# Being Walkden




Thanks for the Memories! Full story page 4

| | |
|---|---|
| Be yourself, always | Do what matters most |
| Show you care | Succeed together |

## Dates for your diary

Friday 24th May - Academy closes for half term

Tuesday 28th - Friday 31st May Year 11 GCSE revision 9am -11am (during half term)

Monday 3rd June - Academy re-opens for summer term 2

Ongoing - Year 11 GCSE Exams

Wednesday 5th, Thursday 6th and Friday 7th June - Sports Studies High Ropes Trip

Wednesday 5th June - Year 8 Progress Review

# A note from our Principal Mr Hacker




Welcome to the latest newsletter - it's action packed and so great to see all the amazing things happening in and out of the academy all in one place.

As we break up for the May half term, I want to provide an update regarding our recent transition to Arbor. The move to Arbor in October last year happened in all academies in the Trust and was part of the strategy to move away from our old operating system - SIMS. In making this move, our aim was to unify all of our systems so that students, parents and teachers had one single, simple to use system, rather than the multiple 'apps' we had before, including MyEd and ClassCharts. However, we understand the deep frustrations that have emerged for pupils and parents, particularly moving away from ClassCharts, as we appreciate communications and homework could be monitored easily on this app. Unfortunately, ClassCharts could not do everything that Arbor does behind the scenes, for example the management of data, timetables and the detailed information we need to hold about our pupils etc.

We really appreciate your patience and flexibility with this so far and I want you to know that we are actively working to address the usability issues and as a Trust, we are applying pressure for Arbor to improve the user experience and to develop a pupil app too.

Additionally, we would like to offer support to you in navigating and utilising Arbor effectively. We will be hosting a webinar shortly after the half-term break. This session will provide comprehensive guidance on using Arbor and address any questions or concerns you may have. There will be a face-to-face workshop later in the summer term too. (Further details to follow)

If you'd like to help shape the focus of the webinar/workshop and any future support sessions, then please complete this form. We always value your feedback.

Thank you for your continued support.

*Matt Hacker*
**Principal**

# Noticeboard

## Attendance Matters

### HOY Attendance Celebration:

The **PD group** with the most improved attendance from the previous week goes to:

| PD Group | This week | Last week | Increase |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7W | 96.0% | 86.8% | 9.2% |
| 8C | 93.1% | 90.3% | 2.8% |
| 9W | 87.5% | 80.9% | 6.6% |
| 10W | 100.0% | 81.8% | 18.2% |

Well done to 10W for the most improved attendance this week with 100%. Incredible work everyone. Lets see more PD groups here next week!

## Breakfast Club

Reminder that breakfast club is between 8am-8.25am Please ensure students arrive in plenty of time to get breakfast and sit down to eat this comfortably before lessons start at 8.30am

## Photo Consent

If you have not already, please can you update your consents on the Arbor App. This helps us to know who has permission for images to be shared on our social media, newsletter and our website. We love to share photos of our students on school trips, in extra curricular activities and in lessons.

With the warmer weather finally arriving, please make sure your child is prepared by always carrying a water bottle to keep hydrated. If your child suffers from asthma or allergies, please ensure medication is used. If your child is taking part in any outdoor activities eg; PE then please apply a high factor SPF before school.



Lets enjoy the sunshine sensibly!

## Rewards Trips

A letter was sent earlier this month letting you know that we have organised 4 separate locations for our summer rewards trip.
Please be mindful that all 4 trips will be running on the same day, therefore your child can only attend one trip.

The reward trips on offer are :

- Chester Zoo 250 places available
- Blackpool Pleasure Beach unlimited places available
- Knowsley Safari Park 50 places available
- Film (to be confirmed nearer the time) and bowling at the Trafford Centre 100 places available

Please note that trips are subject to the numbers of students selecting them and on a first come first served basis. .

