

FRIDAY 27TH FEBRUARY 2026

MADELEY SCHOOL

PRINCIPAL'S POST: PARENT EDITION



• KS4 Disneyland Paris Trip



The recent trip to Disneyland Paris was an outstanding experience for our KS4 Computing and iMedia students. The visit provided a valuable opportunity to see how digital technology, media production, animation, branding and immersive design are applied at a world-class entertainment resort. Students were able to make meaningful links between their classroom learning and real-world industry practice, particularly in areas such as graphic design, user experience, audio-visual production and large-scale systems management.

Beyond the academic benefits, students demonstrated excellent behaviour, maturity and enthusiasm throughout the trip. They engaged thoughtfully with the learning elements of the visit and represented the school with pride. The experience has undoubtedly broadened their understanding of career pathways within the creative and digital industries and will positively support their progress in both Computer Science and Creative iMedia.

• Year 8 student selected for WKU World Karate Championships

Henry in Year 8 and his brother, have been selected to represent England at the WKU World Karate Championships in Abu Dhabi, in August. This opportunity, whilst amazing, will also be extremely costly (from attending training sessions, private lessons, purchasing kit and equipment, competition entry fees, to travelling to and staying in Abu Dhabi for a week). Due to the significant costs, they are hoping to raise some funds towards this. If you are able to, please visit the Go Fund Me link below:

<https://gofund.me/c8f04b4ae>



• Year 10 and 11 Personal Development Days



At the end of last term, the Year 10 and 11 students took part in a Personal Development Day. The sessions were a huge success and encouraged students to discuss their mental health and wellbeing in a creative way.

Some of the self-portraits created on these days were on display at the New Vic Theatre in Newcastle this week to celebrate Emotional Wellbeing Day.

• Important Year 10 Parents'/Carers' Consultation Afternoon/Evening

Year 10 Parents'/Carers' Consultation Afternoon/Evening will be held on:
Year 10 - Tuesday 24th March from 2.00pm - 6.15pm.
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, with the exception of the 2 D&G buses (routes 445 & 446) which collect at 3.05pm. Please notify the office if your child will be remaining on site until you arrive at school for appointments or until 3.05pm, for safeguarding.

Important dates:

- Monday 23rd February - Friday 6th March - Year 11 GCSE Mock Exams
- Tuesday 3rd March - Parental Digital Support Drop-In Session 5.00pm - 6.00pm in Room 22
- Thursday 5th March - World Book Day
- Thursday 12th March - Year 10 Textile Trip to NEC



MADELEY SCHOOL
NEWCASTLE ROAD
MADELEY
CREWE
CW3 9JJ

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• **Science**



The week before the half term break, Miss Jones's Year 8 Silver Science pupils had great fun picking up paper, making drinks cans move and bending water using nothing but a blown-up balloon and a bit of friction! They also enjoyed messing each other's hair up with static!

• **Hockey**

On Monday, the Year 7 girls' team took part in the U12's County Hockey Tournament. They acquitted themselves admirably and while they finished 3rd out of 3 teams, they were 3rd to NULS and Denstone College who have 3 Hockey pitches between them and numerous full-time coaches! The staff from the other school were very complimentary in the way our girls played - we have closed the gap! Please congratulate the girls who did better than they thought they would! Well done team!



• **Product Design**



To recognise all the outstanding work and homework in Product Design lessons, every half term we enter selected pupils into a prize draw. This half term's prize included edible treats, stationery, and lots of creative goodies to make and enjoy! Well done to all selected pupils and a huge congratulations to Eleanor D in Year 8, a well-deserving winner!

Also, excellent work has been produced by Year 8 pupils in Product Design. The work in Year 8 is themed around the environment and sustainability. Pupils are showing lots of maturity and dedication with topics covered so far.



• **Drop City Books**

On Monday 2nd March, in the run up to World Book Day, we're welcoming special visitors from Drop City Books into school to help us celebrate our love of reading!

Ruth, the owner of Drop City Books, is especially excited to chat with students about what they love reading. She'll even be bringing a bespoke collection in the summer, chosen based on students' recommendations! How amazing is that?

Year 7 and Year 8 students will be able to collect their FREE World Book Day book from the pop-up stall in the main corridor at lunchtime.

We're also incredibly proud to announce that several students have been nominated by Team English for their talent and passion in creative writing. These students will be invited to take part in a special writing workshop with Ruth; what an opportunity!

• **World Book Day - Thursday 5th March**



• **Parental Digital Drop-In Session**

A reminder that the Parental Digital Drop-In Session will take place on Tuesday 3rd March from 5.00pm - 6.00pm in Room 22.

• **Reminder - JamfParent App**

We would like to remind you of **Jamf Parent**, an app that allows you to manage and guide how a student uses their school-issued iPad outside school hours, giving parents limited but helpful controls to support responsible device use at home. We have had the app under test by a small number of parents for some time. It has recently significantly improved and has new support videos on YouTube.

✓ **What Parents Can Do**

- **Pause or block apps**
Parents can temporarily disable specific apps (e.g., games or social media) so the student can focus on homework or family time.
- **Set device restrictions.**
They can limit features such as the camera or Safari if appropriate.
- **Schedule downtime**
Allows setting time periods when the iPad cannot be used fully (e.g., bedtime).

🔒 **What Parents Cannot Do**

- They cannot see school data, student work, messages, or personal content.
- They cannot install apps - only the school can do that.
- All controls operate *within limits set by the school's IT team.*

⚙️ **How It Works**

- The student iPad has a **QR code** in the Jamf Student app.
- Parents scan it using the Jamf Parent app to link the student's iPad.
- Controls apply **only between 3:15pm and 8:30am weekdays and during weekends.**

Unfortunately, the school cannot offer any support with using the application. Please refer to the many online help videos and articles. Here is the latest 'How To' video from Jamf.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H8OMIhMRTG0>

