



# MADELEY SCHOOL



## PRINCIPAL'S POST: PARENT EDITION



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of the Autumn term, I am delighted to share this celebration newsletter, which showcases the highlights, achievements and progress of our vibrant school community.

Firstly, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Mr. Tom Barr, who is stepping down as Chair of the Academy Council after eight years of dedicated service. Tom has been an incredible asset to our school, and his contributions will not be forgotten. We are delighted to welcome Mrs. Clare Nicolls as the new Chair of the Academy Council and look forward to her leadership in this important role.

This term also marks a transition for Mrs. Drohan, who will be stepping aside from her role as Head of Year 8. However, we are fortunate to continue benefiting from her brilliance in the PE department. I am pleased to announce that Miss Bentley has been appointed and will take on the role of Head of Year 8 starting in early January. We wish both Mrs. Drohan and Miss Bentley all the best in their new and continued roles. The term has been filled with many highlights. Our Year 7 cohort has transitioned seamlessly into life at Madeley and is already proving to be a wonderful group of students. Meanwhile, the Class of 2024 has had its exceptional exam results validated by the Department for Education, showcasing headline figures that make us incredibly proud. Our current Year 11 students have shown commitment and discipline in their mock exams, and Year 10 students have embarked on their KS4 programmes with a positive and hardworking attitude.

Engaging with our parent community is always a priority, and I was delighted to meet with many sets of parents during my recent open office event. Your feedback and perspectives are invaluable as we continue to strive to be the best that we can be.

I am particularly proud to see our core values demonstrated and upheld each day as we continue our daily pursuit of inspiring excellence. This term, our amazing work was showcased during a two-day 'health check' conducted by our experienced Shaw Education Trust colleagues, and there was much to celebrate with our teaching, learning, behaviour and support for personal development, mental health and wellbeing. This term has also seen exciting developments on our school site. Two new English classrooms are now in full operation, and a new science room, as well as a refurbished technology and computer science space, will be completed by 17th January. Additionally, we are looking forward to the completion of an outdoor social and dining facility by half-term. These improvements will enhance the learning and social experiences of our students.

From January, we will be moving to a cashless catering system. Thank you to all parents who have allowed us to take a record of your child's thumb print. This will make the dining experience more efficient and pleasant for our pupils.

Looking ahead, we are thrilled that Madeley School will once again be oversubscribed for September 2025, reflecting the strong reputation and achievements of our school community.

There is so much to celebrate in this newsletter, and I encourage you to take the time to read about the incredible work of our students and staff. As we enter the festive season, I want to wish you all a wonderful Christmas filled with joy and peace. Thank you for your continued support, and I look forward to welcoming everyone back in 2025 for another exciting term.

Kind regards,  
Lee Nixon  
Principal

### Important Dates:

- End of School Term - Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 3.05pm
- School re-opens on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025





- **English**

This has been a very busy and exciting term for students in English. We have enhanced our students' knowledge and understanding of core texts by arranging trips and experiences to enrich their learning:

Year 9 were taken to The Bronte Museum in Haworth. The day consisted of a lecture on Charlotte Bronte, museum & grounds tour plus drama workshop on key extracts from the novel Jane Eyre. The trip provided an insight into Bronte's own childhood and how her experiences are mirrored in the novel.



Year 8 have been to visit and explore Quarry Bank Mill in Style. The day consisted of a guided tour of the working mill with a focus on child labour and living conditions in Victorian Britain. The trip provided an insight into Dickens' own observations and how his experiences are mirrored in the novel Oliver Twist.

