



Academies Trust

YEARBOOK



Academies Trust

Cover image:
Young Musician of the Year Competition 2026
Photo credit: Jamal Akbar

Welcome

As another academic year draws to a close, I am proud to reflect on everything we have achieved together across Co-op Academies Trust. Every story in these pages is a reminder of what is possible when our students, colleagues, families and communities work together with shared purpose and ambition.

The 2025/26 academic year has been one of growth, opportunity and continued collaboration. Across our Trust, we have celebrated academic achievement, embraced new experiences and strengthened the partnerships that help our young people thrive. Whether in the classroom, on the sports field, on stage or through service to their communities, our students have continued to demonstrate the confidence, creativity and resilience that make me so optimistic about their futures.

This year has also seen our academies continue to champion inclusion, ensuring every child is supported to succeed and to feel a sense of belonging. Through Trust-wide programmes, enrichment opportunities and the everyday dedication of our colleagues, we have created pupil experiences that extend far beyond the curriculum and help every young person discover their potential.

Within these pages you'll find just a snapshot of the thousands of moments that have made this year so memorable. From inspiring learning and outstanding achievements to acts of kindness, leadership and community spirit, each story reflects the values that define Co-op Academies Trust.

None of this would be possible without the commitment and passion of our staff, whose unwavering belief in our students makes a lasting difference every single day. I would also like to thank our Community Council Members, trustees, families and partners for the vital role they play in supporting our academies and helping our communities flourish.

Finally, I want to congratulate our Year 11 and Year 13 students as they complete this important chapter of their education. We are incredibly proud of all they have achieved and wish them every success as they take their next steps.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to another remarkable year. I hope this yearbook reminds you of all that we have accomplished together and inspires you as we look forward to the opportunities that lie ahead.

Warmest wishes,

Dr Chris Tomlinson

CEO, Co-op Academies Trust

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Dr Chris Tomlinson
CEO, Co-op Academies Trust



Term

SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2025



One

SEPTEMBER 2025

Welcome to
Co-op Academy
Parkland's
Library



A first in 20 Years: Co-op Academy Parkland secures 'Good' Ofsted

Co-op Academy Parkland is celebrating a historic milestone after being rated 'Good' in all areas by Ofsted for the first time in more than two decades.

Since joining Co-op Academies Trust in 2018, Parkland has undergone significant transformation.

During their June inspection, inspectors described the school as a "haven" in the community, noting that *"The enthusiasm and dedication of the whole school community to make the school the best it can be is palpable."* The report also praised the school's *"tenacious determination to raise standards"* and commended its strong leadership and inclusive provisions, noting that *"The school identifies and supports the needs of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities very well."*

The report also highlighted the school's close relationship with parents and its effective partnerships with professionals to tailor pupils' support and help them learn with confidence.

Chris Tomlinson, CEO of Co-op Academies Trust, added: *"This inspection marks a powerful moment of recognition for Co-op Academy Parkland after years of hard work and determination from staff, pupils and the wider community."*

"The school's last inspection in 2023 acknowledged that improvements were underway and this latest report confirms that they have now taken hold. This 'Good' in all areas of judgement marks a significant and well-deserved turning point for a school that has worked tirelessly to improve outcomes for every pupil."

"Huge congratulations to the leadership team, staff, Academy Community Council, pupils and families for achieving this milestone. Together, they've created a school the community can be truly proud of."

"We are absolutely delighted that Ofsted has recognised the hard work and dedication that exists across our school community."

This is a proud moment and it's all down to the commitment of our staff, the positivity of our pupils and the unwavering support of our families."

This report is a reflection of the journey we've been on and the strong values we live by every day. The future is very exciting for Parkland."

Charlotte Wierzbianski
Headteacher

Co-op Academies Trust

Co-op Academy Manchester's royal visit to the Natural History Museum

The school's Eco Club recently had the opportunity to travel to London for a special event at the Natural History Museum, where they met Their Royal Highnesses, The Prince and Princess of Wales.

The visit was a brilliant showcase of the school's dedication to the environment and its role as a leader in a major national initiative.

Pioneering a Greener Education

Co-op Academy Manchester has been at the forefront of the National Education Nature Park (NENP) programme since it was a pilot school in 2022. The NENP programme is part of a huge effort to support schools in transforming their grounds to benefit nature and improve biodiversity. The goal is to create a collective 'nature park' across the country that is twice the size of Birmingham.

The academy was the first school to fully map its site for the programme, and since then, over 3,000 educational settings have joined the movement, mapping over 12 million square metres of land for greening projects. This pioneering work has helped set the standard for others, connecting young people with nature and giving them the skills and knowledge for future 'green' careers.

A Royal Audience

The Natural History Museum, which leads the NENP, invited the school's Eco Club to the museum to show Prince William and Princess Kate the progress of the programme. The students had the chance to highlight some of their ongoing projects, including:

- A **wet woodland** area with ponds that provides a rich habitat for local wildlife
- A **green wall** on a south-facing technology room, which not only looks beautiful but also helps to keep the classroom cool
- Numerous sections of **wildflower meadows** and **'no mow'** grass areas, which have brought new life to the school's landscape

The students got the opportunity to sit down with the royal couple and discuss their work, explaining how the Eco Club has helped them feel more connected to nature. The colleagues from the Natural History Museum also explained how the school's efforts fit into the broader national programme and what the future holds.

After saying goodbye, the students enjoyed a well-deserved lunch at the Museum's T-Rex Grill restaurant. Their amazing day concluded with a visit to the "Our Story" 3D exhibition, narrated by Sir David Attenborough, before they headed back to Manchester.

Richard Simpson, Senior Science Technician & STEM Lead at Co-op Academy Manchester, said: *"Our students did a great job in sharing their Eco club projects at the Natural History Museum, showcasing how the National Education Nature Parks programme is helping them create richer spaces for biodiversity at Co-op Academy Manchester. Presenting their hard work to their Royal Highnesses The Prince and Princess of Wales was a truly inspiring moment, and a reminder of the power young people have to shape a greener future"*



The Prince and Princess of Wales posted online saying:

"Even with the rain, it was great seeing how the gardens and National Education Nature Park programme are helping young people to connect to nature, combining outdoor learning with wellbeing activities. And a pleasure hearing from students of Kender Primary in Lewisham and Co-op Academy Manchester about projects to support nature and biodiversity."



Co-op Academy Grange

Eco-Schools Green Flag Award

This is a special award that shows how our school is a welcoming and safe place for everyone, especially for refugees and people seeking a safe home.



What Does This Mean for Our School?

Being a School of Sanctuary isn't just about getting an award; it's about being a kind and welcoming community. It means we want to make sure that everyone who comes to our school feels at home, no matter where they are from.

This includes:

- **Making Our School a Safe Haven:**
We want our school to be a place where everyone feels secure and respected.
- **Celebrating Different Cultures:**
We're excited to learn about the different backgrounds, languages, and experiences that students and families bring to our school. This makes our community richer and more interesting.
- **Helping Each Other:**
We will work to help new students and their families feel welcome and help them settle in.
- **Learning to Understand:**
We will learn more about why people become refugees and what it's like to leave your home and start over. This helps us be more understanding and empathetic.

Living Our Values

This project is a perfect example of our school's values in action. We are:

- **Doing What Matters Most:**
We are focusing on making sure every person feels cared for and included.
- **Being Yourself, Always:**
We want everyone to feel comfortable and confident being who they are.
- **Showing You Care:**
This is a big way we can show kindness and support to people who need it.
- **Succeeding Together:**
When we welcome everyone, we all learn and grow together as a community.

We are so proud to be on this journey to become a School of Sanctuary. We believe that by opening our doors and our hearts, we make our school and our community a better place for everyone.



Year One visit Cannon Hall Farm

When they arrived, the first thing they saw were some fluffy Llamas! The children also saw some friendly pigs rolling in the mud and some noisy chickens pecking at the ground.

It was so much fun for them to see all the different animals up close. The children were very calm and gentle with all the animals and they remembered to be quiet near them too.

After visiting the animals, they went to the big adventure playgrounds. There were slides, swings, and climbing frames. They all played together as a team, taking turns and helping their friends. If someone needed a push on the swing, another child was there to help!

The children were all so happy and well-behaved; the farm staff were amazed! **Mrs Richely**, our assistant headteacher, said: *"It was a truly fantastic day out. The children were a credit to the school and their families."*

They all had a yummy lunch together, which was kindly paid for by the Yorkshire Children's Charity. The school wants to say a big thank you to them for making this special day happen. We'd also like to say a massive thank you to all the parents and family members who came along for the day too!

One of our children said, *"My favourite part was seeing the little pigs. They were so funny!"*

The children all went home with big smiles on their faces and great memories. It was a wonderful day out for Year One.



Co-op Academy Bebington

Co-op Academy Bebington celebrates another Eco-Schools Green Flag triumph!

Pupils have continued to lead the way in promoting sustainability and raising environmental awareness amongst their school community, including peers, staff members, and the wider local community.

Their exceptional efforts have once again been recognised with the prestigious, internationally recognised Eco-Schools Green Flag accreditation.

The Eco-Schools programme, established in 1994, has been inspiring young environmentalists for over 30 years. It has grown into a global movement, with Eco-Schools Green Flag accreditation awarded to schools in more than 100 countries. In England alone, the programme reaches over 1 million young people each year, empowering them to make a positive impact on our planet.

Eco-Schools England Manager, **Adam Flint**, expressed: *"Every year, we are amazed by the incredible efforts of young people working together to create a better future for all. Their collective impact is truly remarkable. If everyone approached the climate crisis with the same level of passion and determination, we could resolve it much faster and make it a problem of the past. At Keep Britain Tidy, we are delighted to recognise their achievements with the Eco-Schools Green Flag."*

To learn more about the Eco-Schools programme and accreditation, head to www.eco-schools.org.uk. Below are some of the amazing things Eco Club and Mrs Hopkins worked on last academic year.



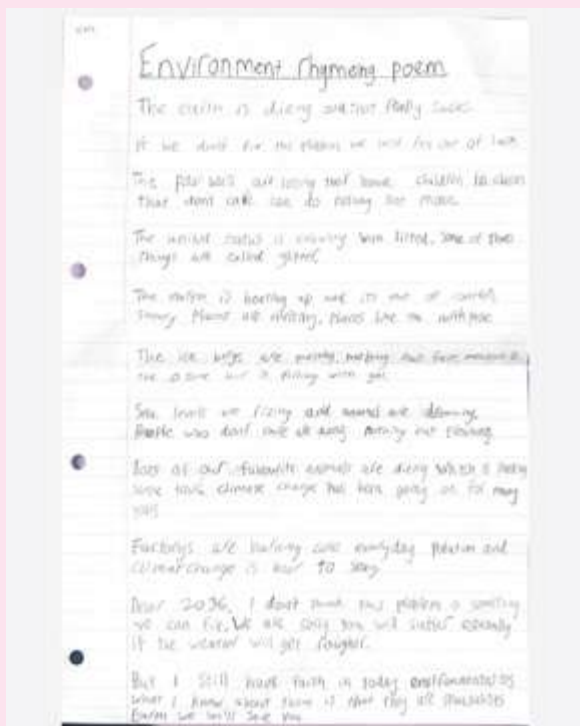
Active, Green and Safe Travel

As part of Road Safety Week, our Active Travel Team at Wirral Council have been delivering engaging school assemblies focused on how students can travel to school in ways that are active, environmentally friendly, and safe. Key messages shared with students include cycling respectfully, wearing a helmet and being mindful of all road users.



