

# MADELEY SCHOOL

## PRINCIPAL'S POST: PARENT EDITION



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of a busy, successful and highly rewarding Easter term at Madeley School, I would like to extend my sincere thanks for your continued support. It has been a term defined by energy, opportunity and a real sense of momentum across our school community.

Since January, there has been a huge amount to celebrate. Our classrooms continue to be places of high expectation and strong relationships, supported by a wide range of enrichment, personal development and leadership opportunities that ensure our pupils receive a truly well-rounded education.

Across the year groups, it has been fantastic to see pupils thriving. Our Year 7 cohort have settled brilliantly into school life, embracing trips, clubs and new experiences with confidence. Year 8 and Year 9 pupils have benefited from a rich programme of enrichment, including residential visits, cultural experiences and leadership opportunities such as Madeley Parliament, helping them to grow in independence and voice. The Year 9 Options process has been a particular highlight, with strong engagement from families and pupils making thoughtful and ambitious choices about their futures.

Our Year 10 students continue to mature into their GCSE courses, supported by high-quality personal development experiences, careers guidance, and increasing opportunities to explore the world beyond school. Meanwhile, our Year 11 cohort have shown exceptional resilience, maturity and focus throughout their mock examinations and preparation for the summer exams. They are a credit to themselves and to the school, and we will continue to support them fully in the crucial weeks ahead.

This term has also seen continued investment in our provision. We are delighted to have secured a significant Trust grant to further develop our Inclusion 'Hive' provision, which will enhance the support we offer to some of our most vulnerable pupils. This sits alongside our ongoing commitment to inclusion, wellbeing and high-quality pastoral care for all.

We have also seen exciting developments at Trust level, with the appointment of our new CEO, Mrs Inscker, who has already taken time to visit the school. Her visit was extremely positive, and it was a pleasure to showcase the culture, ambition and professionalism that define Madeley. We continue to benefit greatly from the support and challenge provided by Shaw Education Trust colleagues, as well as the guidance and commitment of our Academy Council, whose work is invaluable in supporting the strategic direction of the school.

Another significant milestone this term has been the continued strength of our reputation within the local community. We have once again seen record levels of applications for Year 7 places, with the school remaining heavily oversubscribed. This is a powerful reflection of the confidence that families have in Madeley and the experience we provide for our pupils.

None of this would be possible without the dedication and professionalism of our staff. Their commitment to teaching, support, enrichment and care ensures that our pupils receive an exceptional experience every day. I would also like to thank our parents and carers for your ongoing partnership, and of course our pupils themselves, who continue to represent the school with pride, positivity and maturity.

As we look ahead to the summer term, there is much to look forward to — particularly as our Year 11 students approach their final examinations. Year 10 will complete their end of year mock examinations and take part in valuable work experience placements, while Year 9 will be finalising their options choices as they begin to shape their Key Stage 4 pathways. Our Year 8 pupils will continue to engage in a rich programme of curriculum and enrichment opportunities, building knowledge, confidence and character, and Year 7 are already looking forward to an exciting day with Commando Joes, designed to develop teamwork, resilience and leadership.

Alongside this, I cannot overstate the absolute importance of strong attendance. Every lesson counts, and consistent attendance is fundamental to academic success, positive wellbeing and a strong sense of belonging within our school community. Pupils who attend regularly are better able to build secure knowledge over time, develop positive relationships with staff and peers, and fully access the wide range of opportunities we provide. Quite simply, excellent attendance underpins everything we are striving to achieve together at Madeley School, and we are grateful for your continued support in ensuring that every child is in school, on time, every day.

Thank you once again for your support. I wish you and your families a restful and enjoyable Easter break.

Kind regards,  
Lee Nixon - Principal

### Important Dates:

- End of School Term - School closes on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March at 3.05pm
- **School re-opens on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April**
- Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April & Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April - DofE Bronze & Silver Practice Expedition
- Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April - **DofE Silver Practice Expedition Only**
- Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April - Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April - Year 11 GCSE Spanish Speaking Exams
- Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April - Year 8 Parents'/Carers' Consultation Afternoon Face to Face (2.00pm - 6.15pm)

The school will close at 1.15pm on the above date and school transport will collect 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.