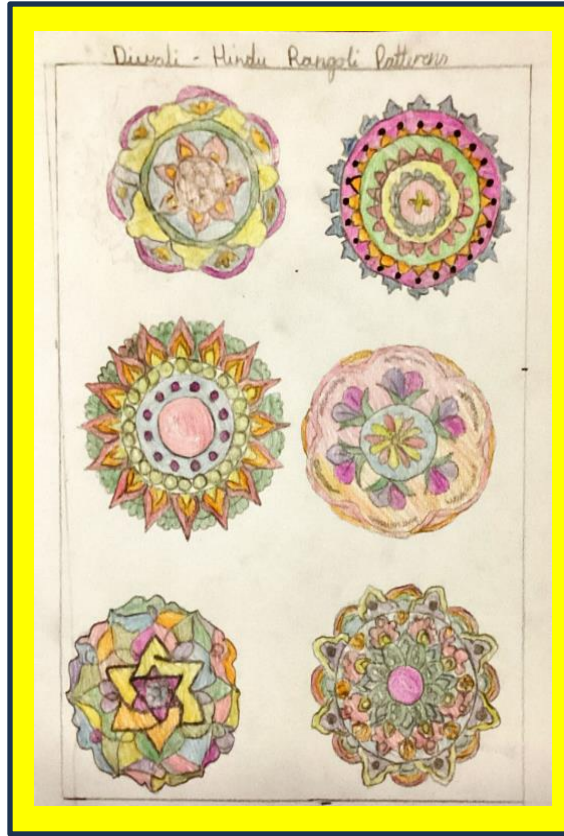


Year 11 GCSE Literature students were taken to watch a production of 'An Inspector Calls' at the Regent Theatre. It was a fantastic production that brought the play to life and reaffirmed their learning of the GCSE text in readiness for their exams.



During all of these experiences, it was noted that our students showed a positive attitude and willingness to learn, reflecting the school's core values of 'Enjoyment of Learning', 'Politeness', 'Respect' and 'Positivity'. We are proud of their behaviour and engagement, and we look forward to more next term.

- **Religion and World Views**



In Religion and World Views, Year 7 students have enjoyed learning about festivals that are celebrated by different religions. They have created beautiful Rangoli Patterns to celebrate Diwali and designed reverse advent calendars when learning about how Christians celebrate Christmas. During their Personal Development sessions Year 10 and Year 11 have been learning about religious diversity and community cohesion which encouraged engaging and astute discussions.

- **Year 9 CCPA Charity Appeal**

Felicity E in Year 9 gave a fantastic assembly about her family's personal experience with the charity CCPA (Childhood Cancer Parents Alliance). Felicity asked for donations of Christmas presents for teenagers that will be given to families with children going through cancer treatments.

Thank you to everyone who generously donated gifts and money. Felicity and her family dropped the gifts off at the CCPA in time for the Christmas hampers to be delivered!





- **Geography**

The Geography department hosted a successful field trip to Liverpool in December for our Year 11 students. In order to bolster their understanding of the Urban Geography Liverpool Case Study. We toured the Albert Docks, Chinatown, Liverpool One and the Baltic Triangle to witness firsthand the recent Urban Renewal and Urban Regeneration in the city of Liverpool. It is such a dynamic city which has undergone rapid change over the past 15 years but has still held on to its historical and cultural roots. The Year 11 students' behaviour was, as ever, impeccable. A fabulous Field trip! Thanks to Mrs Tye and Mrs Leese for their support on the trip.



- **Science**

As a combined trip, the Science and Art departments took the Year 8's to the Potteries Museum in October. The following is a report from Max in Year 8 about the trip.

'We began by going upstairs to see how pathogens are spread. We did this by covering a ball in a powder that glows under ultraviolet light and holding it before we passed it to our neighbour. After everyone had a turn holding the ball, we were given ultraviolet torches. The powder would glow under the light and show us how pathogens would spread from the ball to our hands. After, we went around the ceramics gallery and looked at some old sanitary ware such as toilets, showers and sinks. Once, we finished looking at them, we went to the cow display. This is a display of ceramic milk jugs in the shapes of cows. These were relevant to our topic of pathogens because when they were being used from the 1940s to the 1950s, they caused approximately 50,000 deaths because they were difficult to clean, thus causing pathogens to stay inside them and cause illnesses to the users. We also went and visited the old bar and pharmacy, where we saw a stuffed racing dog called 'Billy' then we went to briefly visit the Roman gallery. Following lunch, we visited the Nature gallery to make some bacteria out of clay. We got to name our bacteria and decide whether it would cause harm or not and what its symptoms would be.

Here are some of the clay bacteria, we made.'



- **Spanish**

### Celebrating Spanish Speaking Success!



We are thrilled to celebrate the continued success of our Spanish one-to-one speaking sessions with our dedicated colleague, "Sarah de Madrid." This unique opportunity allows our students to develop their confidence and fluency in Spanish through personalised guidance. It's one of the many ways we are *Inspiring Excellence*.

