

## The Curriculum at Madeley Academy

### Context

Madeley Academy is part of the Thomas Telford Multi Academy Trust (TTMAT). The Academy was established in 2007 from the former Madeley Court School which suffered from significant underperformance and as a consequence falling rolls. The new building became occupied in 2009 and we now have a thriving vibrant learning environment which serves one of the most deprived communities in England; in the top quintile nationally for deprivation (0.38).

Madeley Academy is one of the most popular schools in Telford attracting over 600 applications each year. Fair Banding for admission purposes was introduced two years ago affecting students in Years 7 and 8. Those students living closest to the Academy or having a sibling already in the Academy have priority. Its popularity enabled the establishment of a Sixth Form in 2014 creating a total enrolment of over 1,200 students. Designing our curriculum provision takes in to account that in some year groups we have up to 50% of the students categorised as disadvantaged, requiring carefully planned pastoral and SEND support strategies.

Multi-agency support exists for a higher than national proportion of our students. Despite these challenges we have secured an enviable record of student destinations with around 65% of our students being the first in their family to attend University and 39% of students progressing to Russell Group Universities in 2019 which is above the National Average figure.



### Intent: Curriculum Philosophy and Vision

Our vision is to enable every student that attends the Academy to gain the credentials to ensure that their chances of succeeding in life are vastly improved and not determined by the social environment from which they come. Social mobility is much more likely to be achieved through obtaining the qualifications and social skills needed to navigate through the demands of modern society and being prepared to seize opportunities as and when they arise. We have a continuously improving record in creating a pathway to success for our students.

The importance of establishing a curriculum relevant to the needs of modern day Britain in a global society for young adults from the community that we serve requires a balance of academic rigour with a realistic understanding of the students' personal and social needs.

Our curriculum provision is built around a strong academic core enhanced by a wide selection of additional subjects such as Enterprise at Key Stage 3, the choice of 11 optional subjects at Key Stage 4 and over 22 course choices for Key Stage 5. All year groups experience a comprehensive RSHE Programme and have input from the Careers team. All of the National Curriculum subjects are studied during Key Stage 3. In addition, there is an extensive extended curriculum through our well-attended **Session 3** Programme. We provide a personalised approach to the curriculum with students receiving additional sessions where necessary and we provide stretch and challenge sessions for our more able students including STEM activities.

We aim to balance an academic curriculum with many enrichment opportunities to enable the students to be equipped for their roles as future citizens. We have embedded additional life skills into the extended curriculum to balance the ambition for academic success with the need to be happy and respectful young people who can contribute effectively to society.

### Curriculum Aim

Our aim is to raise aspirations and outcomes through an ambitious curriculum which offers:

- A strong academic core
- A breadth of subjects
- A wealth of enrichment opportunities

### Implementation

The Academy day runs from 8.30am to 3.15pm with **Session 3** operating from 3.15pm onwards.

### Academic Core

At Madeley Academy we have a strong academic core of subjects where all students study English, Maths, Science and Humanities. In Key Stage 3 (Years 7 and 8) all students study a Foreign Language (MFL) and in Key Stage 4 (Years 9 to 11), most students can choose to continue this study. Some students have a personalised approach to the curriculum and may, for example, be part of a STAR group provision which has a hybrid primary/secondary style curriculum. For these students, there is additional support for literacy and numeracy intervention in Year 7.

Typical % of time given to core subjects:

	English	Maths	Science	Hums	MFL
<b>Year 7</b>	20%	15%	10%	10%	10%
<b>Year 8</b>	15%	15%	15%	10%	10%
<b>Year 9</b>	20%	20%	15%	10%	10%
<b>Year 10</b>	20%	20%	15%	10%	10%
<b>Year 11</b>	20%	20%	20%	15%	10%

### A Breadth of Subjects

We endeavour to enable students to experience more than just the academic core of subjects. For example, in Key stage 3, all students follow an exciting Enterprise Curriculum which incorporates elements of Financial Capability together with work on Careers and a focus on being part of their local and national community.