• **Drama**

This term Year 8 have been exploring acting for screen. The term started exploring character stereotypes used in Soaps and then how actors move on camera using equipment like 'Sausages' that are marks for the actors' positions. We then started to film short scenes about a student who is concerned that their friend is vaping.

Students have all been involved in lots of different job roles such as: Director, first assistant director, camera operator, boom operator, continuity, script supervisor, supporting artists, project manager, behind the scenes photographer and crowd control.

They have been responsible for controlling their own set and will now be taking their footage and editing together their scenes from the 4 different angles they filmed from.

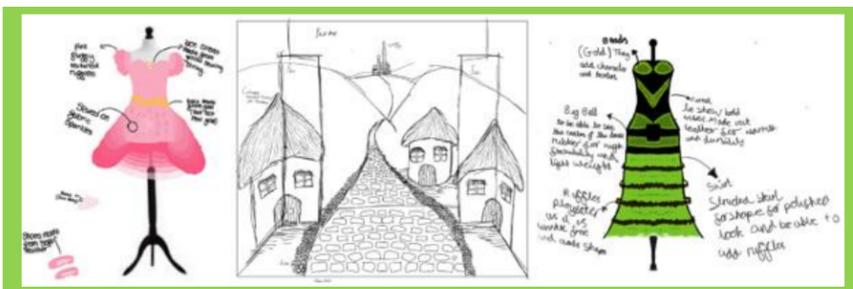


Year 9 have been working on stage combat skills. Adhering to strict rules and combining a sequence of moves such as a push, slap, hair pull, foot stomp and punch.

They have then choreographed the sequence and added in the aggressive tone to make it look realistic.



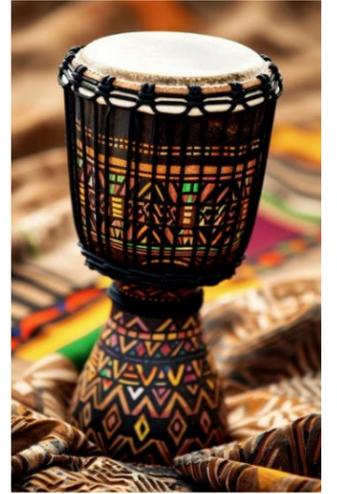
The Year 7 Drama students have been exploring alternative careers in the arts and looking at Set Design and Costume Design for the show 'Wicked.' Students have used 'Wicked' as their brief and have designed stage set designs and costumes for multiple characters with annotations for their choices.



• **Music**

**Year 7**

This year group have been excelling in music performance this term with lots of practice and experience of playing African percussion, which has been very rewarding. All pupils have performed to a very high standard, showing excellent musicality and dexterity in their percussion playing as well as singing the 'Che Che Kule chant' within their ensemble work! Well done Year 7 for a brilliant effort this term, next term we are going to compose some Samba rhythms in Logic Pro, to continue with our theme of "World Music".



**Year 8**

The Year 8s have been busy practicing their singing and ensemble skills through learning about Rock 'n' Roll and Soul music. These 2 genres are pivotal and extremely important to the development of 20<sup>th</sup> century popular music and therefore students have been learning all about their history and origins. The project has now concluded with some fantastic performances in each ensemble, where some have even played an instrument and sang at the same time! No easy task for any musician! Well done for an exemplary term of work.



Next, students will be studying Classical music and beginning to compose our own sequences in this extremely popular and influential style of music, which has been exploited across all multimedia worldwide.

**Year 9**

The top year in KS3 have been very busy indeed this term, writing their own lyrics and chords to their very own compositions. All pupils will submit their songs at the end of this term to be assessed on their songwriting and arrangement skills. In addition, all Year 9s have completed a KS3 Music exam, which has included all the Year 9 terminology as well as listening extracts from which the students have identified their musical elements to a very high standard. Well done to all of Year 9!



Mr Pilato would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the students opting for Music GCSE from our Year 9 cohort and wish to thank them personally for selecting Music as one of their first options.

