

# MADELEY SCHOOL

## PRINCIPAL'S POST: PARENT EDITION



Dear Parents and Carers,

Our incredible students continue to inspire us and show us we are right to be ambitious without limits for them. We are proud to showcase in this end of term edition of the Principal's Post a selection of the rich variety of their experiences and achievements throughout the Spring Term.

As we break for the Easter Holidays, I would like to say a huge thank you once again for your continued support. Two terms into the school year and the pupils are thriving.

Thanks once again for your continued understanding, patience, and commitment in helping us to keep all our school community safe and for being so supportive of our policies and procedures.

I'd also like to add my sincere thanks to all the school staff, our Academy Councillors and Shaw Education Trust colleagues who work tirelessly to uphold standards and ensure that your children are safe, learn well, and enjoy their time at school every day as we collectively Inspire Excellence and uphold our core values.

It has been an exciting term for pupils across the school who have enjoyed participating in many external educational trips, visits and residential. Our pupils have had the opportunity to visit theatres, universities, exhibition centres, master classes and a host of sporting competitions and fixtures. A huge well done to all the pupils involved in these activities and a big thank you to all the staff and volunteers who were involved too.

The end of term celebration assemblies continues to remain a highlight of my term. I was also delighted when over 70 of our pupils attended a Duke of Edinburgh Awards evening at the school to collect their Bronze and Silver Awards.

Our teaching and support staff continue to plan, prepare and deliver excellent lessons and interventions so that all pupils thrive and progress. On 16th and 17th April, we are welcoming around 12 colleagues from the Shaw Education Trust for a two day 'health check' which will support us on our continual quest to provide an exceptional experience for all our pupils.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our site team who, along with our catering and cleaning teams take immense pride in providing a safe, clean and pleasant school environment. We continually encourage our pupils to respect our buildings and social spaces and to keep them litter free and to use their spaces responsibly. I am delighted that building work has now commenced to construct additional classrooms in English, Science and dining areas. I know that our pupils will act sensibly and safely whilst this work takes place.

I would also like to take the time to thank staff who will be offering bespoke intervention sessions for Year 11 pupils during the Easter break and to all parents who supported a recent Y11 exam preparation session along with those who attended my termly open office.

Madeley school continues to flourish and yet again we are considerably oversubscribed for next September and it has been a pleasure to personally write to all those in Y6 who are joining us from 32 partner primary schools.

Our future remains bright, and I hope you thoroughly enjoy reading this Easter edition. Many thanks for your continued support, have a safe and enjoyable Easter break and I look forward to seeing you in the Summer Term.

Yours sincerely,

Mr L Nixon



### Useful dates:

- End of School Term – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024 at 3.05pm
- School re-opens on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024
- **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024 is an INSET day and the school will be closed to Students**







• **Art**

Well done to all Year 11 artists and photographers who have sat their art and photography exams this term, we are almost at the finish line with the deadline for coursework being the 2<sup>nd</sup> May for the artists and 3<sup>rd</sup> May for the photographers. This year, we will be showcasing their work in an exhibition on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July, so please look out for more information to come. This is such an exciting way to celebrate their success and to show off their hard work from the past two years.



If you haven't yet been to The Brampton Museum to see the Young Curators exhibition 'Through the Frame' don't worry, there is still time. The exhibition runs until Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April. The Young Curators have been busy creating more activities for you to do to engage with the art works when you are there.



There are still more exciting things coming up in the department. Year 8 classes have been working with ceramic artist, Sally Fitchard and then later in the term as part of their heritage project, they will be working with artist, Ruth Allen. Some students are taking part in a creative careers project with the British Ceramics Biennial which is just being finalised at the moment. We have also organised a trip to Cheshire College South and West for our Year 10 artists and photographers, to work in their studio alongside the lecturers and students.

Our Instagram page @artphotographymadeley showcases current work from all year groups as well as notices about competitions so if you don't already follow us, please have a look. It is regularly updated.

• **Local Policing Team - Lunchtime Drop-in Sessions**

On Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March, PCSO Gemma Crank and PCSO Colin Hodgkinson of Madeley Policing Team joined us at Lunchtime for a drop-in session.

