Being Walkden

Cadets prepare for Remembrance Day, full story page 5

Lest We forget

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

Dates for your diary

Sunday 10 November - Remembrance Sunday Parade at The Cenotaph, Walkden

Monday 11 November - last day of mock exams

Monday 18 November - Year 7 Pantomime

Monday 18 November - Year 11 Post-16 Careers evening

Friday 22 November - INSET Day, Academy will be closed for one day

A note from our Principal Mr Hacker

Dear parents and carers

We're approaching Remembrance weekend and in the academy we'll be reflecting on those who have lost their lives in current or previous conflicts, fighting for the freedoms we all enjoy.
We have volunteers in school selling poppies and we have created a wall of poppies in the main atrium to mark the occasion. We'll be marking Remembrance Day on the 11th as we always do, but this Sunday, our cadets will play a key role in the Remembrance parade at Parr Fold Park too. I know that lots of you will be in attendance and I know that you will see our pupils do us and you proud.

I want to give an advanced reminder that on Friday 22nd November, the academy will be closed due to INSET and looking much further ahead we will finish for the Christmas break on Friday 20th December.

I'd like to remind parents and carers about safety in the car park at pick up time. I have previously communicated that there is limited parking for vehicles collecting pupils from the HIVE at the end of the day and that all other vehicles should park in the local area, with pupils making their way to an agreed meeting point. However, there has been an increase in the number of vehicles on site recently, leading to chaotic manoeuvring at the busiest time of the day, when pupils are leaving on foot and by bicycle. This is causing unsafe conditions for our children and we need your help to fix it please. We are currently progressing plans to install a rising barrier at the entrance from Old Clough lane, which will reduce the entrance drive to a single lane. I will update you on this in due course but for now, please do not enter the site by car at pick up and drop off, unless absolutely necessary and please show due care and respect for others, particularly our children, if you do.

Finally, with the darker nights and recent bonfire events, we've become aware of some anti-social behaviour among young people in the community. We are not aware that any incidents directly involve our pupils specifically, but the most important message for parents and carers at this point is 'do you know where your children are and what they are doing'? In school, we very much promote the message that we all have collective responsibility for our community and your support with this is very much appreciated.

Wishing you a great weekend ahead.

Matt Hacker

Noticeboard

Attendance

Important information on the below link for parents/carers regarding absence from school from September 2024.

Department for Education

Please contact walk-attendance@coopacademies.co.uk if you require any further information or explanation.

Ready for school

It is important that students arrive for the academy day prepared and ready to learn, this includes the correct uniform, equipment and knowing which lessons they have each day. Students have a timetable on Arbor which they should be checking each night or morning before arriving at the academy. Students have the option to print this at home or write down the lessons if they are likely to forget, students should not rely on Student Services printing out timetables or telling them which lesson to go to.

Absence Log and Communications

To report your child as absent, please use ONE of the available options below.

- You can call our Academy to report absence 0161 8501625 (Option 1).
- You can now use the 'log absence' function on your Arbor app. You can find this by going to Dashboard - Menu (three lines) - Attendance - Log Absence.

For any pre-planned absence's or appointments please email our Attendance Team walk-attendance@coopacademies.co.uk and include an attached appointment card or letter as evidence of the reason for the planned absence.

Whichever method you chose to use, please do this each day that your child is absent from school before 8.30am.

We will be turning off the Arbor In App message service for now as this is no longer required for absence logging.

For all other general queries please continue to use the academy mailbox walkden.info@coopacademies.co.uk

Extra Curricular Activities

We have a number of Extra Curricular Activities running daily. Please see below timetables and speak to the relevant teacher or head of department for further information.