**GCSE Music**

The Year 10 Music students have excelled this term, in learning their first study piece by Toto called 'Africa', as well as learning all about Jazz, Blues, Chamber music and Choir Ensemble music. This term they have truly developed their musicianship, as well as listening skills, showing excellence in all areas of the course, from composing, performing and appraising music! They have just completed a Year 10 mini-mock exam which shows their current working at grade as well as future predicted grades. Mr Pilato is extremely happy with the progress being made this term, in both the music theory and practical elements of the course.

Year 10 will also be learning elements from Area of Study 1 and 3 following the Easter break where we will explore Sebastian Bach as a study piece, as well as learning all about film music.



• **Culture and Enrichment**

Another term of many enrichment and cultural opportunities for our pupils at Madeley School. Please can we again ask for your support in encouraging your children to upload evidence to their Cultural Passports as Ms Leath will be presenting them to pupils after the Easter break.

This term Ms Leath would like to highlight 3 opportunities that pupils from all year groups have taken part in.

Firstly, 'Knit and Knatter' was set up at the end of January by 2 of our Year 7 pupils. It has been a resounding success, with 30 pupils attending most weeks and has been wonderful seeing pupils from across the year groups teaching each other, sharing ideas and relaxing during a lunchtime. They have even taught Ms Leath to knit! Well done to all involved.



Finally, a new project began at the start of March, in conjunction with PICL and Brilliant Bamboo. The Parish Council funded the school to be able to take part in the Creative Freedom Project. Some Year 7 and 8 classes will be taking part (a total of 131 pupils) and they will be having workshops with Brilliant Bamboo and a trip to their site in Stoke. Students have begun producing some paintings of bamboo with Artist Reiko Kaneko and designing planters with Mixed Media Artist Simmi Sandhu. The project will continue up until June and will involve painting a mural and building sculptures. We are hoping to be displaying some artwork created within the local community too.



Clay Museum concluded at the beginning of March, where pupils from Years 8, 9 and 10

have now completed their Bronze Arts Award. Their final visit, that included the Creative Ambassadors, was to a Creative Careers event at Gladstone Pottery. During this day, pupils had opportunity to meet professionals from various creative industries that included, Appetite, PMAG, Staffs University, BCB and PICL. Pupils' plates were on display at the museum, and they also shared skills on how to apply transfers to ceramics with other school and college students.

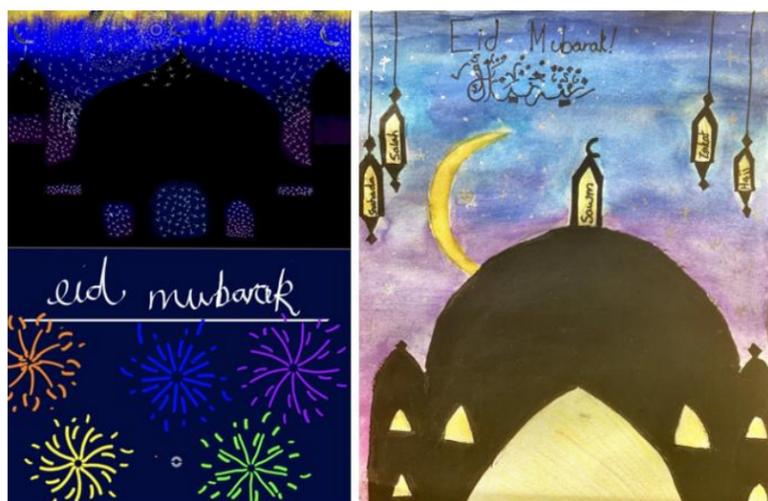


BCB and PMAG have also been supporting a weekly after school club for this project and they have been impressed by the pupils taking part and the work produced.



- **Religion and World Views**

In Religion and World Views, our Year 7 students have been busy designing their own Eid greeting cards as a creative way to consolidate their learning about the Five Pillars of Islam and to mark the end of the holy month of Ramadan. Every student in the year group has taken part in our Eid card design competition and the standard of work has been truly impressive. We look forward to announcing the winning designs on the final day of term. In the meantime, we are incredibly proud of the thought, effort and creativity shown by all our Year 7 students.