Payments are listed and can be made on ParentPay. **We have extended the deadline to Sunday 2nd June 2024**

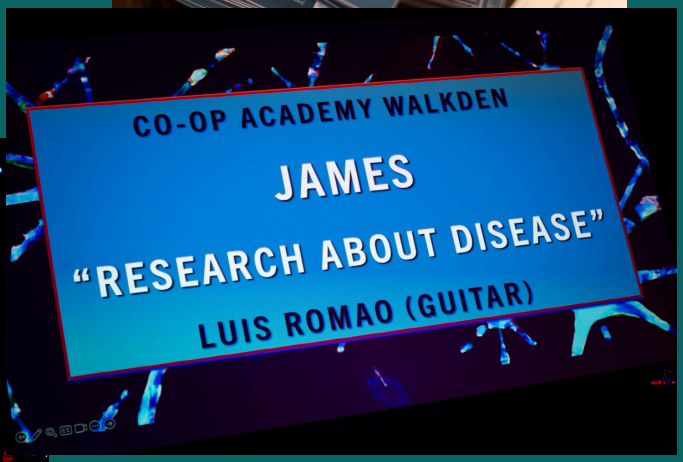
# Thanks for the Memories

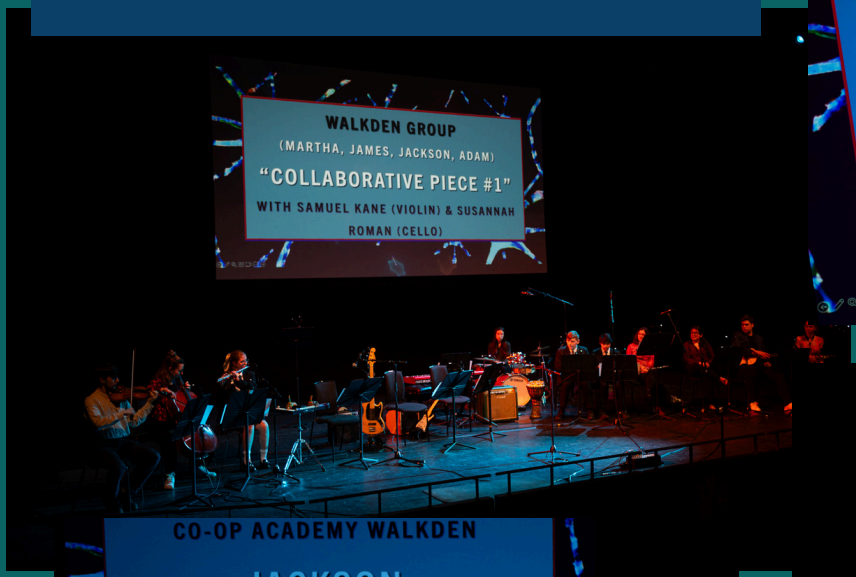
On Thursday 9th May some of our incredibly talented students had their own original compositions performed by musicians at The Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester.

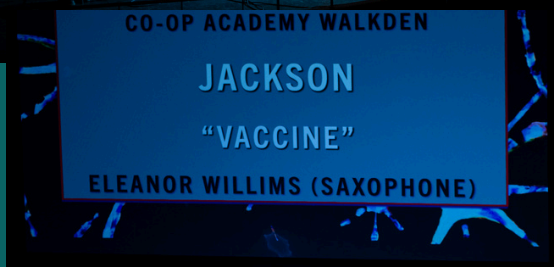
Our students were an absolute credit to us at Co-op Academy Walkden and we couldn't be more proud.

The whole evening was an impressive display of what our students have learned fusing music with science.











# Mental Health Awareness Week

Last week was Mental Health Awareness Week, this years theme is movement : moving more for our mental health. We shared tips and advise on how to make slight movements to help daily with our mental health and wellbeing.










Why not join your local ParkRun, this is a free community event for anyone aged over 4yrs. Under 14s must be with an adult. Take a look at where your local park run takes place and make it a new friends/family tradition https://www.parkrun.org.uk/

# Movement Calendar

Have a go at following the Movement Calendar below and let us know how this impacts your mental wellbeing

Wear It Green Day

## MOVEMENT CALENDAR MAY 2024

Mental Health Foundation

Being active is so important for our mental health and this for a walk in your neighbourhood, putting on your Mental Health Awareness Week we want to help people to favourite music and dancing around the living room, chair find moments for movement in their daily routines. Going  exercises when you're watching television – it all counts!