Dr Bike

Dr Bike have been delivering free safety and maintenance checks on our bikes. Our community police officers also visited and have security marked over 30 bikes free of charge, and we have handed out 30 sets of free bike lights to keep pupils seen on our roads.



World Environment Day 2025

Theme: Ending Plastic Pollution

Our incredible students in the Resourced Provision took action for the planet as part of **#WorldEnvironmentDay!**

With this year's theme "Ending Plastic Pollution," they created powerful posters to raise awareness and spark change in our school community. Each design carried a clear, urgent message: our planet needs us—now more than ever.

One student even wrote a moving, inspirational poem that left staff and students alike in awe. Their words reminded us that no voice is too small to make a difference.

We are so proud of their creativity, passion, and commitment to protecting the environment.



Wirral Barn Owl Trust

Thank you to Neil and Ole from Wirral Barn Owl Trust for visiting Eco Club to talk about barn owls and why they need to be protected. They conducted a site survey so we can place an order for an owl box to be installed at school.



Modeshift

We are pleased to announce we are the first secondary school on the Wirral to be awarded a Green Accreditation Award from Modeshift, a national campaign to support young people to travel actively and safely to school.

Eco Club, Mrs Hopkins and the school council representatives have conducted surveys and audits to understand issues around current modes of transport, issues around safety and barriers to travelling more sustainably. Over the coming months there will be bike safety assemblies, bike workshops and further projects to help us work with pupils and to bring safer, greener streets to our community.

Co-op Academies Trust

Müller announce winners of “Design-a-Cow” competition

On Tuesday 16th September, students celebrated their artwork being selected to feature on Müller’s milk cartons!

The “Design a Dairy Cow” competition, in partnership with milk supplier Müller, was a huge success. Müller asked primary students to get creative and design a cow for Müller’s very own milk cartons, and the response was brilliant.

Müller is a leading dairy company in the UK, committed to producing high-quality dairy products and supporting local communities.

Out of many amazing entries, four winners were selected! Their designs will now be featured on milk cartons supplied to our primary academies.

A big round of applause for the winning young artists:

West Yorkshire:

Romessa from Co-op Academy Beckfield, with her design, Cally

Staffordshire:

Shalom from Co-op Academy Glebe, with her design, Ferdinand

Merseyside:

Elvira from Co-op Academy Portland, with her design, Moony

Greater Manchester:

Daisy from Co-op Academy Medlock, with her design, Cowie

“We were absolutely blown away by the talent and imagination of our students. This project with Müller has been a fantastic way to engage our pupils and a great opportunity to celebrate their artistic flair. We can’t wait to see their wonderful designs come to life on the milk cartons!”

Keela Walsh

Academies Business Partner at Co-op

To celebrate their hard work, Co-op threw a special event for the winners at their head office. The four winners got to show off their designs, hand out milk, and chat with Co-op colleagues about how they brought their creative ideas to life.

The day wrapped up with a mini-award ceremony where each winner received a framed mock-up of their design and a special certificate.



Co-op Academy Stoke-on-Trent

Co-op Academy students published by Cambridge University

Six talented students from Co-op Academy Stoke-on-Trent have had their writing published in a prestigious anthology by Cambridge University.

All of the students, currently in Year 10 and 11, submitted their work to *The Litmus*, an annual publication by Trinity College, Cambridge. The students received their printed anthologies this week—a truly special moment, seeing their work published by one of the world's most renowned universities.

This is a fantastic example of what can be accomplished when you do what matters most. For these students, it was their passion for writing. Their success highlights how their commitment to being themselves, always—expressing their unique voices and ideas—led to this remarkable outcome. We are so proud of each and every student for this outstanding accomplishment. Their hard work and dedication have paid off, showing us all that when we succeed together, great things are possible. We can't wait to see what they achieve next.

Ms. Williamson, Assistant Headteacher for Personal Development, shared her pride in the students' success. "We are so incredibly proud of the hard work and creativity of our students.

Having their work published by a university like Cambridge is a huge achievement and an inspiration to the whole school. Who knows, perhaps one day they will be attending Cambridge as students themselves!"

The Litmus is a highly respected student-run literary publication that showcases new and emerging talent. The selection process is extremely competitive, making this achievement even more significant. It provides a valuable platform for young writers to be recognised for their creativity and skill.

Congratulations to all our published writers! Your achievement is an inspiration to your peers and the entire Co-op Academy Stoke-on-Trent community. It shows the power of talent, hard work, and a truly supportive environment where we all care about each other's success.

The students' work is also available online on the Cambridge University website:



'A very special dart'
By Luo Chen



'The word 'Power''
By Natasha



'Create or destroy'
By Fabbrino



'Word Power'
By Laquemi



'Powerful words: Free'
By Adiza



'Dystopia vs. Utopia'
By Sam

Co-op Academy Clarice Cliff

Nurturing Blossoms

Miss Lousia and the Nurturing Blossoms have been busy transforming our polytunnel.



The Nurturing Blossoms have been hard at work, adding vibrant colours and life to our polytunnel!

They have planted a variety of exciting new plants, and we can't wait to see them flourish.

The children and Miss Lousia have even crafted their own Clarice Cliff scarecrows to keep a watchful eye over our fruits and vegetables.

Any food grown in our polytunnel will be sent to our kitchen, where it will be chopped up and transformed into delicious dishes for everyone to enjoy.

Co-op Academy Clarice Cliff

Community litterpick with Kelvin the Kiln

Years 5 & 6 enjoyed a morning litter picking around the local area, with surprise guest Kelvin the Kiln.



Years 5 and 6 enjoyed a fantastic morning picking up litter around Sammy's Pool, working together with our local councillor, Mubsira.

We are incredibly proud of their energy and commitment to helping our community and caring for the environment. We hope this experience inspires them to keep their own homes and streets tidy!

The children were thrilled when Kelvin the Kiln made a surprise visit and joined in the fun to lend a hand as well.

Sarah Lay wins National Governance Award

We're delighted to share that our Head of Governance, Sarah Lay, has been named **Outstanding Lead Governance Professional** at the **National Governance Association's (NGA) Outstanding Governance Awards 2025**.

Sarah and Ruth Agnew, Chief Relationships and Engagement Officer, attended the ceremony at the House of Commons, where the NGA celebrated the professionals who're driving excellence in school governance across England.

These awards are the only national awards recognising the vital contributions of governance professionals, trustees and boards who make a lasting difference to children and young people. This year, 17 individuals and governing boards were honoured for their exceptional impact. The ceremony featured an address from Georgia Gould MP, Minister of State for School Standards, who praised the dedication of those shaping strong governance nationwide.

Sarah's award recognises her outstanding leadership and innovation in strengthening governance across multiple schools, her commitment to developing others in the profession, and her focus on building effective, compliant, and collaborative governance structures that support the Trust's strategic aims.

Reflecting on the recognition, Sarah said:

"It is a real honour to have been named Outstanding Lead Governance Professional at the NGA's Outstanding Governance Awards 2025. It was such a pleasure to see so many colleagues, governors and trustees being recognised for their work at a fabulous awards ceremony at the House of Commons.

"As governance professionals, we know that the foundations of good governance are committed people and strong relationships, and I couldn't do what I do without the support of our Trust, the wonderful team of governance professionals I have the privilege to lead, and the hard-working and committed governance stakeholders I work alongside."



Co-op Academies Trust

Clarice Cliff makes the finals for 2025 Primary School of the Year

We are delighted to announce that Co-op Academy Clarice Cliff, in Stoke-on-Trent, has been selected as a finalist in the **Education Today Awards 2025**. They have been shortlisted for the highly competitive **Primary School of the Year**.



It's a huge achievement for Co-op Academy Clarice Cliff to be recognised among schools nationwide. The shortlisting highlights the dedication and teamwork that the staff, pupils, and wider community show every day at Co-op Academy Clarice Cliff.

The Education Today Awards celebrate outstanding schools and individuals across the UK, recognising those who make a genuine difference in their communities.

In the Primary School of the Year category, nominees are evaluated on:

- **Outstanding teaching and learning**
- **Strong pastoral care and child wellbeing**
- **Whole-school practices that enrich pupil life**

Being shortlisted is a fantastic achievement - with only 10 schools making it to the finals! This nomination celebrates the special culture built at Clarice Cliff, where every child is known, supported, and inspired to do their best.

"We are incredibly thrilled to be shortlisted for the finals. Clarice Cliff has an incredible school community and everyone feels proud to be a part of it. This recognition means so much to us all and confirms that we offer an amazing educational experience to all of our pupils which they thoroughly deserve."

Emma Day
Headteacher

Academy council

Our first official Academy Council Meetings of the year took place this week!

We held a meeting at our BD3 site, and one at our BD7 site - making sure all our councillors could attend and contribute!

On the agenda for this weeks meeting was helping to write our Anti-bullying policy, making sure we capture all of our pupils views and voices.

We also had the exciting job of picking some new toys & rewards for our Reward Shops as stock is looking low!

Pupils in our Academy earn tokens for showing the 'Co-op's Ways of Being', such as working hard to achieve a goal, or being a great friend. When they've earned 10 tokens, they get to visit the Reward Shop and choose a toy, book or activity! Our councillors made sure to choose rewards that would be liked by everyone, and to be worth working really hard for!

Our Academy Councils next job is interviewing staff that would like to work here!



Co-op Academy Grange

Unlocking every student's potential

We believe every student can do great things. In the last six years, more than 99% of our students have gone on to positive opportunities after Year 11, like college, university, or work.



This year, our students are going to university to study many different courses, including Law, Accounting & Finance, Pharmacy, Optometry, Biomedical Science, Diagnostic Radiography, Cyber Security, History, Pharmacology, Economics, and Finance.

And our students are doing brilliantly in the classroom too! In 2025, more than 70% of students got top grades (7 or above) in Chemistry and Physics.

But achievement at Grange is about more than numbers. Students grow through sports and many other opportunities. We have excellent sports facilities, which are even used by professional teams outside school! This gives students the chance to train and play in top-class spaces.

We are proud of our students, and at Grange, we help students to be confident, work hard, and believe in themselves. Our teachers, our community, and our facilities give every student the chance to learn, explore, and succeed.

Our students tell their stories better than anyone:

"Even when you feel at your lowest, there is always someone or something to help you get back up. You have inner strength. Keep going and don't give up. If I can do it, then so can you!"

