

Extra-Curricular Clubs & Enrichment

An Overview of Our Extra-Curricular Provision for Students

At Co-op Academy Walkden, we are proud to offer an extensive extra-curricular programme designed to inspire curiosity, foster new talents, and build confidence outside the classroom. With over 50 lunchtime and after-school clubs running across the week, there is something for every student to enjoy.

Building Essential Life Skills for Future Success

Participating in our extra-curricular programme is a vital part of preparing students for life beyond school. By taking part in our wide range of clubs, your child will build essential personal attributes such as confidence, independence, and resilience, helping them tackle new challenges with self-assurance. At the same time, they will develop core workplace skills like organisation, communication, teamwork, leadership, creativity, and problem solving. These key competencies ensure our students leave Co-op Academy Walkden as well-rounded and workplace-ready individuals prepared to excel in future education, training, and their chosen careers.



Confidence



Independence



Resilience



Organisation



Communication



Teamwork



Leadership



Creativity



Problem Solving

Information for Parents & Carers

- **Timings:** Lunchtime clubs run during KS3 and KS4 lunch breaks. After-school clubs run from 3:00pm to 4:00pm unless otherwise specified (e.g. Combined Cadet Force runs 3:00pm – 5:00pm).
- **PE Kit Requirements:** Students attending sports, PE, or dance clubs after school must change into full school PE kit in the changing rooms immediately at the end of the school day. Lunchtime PE Clubs all require students to wear trainers.

Weekly Timetable (Please see website timetable for any changes)

Day	Lunchtime Clubs (KS3 & KS4)	After-School Clubs (3:00pm – 4:00pm)
Monday	• Rock Band • Woodwind Ensemble • Carpathian Club • Languages Homework Club • Library • KS3/KS4 Football • KS3 Darts & Basketball • KS3 Just Dance • KS4 Netball	• Bike Club • Video Game Art (Y9–11) • Spanish Speaking Club (Y10–11) • Bar Mock Trial Club (Y10–11) • Year 7 Football • KS4 Football Club • Matilda Production Rehearsals • KS3 Girls Football Club • DJ Club • Hive Homework Club
Tuesday	• Keyboard Club • Library • KS3/KS4 Football • KS3 Darts & Basketball • KS4 Darts	• CCF Cadets (3:00–5:00pm) • British Sign Language (3:00–3:30pm) • Dungeons & Dragons • Culinary Club • Creative Writing Club

Day	Lunchtime Clubs (KS3 & KS4)	After-School Clubs (3:00pm – 4:00pm)
	• KS3 Just Dance	• KS3 Netball • KS3 Dance • Year 8 & 9 Football Training • Hive Homework Club
Wednesday	• Library • KS3/KS4 Football • KS3 Just Dance • KS3 Basketball • KS4 Darts	• Art Club (Y7–9) • Screen & Stage Stylists • Matilda Rehearsals • STEM Club • Young Enterprise (Y9–10) • Expressive Arts Club • KS4 Basketball • Advanced Dance Club • Year 7 & 8 Rugby Training • Hive Homework Club
Thursday	• Sparx Maths Homework Club • Library • KS3 Just Dance • KS3/KS4 Football • Year 11 Basketball • Year 10/11 Netball	• Careers Club (Y10–11) • Steel Pans Band
Friday	• Library • KS3 Darts • KS3 Just Dance • KS3/KS4 Football • Year 10 Basketball	• Independent Study & Library Access

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STEM & Academic Enrichment

STEM Club

Summary: Engaging, practical workshops covering science, technology, engineering, and mathematics through hands-on experiments, design challenges, and practical problem-solving.

What Knowledge Will I Gain? Scientific principles, engineering design processes, experimental methods, and applied mathematical concepts.

What Skills Will I Develop? Problem solving, Creativity, Teamwork, Independence.

How Does It Link to Future Careers? Directly prepares you for roles in Civil Engineering, Biotechnology, Software Engineering, Applied Physics, and Scientific Research.

Sparx Maths Homework Club

Summary: A focused study session tailored for completing digital mathematics assignments with access to guidance and computer resources.

What Knowledge Will I Gain? Core mathematical concepts, algebraic manipulation, geometric reasoning, and numerical problem-solving techniques.

What Skills Will I Develop? Independence, Resilience, Problem solving, Organisation.

How Does It Link to Future Careers? Essential grounding for careers in Actuarial Science, Data Analytics, Accounting, Financial Planning, and Software Development.

Library / Independent Study

Summary: A quiet, structured academic space dedicated to research, extensive reading, and independent assignment completion.

What Knowledge Will I Gain? Broad subject-matter knowledge across various academic

disciplines through independent literacy and source exploration.

What Skills Will I Develop? Independence, Organisation, Resilience.