- **Maths - A Thought-Provoking Assembly with Mr Bedford**

During Pi Week, students attended an assembly led by Mr Bedford, inspired by a box of cereal and a simple but surprising question: Did Kelloggs get their maths right?

Using the example of cereal shapes, the assembly showed how maths applies to everyday life, even in the design and marketing of food. The key claim explored was whether ring-shaped cereal pieces (like tiny doughnuts) have more surface area than solid shapes and therefore could hold more coating or flavour.



To investigate, students were introduced to 2 shapes: a sphere (a ball) and a torus (a doughnut shape). They learned that a sphere has the smallest possible surface area for a given volume, meaning other shapes, including doughnut-like ones, generally have more surface area if the volume is the same. This raised questions about whether the original claim truly holds up.

More importantly, the assembly encouraged students to think like mathematicians by questioning assumptions, considering how claims could be tested, and reflecting on why companies might simplify or stretch the truth in advertising.

The key message was clear: Maths is not just for the classroom; it is a powerful tool for understanding the world. By thinking critically, students can better evaluate information, spot misleading claims and make informed decisions.

As Mr Bedford emphasised, Maths isn't just about getting the right answer, it's about asking the right questions.

- **Production Design**



Lots of things have been happening in Product Design this half term; the Year 10 textiles class had a great day out at the NEC Fashion and Embroidery Show. Lots of inspiration was on offer to utilise within their own fast approaching NEA coursework project.

The same class have been very busy in the classroom also preparing for the written exam alongside learning to draft their own jacket pattern.



In Year 7, pupils are just coming to the end of their Memphis Group inspired Acrylic clocks. Below are some clocks from Mrs Sharratt's Friday Period 5 class.



All Year 11 Product Design pupils have now reached the deadline for their NEA. A huge pat on the back to all Year 11s that have attended multiple boosters each week, completed their making with dedication and maturity. It's been a pleasure to work alongside them, even when the going got tough. We have just over 2 months now to cover content, practice and revise for the written exam.

- **Food**

Year 10 students have been working hard developing a range of skills in their practical lessons. Last week, students made their own enriched shortcrust pastry, creme patisserie and fruit glaze to make fruit tartlets, at a fraction of the cost of those in the supermarkets.





- PE

**Year 7 Girls' Netball**



The Year 7 Girls' Netball teams had a great day at the Newcastle Schools Netball Tournament. We had 2 teams represent Madeley; they showed some amazing skills and discipline. Well done to all and special congratulations to the yellow team who came runners up of the tournament!

**Swimming**

**Newcastle Schools Swimming Gala Girls highlights**

**U12 Result highlights**

- Lily B - 2nd 25m Butterfly
- Florence C - 2nd 25m Breaststroke
- Annie G - 2nd 25m Freestyle
- Isobel S - 3rd 25m Backstroke
- 2nd in both Freestyle and Medley relays

**U12s - 2nd overall in team event**



**U14 Result highlights**

- Maisie B - 3rd 50m Freestyle
- Martha B - 3<sup>rd</sup> 50m Breaststroke
- Catherine R - 3<sup>rd</sup> 50m Backstroke

**U14s 3rd overall in team event.**



**Newcastle Schools Swimming Gala Boys highlights**

**U14 Result highlights**

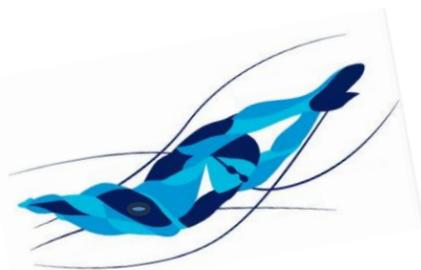
- Max S - 3rd 50m Backstroke
- Henry H - 3rd 50m Freestyle
- 2nd in both Medley and Freestyle relays

**U14s 2nd overall in team event**

**U16 Result highlights**

- Freddie D - 2nd 50m Freestyle
- Dylan E-H - 2nd 50m Breaststroke
- Noah D - 3rd 50m Backstroke
- Callum B - 3rd 25m Butterfly
- 3rd in both Medley and Freestyle relay

**U16s 2nd overall in team event**



**Volleyball**

**Year 8/9 Newcastle School Volleyball Tournament**

The U14 Girls' team took home the gold at the Newcastle Schools Volleyball Tournament on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February. The Boys' team narrowly missed out on the top spot to STB, 12-13 in the final! Congratulations to both teams!