Sameer

"Co-op Academy Grange is where I laughed, learned, stumbled, and grew. Education is a privilege. Even with setbacks, you have the power to shape your future. Be brave and keep trying."

Zara

"Being part of a Co-op school means you are encouraged to challenge yourself and grow. No matter your background, you can achieve anything if you work for it."

Ted

"Fresh Start helped me speak English. They built my confidence and told me not to be scared. My favourite teacher is Mr. Bradshaw because he helped me a lot. In Year 7, I used to hate English, but now it's my favourite subject!"

Nour

We're proud to be awarded Gold for inspiring pupils about their futures

We have been awarded the Gold Award in the Primary Futures Recognition Scheme, recognising the school's inspiring work to help pupils dream big, explore future careers.



Co-op Academy Portland has been awarded the Gold Award in the Primary Futures Recognition Scheme, recognising the school's inspiring work to help pupils dream big and explore future careers.

It is a national award that celebrates schools helping children to learn about the world of work.

The award, run by Inspiring the Future, recognises schools that bring learning to life by connecting pupils with real role models from a wide range of jobs and backgrounds. Achieving Gold is the highest level. Meaning career-related learning is embedded throughout the curriculum and celebrated across the school community.

It's a moment of pride not just for the school, but for the families and local community who support its pupils every day.

Shaun Leathers, Headteacher at Co-op Academy Portland said: *"We're so proud to have achieved the Gold Award. Over the past two years, #TeamPortland have worked hard to help our children see the link between what they learn in class and the many possibilities ahead of them.*

"We've used our own alumni to inspire pupils

- former students who've gone on to become a filmmaker, computer programmer, nurse, teacher and engineer. We've also welcomed an inspiring female scientist who worked on the Covid vaccination programme, a nurse, a nuclear engineer, a trade unionist and a local gym owner.

"We asked our children about their interests and found people who could inspire them in those fields. Every encounter was designed to open their eyes to new possibilities - even careers they may never have thought about. Our aim is to help every child be ambitious for a successful future, with the life skills and opportunities to achieve it."

Primary Futures praised the academy for its creativity and commitment to showing pupils how their learning connects to life beyond school. Through themed lessons, visitors and special events, pupils have explored different jobs and the skills that make people successful in their roles.

Jo Sykes, Director of Careers at Co-op Academies Trust, said: *"Portland's work is a brilliant example of what happens when you make careers education part of everyday learning. The Gold Award shows how powerful it can be to start these conversations early and inspire pupils to believe in themselves."*

The school's Gold certificate will soon take pride of place in reception - a reminder of the bright futures Portland pupils are already imagining.



Co-op Academies Trust

Ten Co-op Academies chosen as Co-op Local Causes for 2025-26!

From sensory gardens to community fridges, ten Co-op Academies have been selected as official Co-op Local Causes, giving families, staff and neighbours the chance to make a difference simply by shopping.



Ten Co-op Academies across the North of England have been chosen as this year's Co-op Local Causes. Each will receive at least £1,000 in funding and could earn more with the support of Co-op members who choose their cause in the Co-op App.

The Local Causes programme helps schools, charities and community groups bring local projects to life. This year's successful academy causes range from outdoor play spaces and sensory gardens to community fridges and family support groups, all focused on fairness, wellbeing and connection.

Every time a Co-op member shops and scans their membership card, they can vote for one of three local causes in their area. The more people who choose a Co-op Academy, the greater the share of community funds that academy receives.

The 10 academies are:

Broadhurst
Clarice Cliff
Hillside
Leeds
Oakwood

Portland
Stoke-on-Trent
Swinton
Walkden
Woodslee

"Each of these projects reflects what makes our academies special. They bring people together, support families and help pupils thrive. We'd love everyone in our communities to get involved and choose their local academy as their Co-op cause."

Liz Garrity
Head of Community Development
at Co-op Academies Trust

Rocking the term end: Joel Foster's amazing wellbeing performance

What a brilliant way to wrap up the term! Today, we had the fantastic singer-songwriter Joel Foster visit for an amazing end-of-term treat.



Joel put on two incredibly engaging performances, first for Year 7 and then for Year 10. More than just a gig, the event did an awesome job of supplementing our wellbeing offer and PSHE lessons by sharing a hugely powerful message about mental health.

Joel was brilliant at using his music—a strong mix of his original tunes and some classic tracks—to get the conversation started. His set was fantastic, blending his indie-rock sound with real talk. He spoke openly about his own struggles, which made his message about being brave enough to speak up, knowing who to trust, and looking out for your own mental health so much more relatable for the students.

Our students were buzzing when they found out Joel is signed to the same record label as major stars like Harry Styles and Sabrina Carpenter! The event was a massive hit, and he definitely picked up lots of new fans in ST6 today. Joel was a good sport, sticking around afterwards to meet everyone, signing posters and chatting. It was an inspirational, feel-good event that rounded off the term perfectly!

Co-op Academies Trust

HH Global and Co-op Academies Trust: a partnership making a real difference

On Tuesday 16th September, students celebrated their artwork being selected to feature on Müller's milk cartons!



At Co-op Academies Trust, we believe in the power of partnership to make a genuine difference in the lives of young people. An exciting example of this comes through our collaboration with HH Global - a company whose social action mirrors our own commitment to co-operation, opportunity, and fairness.

Since becoming Co-op's Managed Print Services provider in 2020, HH Global has worked closely with the Co-op Procurement Team to deliver meaningful social value initiatives across The Co-operative Group, Co-op Academies Trust, and Co-op's lead charity partner - Barnardo's. In early 2024, HH Global reinvigorated its Social Value Action Plan, aligning it with Co-op's three social value focus areas - **Equal Access, Peace of Mind, and Sustainability** - to create immediate and lasting impact.

Through this plan, HH Global has engaged with multiple stakeholders across the Co-op community, listening carefully to their challenges and designing support that makes a real difference!

This academic year, **Lee Hodgson-Winfield**, Account Director at HH Global, and his team have gone above and beyond to support our Trust - donating time, resources, and expertise to support learning and wellbeing across our academies.

"My team and I are incredibly proud to have the opportunity to support Co-op Academies with all these initiatives.

If our time and contributions can make a difference to students' learning experiences, we'll continue to do everything we can to support them."

Lee Hodgson-Winfield

Account Director at HH Global

Every contribution has been thoughtfully designed to have maximum impact for our students and families, supporting a wide range of learning priorities and community needs. Donations have included:

- **16 ukuleles** for Co-op Academy Florence MacWilliams to launch a brand-new Ukulele Club
- **108 books** to boost literacy at Co-op Academy Northwood and Co-op Academy Glebe
- **50 hats and gloves** for Early Years pupils to support outdoor learning and ECO club activities
- **5 iPads** for Co-op Academy Portland to enhance English as an Additional Language (EAL) learning
- **1,000 reusable water bottles** for Co-op Academy Broadhurst and Co-op Academy Nightingale, helping pupils stay hydrated and ready to learn throughout the day

These donations directly support equality of access - ensuring all students have the tools they need to succeed.



At Co-op Academy Florence MacWilliams, the new Ukulele Club is already helping students grow in confidence and creativity.

"This donation will be instrumental in helping us create the foundations of an accessible music community here at Florence," said **Leah Franks**, Music Lead at the academy.

"The ukuleles will be used in our enrichment lessons for Years 7 and 8, helping students build upon two of our main values - Ambition and Excellence. Many of our pupils have never had the chance to learn a musical instrument before, and I am very grateful to HH Global for their support."

Across the Trust, HH Global's generosity has been felt in classrooms, playgrounds, and community projects.

"HH Global's commitment to supporting all our academies has made a huge difference this academic year," said **Liz Garrity**, Head of Community at Co-op Academies Trust. *"The opportunities and pupil experiences have been developed as a result of their invaluable support."*

In Greater Manchester, HH Global's support has gone beyond donations - with the team offering careers guidance and mock interviews at Connell Co-op College, inspiring students to think about their next steps.

"HH Global has been a great support to our academies," said **Daryl Tomlinson**, Regional Community Development Manager for Greater Manchester.

"The water bottles they provided have made a real difference in one of our primary schools, helping lessons run without disruption. Lee and the team have also given brilliant careers guidance and mock interview support at Connell Co-op College, with plans to do even more across Manchester."

Meanwhile in Merseyside, the impact has been equally strong.

"A huge thank you to Lee and the team at HH Global who have been incredibly generous to our academies," said **Deborah Star**, Regional Community Development Manager for Merseyside.

"The iPads donated to Portland have been invaluable for EAL pupils' learning, and the books donated to Northwood were carefully considered and an enormous help to a school in real need of more resources. Thank you!"

Both Co-op Academies Trust and HH Global share a belief that businesses and educational organisations can - and should - be forces for good. This partnership is demonstrating what it means to put values into action.

Whether through supporting literacy, improving wellbeing, providing technology for learning, or empowering young people through music and creativity, HH Global's contributions are helping our academies deliver the best possible experience for every student!

Co-op Academies Trust

Team GB athletes inspire students at Co-op Academy Swinton breakfast club

Olympians Eve Muirhead and Laura Deas spent the morning meeting pupils at Co-op Academy Swinton, sharing stories from their sporting journeys and encouraging students to aim high.

Co-op Academy Swinton welcomed two Team GB athletes on Monday 17 November as part of a special visit with Magic Breakfast and Quaker, celebrating the importance of starting the day well.

Olympic champion Eve Muirhead, who skippered Team GB to gold in women's curling at the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics, and Laura Deas, who won a bronze medal in skeleton at the PyeongChang 2018 Winter Olympics, spent the morning connecting with students during the school's busy breakfast club.

The athletes arrived early to join pupils in the canteen, where they moved between tables, chatted with students and heard about school life at Swinton. Towards the end of the session, they spoke to the room about their sporting journeys: from first trying their sports, to the hard work and resilience needed to compete on the world stage. Students were especially interested in hearing how Eve became one of Britain's most successful curlers and how Laura prepares for a sport that reaches speeds of over 70mph.

Pupils were then invited to take photos with the athletes before the breakfast club came to a close, giving many a memorable start to their Monday.

After a short break, Eve and Laura visited a Year 8 PE class for a presentation and Q&A. They brought medals and equipment, allowing students to learn more about curling and skeleton. The session offered pupils a chance to discover what keeps elite athletes motivated and how healthy habits support performance. The morning finished with a larger sports talk for BTEC Sport students in the hall.

"It was a privilege to have Eve and Laura start our day with us at breakfast club. Eve and Laura worked with many groups of students, inspiring them to understand that big dreams start with healthy habits. Our students had the opportunity to ask questions, experience the Olympians' sporting equipment and received an interactive sports session delivered by these amazing athletes. The excitement in the academy was unreal!"