Non PE Extra Curricular Timetable

PE Extra Curricular Timetable

Parent/Carer Drop In Sessions

We will be holding regular drop in sessions throughout the year for parent/carers to drop in, ask questions and have discussions with staff. Below you will find a list of upcoming topics for each event so that you can add any of interest to your diary. These sessions are in person in the Academy 3-4pm

Drop in Sessions

Cadets

Our Cadets have been preparing for the Remembrance Day Parade which will be held in Walkden on Sunday 10 November

Time: Parade forms up at 9.15am at the British Legion, Wilfred Road, Walkden
Parade leaves: 9.30am
Church service: 10am at St Paul's CE, Manchester Road, Walkden
Wreath laying: 10.50am at Cenotaph, Parr Fold Park, Walkden Road, Walkden

Autumn Festivities

Its been a busy couple of weeks with lots of festivities. For Halloween some of our students were able to carve pumpkins at The RHS Bridgewater, The school librarians created a spooky book display and all students were able to take part in a Halloween Book Competition. We also had Halloween and Bonfire Night inspired menus

Chicken Fillet in Bun served with Vampire Salsa Blood, Finger Chips & Salad or

Allergen - Wheat, Gluten

Bewitching Vegetarian Chilli served with Rice (veg & vegan)

Allergens Sulphite Dioxide, may contain Celery, Soya, Mustard & Gluten

Halloween Pumpkin Doughnut

Allergen - Wheat, Gluten, Soya, Nuts may contain Egg, Milk & Sesame

or Fruit

£2.20

Bonfire Night Menu

Tuesday 5th November

Main course

Hot Dog served with Fried Onions, Chips & Tomato Sauce

or

Vegetable Sausages served with Fried Onions, Chips & Tomato Sauce

Dessert

Choice of either Homemade School Cake or Parkin
or
Fresh Fruit

Cost £2.20

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.

Library Opening Times

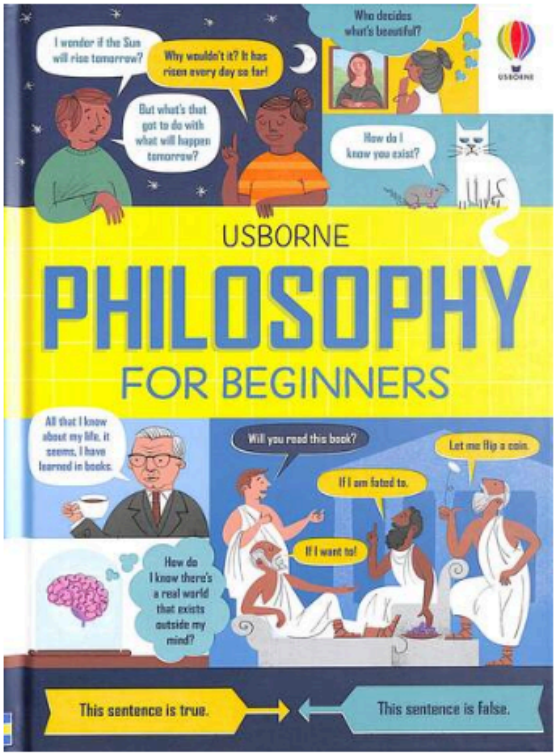
Break	10:30 - 10:50
KS3 Lunch	12:50 - 1:20
KS4 Lunch	1:20 - 1:50
After school	2:50 - 3:30

Co-op Academy Walkden

Student book review

Usborne Philosophy for Beginners

(reviewed by Ali, Year 7)



If you have a curious, enquiring mind, then this book is exactly what you're looking for. It discusses the BIG questions - from what the world around is like, to what beauty is, to the existence of God. Philosophy is a way of thinking about just about anything.

Using lively examples, humorous illustrations and simple thought experiments, this book opens up the world of philosophy to both children and adults, and includes links to videos and activities.

School Libraians

Congratulations to two of our library users: Khadija in Year 7, the first pupil to complete a Library Loyalty Card this school year. Khadija has read an impressive 15 books since September. Well done also to Student Librarian Jessica, the first to complete a "spooky" book review following our Hallowe'en competition. Below you will see a book review from each student.