How Does It Link to Future Careers? Vital preparation for University Education, Legal Research, Academic Publishing, Archival Work, and Information Strategy.

Dungeons & Dragons Club (DT)

Summary: Interactive tabletop roleplaying gaming session built around cooperative storytelling, tactical battles, and character strategy. This club has a link to the DT curriculum as students will have the opportunity to design and print their own characters, using our 3D Printer.

What Knowledge Will I Gain? Narrative construction, probability math, rule-system mechanics, and strategic group dynamics.

What Skills Will I Develop? Creativity, Problem solving, Teamwork, Communication.

How Does It Link to Future Careers? Directly relevant to Video Game Narrative Design, Creative Writing, Strategic Consulting, and Software Logic.

Culinary Club

Summary: Practical kitchen workshops learning recipe preparation, culinary techniques, food hygiene, and meal design. Contribute towards our first ever Walkden Cookbook that will be published and printed for our local library.

What Knowledge Will I Gain? Culinary techniques, nutritional science, food safety standards, flavor profiling, and portion control.

What Skills Will I Develop? Organisation, Independence, Creativity, Problem solving.

How Does It Link to Future Careers? Prepares for Professional Culinary Arts, Catering Management, Food Science, and Hospitality Operations.

Creative Writing Club

Summary: Literary workshop devoted to exploring prose styles, narrative arcs, character construction, and creative editing.

What Knowledge Will I Gain? Narrative structure, literary devices, character psychology, editing techniques, and genre conventions.

What Skills Will I Develop? Creativity, Independence, Communication, Resilience.

How Does It Link to Future Careers? Connects to Journalism, Publishing, Screenwriting, Copywriting, Content Strategy, and Communications.

Languages Homework Club

Summary: Academic language clinic helping students master grammar rules, vocabulary acquisition, and curriculum assignments.

What Knowledge Will I Gain? Grammatical structures, vocabulary retention methods, translation techniques, and syntax rules.

What Skills Will I Develop? Organisation, Independence, Problem solving, Resilience.

How Does It Link to Future Careers? Essential for Applied Linguistics, Global Logistics, Modern Foreign Language Teaching, and International Business.

Sports, Fitness & Physical Recreation

School Football Program

Summary: Structured training sessions, tactical drills, and competitive fixtures designed to build physical fitness and team strategy.

What Knowledge Will I Gain? Game tactics, movement mechanics, positional play, physical

conditioning principles, and match analysis.

What Skills Will I Develop? Teamwork, Resilience, Communication, Leadership.

How Does It Link to Future Careers? Foundations for Professional Athletics, Sports Coaching, Kinesiology, Sports Management, and Physical Education.

Basketball Club

Summary: High-energy skill practices focusing on court vision, ball handling, offensive/defensive strategies, and team play.

What Knowledge Will I Gain? Court spacing, defensive structures, rules of play, and athletic training techniques.

What Skills Will I Develop? Teamwork, Communication, Resilience, Confidence.

How Does It Link to Future Careers? Connects to Sports Coaching, Athletic Training, Event Operations, Physical Therapy, and Sports Marketing.

Netball Club & Matches

Summary: Fast-paced team sessions centered on passing accuracy, footwork rules, positional strategy, and competitive fixtures.

What Knowledge Will I Gain? Court dynamics, rules of engagement, movement efficiency, and competitive match tactics.

What Skills Will I Develop? Teamwork, Communication, Resilience, Leadership.

How Does It Link to Future Careers? Translates to Sports Therapy, Event Management, Community Fitness Leadership, and Team Operations.

Rugby Training

Summary: Physical conditioning and technical sessions teaching contact mechanics, set-piece

execution, and team defense.

What Knowledge Will I Gain? Contact safety techniques, spatial awareness, defensive lines, and physical game strategies.

What Skills Will I Develop? Resilience, Teamwork, Communication, Confidence.

How Does It Link to Future Careers? Relevant to Strength & Conditioning Coaching, Professional Sports, Athletic Rehabilitation, and Security/Public Services.

Darts Club

Summary: Target-based recreational sport emphasizing concentration, fine motor accuracy, and rapid score calculation.

What Knowledge Will I Gain? Rapid mental arithmetic, angle projection, scoring strategy, and focus control under pressure.

What Skills Will I Develop? Problem solving, Confidence, Independence, Resilience.

How Does It Link to Future Careers? Relevant to Sports Analytics, Performance Psychology, Precision Operations, and Event Operations.

KS3 Just Dance Club

Summary: Active, rhythm-based movement sessions utilising interactive choreography to build endurance and coordination.

What Knowledge Will I Gain? Musical rhythm recognition, dance movement sequences, and aerobic fitness principles.

What Skills Will I Develop? Confidence, Creativity, Teamwork.

