

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to the 2023/24 academic year

We have had a super start to the new school year. As a very popular and vastly oversubscribed school we have proudly and warmly welcomed our new Year 7, and they have been amazing! I would like to thank you and their primary schools for shaping such wonderful young people and for gifting us with the privilege of passing the baton on to us. I am already very impressed with them. I have been speaking to them each day and they have told me that they have enjoyed their first week, that they have walked much more than they thought they would, their lessons have been very interesting, they are getting used to their new uniforms, have liked their teachers, met some new friends and are keen to come back on Monday!



All our students look fantastic in their school uniform. “What does ‘dapper’ mean?” asked one young student who had been told that he looked dapper several times that day! They are walking tall and look proud of their uniform. A big thank you to all parents and carers for working with us to make this happen, especially in this unseasonably hot weather!

Of course, it has also been a pleasure to welcome back Years 8 – 11. It has been lovely to greet them all in my assemblies where I spoke to them about the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead and our belief in them that, by continuing to excel in our 7 core values of *Enjoyment, Aspiration, Confidence, Pride and Respect, Resilience, Positivity, Politeness* that they can rise to this challenge. Together we will continue our school mission to *Inspire Excellence* as our values commit to a golden thread through every aspect of our day.

I have had the privilege to visit every classroom and many lessons during this first week. I have been greeted by rows of students who not only look ready to learn but are acting ‘ready to learn’. They are impressing us all with their focus on their learning and their determination to make this year the best one yet!

Community

Feedback from Parent/Carer voice told us that we could be better in communicating school news with you. I want to thank you for flagging this up to us. This year I will continue to send out a fortnightly Principal’s Post that showcases what has been going on. We will become much more adept at sending out more regular news bulletins and using Twitter, Facebook and Instagram as well as ClassCharts to improve our communication with you. Feedback like this from Parent Voice surveys and forums is very welcome, so please let us know your views when requested each term.

I am also thankful to the many parents/carers of children in Y7 – Y9 for their commitment to the I-Pad Parental Pledge scheme. It has had a most profound impact on our own aspirations to deliver our commitment to our digital strategy. For new parents I am sure that you will soon be introduced to the 'Friends of Madeley' and invited to take part in social events and fund-raising activities. Please support where you can.

Following calls into school from the residents within our immediate entrance, could I politely remind parents who pick up and drop off pupils about the need to be respectful of the local residents. For the continued health and safety of all pupils and visitors to the school could you please avoid waiting with your engine running, do not double park or park on the pavement or block driveways. Could I also ask that parents do not drive onto the site to pick up or drop off or to park on the bus park. The Madeley Centre have kindly agreed that parents can wait on their car park to collect pupils in a much safer environment. Please take advantage of this kind offer.

Aspiration

It seems like only yesterday that the Class of 2023 were in Year 7 and here we are now with their GCSE results and they are off to 6th form, colleges and apprenticeships. Their results are stunning and record breaking securing Madeley Schools position as an exceptionally high performing school. These outcomes are a credit to them, their families and the school. 75% of our pupils achieved Grades 9-4 in both English and maths and 59% of our pupils achieved Grades 9-5 in both English and maths! These are significantly higher than the national average. Indeed, all performance measures are higher than the outcomes of 2019 – the last time pupils sat external exams without modifications due to covid. Well done to each and every one of them!

The support and guidance our pupils get at home is truly heart-warming. I look forward to parents/carers coming to school throughout the year as we continue to work together in the best interests of our children. All key dates for parent meetings can be found on the school calendar with reminders via the Principal's Post.

Resilience

Helping our children to be resilient in difficult situations is one of our key values here at Madeley. Global and national events over the last three years has certainly shown how important it is for all of us to practice conscious resilience. The overwhelming picture at Madeley is one of exceptional conduct. For 98% of the time pupils are awarded '1s' and '2s' for their attitude and conduct in each lesson. However, we know that there are times when children may struggle with their emotions and this may result in them being issued with a '3' on their Classcharts profile. The issuing member of staff will sit with the student to discuss what happened that led to the '3', why this might have been the case and what they can both do to help them to avoid this in the future. This restorative conversation is so important in putting the relationship between adult and child right as we know that this helps every child to feel safe and learn at their best. We also know that the relationship between school, child and home is paramount to the success of our children. Therefore, this year, if your child receives two C3s in a half term from the same member of staff, we will invite you into school to join the restorative conversation to help everyone to get back on the right track.

Education

I want to share a little piece of data which might interest you. It won't be news to anyone that good attendance results in good academic outcomes. However, our school data from the Class of 2023 shows us that students in this school who have 96% + attendance achieved over 0.9 of a grade (nearly a full grade!) higher than similar pupils of the same ability across the country. If your child attends every lesson over the course of their time at Madeley School they will succeed! Of course, when a child is ill, they must stay home to recover. However, whenever possible, children should be in school, on time and they will learn well!



I will be holding an open office on Wednesday 11th October 2.00pm-5.00pm. Please contact my PA Mrs Downie on denise.downie@madeley.set.org to reserve a slot should you wish to meet with me.

I look forward to working with you all throughout this academic year.

Kindest regards



Mr L Nixon
Principal