### Hispanic Festive Traditions Unwrapped!

This week, Spanish lessons have been a gateway to exploring the diverse customs and traditions celebrated across Spanish-speaking countries during the festive season. From the quirky *Ti0 de Nadal* ("the pooping log") in Catalonia, to the beautifully crafted *Bel0n* (nativity scenes) and the magical *D0a de los Reyes Magos* (Day of the Three Kings), students have been immersed in rich cultural learning. Ask your child about these fascinating traditions and what they've discovered!



- **Computing**

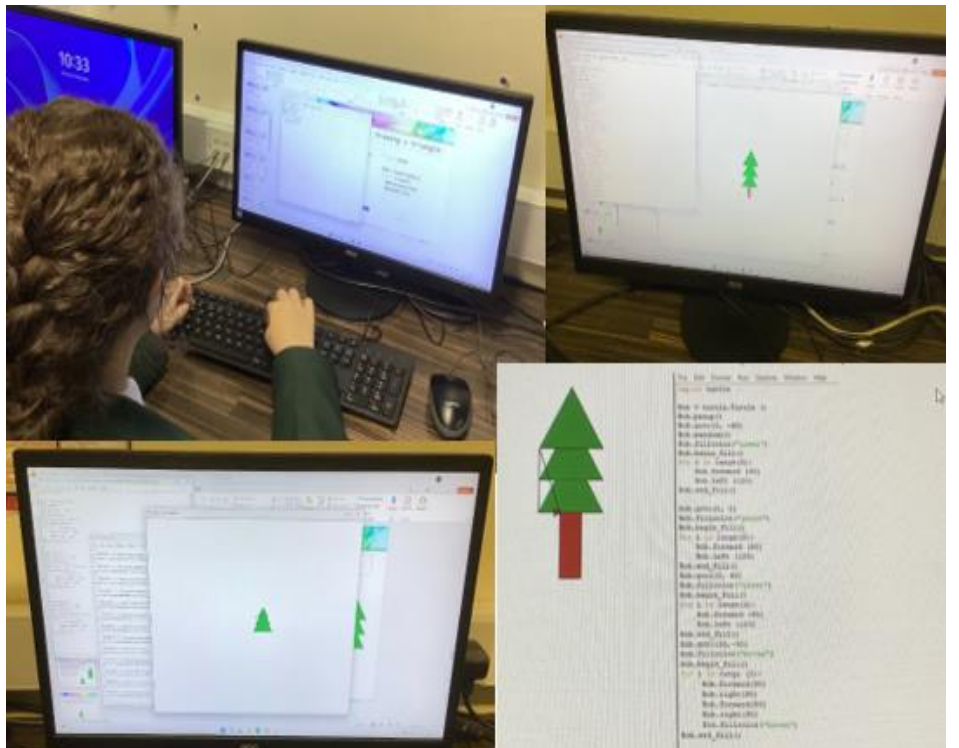
The winner of the Disney hoodie design competition was:

Tilly E  
(Year 10)

Congratulations to Tilly!!



The Year 9 students have been getting into the festive spirit whilst practising their programming skills. Creating Christmas trees using iteration in Python Turtle.





- **Maths**

As we approach the end of a busy and productive term, it's the perfect time to reflect on the incredible achievements of our Maths department and students. From outstanding exam results to exciting enrichment opportunities, there is much to celebrate. We are especially proud to share that the class of 2024 achieved the best progress in Staffordshire, Cheshire and Shropshire in their GCSE Maths results. Placing us within the top 8% of schools nationally. This remarkable accomplishment highlights the dedication and hard work of both our students and staff, and we couldn't be prouder.

During the week commencing 11th November, KS3 students participated in Maths Week, engaging with online talks that explored the real-world applications of Maths. These sessions introduced them to topics such as cutting-edge technology, problem-solving in everyday life and careers in engineering and data science. Helping to connect their learning to future opportunities.

Beyond the classroom, a group of Year 11 students have been attending Further Maths classes after school with Mr Bedford, where they explore advanced topics beyond the curriculum. These sessions challenge their problem-solving skills and deepen their understanding of the subject. A special thank you to Mr Bedford for his commitment to supporting and inspiring our students.