How Does It Link to Future Careers? Builds groundwork for Group Fitness Instruction, Dance Choreography, Wellness Coaching, and Performing Arts.

Bike Club

Summary: Hands-on bike maintenance sessions.

What Knowledge Will I Gain? Mechanical maintenance, road safety regulations, route navigation, and physical cycling techniques.

What Skills Will I Develop? Independence, Problem solving, Resilience, Organisation.

How Does It Link to Future Careers? Prepares for roles in Bicycle Mechanics, Sustainable Urban Planning, Outdoor Recreation Leadership, and Logistics.

Creative & Performing Arts

Rock Band

Summary: Collaborative musical group work developing ensemble playing, arrangement skills, and live performance stagecraft.

What Knowledge Will I Gain? Song structures, harmony, stage sound setups, instrumental technique, and live mixing fundamentals.

What Skills Will I Develop? Teamwork, Creativity, Confidence, Communication.

How Does It Link to Future Careers? Direct pathway to Music Performance, Audio Engineering, Sound Design, Stage Management, and Music Production.

Woodwind Ensemble

Summary: Structured instrumental chamber group working on classical and modern compositions through sight-reading and harmony.

What Knowledge Will I Gain? Complex musical notation, orchestral arrangements, tone balance, and chamber music history.

What Skills Will I Develop? Resilience, Teamwork, Organisation, Creativity.

How Does It Link to Future Careers? Essential training for Orchestral Performance, Music Pedagogy, Classical Composition, and Arts Administration.

Keyboard Club

Summary: Guided instrumental practice focusing on piano/keyboard technique, music theory, and accompaniment.

What Knowledge Will I Gain? Clef notation, chord progressions, scales, finger mechanics, and music theory foundations.

What Skills Will I Develop? Independence, Creativity, Resilience, Organisation.

How Does It Link to Future Careers? Leads to Music Education, Accompaniment, Digital Music Composition, and Film Scoring.

DJ Club

Summary: Creative technology sessions exploring digital mixing platforms, beat-matching, audio effects, and track selection.

What Knowledge Will I Gain? Digital audio software operation, phrase matching, equalization, track curation, and sound mechanics.

What Skills Will I Develop? Creativity, Problem solving, Confidence, Organisation.

How Does It Link to Future Careers? Directly connects to Music Production, Live Sound Engineering, Radio Broadcasting, and Event Production.

Steel Pans

Summary: Rhythmic percussion ensemble learning traditional and modern steel pan arrangements through collaborative performance.

What Knowledge Will I Gain? Caribbean musical heritage, polyrhythmic structures, pan

notation, and percussion technique.

What Skills Will I Develop? Teamwork, Creativity, Communication, Confidence.

How Does It Link to Future Careers? Prepares for Percussion Performance, Ethnomusicology, Community Arts Leadership, and Event Management.

Matilda Production Rehearsals

Summary: Comprehensive theatrical rehearsals staging a large-scale musical through acting, choreography, and vocal work.

What Knowledge Will I Gain? Script interpretation, vocal projection, stage blocking, character development, and choreography execution.

What Skills Will I Develop? Confidence, Teamwork, Communication, Resilience, Creativity.

How Does It Link to Future Careers? Direct route to Musical Theatre, Professional Acting, Directing, Stage Management, and Performing Arts Education.

KS4 Drama Drop In

Summary: Practical studio drop-in designed to refine performance pieces, devisings, and scripted examination components.

What Knowledge Will I Gain? Dramaturgical analysis, staging techniques, character motivation, and exam board criteria.

What Skills Will I Develop? Creativity, Independence, Communication, Problem solving.

How Does It Link to Future Careers? Excellent background for Performing Arts, Scriptwriting, Drama Therapy, Public Relations, and Broadcasting.

Expressive Arts Club

Summary: Creative studio space combining drama, movement, visual elements, and

performance art for multi-disciplinary exploration.

What Knowledge Will I Gain? Cross-arts concepts, physical theatre methods, visual storytelling, and performance composition.

What Skills Will I Develop? Creativity, Confidence, Teamwork, Communication.

How Does It Link to Future Careers? Useful for Arts Administration, Creative Direction, Fine Art, Dance Therapy, and Exhibition Design.

Dance Clubs (KS3 & Advanced)

Summary: Technique-driven dance workshops exploring movement styles, spatial dynamics, physical control, and routines.

What Knowledge Will I Gain? Choreographic principles, body mechanics, dance notation, and performance expression.

What Skills Will I Develop? Resilience, Confidence, Creativity, Teamwork.

How Does It Link to Future Careers? Pathways to Professional Choreography, Dance Performance, Movement Direction, and Dance Instruction.