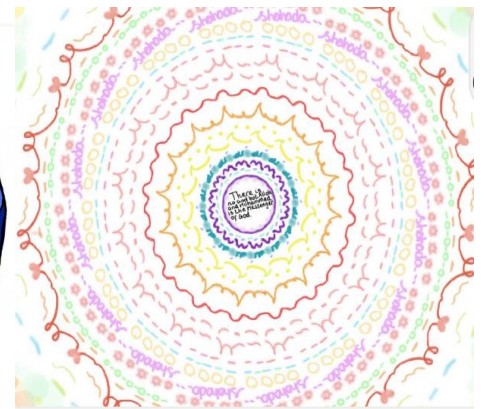
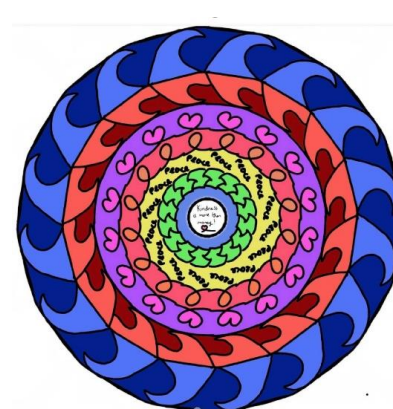
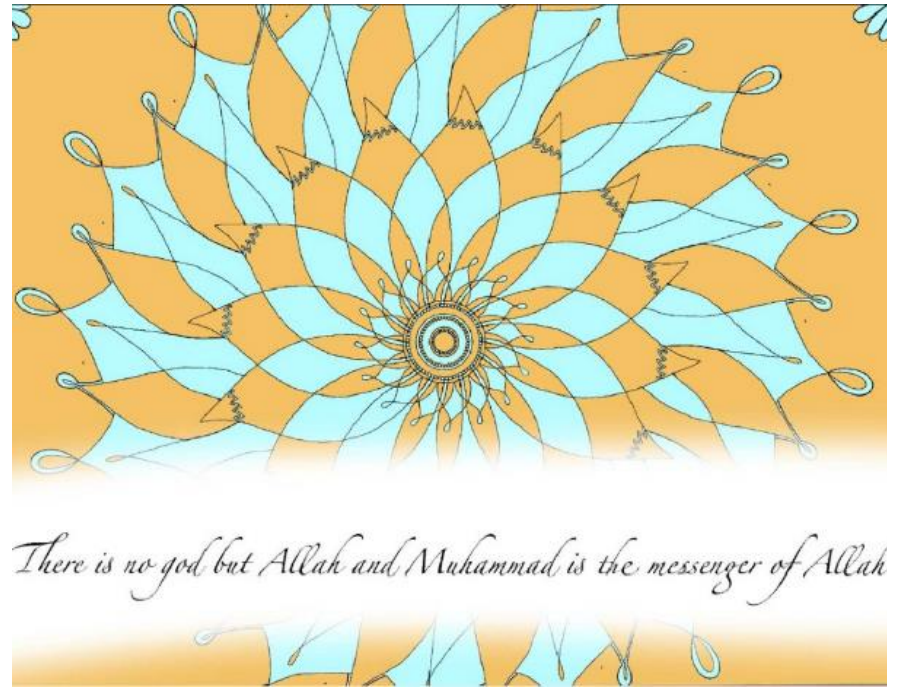


Officers shared with our students crime prevention/staying safe advice and literature. The next drop-in session will be on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May, with more drop-in sessions to follow in the future and in addition to this, they will support some PSHE/PD sessions as well.

• **RAW**

Year 10 and Year 11 have been discussing some very thought-provoking Philosophy and Ethics questions during their personal development sessions such as; *What are the consequences of war?* and *should we allow the death penalty?* There were some excellent debates which displayed thoughtful and articulate responses. Well done!

Year 7 have been learning about the five pillars of Islam and recently created their own geometric patterns to display Shahadah - The statement of Faith.



• **Eco Warriors**

Eco Warriors raised an impressive £75.25 for the Footprints Animal Sanctuary at this week's bake sale. A big thank you for the bakes and donations, and to Noa A, Joe W, Martha B, Heidi B and Madison H for their time running the stall and to Mrs O'Leary for supervision!