Our work with the wider community continues as we welcome gifted and talented students from local primary schools each week to take part in challenging Maths sessions at Madeley School, led by Mr Woodfine. It is wonderful to see these young mathematicians excited and engaged as they tackle stimulating problems and build their confidence in Maths.



We are also delighted with the ongoing success of Sparx Maths, with students

continuing to engage enthusiastically and achieving excellent completion rates. It is fantastic to see some going beyond the compulsory learning and we are thrilled to celebrate our top 3 students based on XP for this month:

- Mason T (Year 8)
- Gracie-Anne N (Year 8)
- Connie-Jo O (Year 8)

What an achievement for Year 8!

To finish, here's a Christmas Maths joke to keep things festive:

**What do mathematicians decorate their houses with at Christmas?**



Holly-nomials!

- **Important Parents' Afternoons/Evenings Dates**

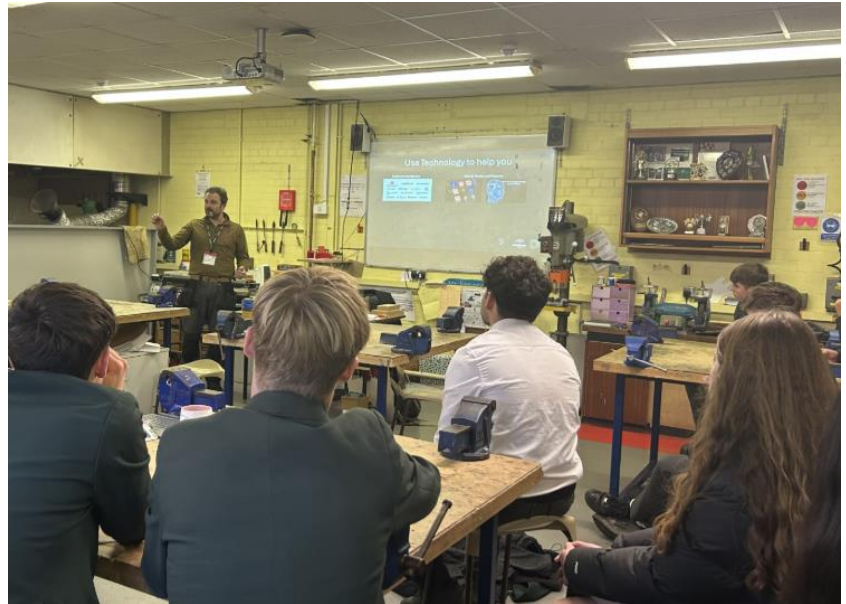
Please note Parents' Afternoons/Evenings will be held on:

- Year 9 - Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February
- Year 8 - Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March
- Year 10 - Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April
- Year 7 - Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May from 2.00pm - 6.00pm

**The school will close at 1.15pm on the above dates to all students and school transport will collect early to reflect the earlier close.**

- **D & T**

Students recently in Design and Technology had a visit from Mr R. Frost, a local business owner and entrepreneur. Mr Frost makes trophies and laser cuts or engraves products of all shapes and sizes. He delivered a fantastic talk to some of our GCSE students and answered tailored questions they had about practical aspects of their own products.



Most pupils are working incredibly hard on their NEA and making great progress, a few that need a gentle push have had individual plans added to Arbor so after watching 'Home Alone' for the third time, they have something to keep their brains engaged. All pupils in Year 11 will start to manufacture their final product in January. Let's smash it Team Tech!

- **Year 10 GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition**

Year 10 students have been learning about bread making and the science behind it. We wanted to share with you some of the amazing Christmas bread products they have made in the last week:



- **Eco Warriors**

Eco Warriors began to invest in a greener future by buying a Christmas tree that will live by the entrance to the school for years to come. Currently lit by reusable batteries, we will be trialling solar lighting over the coming year. Storm Darragh took our first attempts at sustainable decorations, but we will try again!





• **Music**

**Year 7** - All of Year 7 have worked tremendously well in their first term of their new school, and their musical skills have not gone unnoticed! The term started with a brilliant display of vocal skills, demonstrating an excellent level of talent and charisma when performing their rendition of *Something Just Like This* by Coldplay! Their second project has entailed more computer based programming and notation of music using The Beatles' *Eight Days a Week* as sheet music for their first project in Logic Pro! Some pupils have been outstanding in using this software to recreate the tune and bass line for The Beatles hit song from 1964! An excellent showing from a new year group with promising future prospects in music! Well done Year 7!