Zarina Ali

Headteacher at Co-op Academy Swinton

The visit also highlighted why breakfast clubs matter so much in schools. A calm, nutritious start to the day helps pupils settle, feel ready to learn and build positive relationships with staff and friends. For many students, breakfast club is a place to connect, chat and ease into the school morning. Magic Breakfast's support means every child can access something to eat if they need it, helping them stay focused in lessons and giving them the energy to take part in school life.



Co-op Academies Trust

A warm welcome for Co-op Academy Brierley!

Staff from Co-op Academy Brierley joined colleagues from across the Trust at One Angel Square on Friday 7th November, marking the start of their journey as part of the Co-op Academies Trust.

On Friday 7th November, colleagues from Co-op Academy Brierley were officially welcomed into the Co-op Academies Trust family at their induction event, held at Co-op's headquarters, One Angel Square in Manchester.

The day brought together senior leaders, teachers and support staff from Brierley with members of the Trust's Central Team and Co-op colleagues. The induction introduced the Brierley team to our shared values of fairness, honesty, respect and community, and explored how these values sit at the heart of everything we do.

CEO, Dr Chris Tomlinson led the day, opening with a warm welcome and an overview of the Trust's mission, vision and 'Ways of Being Co-op': Do what matters most, Be yourself always, Show you care, and Succeed together. He spoke about the importance of collaboration and how being part of a strong, values-driven network helps every academy thrive.

Throughout the day, colleagues heard from members of the Trust's regional and central teams, who shared insights into the support available across areas such as curriculum, people, finance, estates and wellbeing. There was also plenty of time for discussion, reflection and questions, giving Brierley colleagues the chance to connect with others and share ideas for the year ahead.

Reflecting on the event, **Dr Chris Tomlinson**, said: *"I want to say a big thank you to everyone involved in making the induction such a positive and enjoyable event. It was brilliant to see our colleagues from Co-op Academy Brierley come together and feel part of our Co-op community".*

Co-op Academy Brierley is a brand-new specialist school in Cross Green, Leeds, designed to meet the needs of children with special educational needs and disabilities. The academy's purpose-built site provides a calm, welcoming space where every pupil can learn, grow and thrive.

The curriculum is shaped by the Co-op value Do what matters most, helping pupils develop life skills, independence and a love of learning. At Brierley, cooperation is more than a word – it underpins everything from classroom practice to community partnerships, creating a place where everyone feels valued and empowered to do the right thing for each other.

As Brierley begins this new chapter, the whole Trust community looks forward to supporting them on their journey and celebrating all that their pupils and staff will achieve together.

"The Trust Induction Day for Brierley was a great opportunity for our staff to hear first-hand from Chris and Russell about what being part of the Co-op means, and why it feels so special. The whole day was interactive and collaborative, and gave us the chance to spend quality time together as colleagues. There were lots of thoughtful conversations and plenty of laughter. A huge thank you to everyone involved in planning, presenting and organising such a brilliant day."

Sarah Harridge

Headteacher, Co-op Academy Brierley

Co-op Academy Penny Oaks

World Record Breakers

Penny Oaks pupils help to set two new world records at Bradford Live.



We are very proud that pupils from Co-op Academy Penny Oaks were among a group of pupils from across Bradford who set two world records at Bradford Live yesterday. We are now holders of the world records for the largest body percussion lesson and the largest air drumming ensemble!

The event, which was held in partnership with Bradford Music Service and Children in Need, saw the children perform their world records with the Bradford City Bantams choir and world record breaker Tim Brain.

Co-op Academy Clarice Cliff

Year 5 Space Camp

Year 5 had an amazing adventure at Space Camp!



The children kicked off the day with some astronaut training in the hall, where they tackled a fun obstacle course.

Next, they put up their tents and dove into exciting activities like creating constellation artwork, building rockets, and exploring the different phases of the moon using Oreos.

As night fell, the children enjoyed dinner under a sky filled with twinkling stars, all snug in their tents.

After their meal, they took turns using telescopes for some stargazing, and then they crafted pocket-sized models of the solar system.

To wrap up their space-themed night, the children listened to a captivating story while lying back and stargazing.

It was a fantastic day of learning, exploring and having fun, with the children discovering lots of fascinating facts about space along the way.

From learning about the moon and constellations to building rockets and spotting stars through telescopes, they had the chance to bring their classroom learning to life.

The children had a fantastic time and went home having learned so much about space, the solar system and the wonders of the night sky.

Co-op Academies Trust

Co-op Academies and The Hacking Games inspire students to use digital skills for good

Co-op Academies Trust has partnered with The Hacking Games to launch the first in a series of Inspire Sessions, designed to help young people use their digital talent positively and explore ethical career paths in cybersecurity!

The inaugural event took place at Co-op Academy Walkden, where around 300 students aged 13-14 took part in an interactive session led by some of the most respected names in the cybersecurity world.

Students heard from:

Mivy James, Chief Digital and Technology Officer at the Ministry of Defence

Greg Francis, cyber offender prevention consultant at 4D Cyber Security and former SOCA/NCA cybercrime investigator

Chris Kubecka, internationally recognised cyberwarfare expert

Together, they offered honest insights into the realities of cybersecurity, the importance of ethical hacking, and the wide range of future career opportunities available to young people with digital skills.

The Inspire Session is part of a wider national partnership between Co-op and The Hacking Games - an initiative created to identify young digital talent early and guide them toward positive pathways.

Alongside these school events, the programme will grow to include mentoring opportunities and routes into apprenticeships and careers across the cybersecurity sector.





What our partners said:

Rob Elsey, Chief Digital and Information Officer at Co-op, said:

"We want to show young people that their digital skills can make a real difference. The partnership with The Hacking Games is about prevention through opportunity, helping young people to see a future for themselves in tech and using those skills to protect rather than harm. This first Inspire Session is an exciting step in turning that ambition into action."

Fergus Hay, Co-founder and CEO of The Hacking Games, said:

"The scale of untapped digital talent across the UK is huge. Many young people have the potential to thrive in cybersecurity if given the right direction and role models. This partnership with Co-op is about meeting them early, showing them what's possible and inspiring a new generation of ethical hackers."

Chris Kubecka, International Cyberwarfare Expert, said:

"Cybersecurity isn't just about defending systems, it's about protecting people and communities. By introducing young minds to ethical hacking early, we're giving them the chance to use their skills for good and build careers that make a real difference. Today's session shows that curiosity can be a powerful force for positive change."

Lily, a student at Co-op Academy Walkden, said:

"My key takeaway from The Hacking Games was realising that you can hack ethically - and be paid for it - which opens up the possibility of a career where you can travel. I'm interested in coding and ICT, so a career in ethical hacking and cybersecurity is definitely something I might pursue. I found Chris particularly inspirational; it was motivating to hear how she achieved great success despite coming from a more troubled background."

The partnership between Co-op and The Hacking Games was first announced in July 2025 as part of Co-op's long-term commitment to tackling the root causes of cybercrime and creating fair opportunities for young people.

By combining the reach of 38 Co-op Academies with The Hacking Games' expertise in digital skills and offender prevention, the programme aims to empower thousands of young people to use their abilities for good - shaping a safer digital future for everyone.

Co-op Academies Trust

Medlock pupils champion safer street and cleaner air

Co-op Academy Medlock was featured on BBC One North West on 19th December, shining a spotlight on their ongoing campaign for safer roads and improved air quality in the community.

As a primary school in inner Manchester, ensuring pupils can travel safely to and from school is a responsibility we take seriously - and one that the pupils have been campaigning for.

As part of the filming, Medlock temporarily closed a section of Wadeson Road to create a 'School Street' - a dedicated space free from traffic, giving children the chance to play, learn, and move around safely. The atmosphere was vibrant and energetic as partners across the community joined to bring the event to life.

The afternoon included:

- Neighbourhood Police Officers distributing high-visibility equipment and teaching pupils how to stay "safe and seen" in the winter months
- BeePedalReady ran bike-maintenance workshops to help families stay safe and confident on two wheels
- Council representatives spoke with parents about the wider School Streets initiative and how it benefits local neighbourhoods
- S4B Housing representatives supported conversations around community safety and environmental improvements
- Our Eco Council planted bulbs to brighten the school grounds and promote environmental stewardship
- Year 5 Junior PCSOs taught road safety skills, proudly demonstrating responsibility and leadership
- Sports Leaders and Co-op Young Leaders organised games and crafts that brought children, families, and staff together in a safe environment

"We don't want people to park outside of our school because it is bad for the environment."

Jude, Age 9

The BBC were particularly interested in Medlock's work around road safety and air pollution - two big issues affecting families in built-up areas. Their proactive approach - not only raising awareness but creating hands-on learning opportunities - demonstrates the impact schools can have when they lead with community collaboration.

School Streets, as an initiative, aims to make roads outside schools safer, cleaner, and less congested by limiting traffic at peak times. You can read more about the national programme here: schoolstreets.org.uk.

Ruth Nutton-Jones, Deputy Head at Co-op Academy Medlock, said: *"We know that the air quality in the city centre of Manchester needs to be improved but from a local level and a community level as a school we think it's really important that the staff, families and the community are advocating for the rights of the children to have safer greener spaces."*



Co-op Academy North Manchester

Empowering adventure: Years 9 and 10 girls thrive at Jamie's Farm residential

A group of nine Year 9 and Year 10 girls recently returned from a transformative five-day residential trip to Jamie's Farm in beautiful Monmouthshire.

The initiative, designed to empower pupils to strive both academically and socially, saw the pupils fully immerse themselves in sustainable farm life, stepping away from technology to engage in meaningful, hands-on experiences.

A Week of Farm Life and Teamwork

Throughout their week, the pupils embraced a range of activities integral to the farm's small-scale, sustainable operations. Their days were filled with genuine farm work, including tending to the resident animals, collecting homegrown vegetables from the kitchen garden and helping to prepare meals for the entire group each evening.

The trip's structure intentionally focused on group activities that foster teamwork and mutual support. By working together to manage the farm tasks, the girls built stronger relationships and developed crucial collaborative skills.

The Technology-Free Difference

A key element of the residential was its technology-free environment. This deliberate removal of screens encouraged participants to have nurturing interactions and meaningful conversations, deepening their connections with each other and the attending staff.

The location itself provided a powerful backdrop for this connection. Nestled in the stunning Wye Valley, the farm operates sustainably, enhancing the local ecology and offering incredible views. The girls not only harvested food from the prolific kitchen garden but also helped manage a small hillside woodland for firewood and greenwood projects, connecting them directly to the natural cycles of the Forest of Dean and its wildlife.



Vice Principal Praises Impact

Sarah Tomkow, Vice Principal, who accompanied the trip, spoke enthusiastically about the positive impact on the pupils.

"The transformation we witnessed in just five days was remarkable. Seeing the girls step up to challenges, work together without the distraction of their phones, and truly connect with nature and each other was incredibly rewarding. Jamie's Farm provides a unique opportunity for them to build resilience, self-confidence, and a sense of responsibility. They've returned with a renewed focus that we know will benefit their academic and social lives."