**Sports Hall Athletics**

Our Year 7 and 8 athletes were on top form in the Districts Sports Hall Athletics Championships. We couldn't be prouder of all of them...

- Year 7 Girls were Champions
- Year 8 Boys were in 4<sup>th</sup> place
- Year 8 Girls were in 3<sup>rd</sup> place
- Year 8 Boys were Champions



Our champions got through to the County Finals which is such an amazing achievement!

Thank you to Nia and Oli for supporting the athletes as Sports Leaders.

**Hockey**

The U14s Girls' Hockey team played away at Trentham on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March, winning 3-0 such a great result especially as the majority of the team are Year 7s!

Goal scorers:  
Evie, Flo & Mia



- **Geography - CONFLICT, POLITICS and ENERGY RESOURCES.**



Our Year 11 Geographers are currently studying the topic of RESOURCES. The current war in the Middle East is providing highly relevant case study material for our students with regards to our reliance on imports of oil and gas for the UK's energy needs. They have discovered that the UK has hugely reduced its reliance on

imports of gas and has been at the forefront of developing more sustainable renewable energy resources in the form of WIND, SOLAR, BIOMASS, HYDRO-ELECTRICITY and TIDAL. However, we still rely on fossil fuels which is part of our 'Energy Mix'. The shock of world events derived from the Middle-East unrest has brought this into sharp focus, both at the 'Petrol Pump' and in the Geography classroom. Our students now fully understand the importance of politics, conflict and physical geography in shaping the lives of both themselves and the world far and wide. Geography is life unfolding. Geography explains our past, present and future.



- **Science**



We were delighted to take part in British Science Week this year, with pupils across the school engaging enthusiastically in a range of activities designed to spark curiosity and celebrate scientific discovery. From

hands-on interactive lessons to a lively form-time assembly and quiz, students had plenty of opportunities to explore new ideas and challenge their thinking.

A number of exciting competitions also ran throughout the week, showcasing the creativity and talent of our young scientists. It has been a fantastic celebration of learning and we are proud of the energy and enthusiasm shown by all involved.

## British Science Week 2026 Competition winners!

Hunt The Scientist – Max E – Year 7 and Alfie O – Year 7

Form Science quiz – Year 9

Sparx Science XP competition

1<sup>st</sup> place – Catherine R – Year 9

2<sup>nd</sup> place – Lyla H – Year 9

3<sup>rd</sup> place – Tom M – Year 8



On Wednesday, our Year 10 pupils had a fantastic day taking part in the Medical Mavericks: Careers in Health workshop. They thoroughly enjoyed the hands-on activities, including taking blood from a realistic arm, recording their own ECGs, trying keyhole surgery, and exploring medical technology such as ultrasound and retina imaging. The workshop sparked real excitement and opened pupils' eyes to a wide range of fascinating NHS careers beyond the traditional roles.

A huge 'thank you' to Madeley Parish Council for their kind donation which allowed us to fund this day free of charge to our pupils, it is much appreciated and provided an unforgettable experience!



- **Year 7 - Mrs Stokoe**

I continue to feel incredibly proud of Year 7 for their resilience, hard work, and ongoing efforts at school. As the workload has increased and the realities of high school begin to set in, every student has risen to the challenge and is trying their very best. There have certainly been some learning curves recently - navigating friendships, occasional fallings out and new experiences but I am really pleased with how Year 7 are working with me, and with each other, to learn from these moments and build their resilience.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support and understanding this term; it makes such a difference. It's wonderful to see how we can work together to support the students and ensure their school experience remains a positive one. Wishing you all a lovely Easter, with plenty of time to relax, enjoy yourselves and most importantly, eat chocolate!

- **Year 8 - Miss Walker**

I am incredibly proud to be Head of Year 8 this week.

Finn has had an outstanding term and has collected an impressive 3 awards. The award for the most positive points this term, the Principal's Core Value Award for Pride and Respect and the highly coveted overall Principal's Award for the Spring Term which is chosen from all of Year 8.