**Year 8**

The year 8's have been hard at work learning all about The Blues and its influence on popular music. There were some stand out performances from this year group when they performed their renditions of three blues classics.....*Little By Little*, *Sweet Home Chicago* and/or *Hound Dog*. Performers were very enthusiastic about their rendition and performed for their peers in each of their classes. Their latest project entailed remaking the soundtrack for The Spiderman animation film. They have been given a trailer and using the software Logic Pro, have had to re-design the score and soundtrack for the whole movie trailer. There were some standouts again in this year group, but all pupils have excelled and work extremely hard on this project! Well done to all Year 8's!



**Year 9**

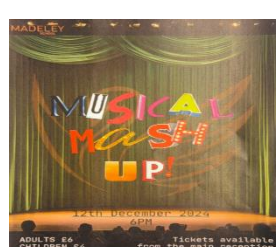


This year group started the term with a bang and performed a "Pastiche" of their chosen song as a band or soloist. Again, there were some really excellent performances throughout the whole year group! I can already see that there will be some competition for GCSE music next year amongst the pupils of year 9, so hopefully many of you will opt for music

GCSE and develop your musicianship and composition skills to an even higher level. Speaking of the latter, the year group have spent the last 6 weeks remixing the song *Diamonds* by Rhianna and have put their own spin on this classic hit from 2016. All pupils have used the software to a very high standard in order to maintain a sophisticated and dynamic piece of music that can be used as accompaniment for Rhianna's vocals. An outstanding project overall has been demonstrated across the board with this year group, showing promising prospects for future computer music notation skills.

**Year 11**

The GCSE music group have excelled in their latest mock exam in music, with some pupils already hitting their target grades in music theory at this early stage of the academic year! I've no doubt that they will endeavour to complete their NEA coursework to the same standard and reach even higher goals moving into term 2 for the final submission of their NEA performances and compositions.



Some Year 11s have also taken part in the Christmas show "Musicals Mashup" and Mr Sargeant and I are extremely proud of their involvement in this production and can't thank them enough for their hard work and dedication to the music and performing arts departments.

I am very proud indeed of all the music GCSE pupils and how they have been working very hard on their performances and composition to hand in by the deadline before the Xmas break. This should see an increase in projected grades as well as overall effort and classroom ATL from all pupils. Well done year 11, only one more term to go!

• **Music Mash Up!**



Last week, we had the school's show. This year's show was a musical mash up including, acting singing and dancing from many different musicals. The students have been rehearsing since September and the night was a huge success. Well done to everyone involved!

• **PE**

**Netball**



Year 9 Girls 'A' Team were crowned Newcastle Schools Champions which represents an outstanding achievement for a hugely talented squad. The department was clearly highlighted as the 'B' Team narrowly missed out on making it a 1-2 by finishing in 3rd position.

Year 10 Girls finished 2nd overall and came away with silver medals in the Newcastle Schools Netball Tournament.

**Football**



U16 Boys finished in 3rd position in the Newcastle Schools League.

Year 7 Boys Futsal 'A' team and 'B' team both finished in 3rd position in the group stage of the Newcastle Schools Tournament. Both narrowly missed out on qualifying for the semi-final stage.

**Badminton**

KS4 Girls badminton team finished as runners up and claimed silver medals in the Newcastle Schools Tournament.



**Volleyball**

A massive well done to Madeley 'B' team who were crowned Newcastle Schools Volleyball Champions. The tournament comprised of 9 teams and incredibly the 4 Madeley teams finished 1st, 2nd, 3rd & 4th!!

**Upcoming competitions**

- U16 North Staffs Schools Table Tennis League
- U16 North Staffs Schools Badminton League
- Year 7 and 8 Newcastle Schools Sports hall Athletics
- Year 7 Girls Newcastle Schools Netball Tournament
- Year 8 and 9 Mixed Newcastle Schools Volleyball Tournament
- Year 8 Boys Newcastle Schools Football League
- Newcastle Schools Swimming Gala



- **Art**

In the art department, we finish the year off with our first Year 11 drop down days. Our photographers are spending the day exploring how photographers use their work to have a positive impact on the world, spreading messages far and wide. The day is about further developing their skills and confidence with their cameras. The artists will be spending the day with local printmaker Becky Bell trying out new print processes and working collaboratively to create some mixed media zines. Please follow us on Instagram [@artphotographymadeley](https://www.instagram.com/artphotographymadeley) to see some of the outcomes from the day as well as some examples of what KS3 have been up to.