The pupils are now back at school, bringing their newfound skills and enhanced sense of teamwork with them. The success of the trip underscores the value of experiential learning in developing well-rounded, capable young people.

Parent and child trip to the Royal Opera House

Several of our families joined us for a trip to the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden, London to see a performance of *The Nutcracker*.



As part of our work with The Royal Ballet and Opera House, through the Cultural Champions programme, we were offered the chance to travel to London to see a performance of *The Nutcracker*. We invited families to express an interest in joining us on the trip and were able to offer several families tickets.

We travelled to London on Wednesday 27th November for a very special day out. Once arriving at the Royal Opera House we were seated in the stalls where we saw the amazing Royal Ballet perform *The Nutcracker*. After the show we even had time for a browse around Covent Garden before boarding the coach back to Bradford.

One parent said: *"I wanted to express my heartfelt thanks for arranging the Nutcracker show in London. My daughter and I absolutely loved the performance—it was truly a memorable experience for both of us. I have always wanted to watch a ballet, but never really had the opportunity until now. I'm very grateful that you organised everything so seamlessly and at such reasonable prices. The staff were incredibly supportive throughout, and our journey was comfortable and well managed. Thank you once again for making this experience special for us."*

Co-op Academy Priesthorpe

LPPA Award

We are delighted to announce that Co-op Academy Priesthorpe has been awarded the Leading Parent Partnership Award (LPPA) for three years.

This is a significant achievement that recognises our commitment to working in genuine partnership with you, our families. The award reflects what we have built together—a school community where parents are valued as true partners in their children’s education.

What we have done well

Our verifier identified many strengths that demonstrate why this partnership matters. Your feedback has been invaluable. Parents tell us they feel welcomed, listened to and genuinely valued. You describe the school as one that *“really does work in true partnership with families,”* and this means everything to us.

Our induction process has set a strong foundation, ensuring families feel informed, supported and confident from the moment you join us. The school app has become an invaluable tool, keeping you connected and engaged every step of the way. Our coaching model has been transformative. Staff stay with families throughout their child’s journey with us, building trust and ensuring communication remains personal and consistent. This continuity matters.

We have worked hard to remove barriers to engagement, introducing book and uniform swaps, the development of Thrive Attendance Hub, our National Databank Hub and access to foodbanks and community resources through our partnership with Pudsey Community Project. Our celebration of student achievement through presentation evenings, MYCAT days and informative events such as our Year 11 Revision Support session has brought our community together and reinforced our shared sense of purpose.

Most importantly, this partnership is having a real impact. Students feel well supported and proud of their school. Attendance is improving. Engagement is rising. And we are a cohesive community where everyone works together for the benefit of our young people.

Our next targets for parents

As we move forward, we want to continue evolving our partnership with you:

We will further develop the range of workshops available to parents, ensuring they meet your evolving needs. Planned sessions will include secondary mathematics support, online safety, and tailored support for EAL families, giving you practical strategies to support your children’s learning at home.

We will strengthen our targeted approaches for our most disadvantaged pupils, ensuring families receive bespoke guidance and early intervention. This will help us remove barriers and promote even greater engagement.

We remain committed to listening, learning and adapting our practice based on your feedback. Partnership is not static, it grows and deepens when we listen to one another.

This award belongs to all of us. Thank you for trusting us with your children, for your feedback, your engagement and your partnership. Together, we are making a real difference to the lives of our young people.

Academic Celebration Evening 2025

Our Academic Celebration Evening is one of the most special events in the Belle Vue calendar.



It is a night dedicated to recognising the outstanding achievements of our students throughout the 2024 to 2025 academic year. From exceptional academic progress to remarkable personal growth, we celebrate the hard work, commitment, and aspiration that define The Belle Vue Difference.

We were delighted to welcome our families to share in these moments of pride. Their support, encouragement, and partnership play a vital role in helping our students turn potential into outcomes. The evening provided a wonderful opportunity to showcase success across every year group, highlight the incredible journeys our students have taken, and celebrate those who consistently demonstrate our CARE principles.

Academic Celebration Evening is always a joyful reminder of what makes our community so special: high expectations, ambition, and a shared belief in excellence for every student. It was a privilege to come together and recognise the achievements of our extraordinary young people.

Co-op Academies Trust

Recognition Awards 2025

Colleagues from across Co-op Academies Trust gathered at Aintree Racecourse on Friday 28th November for our 2025 Recognition Awards. The evening brought together staff from all 38 academies to celebrate the people who make our Trust such a special place to learn and work.

The night opened with two uplifting performances. Students from Co-op Academy Bebington's Band set the tone with a confident, energetic set, followed by the Wirral & Liverpool Primary Choir, whose pupils from Co-op Academy Hillside, Co-op Academy Woodslee, Co-op Academy Portland and Co-op Academy Rathbone filled the room with warmth and pride. Their performances were a powerful reminder of why we do what we do.

CEO, Dr Chris Tomlinson, spoke about belonging, pupil experience and the everyday acts of kindness that shape our academies. This year, we received over 1,000 nominations from colleagues across the Trust, the highest ever. Each nomination recognised someone who makes a genuine difference through compassion, teamwork and commitment.

For the first time, all winners received complimentary tickets to upcoming Co-op Live shows, including artists such as Jamiroquai, Biffy Clyro, All Time Low, Jason Derulo, Deftones, James Arthur and The Prodigy. It was a small way to say thank you for the incredible impact colleagues have made throughout the year.



Awards were presented across three sections during the evening, recognising 50 outstanding colleagues and teams in total. As always, the winners reflected the best of our Ways of Being Co-op, from improving attendance and supporting young carers to strengthening community links and shaping inclusive cultures.

The night closed with celebrations for our Special, Primary and Secondary Academies of the Year. It was a joyful end to an evening that showed what happens when colleagues across our Trust truly succeed together.

Below are this year's winners:

Be Yourself, Always Award

Abdus Ali – Co-op Academy Delius

Jenny Butter – Co-op Academy Florence McWilliams

Alexandra Brown – Co-op Academy Manchester

Do What Matters Most Award

Rebecca Blood – Co-op Academy Northwood

Jane Beaumont – Co-op Academy North Manchester

Attendance Team – Co-op Academy Portland
(Eileen Tolcher, Kim Hall, Christina McCarthy,
Louise Barr, Jac Jenkins)

Succeed Together Award

Collaborative Team at Co-op Academy Leeds -
Emma Tariket, Melissa Miller, Emilie Lee,
Lornette Mutteto

Combined Cadet Force at Walkden -
Sarah Taylor, Nathan Green, Rash Murphy,
Mandy Bawden, Charlotte Richards, Phil Johnson

Central Community Team - Liz Garrity,
Daryl Tomlinson, Deborah Star, Will Goodrum

Show You Care Award

Alice O'Mahoney – Co-op Academy New Islington

Georgiana Caprariu – Co-op Academy Leeds

Debbie Ellison – Co-op Academy Medlock

Geoff Clarke Award

Sinead Bingham – Co-op Academy Broadhurst

Caitlin Wilson – Co-op Academy Brierley

Charlotte Chambers – Co-op Academy Swinton

Community Award

Muhammed Saleem – Co-op Academy Belle Vue

Sara Eyden – Co-op Academy Clarice Cliff

Mumtaz Butt – Co-op Academy Delius

Central or Hub Colleague of the Year

Jess Tarrant

Dewan Chowdhury

Sarah Lay

Support Staff Award

Susan Jones – Co-op Academy Broadhurst

Jenni Lousia – Co-op Academy Clarice Cliff

Richard Simpson – Co-op Academy Manchester

Teacher of the Year

Jenni Williams – Co-op Academy Friarswood

Lucie Brackenbury – Co-op Academy Oakwood

Catherine Radcliffe – Connell Co-op College

Director of the Year

Sarah Thornton

Rebekah Holt

Sayeh Mariner

Lifetime Achievement Award

Sharon Hodgson – Co-op Academy Beckfield

Sharon Smith – Co-op Academy Broadhurst

Lynne Shackleton – Co-op Academy Failsworth

Andrew Wright & Daniel Whitehouse –
Co-op Academy Priesthorpe

Special Academy of the Year

Co-op Academy Delius

Primary Academy of the Year

Co-op Academy Beckfield

Secondary or Post-16 Academy of the Year

Connell Co-op College

Co-op Academies Trust

TCS Co-op supplier support for Academies

Students and families across several Co-op academies have received much-needed stationery, hygiene items and play resources thanks to the generosity of colleagues at Tata Consultancy Services (TCS).



The donations will help create calmer starts to the school day and remove simple barriers to learning.

Tata Consultancy Services is a long-standing Co-op supplier, and our partnership continues to grow through the close work between our Trust and the Co-op. Together, we have built a strong group of support for schools right across our Trust.

Our Community Team has set out clear areas of need to help students feel confident and ready to learn. TCS has stepped in to help meet these needs in practical and thoughtful ways, showing the difference that co-operation can make.

At Co-op Academy Northwood, TCS colleagues collected a large range of hygiene products. These were organised by the Academy Community Pioneer (ACP), Vicky Drea, into easy-to-take "grab bags". They are placed in the academy office for any family to pick up when needed.

For many families, these bags offer a simple and discreet way to access essentials, especially during the winter months.

TCS also supported children at Co-op Academy

Hillside by donating kitchen utensils for the school's mud kitchen. Staff said the utensils were "much needed", and pupils wasted no time using them for imaginative outdoor play. From "lots of yummy cakes" to "creamy mashed potato", the children came up with their own ideas and enjoyed hours of creative fun.

Students at Connell Co-op College have also benefited. TCS provided stationery packs, backpacks and notepads, which will form part of starter packs for new students joining the college. For young people moving from an academy into college, having these basics ready removes worry and allows them to focus on their learning from day one.

Liz Garrity, Head of Community at Co-op Academies Trust, said: *"The generosity of TCS colleagues will ensure that we have ready-to-go college packs, including stationery, backpacks and the things our students need to make a smooth transition. As a Community Team, we see every day how collaboration with Co-op suppliers can have a far-reaching impact. It forms a vital part of the support we offer to students and families."*

"Our partnership with the Co-op and Co-op Academies Trust highlights our shared commitment to the communities where we live and work. As well as our STEM programmes and career insights for students across the Trust, contributing to activities like these collections is one of the ways we hope to support the aspirations of young people attending Co-op Academies."

Amy Shocker

Head of CSR for the UK and Ireland, TCS

Local Community Development Managers have seen firsthand how the donations help families. **Deborah Star**, who supports academies in Merseyside and Stoke, said: *"The hygiene grab bags at Northwood are a necessity for some families. They are especially needed at this time of year with Christmas coming up. Thank you, TCS, for your generous support."*

At Hillside, the excitement was clear as children shared their ideas for the new equipment. **Sarah Lindsey Smith**, from the academy, added: *"The children have absolutely loved playing with the utensils in the mud kitchen. Thank you again for such a kind donation."*

At Connell Co-op College, **Daryl Tomlinson**, Regional Community Development Manager, said: "The stationery and notepads will allow the college to kickstart students' learning. The items will go into packs for new students, giving them one less thing to worry about and helping them get ready to learn."

