



MADELEY SCHOOL



PRINCIPAL'S POST: PARENT EDITION



Dear Parents and Carers,

As the Christmas break approaches, I would like to thank staff, students, parents, Academy Councillors and Shaw Education Trust Colleagues for their hard work and support this term. It has been a busy, energetic and immensely rewarding term and, on reflection, the time seems to have flown by. I don't think we would have it any other way!

Our Madeley staff and your brilliant children have demonstrated huge amounts of resilience, positivity and enjoyment of learning since September. They have been fully immersed in a rich curriculum and been fully engaged in exciting lessons. I take a huge amount of pleasure visiting lessons daily across the school and talking with students and staff about what they are learning. One of the key highlights is observing the incredible relationships between staff and students – this is the bedrock of our success.

Our 7 Core Values continue to underpin our school culture and I would like to extend my gratitude to all parents that continue to support us by promoting these values.

This end of term edition of the Parent Post is bursting with a showcase of what makes Madeley amazing. From sporting success, school shows and concerts, personal development and careers events, residentials and field trips and so much more beside. Alongside our exceptional lessons these rich and diverse experiences make Madeley a wonderful place to learn and work.

I am delighted to inform you that we have received a record number of first choice applications for next September, which is a testimony to our excellent academic outcomes and supportive and inclusive culture. Madeley remains oversubscribed and I am looking forward to updating you on our planned building work due to start in the new year that will help us to better cater for all families that would like to have their children attend.

Our Y7 cohort have transitioned fantastically well into the school, and I am delighted that Mrs Drohan has returned from Maternity leave to resume her role as their Head of Year. Mrs Carter, who has been brilliant at overseeing their move from Y6 and supporting them throughout this term will now revert into her role as our very talented Pastoral Support Officer, working across all year groups.

After over 14 years of incredible service at Madeley, and 27 years in education, our treasured Mr Hope will be leaving at the end of the term. He is moving into semi-retirement after a wonderful career. I know many of you will have met Mr Hope and benefited from his support and guidance as he endeavoured daily to keep your children safe and to remove the many barriers that can often challenge our students during their time with us. He has been an exceptional Vice Principal, loyal and committed to ensuring our students needs are met, often in very difficult circumstances. He leaves to embark on his next chapter with all our heartfelt best wishes and I am sure that these sentiments extend from you all.

From January Mrs Skelding and Mr Ostrowski will start new roles as Vice Principals overseeing the Quality of Education, with Mr Royall, as a Senior Assistant Principal leading the Pastoral team. They will be supported by a new team of talented Assistant Principals; Mr Hawkins (Curriculum), Mr McMeeken (Teaching and Learning), Ms Boustead (Inclusion and Student Engagement), Mrs Halstead (Safeguarding and Student Welfare). Mrs Neat will also commence a secondment to the senior team. They have some amazing ideas to make Madeley even better and I know they will be reaching out for your continued support next term.

The date and time of my next 'Open Office' event will be Wednesday 28th February from 2.15pm-5.15pm. If you would like to meet, then please contact my PA, Mrs Downie (denise.downie@madeley.set.org) who will schedule a 15minute slot.

I hope you enjoy this edition of the Principal's Post and I wish you a peaceful, safe and happy Christmas break and look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

Yours sincerely
Mr L Nixon

Useful dates:

- End of School Term - Thursday 21st December
- School re-opens on Monday 8th January 2024





• In Music

The KS3 music pupils have excelled this term in all aspects of music making ranging from pop music to blues, as well as remixing projects in Logic Pro. GCSE music have presented their performances at the Christmas concert and demonstrated excellent progression in their composing skills and understanding of music theory.

• Christmas Concert

The Christmas concert on Wednesday 13th December was a huge success, with pupils represented across all year groups, singing and performing their favourite songs. All pupils performed to an outstanding level, demonstrating professionalism in their performance techniques and stage presence.



• Music Video Production

This term has also seen the pupils take their talents to a step further in the production of the music department's bi-annual music video. The last one was in 2021, and this year we've seen even more pupils from all year groups take part in what is truly a fantastic production of Megan Trainor's "I'll Be Home". All pupils are credited with a recording, filming or video production role in this project, and below is a link to the music video, as well as some stills from the video-making process.
<https://youtu.be/FTOC34x2frc>





• Drama



This term students from all years have joined in with the school show. This is the first huge production the school has done in years and all the students involved have done themselves proud. Not only have

students been performing in the show they have been involved in every aspect. From front of house, backstage and the lighting and sound each student has worked extremely hard to produce such a high quality piece of theatre. Mr Sargeant is extremely proud of you all.



- Well done to all the show cast:
- Year 7 - Max & Tilly
 - Year 8 - Nevaeh, Noa, Jessica, Lucinda, Evalyn, Maia, Jessica, Natalie & Bethany
 - Year 9 - Olivia, William, Issi, Poppy, Molly, Shania & Elizabeth
 - Year 10- Ruby, Annie, Charlie, Dan, Piper, Josh, Isaac & Harry
 - Year 11- Bethan, Hetty & Georgia.