We look forward to what the new year and term will bring us, it promises to be another exciting one! Starting with the handing out of the AQA exam papers for the art and photography exam units on the first lesson back. This externally set project will conclude at the end of March with the '10 hour exam' being sat by the photographers on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> March and the artists sitting theirs on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> March.

We have a photography day coming up in February at CCSW photography studios and dark room for our year 10's. We see Becky Bell back working across the two disciplines and several year groups sponsored by PICL (Partners in Creative Learning). There are cross curricular trips planned with the Potteries Museum and Gallery.

- **Year 11 - Mr Fleming**

Year 11 have made a great start to their final year at Madeley. Attendance is sitting above the national average and behaviour is at 98%. As we run up to the Christmas holidays, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents and carers for their unwavering support and look forward to your anticipated support as we near the final sprint towards the GCSE exams. This will bring worries and concerns for Year 11 as they prepare for their mocks in February and then their GCSEs in May. The best way to combat this is to ensure they are prepared and are revising little and often over the coming months. A part of this will be ensuring they also have their down time. As a school we have had exceptional results last year and I would like to continue this trend with Year 11.

This term we have seen the Year 11s gear up towards college applications and they have had assemblies with a host of post 16 providers giving them a range of options to consider. They have also been having careers interviews with Mr Knight our Careers Officer. I look forward to hearing the outcomes and destinations of Year 11s interviews and college applications.



In addition to the above, we have fully integrated and engaged the new prefect team into their roles at Madeley. They have supported a number of events in school from the Year 7 disco to the school show.

From January, they will be given duties within the school, thus extending their leadership, team working and communication skills.

Also, from January we are looking forward to launching the Passport to Prom programme. This will set out specific criteria for Year 11 to achieve to ensure they get a place on the Prom event. To go along side this, I look forward to installing the Prom Committee and seeing what fun ideas they can come up with for raising funds for the Prom. The more money they raise the cheaper their ticket will be!

The next few months are going to fly by just like the previous 4 years. I can't believe it is nearly time to say goodbye to my first ever year group I have seen through from Year 7. It has been a pleasure to have been their Head of Year.

It just leaves me to say a massive thank you again for your support and hard work. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!! See you all in 2025!!

- **Year 8**



Year 8 have now completed their first full term as Year 8 and have much to celebrate. At the time of writing, we have 37 students who have 100% attendance for this term, so a huge congratulations to them. We have 102 students who have 95% attendance and above, which is 62.5% of the year group, so congratulations to them also. The year group had a successful trip to Standon Bowers, everyone had a great time, both students and staff who attended. Students showed positivity and resilience throughout the whole trip, but a special mention to Josh after a spectacular bike crash, he is fine! Connie and Eva for their amazing perseverance. We have some fantastic photographs ready for their Year 11 leavers assembly!

Some students have topped the leaderboard in relation to A2L grades so far this year: Angel in 8LF has the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest points in the whole school, so a special congratulations to Angel, congratulations also to Lacey in 8ILP, Darcy V in 8FM, Evie 8GS, Scarlet in 8ILP and Darcy P in 8ILP. A special congratulations needs to be given to Evie in 8GS for achieving the most 1's for outstanding A2L in the year group and currently in fourth position in the whole school. Well done to 8NJH, who are at the top of the leaderboard for SPARX reading.

Many of our students in Year 8 take part in lots of activities outside of school, it is important that we recognise these achievements as a year group and school. Tilly in 8FM won silver in the West Midlands Champion of Trampoline League competition, superb achievement Tilly, very well done to you. Harvie in 8FM has been recognised for good sportsmanship in Go Karting competition 'Race with Respect', as he had no penalty points for the entire season, well done Harvie! Sophia in 8ILP also flew out to Spain to compete in a gymnastics competition, we are all very proud of her, well done Sophia. We have a very talented array of students.

- **Rewards**

It has been amazing to see the number of certificates given out this term following on from all the positive behaviours that the pupils have contributed to within school.