This partnership shows what can be achieved when suppliers, academies and our Community Team work together. The support from TCS is helping to remove everyday barriers, build confidence and ensure that students have the essentials they need to thrive.



Co-op Academy Rathbone

Rathbone pupils lead the way on inclusion

Pupil Prime Minister Cayden and his Advisor for Inclusion, James, are helping to make Co-op Academy Rathbone a more inclusive place for everyone. Their first project focuses on promoting British Sign Language across the school.



Pupils at Co-op Academy Rathbone are taking the lead on inclusion, with Pupil Prime Minister Cayden and his Advisor for Inclusion James driving a new project to help every young person feel understood and supported.

The pair are working with Jack, Curriculum and Pupil Development Leader, to design a new British Sign Language (BSL) poster for the academy. They'll soon pitch their ideas to the Trust's Branding and Marketing Team. Their aim is simple: to help more pupils and staff learn everyday signs and raise awareness of the communication barriers faced by some members of the school community.

Their motivation comes from classmates who use alternative ways to communicate, and from a family member who relies on BSL. Cayden and James want the academy to be a place where everyone feels included.

From January 2026, James will also teach one new BSL sign each week to pupils and staff. This small, steady step will help build confidence across the academy and make BSL part of everyday school life.

Their efforts sit alongside the wider work of the Pupil Parliament, who have already raised funds for new outdoor sports equipment, designed plans for a fruit, veg and sensory garden, and begun looking at how to improve trips and visits across the year. From early 2026, the academy also hopes to welcome the Prime Minister and Ministers to part of the ACC meetings, giving pupils a direct voice in shaping school life.

Co-op Academy Rathbone is proud of the commitment the Pupil Parliament shows to the Trust's Ways of Being. Their ideas, teamwork and care for others continue to make a positive difference.

Frozen Jr Performance

Pupils at Co-op Academy Walkden brought our community together this festive period with a spectacular production of Frozen Jr The Musical.

Following months of rehearsals and preparation, our pupils put on an unforgettable performance with drama, beautiful singing, dancing and humour. A huge thank you to our performing arts staff who have worked together to bring this production to us.



Co-op Academy Penny Oaks

Choir entertain the Broadway Centre

Our school choir entertained shoppers at the Broadway shopping centre this afternoon with an array of Christmas carols.



Our school choir took part in one of our most popular Christmas events this afternoon when they sang Christmas carols for shoppers at the Broadway shopping centre.

We were watched by a huge crowd of shoppers who were thoroughly entertained by our choir. One shopper said: *"I've seen these children singing here before and I always look forward to it - they are so good and it is brilliant that they are confident enough to come and sing like this - they sound amazing too!"*

Co-op Academy Beckfield

Lifetime Achievement Award

Our Beckfield legend, Mrs Hodgson, received a lifetime achievement award at last week's Co-op Academies Trust Recognition Event.

Today we held a special assembly in her honour, to show how proud we are.

Well done Sharon - you really deserve it. Thank you for everything you have done for our school.



Broadhurst has struck Gold.....Again!

We are proud to be a Rights Respecting Gold school.



We are delighted to announce that following our accreditation assessment in October, we have again been awarded Gold by UNICEF UK's Rights Respecting School programme.

As part of the assessment, the Rights Respecting Ambassadors, a selection of children, parents and staff were spoken to about what Rights Respecting looks like in our school. That, along with lots of evidence we presented before the visit, really impressed our assessor.

She spoke highly about the children's knowledge of their rights, their confidence in their own voices and their understanding of why the convention of rights is so important.

As a team, we take pride in being a Rights Respecting School, and we are thrilled that the hard work of the Co-op Academy Broadhurst community has been recognised again. We have lots of ideas about how to progress our work further and the Rights Respecting team will be helping plan our next action plan.

Music Mark of Recognition for ambition & quality

We are delighted to receive a recognition award for music.

We work very closely with One Education for our music provision and music is a very important aspect of our curriculum. We are lucky to have Mr Hawkins as our specialist music teacher. He supports us with our music performances and opportunities beyond school for our pupils. We also use an excellent music programme called Charanga to teach music in classrooms. We also have an excellent choir led by Mrs Jackson. One of the benefits of being part of Co-op Academies Trust is the opportunities it provides our children. They have taken part in Musicals and Young Musician of the Year.

Well done to everyone who has helped us to gain this award including our brilliant pupils who engage so well in lessons.



Year 9 pupils explore the 'Life Cycle of a Book' at UCLan's Young Creative Centre

Our Year 9 pupils recently gained an invaluable insight into the world of creative careers, thanks to an immersive workshop hosted at the UCLan Young Creative Centre.

The day focused on the intricate journey a manuscript takes, from initial concept to a published book on the shelves. Developed in conjunction with the university's own publishing house, the vocational workshop provided pupils with a comprehensive, behind-the-scenes look at the publishing industry's collaborative process.

Deep Dive into Publishing Roles

The session successfully mapped out the various professional roles essential to producing a finished book, highlighting how different departments work together to achieve a final product.

Pupils explored the responsibilities of key industry players, including:

- **Commissioning Editors:** The initial gatekeepers who decide which books get signed.
- **Copy and Line Editors:** Ensuring linguistic accuracy and flow.
- **Designers:** Creating the visual appeal of the final product.
- **Marketing Professionals:** Strategies for getting the book into readers' hands.

Hands-On Digital Design Challenge

Our pupils actively participated in a challenging and creative design task, providing a true taste of a creative career:

Cover Design Challenge: Using iPads and Procreate software, pupils stepped into the role of a graphic designer. They were tasked with digitally designing a front cover, experiencing first hand the importance of visual marketing and professional design standards.



Amy Baines, Head of Art, commented: *"It was fantastic to see the students apply their artistic and digital skills in such a focused, professional context. The cover design challenge wasn't just about creativity; it was about working to a brief, which is a crucial skill for any future creative career. It truly brought their learning to life."*

Real-World Industry Insight

The workshop also offered critical business knowledge, giving pupils a foundational understanding of the commercial aspects of publishing, including:

- The importance of Literary Agents in securing a book deal.
- Fundamental concepts of profit and loss within the industry.

This brilliant opportunity encouraged creative thinking and effective teamwork. Pupils had to work collaboratively while adhering to professional standards, simulating the working environment of a real publishing house.

The day demonstrated how skills learned in subjects like English and Art can be directly applied in a professional, real-world context, inspiring our Year 9 cohort to consider potential careers within the thriving creative industries.

Co-op Academy Stoke-on-Trent

Scholars' Programme visit to Parliament

Our Year 7 and 9 scholars recently enjoyed a truly fantastic trip to the Houses of Parliament, undertaken as a key component of their super curricular academic programme.



The educational visit was a tremendous success, offering a unique opportunity to witness the heart of British democracy firsthand.

A highlight for the group was undoubtedly the chance to step inside the House of Commons. Walking through the historical chamber provided a real-world perspective on the legislative process that they learn about in the classroom, giving them a profound sense of connection to the nation's political heritage.

Following their engaging time in Parliament, the students had a brilliant restaurant lunch. The afternoon was then spent exploring the area, beginning with a walk up Whitehall, past numerous government buildings, before concluding with a wander around the vibrant atmosphere of Trafalgar Square.

"It was a distinct privilege to spend my birthday with our Year 7 and 9 scholars on such a fantastic trip. They conducted themselves beautifully and it was a real pleasure to see their genuine enthusiasm for history and politics. We are extremely proud of our scholars for their exemplary engagement throughout this invaluable experience."

Ms Williamson

Making the right choice: VR training at Grove

At Co-op Academy Grove, we are always looking for innovative ways to prepare our pupils for the real world.

This week, we welcomed Staffordshire Police to our academy for a powerful, immersive experience as part of their "Ditch the Blade" campaign.

Our pupils used Virtual Reality (VR) headsets to navigate difficult, real-life scenarios involving peer pressure and knife crime. The simulation places students in a tense environment where they must choose whether or not to carry a blade.

Real Choices, Real Consequences

The impact on our students was immediate. Max, one of our participants, described the experience as incredibly lifelike. He said: *"The people kept coming up to me and there was going to be a fight."* By choosing not to carry a knife, Max's simulation ended with him being safely let go by the police.

In contrast, Isabelle experienced how quickly things can go wrong. After following a group due to peer pressure, her simulation ended in an arrest. *"I felt nervous not to,"* she shared, highlighting how difficult these social situations can be. Both students walked away with a firm "no" when asked if they would ever carry a knife in reality.

Education for a Safer Future

PCSO **Michelle Chadwick**, who led the sessions, emphasised that while youth knife crime remains low, affecting only about 1% of young people, education is vital. *"It's about making them understand there are consequences and bigger impacts than they perhaps realise,"* she said.



Co-op Academies Trust

Christmas gift collections bring support to Co-op Academies communities

Co-op Academies Trust's Community Team, working alongside Co-op colleagues and partners, has helped thousands of children and families feel supported this Christmas through a huge gift collection effort.



In the run up to Christmas, Co-op Academies Trust Community Team worked with Co-op colleagues, suppliers and partners to collect and distribute gifts for children and families across our academies.

The activity formed part of the Trust's ongoing poverty proofing work, recognising that Christmas can be a difficult time for some families in our communities. The aim was simple. To make sure children had something to open on Christmas morning and families felt supported at a time when costs can be high.

Two volunteering gift collection days were held at Angel Square, Co-op's headquarters, bringing together more than 20 volunteers. Over the two days, more than 250 gifts were donated, sorted by region and sent directly to academies where they were most needed.

Keela Walsh from the Co-op Member and Co-operative Engagement Community Team helped publicise the collections across Co-op colleagues and suppliers, sharing gift lists and encouraging donations. Co-op Academies Trust Community Team worked closely alongside this, coordinating volunteers and managing the logistics to ensure

gifts reached families quickly and safely. Keela said: *"We're truly grateful and proud of the incredible generosity shown by our colleagues and suppliers, who came together to donate gifts for our academy students. Thank you for making a real difference."*

Strong relationships with Co-op suppliers also played a key role. Thanks to strong, trusted partnerships, a number of Co-op suppliers and teams ran their own gift giving days, including HH Global and the Co-op Media Network team.

The Community Team also continued its close work with Dunelm through the Christmas Tree Gift Tag appeal. This helped to highlight the most impactful items that families need at this time of year, ensuring donations were thoughtful, practical and led by local knowledge.

In Stoke-on-Trent, Academy Community Pioneer Vicky Drea was able to collect a significant Cash for Kids donation with the support of BT Openreach. Volunteers, including Vicky's husband and a colleague, helped transport the gifts. This additional support was vital in making sure donations could be moved safely and quickly to where they were needed most.