Key Stage 4 is spread over 3 years to allow for more breadth of study and a variety of learning opportunities. Students choose from a wide range of subjects when moving into this phase of their education. Examples of these subjects include Health and Social Care, Hair & Beauty, Construction and Art.

Key Stage 5 (Sixth Form) has 22 courses on offer with students choosing 4 courses to maintain their breadth. Most students combine traditional A Levels with BTEC Level 3 courses with some students choosing to specialise in Level 3 Diploma courses such as Business or Sport. All students complete a 3.5 A Level equivalent course over the 2 year period as a minimum. Students can continue with 4 courses if appropriate.

## **Religious, Social & Health Education (RSE) and PE (Healthy Living)**

All students access core PE throughout their time at the Academy. In Year 9, all students study a certificated Health course to promote their well-being and to develop their knowledge of healthy living. Some students choose to take BTEC Level 2 Sport or Dance as a qualification in Key Stage 4 which are also popular choices in the Sixth Form. Sporting activities are also popular as part of the Extended Curriculum with the on-site Fitness Centre being heavily utilised.

Students experience the wider RSE curriculum through daily tutorial sessions and through cross-curricular subject areas. Bespoke lessons are taught to students in Years 7 to 9 in addition to a comprehensive assembly programme supporting this important content. The Academy supports collapsed themed days such as the Health Road Show in the Autumn term and the World at Work Day in the Summer term.

## **The Role of Careers**

Careers education is embedded across the Academy with all students accessing relevant guidance. Key Stage 3 students benefit from the Enterprise curriculum whilst Year 9 students experience a World of Work Day. In Year 10, all students participate in a Careers Discovery Programme and Year 11 students receive individualised career plans. The Sixth Form have on-going and personalised guidance from the in-house careers team. They participate in an Employability and Higher Education week and experience University Summer Schools.

## **A Wealth of Enrichment Opportunities**

The Extended Curriculum operates daily as 'Session 3' and offers around 25 activities per week with over 300 students attending activities. Revision and support workshops run across Year 11 and the Sixth Form also many intervention sessions are available for younger students at the Academy such as Handwriting Club.

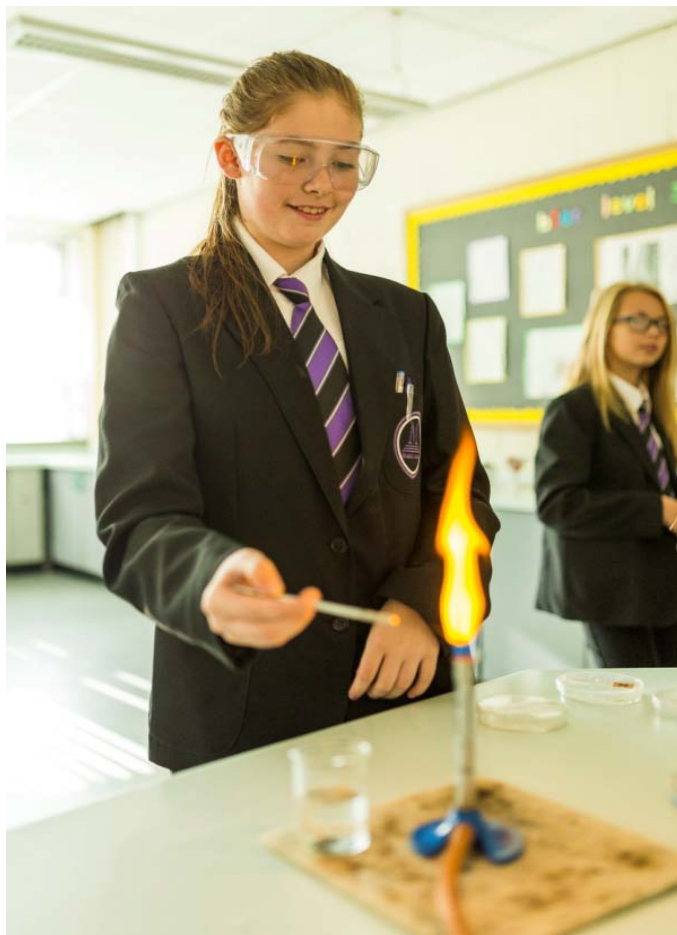


Subject areas aim to enrich their classroom learning with visits and speakers which have included some of the following examples in 2019:

- All Year 7 English students visited Stratford upon Avon
- Year 8 Enterprise groups visited a Chocolate Factory. All Year 8 students visited a local museum

- Year 9 Music students experienced a trip to Manchester University plus all Year 9 students participated in a Macbeth theatre production workshop
- Year 10 History students experienced the attractions of Ironbridge while Geography students visited Rhyl as part of their coursework. The Duke of Edinburgh Scheme has a high uptake with Key Stage 4 students
- Year 11 Catering students enjoyed cooking with the Royal Navy in addition to participating in Positively MAD resilience workshops again for all Year 11 students
- Sixth Form experiences included the Ethical Debating Society, a Healthtec Day and a trip for all students to Loughborough University

There is a well-established Most Able Programme across all year groups which enables students to link with many Universities and to undertake challenge activities. The Academy runs a comprehensive STEM programme for all year groups including workshops and visits. In the Sixth Form students access national projects such as the Nuffield Research Programme and activities supported by the Social Mobility Fund to enrich their experiences. All Sixth Formers undertake work experience and many carry out extended volunteering. Madeley Academy is a NCS Champion School and is part of the national 'Aspire to HE' programme.



### **Impact**

The Academy is heavily oversubscribed for both Year 7 and Sixth Form entry and is the only school locally offering vocational curriculum courses such as Level 3 Construction, GCSE Hair & Beauty and Hospitality & Catering which are all valued by the students.

The majority of students complete a full programme and the optional subjects score consistently well in terms of the overall Progress 8 score.



In the Sixth Form in 2019, 39% of the students went onto Russell group Universities and 100% of the students who wanted to progress into Higher Education did so. This is well above National Average and is against a local backdrop of only 26% of students across the region going to University. A high percentage (65%) of students are the first in their family to go to University underlining the impact of their education on social mobility. The Sixth Form value added data has been in the top 5% in the country for the last 5 years demonstrating that students consistently outperform their targets in both academic and vocational courses. Sixth Form retention of Year 11 students is high; the same as our success rate data of 97% in 2019.



Behaviour in the Academy is very good with an emphasis on developing an ethos of respect and kindness. Achievement is celebrated through a raft of rewards including Headteacher's lunches, a range of award systems, badges, certificates, Annual Achievement assemblies and weekly Star Students. Attendance is above the National Average and exclusions are very low, all supporting an environment where students are motivated to succeed and enjoy coming to school.

Participation in extra-curricular activities is high, and students enjoy an annual Sports Day, thematic days and a range of enrichment activities. Parents are encouraged to be involved in their child's education through the six annual reports, Parents' Evenings and events such as Arts Night, Celebration Evening and the Year 11 Next Steps events. The pastoral system is strong and parents are able to contact Personal Tutors with any concerns that may arise.

Students achieve well in the core subject areas, and in 2019 results were above the National Average with 68% of students gaining a grade 4+ in Mathematics and 80% gaining a grade 4+ in English which places Madeley at the top of all of the non-selective schools in Telford.

Madeley Academy has a positive Progress 8 score demonstrating steady improvement over time. For the strong academic core (Ebacc subjects), the value added score for 2019 is positive, and when contextualised these figures are significantly above National Average data.

Our impressive outcomes on all fronts reflect our core values, highlighting the determination and commitment of staff and students. As a child-centre Academy, we focus on children being happy, confident and independent learners.