Pupils have achieved Bronze (419 pupils), Silver (74 pupils), Gold (76 pupils) and Platinum 80 pupils) certificates. Congratulations to all. Next term is for every pupil to aim higher again!!



- **Attendance**

After a brief decline in students' attendance due to the snow disruption and illness, the Attendance Advent Competition has seen a 4% increase in our student's attendance in the past week. There has been a queue of students each morning at the post-box to submit their entries! Students are excited for the prize draw on the last day of term.



Please can we remind parents and carers about the importance of attending school, not just for the academic progress of their child, but also for their social and emotional health. If you do need to request leave of absence for your child, please follow the protocol which can be found on the attendance pages on our school website. All child absences should be registered with school via telephone or email on each day of absence and before 8.30am.



- **Safeguarding/Mental Health over the Christmas break**

Although the festive season can be a very happy one for most of us most of the time, it can be a time that may impact on our mental health. Our final Safeguarding Newsletter of this term is all about supporting mental health over the Christmas and New Year break. A copy of this has been emailed out to all parents and carers but can also be found on our school website.

[Looking After Your Mental Health at Christmas | Blog | YoungMinds](#)



### Online safety advice and mental health

Below is a link for online safety and mental health when it comes to using mobiles and devices.

[Online and mobile safety | Childline](#)



ONLINE, ON THE PHONE, ANYTIME

#### Google Family Link

Do you track your child's phone and usage? Have you heard of Google Family link?

<https://families.google/familylink/>



- **Anti bullying**

What is bullying?

The repetitive, intentional hurting of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power. Bullying can be physical, verbal or psychological. It can happen face-to-face or online'.

Bullying can be:

- Physical - pushing, poking, kicking, hitting, biting, pinching etc.
- Verbal - name calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, threats, teasing, belittling.
- Emotional - isolating others, tormenting, hiding books, threatening gestures, ridicule, humiliation, intimidating, excluding, manipulation and coercion.
- Sexual - unwanted physical contact, inappropriate touching, abusive comments, homophobic abuse, exposure to inappropriate films etc.
- Online /cyber - posting on social media, sharing photos, sending nasty text messages, social exclusion
- Indirect - Can include the exploitation of individuals

Below is a link for more information about anti- bullying and bullying of specific groups, including, Race, LGBTQ+, faith, disability, gender, SEN.

<https://www.kidscape.org.uk/advice/advice-for-parents-and-carers/what-is-bullying/autistic-children-and-bullying/>



- **Children in Need**



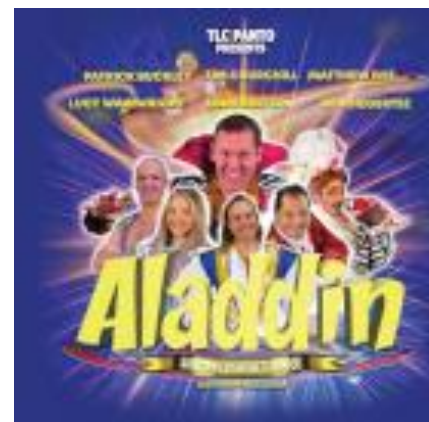
On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November, the school supported Child in Need by donating a £1.00 to wear their own clothes. Thank you to everyone who helped organise and supported the events in school. We raised £550.00!

- **Christmas Jumper Day**



Today, we supported 'Christmas Jumper Day' for Douglas MacMillan. We have raised £189.30! Thank you to everyone!

- **Year 7 Pantomime**



To end the term on festive cheers. Year 7 have visited the Mitchell Arts Centre in Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent today to watch the pantomime 'Aladdin'. A great time was had by all!



- **Staffordshire County Council**

#### Proposed Waiting Restrictions, Bevan Place, Madeley

The County Council is looking to implementing waiting and loading restrictions along a length of the A525 Newcastle Road, Madeley Court and Bevan Place, Madeley as the roads become heavily congested with indiscriminate parking occurring during the school drop off and pick up times.

If you have any comments you would like to make regarding the proposals for this scheme, then please fill out the survey by either scanning the QR code or visiting the URL below by

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2024** using:

[www.staffordshire.gov.uk/TROconsultation](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/TROconsultation)



RETHINK gift wrapping this Christmas: replace, reduce, recycle