A fantastic achievement and thoroughly deserved. Well done, Finn!



- **Year 9 - Miss Bentley**

As we approach the Easter break, I wanted to take a moment to celebrate the fantastic achievements of our Year 9 students this term. They have demonstrated maturity, kindness and a real sense of community as they continue to grow both academically and personally.

We have seen a great increase in attendance since September, which is a credit to the hard work of students, families and Form tutors.

Consistent attendance makes a real difference and it's wonderful to see Year 9 taking this responsibility seriously.

This term also brought some brilliant sporting successes, with students showing great teamwork, determination and pride in representing the school. Their enthusiasm has been inspiring and we are incredibly proud of all who took part.

A highlight of the term has been Options Evening, where students had the opportunity to explore their interests and think about their choices for Year 10. They approached the process with positivity, asking thoughtful questions and taking real ownership of their next steps. We look forward to seeing them thrive as they move into the new academic year and their option choices!

I would like to thank Year 9 for their hard work and positive attitudes throughout the term. They have truly earned a well-deserved rest. Wishing all students and families a safe and enjoyable Easter break.





- **Year 10 - Mrs Bates**

As we approach the end of another busy term, it is an appropriate time to reflect on the achievements of our Year 10 students.

This term has provided each student with the opportunity to engage more deeply with their chosen subjects. They have demonstrated tenacity and resilience in their approach to learning and should take pride in the progress they have made, not only in their academic performance but also in their personal development, skills and character.

A personal highlight for me was participating in the 'Dragons Den' sessions for the Enterprise Course. I was so impressed by the students' ideas and delivery; we certainly have some young Entrepreneurs in our midst. Others have participated in trips for Fashion/Textiles and Art, so lots of exciting opportunities.

Mock examinations will take place during the next term. I am confident that all students will endeavour to perform to the best of their abilities and we will continue to support them throughout what can be both a challenging and rewarding period.

I hope that you enjoy a peaceful Easter break and have an opportunity to rest and recharge. Many thanks for your ongoing support.

- **Year 11 - Mr Walker**

The Year 11s have just completed their final mock examinations ahead of the real thing in the Summer. The feedback lessons where the pupils find out where the gaps were in their knowledge and understanding are crucial at this stage in their learning. We strongly encourage all the Year 11 pupils to have a revision timetable in place by the start of the Easter holidays and to use some of their break revising and preparing for the final examinations. The lessons after Easter are also crucial to the final preparations for the exams, so attendance to school is more important than ever now!

This is the final straight of the marathon that they've been running since Year 7. The finish line is in sight, so one monumental final effort is required to get over the finish line!

- **Term Dates 2026 - 2027**

**Autumn Term 2026**

Staff: Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September - **STAFF INSET DAY** (School Closed to Students)

Staff: Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September - **STAFF INSET DAY** (School Closed to Students)

**Staff & All Students:** Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September - Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October

Staff: Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October - **STAFF INSET DAY** (School Closed to Students)

Holiday: Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October - Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October

Staff & Students: Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November - Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December

Staff: Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December - **STAFF INSET DAY** (School Closed to Students)

Holiday: Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December - Friday 1<sup>st</sup> January

**Spring Term 2027**

Staff & Students: Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January - Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February

Holiday: Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February - Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February

Staff & Students: Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February - Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March

Staff: Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March - **STAFF INSET DAY** (School Closed to Students)

Holiday: Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March - Friday 9<sup>th</sup> April

Easter Sunday: Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> March

**Summer Term 2027**

Staff & Students: Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April - Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May

May Day: Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May

Holiday: Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May - Friday 4<sup>th</sup> June

Staff & Students: Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June - Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> July

Staff: Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July - **STAFF INSET DAY** (School Closed to Students)

- **Fundraising Fashion Show Event**

**World Challenge** **SOS Charity Fashion Shows**

*Fundraising*  
**FASHION SHOW**  
*& Shopping Event*

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**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April**

**Doors Open – 7pm, - Glass of Prosecco on arrival. Raffle Prizes**

**Advance Ticket Only - Price: £10**

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# Have a Happy Easter break!