The Year 11 drama students attended Staffordshire University to film one of their performances. They used the state-of-the-art facilities and worked with a technician to achieve amazing performances. After this they had a tour and talk at the 6th form college where they discussed all things for a creative next step after Madeley.



• Year 11

Our Head Girl Maddie was invited along to the Shaw Education Trust to talk to the Board about what made Madeley a great school. Never have we been so proud, she did an amazing job of talking to all of them and many of the other schools within the SET.



Our Head and Deputy Head Students, Senior Prefects and Prefects are also busy introducing themselves in assemblies and during morning registration, so that students know who they are and how to access them for support. They are also planning the Year 7 Christmas Disco to raise money for the 2024 Prom.

• Spanish

As part of our cultural learning in Spanish, we delved into one of the most unusual and amusing Christmas traditions from the Spanish-speaking world and beyond. Our students enjoyed comparing various traditions and reflecting on their meaning. Caga Tió was a particular favourite, enjoyed in Catalonia, Spain.



The “pooping log” or "Caga Tió" is a small log, often with a painted face and decked out with a traditional Catalan hat. Starting from 8th December, children feed the log small treats each night and cover it with a blanket to keep it warm. On Christmas Eve or Day, the log is then "encouraged" to "poop" out presents by being beaten with sticks while children sing traditional songs. Another Catalan tradition is the "caganer" - that's a good one for your child to explain to you!

With warm wishes from the Spanish Department,
Señor Hawkins, Señora Clark, Señora O’Leary





MADELEY SCHOOL

• Maths



Recently, 15 students from Madeley embarked on an enriching mathematical journey at Keele University, guided by the ever-enthusiastic Mr. Bedford. The day unfolded with expert teachers from diverse schools, delving into the intricacies of FDP, Geometry, Ratio, and Algebra. The focus was crystal clear: mastering these disciplines to ace exam questions.

The pinnacle of the day was the exam relay, a thrilling test of knowledge and skill. Proudly, Madeley clinched both 1st and 2nd prizes, a testament to their dedication. The triumph not only showcased academic prowess but also mirrored the school's core values of positivity and ambition.

These Madeley students absorbed knowledge like sponges, displaying not just mathematical finesse but embodying the spirit of Madeley. As ambassadors of positivity and ambition, their success at Keele University echoes the school's commitment to nurturing well-rounded individuals poised for excellence.

• RaW

In Religion and World Views Y7 students have been learning about different world faiths including Christianity, Buddhism, Hinduism and Islam. They have created games of snakes and ladders which originates from the Buddhist belief in Karma. They have enjoyed Jaffa cakes in lesson when learning about the Christian belief in the Trinity.



Y7 have also been learning about how charity is an important element of all world faiths and so they designed reverse advent calendars to promote donations to the Madeley food bank. In November students and staff got to sample some delicious Diwali treats including samosas, bhajis and cardamom biscuits. The Diwali food sale raised £80 for Madeley food bank.



• D & T

Pupils have been working hard during extra – curricular time in Design and Technology. On a Wednesday night year 7 and 8 girls have been making metal, resin and laser cut jewellery. Special shout out to Elisa in year 10 who helps out every week.



Also on a Wednesday aeroplane model making has taken off, three flying models have been successfully flown so far. A festive break taken last week, to learn how to solder an electronic reindeer nightlight.



Another special mention to Sam who stays on a Friday night with friends to spend time building Lego robots.

Finally, a huge well done to all the Year 11 who stay late with Mrs Sharratt and Mr Pugh to work on their coursework on Friday evening.

• Year 10 GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition

Students have been learning about the science behind bread and did a fantastic job at making some Christmas Wreaths last week. Check out their great work!





• PE

Girls Football

Massive congratulations to the girls U13 footballers who won the EFL Utilita Trophy. 3 wins and 3 draws was enough to see them lift the trophy and go through to the regional finals, where they will represent Port Vale.



In addition, the Y8 futsal team, put together a string of fine performances in the Newcastle Schools Tournament, to finish runners-up to a strong Clayton team.

Autumn term has seen both the Y10/11's and Y9's in Newcastle Schools League action. The KS4 boys put in some solid performances finishing with 4 wins from their 9 games and a 4th position finish.

The Y9's currently sit top of the league and undefeated. We eagerly await results of the final round of fixtures to see if the boys will be crowned district champions.

They have also made it through to Rd.3 of the county cup where they face JCB Academy in January.

Badminton

The schools Badminton season is now under way. This term has seen the Newcastle Schools Badminton tournaments being played. The standout performance came from the KS4 Boys team who finished in a brilliant 3rd position, behind extremely strong Clayton and NULS teams.

The season continues after the Christmas break with the North Staffs League.

Netball

A huge well done to the Y8 girls Netball 'A' team squad who were crowned Newcastle Schools Tournament winners, with a perfect record of 6 wins out of 6!!

In addition, the 'B' team squad also played in the competition and put in some fantastic performances to finish with 2 wins from their 6 games.