This movement calendar is an amazing way to keep track of all your daily movements and plan out your movements for each week

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 1 Do some yoga, pilates or core exercises | 2 Walk, run, swim or cycle 20 mins | 3 Meditation / Breathwork | 4 K eep going! Rest day or movement of your choice |
| 5 Believe in yourself! Rest day or movement of your choice | 6 Walk, run, swim or cycle 20 mins | 7 Clean the house! | 8 Walk, run, swim or cycle 20 mins | 9 Meditation / Breathwork | 10 Do some yoga, pilates or core exercises | 11 Rest days are important too! Rest day or movement of your choice |
| 12 You're doing great! Rest day or movement of your choice | 13* Walk, run, swim or cycle 30 mins | 14* Bake a tasty cake! | 15* Meditation / Breathwork | 16* Do some yoga, pilates or core exercises | 17* Walk, run, swim or cycle 30 mins | 18* Be kind to yourself! Rest day or movement of your choice |
| 19* You can do it! Rest day or movement of your choice | 20 Dance around the house to your favourite music | 21 Walk, run, swim or cycle 30 mins | 22 Do some yoga, pilates or core exercises | 23 Meditation / Breathwork | 24 Walk, run, swim or cycle 30 mins | 25 Wow! You've moved for 25 days in a row Rest day or movement of your choice |
| 26 Almost there! Rest day or movement of your choice | 27 Walk, run, swim or cycle 40 mins | 28 Do some yoga, pilates or core exercises | 29 Do an activity around the house | 30 Walk, run, swim or cycle 40 mins | 31 Meditation / Breathwork | |

*13-19 of May is Mental Health Awareness Week

# Salford Leisure

Some of our students took part in a workshop with the Active Communities Team at Salford Leisure

Activities included a climbing wall, lacrosse and fantasy football.

It was amazing to see how the students pushed outside of their comfort zone to climb the wall, some even opting to attempt this whilst blindfolded, even the sun made an appearance for them.







# Year 10 Drama and Music trip

A group of Year 10 Drama and Music Students were lucky enough to be invited to see the Premier of Pendleton College's 'West Side Story'. The show set in 50s New York loosely follows the plot of Romeo and Juliet, and contains songs such as 'Somewhere', 'I feel Pretty' and 'America'. The performance was of the highest quality and was inspirational for students who left the theatre saying 'I want to do that when I leave Walkden'.

> "I want to do that when I leave Walkden"






# 2024-25 School production announcement



We were extremely excited to announce this week that our school production for 24-25 will be an adaptation of Six the Musical.

We will be creating Six:Teen Edition.

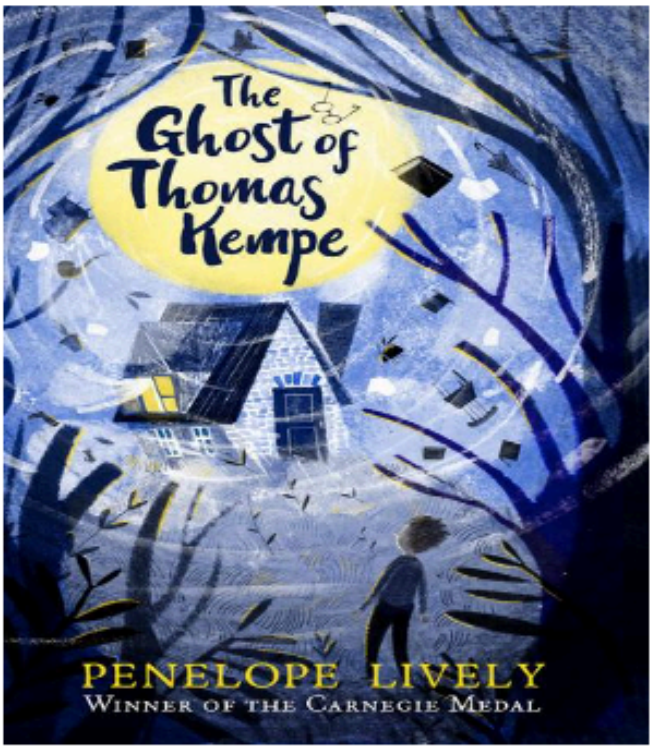
This edition of the much loved musical is slightly different to the original and has been adapted for school age performers. With this in mind ALL out students were invited to audition this week.

We will keep you posted as the production preperation progresses.

# Library

Each fortnight we will post a personal book review from one of our students. They will read the book and take the time to write a review for others to see, encouraging more students to pick up the book and give it a go.

