

Being Walkden

4 April 2025

Our girls competed at the Great British Dance Off, more info Page 6



Be yourself,
always

Do what
matters most

Show you
care

Succeed
together

Dates for your diary

Thursday 8 May - Year 11 GCSE summer exams begin

Friday 23 May - End of summer term 1.

A note from our Principal Mr Hacker

Dear parents/carers

Welcome to the latest newsletter which is packed with the latest roundup of action from within the academy and out in the community. It's brilliant to see the sporting successes of individuals and teams in particular over the last couple of weeks. We also had some staff taking part in the London and Manchester Marathons last weekend, either for personal goals or to raise money for charity which has been great to see too.



This week we've had to relax the uniform to PE kits for the first time this year due to the temperature in the building. In the most part pupils still looked smart, wearing the correct clothing as requested. Sadly, we did have some pupils who chose to wear non-uniform which undermines what we were trying to achieve. We will always relax the uniform if it is uncomfortable for pupils in the building but can I ask all parents and carers to support us in ensuring that all pupils wear the correct PE uniform on these occasions.

In a bid to further improve the pupil experience, we also now have a working party of pupils who are helping us to establish the viability of a one-way system around the academy. They will be trialling the system for us to help us evaluate how it can work for all. We will update you in due course if we implement this fully.

By way of a quick update regarding the toilets situation, I can report that the new system is working well. We are averaging more than 75 toilet visits during lessons each day. This is leading to significant lost learning. The toilets are open for 5 minutes every hour and during break times and lunchtime too. We should only expect toilet use during lessons to be for emergencies and where medical needs exist. I would be grateful if you would emphasise the importance of staying in lessons with your children to maximise learning.

Year 11 pupils will be commencing their GCSE exams from next week, parents and carers will have received timetables for exams and masterclasses, and if you keep an eye on our social media pages you will see a handy visual each afternoon of the next days exams and masterclasses.

As we go into another bank holiday weekend, I want to wish you an enjoyable few days and we look forward to welcoming all pupils back on Tuesday.

Best wishes
Matt Hacker

Noticeboard

Catering PIN numbers

All students require their catering PIN number at the till when getting breakfast and lunch. If your child is entitled to Free School Meals, they still need to use their PIN number to get the meal. please ensure your child knows their 4 digit PIN and does not share this with others. You can email walkden.info@coopacademies.co.uk for a PIN reminder.

Who to contact at Walkden

Please see the linked document for who to contact at Co-op Academy Walkden

[Communications details](#)

Carpark Barrier

The barrier is operated from reception and any visitors will need to use the intercom to speak with reception to enter the car park. Regular drivers who need to pick children up with additional needs or disabilities, closer to the entrance, will be allowed access, but it is important that all other vehicles are parked in the surrounding streets if you need to wait for children. Please do not attempt to enter the drive from Old Clough Lane

School leavers Bus Pass

Year 11 students - please take a look at the [Our Pass](#) website for more information on how to apply for a bus pass for 16-18 year olds in further education

Sports funding in Salford

This week on our Facebook page we shared the Salford Foundation Trust website, this is where you can find information on local funding for Salford residents. Please see their message below.

Apply for funding before the 16th May to get a quicker response to your request. We can financially support a wide range of sports, hobbies and other skill-boosting activities for you or your child.

You (or the person you're applying for) must be:

- 5 to 25 years old
- a resident of Salford for 3+ years
- unable to fund the opportunity through another source

[Salford Foundation Trust](#)

Rewards Trip

This years summer rewards trip will be to Blackpool Pleasure Beach, you will have received the letter with further details and this is a reminder for the final payment which is due by Sunday 25th May.

Absence Logging and Attendance Information

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.

As a helpful reminder we wanted to share the below information that is useful to know when it comes to attendance.

The school bell is at 8.25am and students are expected to be in lessons ready to be registered by 8.30am.

Students who arrive late between 8.30am and 8.50am will be given a late mark, however this does not affect their overall attendance percentage.

Students who arrive after 9am will be given a U code (unauthorised absence) on their register which equates to a half a day of absence, this does affect their overall attendance percentage.

The day is split into two halves with a morning attendance mark and an afternoon attendance mark, students must receive both marks to be registered in school for the full day.