Y7 Volleyball

The autumn term has seen 31 Y7 pupils take their first steps in their volleyball careers. The group have shown great resilience and commitment during the after-school sessions on Friday nights. For the majority, Volleyball is a new sport, and the skills that they have been developing have taken pupils out of their comfort zones and have required that all important growth mindset.

Huge thanks also go to the Y9 Volleyball leaders who have devoted their free time to developing our future Volleyball stars!

The U16 Volleyballers last night were crowned Newcastle Schools Champions in both the boys and girls events. The U16 'B' boys were also runners up with their only defeat being a narrow 10-8 loss to the 'A' team. Their behaviour, sportsmanship and attitude were exemplary. It was a real pleasure to watch them. Well done to all!



Table Tennis

The U16 North Staffs league commenced this term. The U16 'A' have started the campaign with 2 wins and a defeat, whilst the 'B' team have won 1 and lost 2. The final league game against Ormiston Sir Stanley Matthews Academy takes place in the New Year.

Information about clubs, fixtures and results can be found on Madeley Sports weekly which is shared with pupils/parents on class charts announcements, via form teachers on a Monday morning and is displayed in the PE department. There will be some changes to the extra-curricular PE programme at the start of the spring term. Announcements will be sent in due course.

Hockey

Hockey continues to develop across the school and we have had a very busy term playing u16s, U14s B&G, U13s B&G and U12s B&G. We have travelled far and wide with trips to Wrekin College, Abbottsholme, Stone HC, Whitchurch and Sandbach with a good deal of success as with no pitch all our games are away. The U14s have only lost 1 game and that loss was put to bed in the return fixture vs Queen Mary Grammar school from Walsall in a thrilling 5-4 victory for the Swans.

The students continue to develop and many have now joined North Stafford Hockey Club to continue with their hockey journey.

Through the collection of match fees, we have been able to purchase 2 good quality goal keeping kits and we are very pleased that VIP Education have agreed to sponsor us for a set of Hockey strips for the team which will arrive in the new year. Massive thanks to the parents and to VIP for all their support.

In the new year we are entered into U14s Boys, U13Boys and U12s B&G county tournaments and look forward to competing in the Midlands and National state school competitions again.





- **Art**

Creative Ambassadors

Pupils have visited the Potteries Museum and Art Gallery in Hanley to take part in a ‘Clay Museum study programme’ in partnership the British Ceramics Biennial. They worked with artist, Nicola Colclough and the Museum Education Team, to engage with the galleries and discuss how they would like the museum to develop in the future. The museum wanted to learn how young people perceive the museum spaces and through a series of workshops using clay and hands-on approaches, the pupils that took part will inform and shape future curation and engagement programming.



The programme consisted of five workshops, over the course of four weeks throughout November and December 2023 at the museum and after school in the art rooms.

Young Curators

The Young Curators Art Project involves 14 pupils, The Brompton Museum & Art Gallery and former pupil and art dealer, Dr Jack Roberts. The six-month long project will introduce the young curators to a range of art experts and freelance professionals to learn about curating an exhibition, which will be held at The Brompton Museum between February and April 2024. Plans for the art exhibition, including the title and selected artworks, will be unveiled in January 2024. The idea for the project, which is an extra-curricular activity, was devised by Miss Leath and Dr Roberts, who is a former pupil of Madeley School.



- **Start time of school day**

Just a polite reminder that school starts at 8.35am. After this point pupils are late, and the punctuality policy will be followed.



- **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 (506 pupils), silver (187 pupils), gold (70 pupils) and platinum (34 pupils) certificates. For the first time we have had 25 pupils achieving a Head of Year certificate and 18 pupils achieving a Principal's certificate. Congratulations to all. Next term is for every pupil to aim higher again!!



- **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. Younger Minds have advice if you need it at this time. Please see the link below.

[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](#)



Google Family Link

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

With Family Link, you can locate your children on one map, as long as they're carrying their device. Get notifications and alerts – Family Link delivers critical notifications, including when your child arrives at or leaves a certain location. You can also ring devices and view the device's remaining battery life.

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

[Family Link from Google - Family Safety & Parental Control Tools \(families.google\)](#)





- **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/>



- **Christmas Jumper Day**



On Friday 8th Dember, we supported ‘Christmas Jumper Day’ for Douglas MacMillan. We raised £188.40! Thank you to everyone!

- **Year 7 Pantomime**



To end the term on festive cheers Year 7 have visited the Mitchell Arts Centre in Hanely, Stoke-on-Trent today to watch Snow White. Great audience participation & a great time had by all!

RETHINK gift wrapping this Christmas:
replace, reduce, recycle



- **Madeley Food Bank Collection**



Thank you so much for the fantastic amount of food donations for the Madeley Foodbank, to help local families. We are extremely grateful to everyone for all the donations, this will certainly make a difference!

A Big **THANK YOU**

for supporting Newcastle-Staffs foodbank.

Your donations make a BIG difference to local people in crisis. A collection by Madeley High School provided the equivalent of 550 meals.

Newcastle-Staffs foodbank is part of the Trussell Trust's UK wide network.

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Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from everyone at Madeley school!