• **Science**



Year 10 and 11 science students enjoyed front row seats at GCSE Science Live at the Symphony Hall, in Birmingham. They picked up some valuable GCSE revision tips and also heard some fascinating talks from esteemed scientists on a range of topics including fertility, cross channel swimwear and the feasibility of time travel! Special mention to Miles C in Year 11, who pipped an auditorium of over 2000 students from across the country to the post in correctly identifying spaghettiification as your untimely end, should you accidentally fall into a Black Hole!

As part of science week, Miss Jones arranged a Science Week Poster Competition. Congratulations to Jack, who won!

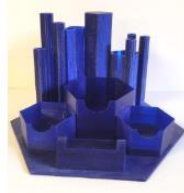


• **D & T**

Recently, Year 10 Design and Technology students have been working hard with Mrs Sharratt to produce a prototype of an iconic chair from the 20th Century. As a team we are now selecting the top 10 ready for whole staff judging after Easter.



In Mr Pugh's lessons, pupils have worked equally hard on their own 3D printed desk tidy.



Well done Year 10, have a well-deserved break and come back energized and ready to start the NEA portfolio in May.

• **Stem Olympics**

On Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March, 5 of the Year 10 pupils attended the Stem Olympics competition at Stoke on Trent Sixth Form college as defending champions from 2023. The quintet of Annie B, Ruby H, Niamh T, Charlie G, George D performed very consistently in each of the areas of Maths, Biology, Chemistry and Physics and finished a commendable 4<sup>th</sup> out of 10 schools' teams! Well done to them all.

• **Spanish**

This term, Year 9 students have embarked on an exciting exploration Hispanic culture in Spanish lessons, focusing on the vibrant and diverse festivals celebrated across Spanish-speaking countries. Among these, they delved into the "Batalla del Vino" (Wine Battle), a unique festival held in Haro, La Rioja, Spain, where participants engage in a friendly yet spirited battle, dousing each other with red wine. Another highlight has been the "Carnaval de Cádiz," one of Spain's most famous carnival celebrations. Here, the streets of Cádiz come alive with music, dancing, and elaborate costumes, showcasing a rich tradition of satire, humor, and creativity. These studies have not only enhanced our students' language skills but also broadened their understanding of the world's cultural diversity.



• **English**



A group of Year 11 students had the opportunity to see an abridged version of the play Macbeth. The production focused on the plot, key scenes and characters that will be useful in the upcoming Literature GCSE. Mrs Mitchell was proud to take students from Madeley who were engaged by the performance and took advantage of the opportunity they had. We wish all students the best of luck for the examinations.

World Book Day took place on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March. As part of the day, the English department held a Cook Cover competition.

The Winner of the competition was:

Ruby!

Congratulations!

Winning a £10 gift voucher.

They received a range of fun, original & eye-catching designs!







- **Music**

The Year 7 's have been working really hard this term on their performance and composition projects. In conjunction with PICL (Partners in Creative Learning), they have rehearsed songs and composed chords and melodies to be performed and presented in front of the class. A superb effort by all has been demonstrated and some students have excelled in their computer work especially, by composing drumbeats, as well as piano chord parts and melodic lines to accompany them. In the performances, some students have stood out, showing an excellent level of confidence in their musicianship, whilst playing instruments and singing their chosen songs. A brilliant effort overall, so well done to year 7.



Year 10 have really made a tremendous effort to showcase their talents in both songwriting and performing. The cohort has completed their first free compositions in various chosen styles, which will be assessed and put towards their final GCSE submissions. The level of composing and production skills have been outstanding this term, using a wide range of programming techniques within the software Logic Pro. In addition, they have each performed their solo pieces and recorded these live within the recording studio which again will be counted towards their NEA submissions for their GCSE coursework. An outstanding term indeed, with lots to reflect on and celebrate as a year group, of which Mr Pilato is super proud! Well done year 10!

- **PE**

A massive well done to our Year 7 Sportshall athletics teams, who performed fantastically during the recent Newcastle Schools Competition. The boys narrowly missed out on silver medals by just a single point, finishing in 3rd position overall. The girls however, claimed the gold medals and were crowned Newcastle Schools Champions with a string of exceptional performances in both the track and field events.