Please note that medical appointments and authorised absence is marked differently and to authorise one of these absences or to make us aware of any exceptional circumstances please email our attendance team with prior notice where possible walk-attendance@coopacademies.co.uk

Thank you as always for your support.

Dance

Well done to the dancers who participated in The Great British Dance off at Parr Hall Warrington. They brought energy and scored high on creativity against fierce competition from A level students. As usual the girls were great ambassadors for our academy. Well done to Hannah S, Halle B, Phoebe B, Kitty C, Thalia W, Evie D and Chloe R, you were amazing. Mrs Hughes



Staff Success Stories

We have some incredible staff at Co-op Academy Walkden and this weekend some of those members of staff showed their absolute grit and determination whilst running the Manchester or London Marathon. The training, that is involved in one of these events is immense and we are incredibly proud of the message these teachers are passing on to our students, to set yourself a goal and work hard to reach it. Our Year 11 students are currently revising and ultimately training extremely hard to reach their goal of completing their GCSE exams. Thank you for showing our young people that if you work hard you can achieve anything you set your mind to.

Well done to you all!

Mr Tobutt

As many of you know Mr Tobutt was running the London Marathon for Milly's smiles, see below a message from Mr Tobutt...

During the marathon I experienced heat exhaustion at mile 21, so had to receive treatment from the medics on course. My condition improved and I was allowed to continue - walking the remaining 5 miles to the finish line.

"It meant such a lot to me to be able to complete the marathon and to fundraise for such an amazing charity, this is a cause so close to our hearts following our spells in hospital with my daughter Darcie over the past two years," Thank you to everyone who has donated."



Mrs Heppolette

Mrs Heppolette was running the Manchester Marathon to raise funds for St Anne's Hospice. A few words from Mrs Heppolette below...

"Running a marathon is gruelling to say the least, but the training in the months and weeks before takes lots of grit and determination. Absolutely nothing compares to the heartbreak for the families, patients and staff of St Ann's. This is just a small gesture that I can give back to help a little to support the amazing work that the staff do every day."

Staff Success Stories

Miss Vosper

Miss Vosper also ran the Manchester Marathon this weekend, with no particular charity donations giving her the boost to keep going, Miss Vosper finished on her own determination to succeed alone.



Well done to all runners, you amaze us and inspire us all!

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.

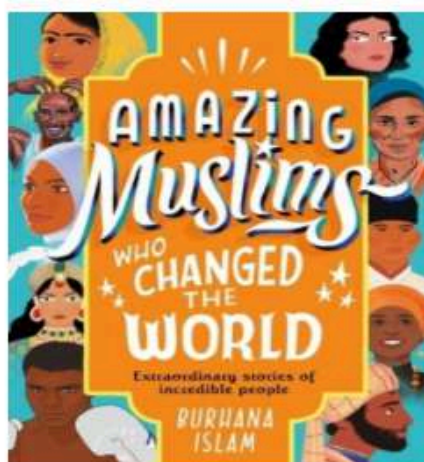
Library Opening Times

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

Student book review

Amazing Muslims Who Changed the World by Burkhana Islam

(reviewed by Ali, Year 7)



Think you know who first thought of the theory of evolution? Ever wondered who created the oldest university in the world? And have you heard the incredible tale of the masked knight - a rebel girl turned military commander?

This book describes some of the amazing Muslim men and women who have changed the world. There are chapters on Muhammad Ali, Sir Mo Farah and Nadiya Hussein, as well as some less famous but equally important Muslims.

This is a fantastic book, with some stunning illustrations. I definitely recommend it for both KS3 and KS4 students

Star rating:



Student Success

A few weeks ago we introduced you to Year 7 student Jude who has been taking the swimming world by storm. This week we have received further updates below.

If you would like to see your child feature in our Student Success Stories please email us at walkden.info@coopacademies.co.uk

50m Breaststroke 🥇
100m Breaststroke 🥇
200m Breaststroke 🥇

Jude is now officially ranked by Swim England as No1 in the North West for 50m and 100m Breaststroke in his age category.

