Important dates:**

- Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June - Year 10 Newcastle College Visit
- Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June - Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June - Year 10 Mock Exams and Year 9 Exams
- Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June - FIH Pro League Hockey Trip
- Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June - Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June - Spanish Trip
- Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June - Year 11 Prom



• **Photography trip to Museum of Illusions**

The GCSE photographers had a great time at the Museum of Illusions in Manchester on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May. It was a lot of fun trying all the exhibits out with some weird and wonderful outcomes. It will be a fantastic boost to their portfolios.



• **Science**

Maddie H in Year 11 has been taking part in the Cambridge Biology Challenge this year and has submitted essays and research around topics including Fossil Dating and Why Maths is a Gift for Biologists. She has so far achieved commendations and merits, and we look forward to hearing how she gets on in the rest of the challenge!

• **Positivity Assembly**

Last Friday, some of our Year 7 students confidently took to the stage to deliver an inspiring assembly all about the power of positivity. We were incredibly proud of the way they spoke with confidence, enthusiasm and maturity in front of their peers.



The assembly encouraged everyone to think about what positivity means in everyday life and how a positive mindset can help us navigate challenges. Our students explored the importance of resilience, discussing how setbacks and difficulties can be opportunities to learn, grow and come back stronger. They also shared practical ways we can all bring more positivity into our lives, from showing kindness to others and celebrating small successes, to supporting friends and focusing on what we can control.

One of the key messages from the assembly was that positivity doesn't mean ignoring challenge: it means approaching them with determination, optimism and a willingness to keep going. To finish on a high, the students shared one of their favourite ways to stay positive is to dance! The assembly ended with smiles, energy and plenty of enthusiasm, reminding us all that sometimes the simplest activities can have the biggest impact on our wellbeing.

A huge well done to our Year 7 presenters for delivering such a thoughtful and engaging assembly. You were fantastic ambassadors for our school community!

• **DofE**

Last Thursday to Saturday, saw 60 of our Year 9 and 10 students complete their Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh qualifying expeditions in the Peak District.

They battled some truly terrible conditions, with rain only breaking for around 40 minutes on the Thursday - just enough time to cook some tea and even squeeze in a few cartwheels in pyjamas!

Despite the challenging weather, with students drenched and sodden to the core, everyone remained in excellent spirits and showed incredible resilience to reach their end points. There were plenty of laughs along the way, and all students were an absolute credit to themselves and the school. They should be extremely proud of what they've achieved in completing their awards this year.

We now look forward to celebrating all of these fantastic achievements at our awards presentation evening on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July.

Well done everyone - you did incredibly well!

• **New Outdoor Catering Pod**



Last week, the school's new outdoor catering pod was officially opened by Mr Nixon. The pod is now operational and is helping to reduce the queues and ease pressure on existing

service areas. Students will soon have the opportunity to help name the pod and also to contribute ideas about what it serves.

• **Refugee Week 15<sup>th</sup> June - 21<sup>st</sup> June**

Next week is Refugee Week. Form tutors will be discussing this topic during Form Time including short videos of young people who have sought refuge in the UK. Also, there is the 'Five Items challenge' which students will be encouraged to enter, all money raised will be donated to UNICEF - supporting refugee children around the world.



**Refugee week challenge- 2026**

- Task- imagine you had to leave your home suddenly and could only take **five possessions** with you. Which items would you choose — and why?
- What you need to do-
  - Choose **five possessions** they would take if you had to leave home at short notice.
  - Explain **why** each item matters to you.
  - Present your entry in a **creative and thoughtful way** — this could be written, illustrated, designed as a poster, or digitally.
  - Submit your entry with a **£1 donation** to support Refugee Week fundraising- UNICEF
  - Submit your designs to Mrs Derrington by Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June.

This challenge encourages empathy, reflection, and creativity by helping us think about what really matters when safety, comfort, and certainty are taken away. It links directly to the experiences of millions of refugees around the world who must make impossible decisions in moments of crisis.

• **GCSE Art & Photography Exhibition - Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July**

Join us for a one-night-only exhibition celebrating the outstanding art and photography work of our GCSE students. The exhibition will also feature a selection of artwork and ceramics created this year by our talented Year 7, 8 and 9 students.