### Girls Newcastle Schools Football Festival

The girls had a great day at the Newcastle Schools National Girls Football Day Festival held at Keele University. The competition was extremely close, with the 'A' team narrowly missing out on runners up spot, finishing in a very creditable 3rd position.



### U16 Girls Newcastle Schools Football Tournament

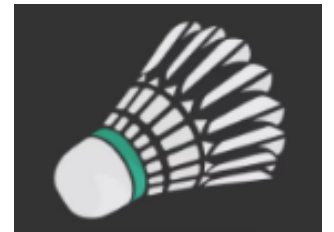
Our U16 girls football team claimed gold medals after winning the Newcastle Schools Tournament. Ruby M scored an incredible 9 goals with excellent back up from Ella P who added 2 goals of her own. Special mention also goes to the only Year 9 in the team Martha C (GK) who kept a clean sheet throughout the tournament. Well done to all who took part.

### U14 Boys County Cup

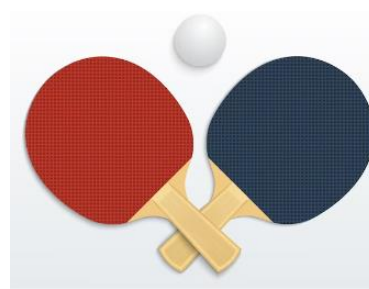
The boys run in the county cup unfortunately ended at the quarter final stage to Erasmus Darwin. Despite a fantastic battling performance and creating a significant number of chances, the boys couldn't quite manage to get the all-important second goal which would have taken them to victory. As it was the game ended 1-1, but they eventually lost out 4-2 on penalties.

### Badminton

The North Staffs Badminton league has now reached its conclusion. The standard across the competition was extremely high and from the 12 games played across KS3 & KS4 Madeley finished with a total of 6 wins and 6 defeats, which wasn't quite enough to qualify for the finals night.



### Table Tennis



As with the Badminton, the North Staffs Table Tennis league has also reached its conclusion and despite some excellent performances, the teams 3 wins and 1 defeat wasn't enough to secure a spot at finals night. This instead went to a very strong Clayton team.

### Swimming

Despite not swimming in curricular PE, the Madeley squads put in some positive performances in the recent Newcastle Schools Gala held at Newcastle-under-Lyme School. In both the boys and girls events were dominated by NULS. However, the standout performance came from the boys U16 squad who finished runners up to NULS. Whilst the boys overall (u12, u14, u16 combined) finished a more than creditable 3rd behind Clayton and NULS.



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 summer term. Announcements will be sent in due course.





- **Drama**

Year 11 have performed their externally assessed performances this half term. They have been working hard rehearsing their 2 performances since January.

Students have performed monologues and duologues from a range of plays. Well done Year 11, only the written exam left to go.



At the beginning on March, Mr Sargeant spent a weekend with the acting legend Suranne Jones. He was directed by Suranne Jones and she selected Mr Sargeant to open the performance, with solo lines. Mr Sargeant had an amazing time and learnt lots from this amazing experience.



- **Duke of Edinburgh Presentation Evening**

On Wednesday evening, we held the Duke of Edinburgh presentation evening. 72 Students from Years 10 & 11 received their Bronze and Silver awards.

The evening was attending by Brett, who is the Regional manager for the D of E in this area and also Anna who is a past student from Madeley. Anna achieved the Bronze and Silver awards here at Madeley and since leaving has gone on to complete her Gold award ending with a visit to Buckingham Palace to meet the Duke of Edinburgh.

Supporting the students on their expeditions were Mrs O'Leary, Miss Johnson and Miss Hartley. Thank you to all of them for their commitment in some tricky weather conditions and also the main leader, John. Thanks also goes to Mr Royall and Mrs Lee for all their work in school supporting the students and doing all the paperwork, as well as Mrs Lee organising the Evening Presentation.

It was such a lovely evening and well supported by some very proud parents. Good luck to all the students who are now advancing onto the next level award.



- **Attendance**

The school has received a FFT Award for the school being placed in the top 10% of all schools nationally in the Autumn Term. Well done!



*Wishing everyone a happy and restful Easter Break!*