"This year it has really been a huge team effort. Our Academy Community Pioneers know their communities well and work closely with staff to understand what families need. The number of gifts collected reflects an immense piece of work and a lot of care for our communities."

Liz Garrity

Head of Community, Co-op Academies Trust

Across the Trust, Academy Community Pioneers worked closely with staff to understand local needs. They successfully wrote and secured bids to Cash for Kids through the Mission Christmas appeal and to The Salvation Army, helping to unlock vital support for families. They successfully secured funding and donations through Mission Christmas, Cash for Kids and The Salvation Army. At the time of writing, more than 6,783 gifts had been secured for families and communities, with collections still ongoing.

Together, this work shows the power of cooperation. By working alongside colleagues, partners and local communities, the Trust has been able to support families and help make Christmas a little brighter for children across our academies.



Co-op Academy North Manchester

A night of musical magic: Winter Celebration Concert 2025

On Wednesday, 10th December, our auditorium was transformed into a festive stage for our annual Winter Celebration Concert. It was a spectacular evening that showcased the incredible talent and dedication of our performing arts pupils.

A Warm Welcome

The festive atmosphere began the moment guests stepped through the doors. Our school carol singers filled the main canteen with traditional harmonies, providing a beautiful backdrop as families and friends arrived.

Rhythm and Energy

The main event kicked off with a vibrant energy boost from our Steel Pan bands. With impressive performances from Years 7, 8 and 10 the tropical sounds of the pans brought a unique and joyful twist to the evening.

Stellar Solos and Rock Anthems

The audience was treated to three breathtaking solo performances that showcased the vocal range of our pupils:

- Olivia H (Year 8) captivated the room with her poise and talent as she sang 'When I Grow Up' from Matilda JR.
- Nakaaya B (Year 10) delivered a powerful and moving performance of 'As Long As He Needs Me' from Oliver JR.
- Amira A (Year 10) wowed the crowd with her stage presence and skill as she performed 'Voilà' by Barbara Pravi.

The energy shifted up a gear as our bands took to the stage. The Jammie Dodgers got everyone moving with a high-octane rendition of 'Livin' on a Prayer', followed by the Rock Band, who channelled classic rock vibes with 'Come Together' and 'Purple Haze'.

Big Band and Choral Classics

Our Big Band brought the "wow" factor with a setlist of crowd-pleasers, including 'Gimme Some Lovin' and 'Don't Stop Believing', before leading us into the holiday spirit with 'Santa Claus is Coming to Town'.

The School Choir then took centre stage for a series of emotive performances. Their versions of 'Unwritten', 'In The Stars', and the hauntingly beautiful 'Somewhere Only We Know' left many in the audience visibly moved.

Thank you to all the staff, pupils and parents who made this evening such a resounding success!

"I am incredibly proud of every single pupil who took part. From the intricate rhythms of the steel pans to the powerful vocal solos, the level of talent on display was truly outstanding. Seeing the pupils support one another is exactly what the performing arts are all about, bringing people together."

Matt Asher, Head of Performing Arts





Term

JANUARY - APRIL 2026



Two

Co-op Academies Trust

WPA Foundation funding helps Co-op academies boost sport, play and wellbeing

Support from the WPA Foundation is helping Co-op academies across the Trust invest in sports and outdoor equipment, giving children and young people more chances to be active, confident and healthy.

Over the past year, WPA Foundation has been a strong supporter of Co-op Academies Trust, donating over £10,000 to academies across several regions to support student experiences. The funding has been made up of a number of different grants, allowing schools to access the equipment they need most to support physical activity, wellbeing and positive play.

The support has reached academies in a range of communities. At Co-op Academy Florence Mac Williams, funding has been used to provide new sporting equipment to strengthen PE provision and encourage pupils to be active. In Merseyside, Co-op Academy Bebington has received support for Duke of Edinburgh equipment, while Co-op Academy Woodslee has invested in early years outdoor resources and Co-op Academy Portland has improved its playground sports equipment. At Co-op Academy Rathbone, funding has helped purchase specialist items including boxing kits, climbing wall holds and football nets.

WPA funding has also supported academies in Manchester, including Co-op Academy Medlock, Co-op Academy North Manchester and Co-op Academy Walkden, helping schools enhance lunchtime activity, sports leadership opportunities and PE resources.

Richard Pinker, who donated to support Florence Mac Williams, visited the academy with his wife to see the impact the new equipment was having. Reflecting on the visit, he said:

"WOW about sums it up, such a beautiful school and really heart warming to see so much being done for the community. We would like to convey our

personal gratitude to the management at the Co-op Academies Trust for making us feel welcome when visiting Co-op Academy Florence Mac Williams."

The WPA Foundation says its support is rooted in a belief that health and sport are essential to a rounded education. Charlie MacEwan, Corporate Communications Director, explained that sport helps young people build teamwork, resilience, physical strength and self-awareness, alongside learning how to win and lose well. He added that these experiences all help young people grow into confident, capable adults, and said the Foundation is proud to be making a difference.

Across academies, staff are already seeing the impact of the funding. At Co-op Academy North Manchester, new equipment is helping to make lunchtimes more active and inclusive.



Sarah Flannery, Head of PE at Co-op Academy North Manchester said: *"Our students love using equipment at lunchtime and also our leaders support them with the funding from the WPA. This really does impact our active time in social time and keeps pupils engaged in activities that are developing skills and leadership opportunities."*

At Co-op Academy Medlock, the funding has supported both lessons and wider school life. Assistant Head **Rifat Mirza** said:

"The £1700 fund has made a massive impact on both our PE curriculum as well as on our pupils' experiences and engagement. We were able to purchase equipment to enhance our lunchtime provision, support our Sports Leaders to teach our younger pupils new skills and games and improve the resources that we could now offer on sports days. We could not have been more grateful. We now have the equipment we desperately needed."

The partnership has also been shaped by close working and listening to schools. In Merseyside, Regional Community Development Manager Deborah Star said WPA's support has been "incredible" and praised the way WPA colleagues take time to understand individual school needs. She said that without this funding, academies would not have been able to deliver their sporting and active goals to the same extent.

In West Yorkshire, Regional Community Manager Will Goodrum shared that the funding will help more students take part in sport and exercise, supporting healthier lifestyles. In one academy, the funding has also enabled the purchase of outdoor play equipment such as giant chess, giving students new ways to learn and play together.

At Co-op Academy Beckfield, Headteacher **Caroline Watkiss** said the donation will make a real difference to how children enjoy their break and lunchtimes. She said pupils are excited to start using the new equipment and to learn new skills through play.

Liz Garrity, Head of Community at Co-op Academies Trust, said the support has been invaluable across the Trust and has helped build a strong relationship with WPA. She added that welcoming WPA staff into academies to present equipment and see the impact firsthand has been a powerful part of the partnership.

Co-op Academies Trust is grateful to the WPA Foundation for its continued support, which is helping more children and young people enjoy being active, build confidence and develop the skills they need for life.



Co-op Academy Delius

Galaxies Pathway visits The Turner Prize

Recently pupils in our Galaxies Pathway visited the Turner Prize exhibition at Cartwright Hall!

Pupils spent time in two galleries and had bespoke workshops designed just for us:

A beautiful shiny room with sea sounds and bells by Zadie Xa. In this room we had a workshop around the sounds in the room and the movement of water through using material.

A room with work by Nnena Kalu, who won the 2025 Turner Prize! Nnena's sculptures are vibrant with different materials wrapped together. We had our go at making a sculpture inspired by her work.

Nnena is the first person with a disability to win the Turner Prize, so it was extra special seeing what we can all achieve!



Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham, visits Connell

On Friday 16th January we hosted a special guest as Andy Burnham, the Mayor of Greater Manchester, came to speak to students and staff.



The Mayor spoke with staff, including our principal, Emma Soper, to discuss all things education in Greater Manchester, and heard about his exciting plans for the region and young people.

We then had a two-way Q&A session with the Mayor. Four of our students – two from our new Level 2 course and two from Year 13 – were the ones posing and answering the questions.

We covered a lot of topics – how we found college life, our students' next steps and career plans, work experience, apprenticeships, degree apprenticeships, Our Pass and public transport, and much more. We heard about the Mayor's work experience from when he was at school. And he told us about the best and worst aspects of his role, stating how much he loved Greater Manchester, both the people and the place. He concluded with some career advice: 'pick things that you love doing and are passionate about'.

We then gave the Mayor a tour of our college, showing him our fantastic buildings and facilities. We promised him a tour when he was last on site hosting the Curriculum for Life website launch event, so it was great to finally do it.

Adriana, a Year 13 student, said: *"We really enjoyed telling the Mayor about our college and our next steps plans. He seemed to appreciate us giving him a tour and asking us lots of questions about things such as work experience opportunities and our opinions on local public transport options."*

"It was great for Andy to visit us and speak to our students, who really enjoyed asking him questions and showing him round. I was able to get some good insights into the region's plans for more work experience and apprenticeship opportunities."

Emma Soper, Principal of Connell

JANUARY 2026



Ofsted recognises positive outcomes for pupils at Clarice Cliff

We're delighted to share the outcome of Co-op Academy Clarice Cliff's recent November Ofsted inspection.

It recognises the primary school as a safe, welcoming and inclusive school, where children feel supported, valued and ready to learn. Pupils told inspectors they feel safe and cared for at school, with a wonderful comment in the report describing the school as: *"One big family made up of pupils, parents and carers, staff and the wider community."*

Inspectors highlighted the ambitious curriculum and the way learning is carefully planned to help pupils build their knowledge over time. They noted that teachers make thoughtful decisions about what to teach and when, so pupils understand new ideas and remember what they've learned.

Pupils told inspectors that they enjoy coming to school and feel confident in their learning. Clear routines and positive relationships help create a calm and focused environment, where pupils are ready to learn and keen to do well.

Ofsted also praised Clarice Cliff's leadership. They recognised how leaders support staff through effective training, mentoring and coaching. This investment in staff helps make sure teaching is consistently strong across the school.

Clarice Cliff are proud of their work with families to remove barriers to attendance, helping children feel that they belong and want to come to school every day. Inspectors said that: *"Leaders have created a deeply inclusive culture where pupils' needs are swiftly and accurately identified through well-embedded systems."*

Parents and Carers were described as highly supportive of the school. And one parent shared: *"Every single person who makes the school what it is works hard to meet the needs of every child who is in attendance."*

Inspectors also recognised the school's approach to personal development and wellbeing. They noted that the school has: *"A highly effective personal development programme" and that pupils: "Enjoy attending school and describe it as a happy place."*

"This report reflects what matters most to us as a Trust – putting children first, creating safe and inclusive schools, and supporting staff to do their best for every child. I'm incredibly proud of the team at Clarice Cliff for building such a strong culture of care, belonging and high expectations. The focus on safeguarding, inclusion and positive relationships is making a real difference to children's lives."