Art Club

Summary: Visual arts club offering hands-on experience across drawing, painting, sculpting, and experimental media.

What Knowledge Will I Gain? Color theory, perspective drawing, artistic composition, material properties, and visual techniques.

What Skills Will I Develop? Creativity, Independence, Organisation, Problem solving.

How Does It Link to Future Careers? Prepares for Fine Arts, Graphic Design, Illustration, Interior Design, and Art Conservation.

Video Game Art

Summary: Specialised creative session introducing digital drawing, concept art, character modeling, and worldbuilding for games.

What Knowledge Will I Gain? Game design pipelines, 2D/3D visual principles, character design frameworks, and digital drawing tools.

What Skills Will I Develop? Creativity, Problem solving, Independence, Organisation.

How Does It Link to Future Careers? Direct route to Video Game Design, Concept Art, 3D Animation, UI/UX Design, and Digital Illustration.

The Screen & Stage Stylists

Summary: Creative production workshops focusing on costume construction, makeup artistry, visual styling, and prop preparation.

What Knowledge Will I Gain? Textile properties, character styling, period fashion history, visual aesthetics, and production design.

What Skills Will I Develop? Creativity, Problem solving, Organisation, Teamwork.

How Does It Link to Future Careers? Leads to Costume Design, Film/Theatre Styling, Fashion Design, Wardrobe Management, and SFX Makeup.

Leadership, Citizenship & Student Governance

Bar Mock Trial Club

Summary: Legal simulation club where students prepare and litigate realistic criminal cases in

mock court proceedings.

What Knowledge Will I Gain? Courtroom procedure, rules of evidence, legal argumentation, statutory interpretation, and trial flow.

What Skills Will I Develop? Communication, Confidence, Leadership, Problem solving.

How Does It Link to Future Careers? Direct preparation for Legal Practice (Barrister/Solicitor), Political Advocacy, Criminology, and Public Policy.

Combined Cadet Force (CCF Cadets)

Summary: Youth leadership training program offering structured drill, outdoor navigation, fieldcraft, and emergency preparedness.

What Knowledge Will I Gain? Navigation techniques, field survival methods, parade drill, rank structures, and safety management.

What Skills Will I Develop? Leadership, Resilience, Organisation, Teamwork, Confidence.

How Does It Link to Future Careers? Prepares for Armed Forces Leadership, Emergency Services, Project Management, Public Administration, and Operations Management.

Equality, Diversity & Inclusion

British Sign Language (BSL) Club

Summary: Practical language club teaching deaf culture awareness, inclusion practices, and functional sign language communication.

What Knowledge Will I Gain? BSL vocabulary, handshapes, facial expression grammar, fingerspelling, and deaf awareness protocols.

What Skills Will I Develop? Communication, Teamwork, Confidence, Independence.

How Does It Link to Future Careers? Crucial for BSL Interpreting, Special Educational Needs (SEN) Teaching, Speech & Language Therapy, and Human Rights Advocacy.

Carpathian Club

Summary: Cultural discovery club dedicated to celebrating Eastern European geography, history, traditions, and linguistic diversity.

What Knowledge Will I Gain? Eastern European regional history, folklore traditions, geographical contexts, and cross-cultural customs.

What Skills Will I Develop? Communication, Confidence, Teamwork.

How Does It Link to Future Careers? Useful for Cultural Anthropology, Diplomatic Service, International Relations, Foreign Languages, and Tourism Management.

Spanish Speaking Club

Summary: Advanced conversational sessions designed to build spoken fluency, vocabulary range, and cultural appreciation of Hispanic communities.

What Knowledge Will I Gain? Advanced Spanish idioms, conversational grammar, pronunciation, and Hispanic cultural norms.

What Skills Will I Develop? Communication, Confidence, Resilience.

How Does It Link to Future Careers? Directly supports roles in Foreign Affairs, Translation & Interpreting, International Commerce, and Global Education.

Career Pathways & Business

Young Enterprise

Summary: Hands-on business program where students establish, finance, launch, and manage a real commercial business enterprise.

What Knowledge Will I Gain? Financial accounting, product development, market research, sales strategies, and corporate governance.

What Skills Will I Develop? Leadership, Organisation, Problem solving, Teamwork, Communication, Confidence.

How Does It Link to Future Careers? Direct pathway to Business Entrepreneurship, Financial Management, Marketing Strategy, and Corporate Leadership.

Careers Club

Summary: Professional guidance workshops focused on career planning, CV development, interview prep, and post-16 pathway exploration.

What Knowledge Will I Gain? Labor market trends, apprenticeship frameworks, higher education requirements, and professional branding standards.

What Skills Will I Develop? Organisation, Independence, Communication, Confidence.

How Does It Link to Future Careers? Invaluable preparation across all professional industries.