## The Ghost of Thomas Kempe by Penelope Lively *(reviewed by Owen, year 7)*




This book is about a boy called James Harrison, and how he and his family move to an old cottage. My favourite character throughout the book is James, because he is curious, intelligent and thoughtful. My favourite part was the prologue because it was mysterious and scary. This part was especially gripping because of the way the attic was described. To summarise, it is a good book if you like mysteries. I would recommend it to readers aged 11-16, and I would say it is a bit like "The Canterville Ghost".

**Star rating:**

★★★★

# Meet the team.....

## Attendance Team 2024

**We have a proactive attendance team at Co-op Academy Walkden. They will support you and your child to ensure good attendance at the Academy.**




Q - What is the most important lesson you have learnt from working in this role?
A - That school is not just about learning in lessons. It's about socialising and making friendships. Being in school regularly to support and build those relationships. Being respectful to each other. It's about helping each other to achieve together, and having fun along the way. Mr McAndrew

Q - What is something surprising that not many people would not know about you?
A - At college, I studied Art and Design. As part of a fashion project, I won a competition where a garment I designed was modelled at London Fashion Week. Mrs Faulkner.

Q - What is the most important message you like to share with students/people?
A - Be yourself always whilst understanding the importance of making the right choices to succeed in all that you do. With the right mindset, no one is in the way of you achieving your goals. Mrs Faulkner

Q - What is something you have always wanted to try and learn?
A - How to snowboard, I can ski quite well but apparently it's a whole different set of skills. Miss Garner

# Meet the team.....

Q - What's the best trip you have ever been on?
A - In 2017, 3 of us flew to New York and explored for a couple of days from there we took the train to Philadelphia and immersed ourselves in the US History, after that we flew to Los Angeles and spent a week poolside in Venice Beach and then finally we hired a Mustang, drove to Las Vegas and finished the trip off with some wins (13 hour flight home nearly killed me though not gonna lie) Miss Garner

Q - What do you love most about your role at Co-op Academy Walkden?
A - I love being in a position to help pupils and their parents, supporting pupils into school. We have amazing pupils at Co-op Academy Walkden and with being such a big school, it is important that pupils feel valued and listened to. My eldest left Co-op Academy Walkden last year, I still have one child here and my youngest will be starting here in September, so I feel I understand the needs of the pupil and those of the school. Miss Lynch

Q - What do you think is your biggest contribution to the Academy?
A - My colleague tells me that my biggest contribution is that I always look to help pupils and make their day bright and cheery. Miss Lynch

## How to report an absence

If your child is going to be absent from the Academy, please let us know through the Arbor message function.
Please report your child's absence before 08:30am.

# Year 7 - Artificial Intelligence

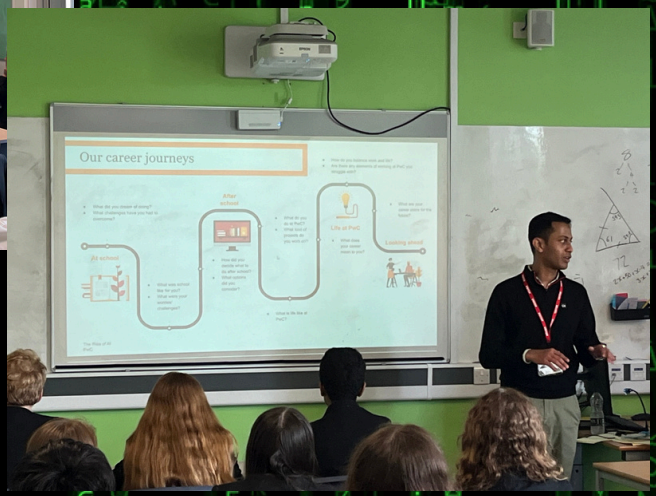
Year 7 were involved in an immersive seminar called Artificial Intelligence 'the rise of the machines'

This was delivered by a team from an internationally renowned corporation called Pricewaterhousecooper. Year 7 students were shown examples of code breaking, Generative A.I, different A.I engines and how these can be used in the world of work.

Students were also shown how to differentiate between real and artificial output.







# Thank you all for your continued support, have a restful break and we will see you on Monday 3rd June 2024

**If you think you have something to contribute to the next newsletter, please email us at walkden.info@coopacademies.co.uk**