Here is what Jude's club, City of Salford, said about him yesterday after he won his second gold in the 50m breaststroke:

"Jude Andrews-Kumah. Remember the name, because this young man has stamped his name well and truly on Northwest Breaststroke only 6 months into his first season in our programme. A fantastic display to claim gold with a 2.5 second PB over just 50m. Well Done Jude "



Sports

Last week our Year 7A Football team fell agonisingly short in their GM Schools Cup semi final as they lost to Canon Slade in an enthralling tie. We took the lead early in the first half when Hulme converted an early chance, but we were then left to rue missed opportunities as the hosts hit on the counter attack to make it 1-1 just before half time. The second half followed a similar pattern as chances came and went but we couldn't find the decisive second goal. And so the game went to penalties with Canon Slade prevailing 4-2 to advance to the County Cup final. An incredible effort by our team and we can learn from the experience before the Salford Schools Cup final on 9th May. Mr Tobutt

A huge congratulations to our Year 11 A football team who were crowned Salford Schools' Plate champions last night!

The boys put on an excellent performance in tough conditions to defeat Lowry 3-0.

Goals from Inglis (2) and an Alexander penalty late on secured the trophy for Walkden.

The boys continue their quest for another trophy next Wednesday (7th May) in the quarter final of the County Plate against The Blue Coat School which is a 4pm kick off at home - Mr Bell



Summer opportunities for school leavers



Springboard
CHARITY

SPRINGBOARD TO HOSPITALITY SUMMER KICKSTART

FREE two-week course for **16-18** year-olds interested in opportunities within hospitality. No experience or qualifications needed—just a positive attitude! The course offers the chance to gain industry qualifications, improve communication, interview skills, and CV building. Includes a work placement, plus the chance to connect with employers for potential job opportunities. Kick-start a career in hospitality today!

What to Expect

- Free training providing skills and opportunities for working in Hospitality
- 3 industry recognised qualifications
- Opportunity for full or part time employment/apprenticeships
- Support with travel

To apply



For more information: careers&education@springboarduk.org.uk

Dear parents, carers and students,

Springboard are delighted to announce that they will be once again running their exclusive school/college leavers programme this year and would like to invite your students to take part.

Their FREE Springboard to Hospitality – Summer Kickstart Programme is aimed at 15-18 year olds in Greater Manchester looking to upskill in hospitality and will comprise of four days training week commencing 9th July and five days work placement week commencing 16th July.

The programme will provide students with the opportunity to gain industry related qualifications, whilst also working on their communication style, interview technique, employability skills and building a CV. As well as taking part in hands on activities to gain new skills or enhance the skills and knowledge that they already have.

Following the course, students will gain access to employers, with the potential to gain full or part time employment and apprenticeship opportunities! We are working with our partners and industry leaders to offer these opportunities.

This programme is open to school leavers in Greater Manchester with an interest in the hospitality industry. No experience or qualifications are required to apply for the course, just a great attitude!

Parents / carers can apply on behalf of their child using the attached parent flyer - and students can also apply directly via the QR code on the student flyer. You can also **APPLY HERE** for ease.

Applications are now open, and places are limited, so please apply as soon as possible!

Please, do not hesitate to reach out to Kerry Mabley at kerrym@springboarduk.org.uk at any point if you have any questions about the summer programme.

New youth club opening soon

Take a look at the following link to find out more about a brand new purpose build Youth centre opening in Salford. This looks to be a great place for our young people to spend time, learning new skills and making new friends.

Salford Youth Zone

SENIOR CLUB

Senior Club is the best place to chill if you're aged 13-19.

The Youth Zone will play host to an unbeatable mix of sports, creative and performing arts, enterprise and loads of other stuff to do.

Whether you want to make your own beats in the studio, or get your nails done in the salon, create your cv or use the gym... there's something for everyone. You can even just come in and have a brew and chat with a youth worker.



INCLUSION

SYZ is proud to say that once opened, we will support and cater for young people with a range of additional needs up to the age of 25 through inclusive ability sessions alongside our mainstream offer.

Our inclusion sessions will offer young people (aged 8-25), regardless of ability the opportunity to access a range of activities for example boxing, trampolining, karaoke, arts and crafts, cooking, gaming and much more.

Sessions will be adapted for young people with additional needs to enable anyone to access them; including young people with a variety of different needs from mild learning difficulties to more complex needs such as visual impairment and physical disabilities.



**Have a great bank
holiday weekend and
we will see you all on
Tuesday 6th May**

**Our Newsletter needs you, if you have any
student 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**