Student book review

How To Be More Hedgehog by Anne-Marie Conway

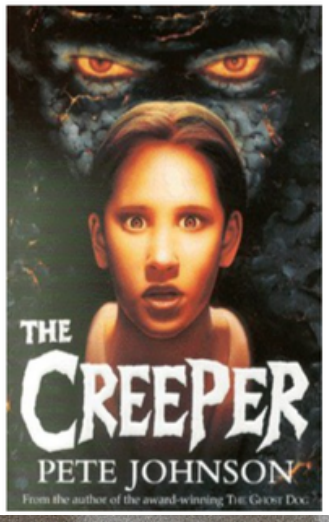
(reviewed by Khadija, Year 7

This book is about a book called Lily who has a stammer. When a video of her practising her class presentation is uploaded onto YouTube, her nightmare begins. Cyberbullying, kids at school whispering and even her best friend Mia laughing behind her back. Lily's instinct is to run away, but she realises that running away isn't the answer. I found the story gripping because I wanted to know how Lily overcame her worries about her speech and about starting a new school. In fact, I would recommend this book to anyone starting a new school because it will help them overcome their worries.

Student book review

The Creeper by Pete Johnson

(reviewed by Jessica, Year 8)



This book is about a girl named Lucy who discovers a tape in a second-hand shop, but as she listens to the tape she makes a horrible mistake - she sets the Creeper free. I really enjoyed the fact that the book was very descriptive. It helped me to build an image in my head, and enticed me into continuing to read the book. I didn't really dislike anything about the book, but I found it a bit too short! I would recommend this book to young teens and people who enjoy reading fiction - but the character of the Creeper could potentially be unnerving to younger audiences.

Christmas Card Competition

Would your child like the opportunity to create our Co-op Academy Walkden Christmas Card. The winning creation will be sent out to local Primary Schools, Care Homes, Governors etc

Christmas Card Competition

Brief:

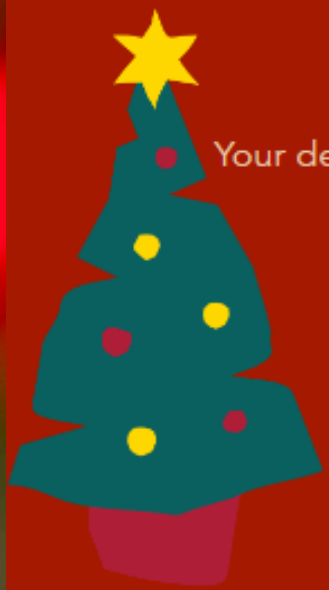
Design a Christmas card that reminds you of the festive season! This could be a Christmas scene, festive food, or spending time with family and friends. Whatever makes you feel in the Christmas spirit.

Entry Requirements and Deadline:

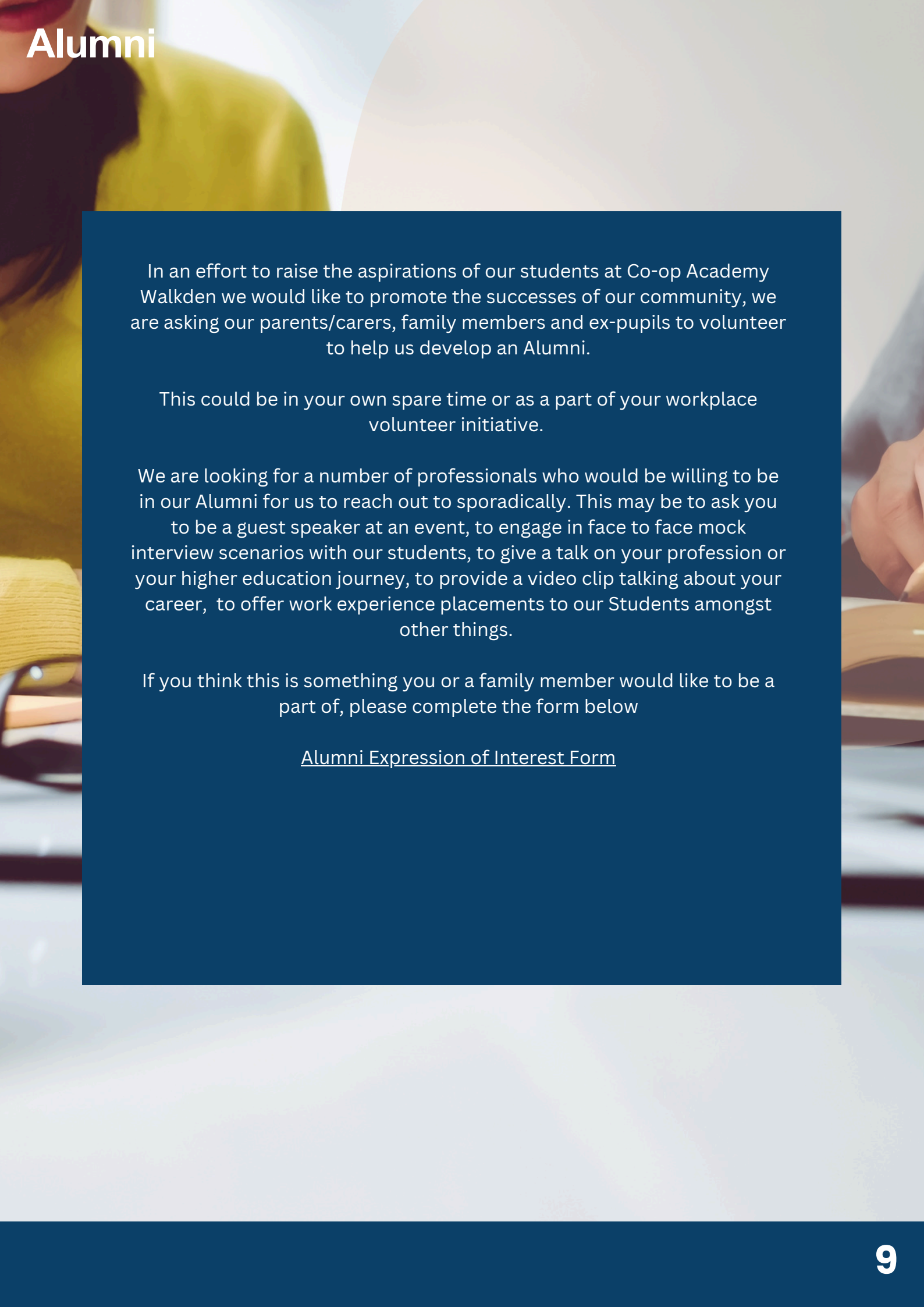
Entries can either be digital or hand drawn. They must be portrait and all entries must be submitted by Thursday 21st November. Please hand in to your Art Teacher or email you card to walkden.info@coopacademies.co.uk

Prize:

Your design could be this years official Co-op Academy Walkden Christmas Card.



Alumni



In an effort to raise the aspirations of our students at Co-op Academy Walkden we would like to promote the successes of our community, we are asking our parents/carers, family members and ex-pupils to volunteer to help us develop an Alumni.

This could be in your own spare time or as a part of your workplace volunteer initiative.

We are looking for a number of professionals who would be willing to be in our Alumni for us to reach out to sporadically. This may be to ask you to be a guest speaker at an event, to engage in face to face mock interview scenarios with our students, to give a talk on your profession or your higher education journey, to provide a video clip talking about your career, to offer work experience placements to our Students amongst other things.

If you think this is something you or a family member would like to be a part of, please complete the form below

Alumni Expression of Interest Form

Thank you as always for your continued support.

Have a great weekend.

Our Newsletter needs you, if you have any students success stories to share or if you think you have something to contribute to the next newsletter, please email us at walkden.info@coopacademies.co.uk