Dr Chris Tomlinson
CEO, Co-op Academies Trust

Emma Day, Headteacher, said: *"We are incredibly proud of this report because it recognises what we see every day at Clarice Cliff; pupils who are happy, confident and thriving both academically and socially. This outcome reflects the dedication, care and teamwork of our staff, the support of our families, and the enthusiasm of our pupils."*

At the heart of our school is a deep belief that every child belongs, is valued and can succeed. We will continue to build on this strong foundation so that Clarice Cliff remains a place where children feel safe, included and inspired to do their very best."

Co-op Academies Trust

Primary pupils shine at KS2 dodgeball event at Co-op Academy Walkden

Pupils from three primary schools came together at Co-op Academy Walkden for a fun, fast-paced KS2 dodgeball event that celebrated teamwork, confidence and enjoyment of sport.

Walkden was pleased to welcome pupils from Co-op Academy Medlock, Co-op Academy New Islington and Co-op Academy Broadhurst for a recent KS2 dodgeball festival.

All pupils arrived with a positive attitude and gave their best throughout the day. Teams worked well together, showed great sportsmanship and threw themselves into every game. Staff shared how excited pupils were to take part, with many continuing to talk about the event long after returning to school.

The event followed the success of a recent sports hall athletics competition and continued the focus on giving pupils positive, inclusive experiences through school sport.

Year 10 Sport Studies students from Walkden played a key role in making the day a success. They supported with setting up the event and confidently refereed the games, showing leadership, responsibility and pride in helping younger pupils enjoy their first taste of secondary-hosted sport.



"It was great to welcome Medlock, New Islington and Broadhurst to our Co-op Academy Walkden for the recent dodgeball event. All pupils involved worked brilliantly as a team and their effort throughout the event was amazing!" - **Matthew Bell**, PE Teacher at Co-op Academy Walkden

Looking ahead, Co-op Academy Walkden will host a Year 7 and 8 boys' seven-a-side football event next week, welcoming all six local secondary schools. The event will focus on non-school team players, creating more opportunities for pupils who may not usually represent their school to take part and feel included.

Cooking up community: Co-op Burley Road supports Parent Connection Project

We are delighted to share a heart-warming “Good News” story from our community this month.



David and his team at the Co-op store on Burley Road have shown incredible support for our families by securing a £200 donation in gift cards for the academy. David successfully applied for a special Co-op community fund specifically to support our Parent Cooking Project, which launched this January.

This project is a fantastic example of collaboration. While the gift cards from David ensured we could source fresh ingredients, the project’s success is down to a dedicated team:

Shelley and Donna (SILC Cluster): We want to say a huge thank you to Shelley and Donna, who are leading this project as part of their efforts to support our families.

Our Family Support Workers: Our school’s own Family Support team has been essential in organizing and coordinating these sessions.

Bunzl: We also extend our gratitude to Bunzl for their support in providing the kitchen equipment needed for the project to go ahead.

This project is about much more than just learning recipes. For many of our families in a specialist school setting, navigating the daily joys and challenges of parenthood can sometimes feel isolating. By providing the funding and equipment, our partners have created a dedicated space for parents to connect, share advice in a relaxed environment and reduce social isolation through meaningful, hands on activity.

“We are so grateful to David for his proactivity, to Bunzl for the gear, and to the support teams for their leadership. Seeing the parents interacting, laughing and supporting one another while they cook is exactly what we hoped for. It’s about building a community where no parent feels they are doing this alone.”

Shahina, our Academy Pioneer

Co-op Academy Friarswood

Young Voices 2026

Our choir went along to join the Young Voices concert in Birmingham, where they created one of the largest children's choirs worldwide of nearly 6000 children!

For months our choir has been preparing for this evening and have been learning the songs and actions ready to be put together to make an incredible performance. They were absolutely brilliant throughout and everyone who came to watch had just such wonderful comments on what a good night they had watching and even joining in at some points. The Wicked Medley was definitely one to blow any audience away! Just fantastic! A huge thank you to our choir lead - Mrs Elkin, who made this possible. Also a big thank you to our staff volunteers and to our parents who were able to join the audience and support this event.



Co-op Young Leaders programme update

We are pleased to share a positive update on the continued growth and impact of the Co-op Young Leaders programme this academic year. So far, six academies have received Co-op Young Leaders training, demonstrating strong engagement across the Trust.



It has been particularly encouraging to see newly joined academies quickly engaging with the programme. Co-op Academy Florence MacWilliams and Co-op Academy Rathbone both had their Co-op Young Leaders training days booked promptly after joining the Trust.

In addition, Co-op Academy Grove has already completed both training days, showing excellent early engagement from both staff and students. Co-op Academy Grove currently has 15 student councils and 13 anti-bullying ambassadors, making a difference to a wide range of students and the whole school community.

We have also seen several academies keen to build on previous participation by taking up the opportunity for refresher sessions. Co-op Academy Beckfield, Co-op Academy Nightingale and Co-op Academy Swinton were quick to re-engage, recognising the value of reinforcing leadership skills and refreshing students' learning.

Co-op Academy Beckfield and Co-op Academy Nightingale have trained playground leaders who now support younger year groups during playtimes, while Co-op Academy Swinton has trained 28 Year 8 students as Transition Ambassadors, supporting younger pupils as they move into the academy.

Looking ahead, we are excited to be developing a Co-op Young Leaders Recognition Award, which will be launched at the end of this academic year. This award will celebrate exceptional students who have demonstrated outstanding leadership, commitment to Co-op values, and positive impact within their academies and wider communities.

We look forward to sharing more updates as the programme continues to grow and support young people to become confident, values-led leaders.

Co-op Academy Penny Oaks

Year 6 visit Parliament

Our Year 6 children have visited the Houses of Parliament for a guided tour.

Our Year 6 children have visited London for a guided tour of the Houses of Parliament today, followed by a trip on the London Eye. Our busy day was topped off with pizza in a local restaurant before we headed back to Bradford on the train.

This is the third year our Year 6 children have enjoyed this trip thanks to the hard work of our Community Pioneer, Mrs Garner, who completes the application for the visit each year.

The children had a fantastic day, saying, *"Thank you, Mrs Garner - we had a great time learning all about democracy and what happens at the Houses of Parliament. We loved seeing the sights from the London Eye too!"*



Sunlight Soap Challenge

As part of the Sunlight Soap Challenge, run by the Port Sunlight Village Trust in conjunction with Unilever, a number of Wirral secondary schools were invited to take part.



The challenge involved students studying both how soap is made and how Lord Leverhulme pioneered not only the branding and marketing of soap, but the branding and marketing of consumer products in general. Students were then challenged to invent, brand and market their own new soap product and produce all the relevant materials needed to do so. Between them, 2 of the teams entered from Co-op Academy Bebington's Year 10 Graphic design class made it through to the final judging stage and succeeded in winning 2 of the 3 different categories that the work from all the schools was judged on during the day.

One group who named themselves 'Tripple L designs' won the best packaging design for their 'Fraicheur' soap aimed at teens and containing natural ingredients and features to exfoliate and cleanse skin to help with acne. Judges from Unilever's research and development department and the village trust/museum, amongst others, commended them on how professional, well-thought-out and cohesive their idea, ingredients, packaging design, advertising material and branding were. The second group, who called themselves 'Da boyz designs' won the most creative idea category and were again commended for their joined up thinking throughout the idea and marketing of their product.

The 2 groups were presented with awards for their success on judging day that took place in Lever House within the offices of Unilever in Port Sunlight. Huge congratulations go to both teams for the work they completed and for what they achieved.

The work is on display at the Soapworks museum in Port Sunlight over half term.



Using tech to do the right thing: GoIT Finals 2026

The events were full of bright ideas, tech talent, and a real passion for protecting our planet as primary pupils from across our Trust came together for this year's GoIT finals.

Delivered in partnership with Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), GoIT is all about opening doors. The programme gives pupils a practical introduction to the digital world and helps them build the skills they'll need to thrive in tech - a fast-growing sector and a key part of STEM. Through GoIT, Year 6 pupils are challenged to use technology to tackle real-world problems in their communities.

The West Yorkshire final on 27th January saw Co-op Academy Princeville take the top prize with their clever Heat Spotter app. Runners-up Smithies Moor and Oakwood impressed with The Full Plate Project and Team Reforestation, showing just how creative young minds can be.

Meanwhile, in the Manchester and Staffordshire/Merseyside final, on 28th January, Co-op Academy Clarice Cliff wowed the judges with their ReWear app, tackling fast fashion in a smart, sustainable way. Co-op Academy Friarswood came in as runners-up with Clean Canals, a project close to their hearts. As pupils Jack, Michael, Ronnie and Alec explained:

"We have enjoyed taking part in this project and we're really happy that we've got this far. It was very challenging but we've worked together to succeed and create this idea about keeping the environment clean. We chose the clean canals idea because locally there are a lot of canals and they're not very clean"

All the pitches were filled with creativity and purpose - from apps that help design animal-friendly gardens, to AI bins for smarter recycling, to tools that check air quality, and even apps that can detect poisonous berries.

The pupils presented their ideas to a panel of judges from HH Global, TCS, and Co-op, including Kiera Noonan, CSR Executive, who kicked off the events. The judges offered constructive feedback and practical tips - helping pupils take their ideas further.

GoIT isn't just about tech. It's about giving young people the tools, confidence, and inspiration to think differently, work together, and make a positive difference.

"It's incredible to see our pupils exploring technology in ways that are meaningful, creative, and purposeful. Their ideas show what's possible when young minds are empowered to solve real-world problems."

Jo Sykes

Director of CEIAG at Co-op Academies Trust

Co-op Academy Delius

Children's Mental Health Week

Across school, pupils took part in lots of wellbeing-boosting activities, learning about their mental health, and even more importantly, strategies to help them keep up positive mental health!

From 'open houses' in comets pathway where pupils had the opportunity to visit other classrooms and take part in a range of activities, to 'happy discos' where pupils chose their favourite mood-boosting songs! We took part in lots of our favourite things together, including parachute games, singing & dancing, cooking and relaxing foot spas! Some of us even made Valentines cards for others to make them happy!

Classes joined in with activities with friends from different classes, because everything is better together!

Being happy at school is fundamental here at Co-op Academy Delius, so lots of strategies and learning are woven through our curriculum too!



Connell students take part in Gorton & Denton by-election hustings

Three Connell students were invited by the Manchester Evening News (MEN) to take part in a hustings for the Gorton & Denton by-election.



The students were asked to submit questions for the candidates covering a range of policy issues such as immigration, health, and human rights. This will be the first election that our 18-year-old students will be able to vote in, and this visit provided a crucial insight into the offerings of the major political parties.

The students left the hustings with a new insight into where the parties stand on major issues and feel confident going into the voting booth for the first time.

After the event, the students were able to have a chat with the Green Party candidate, Hannah Spencer, where they discussed the importance of young people being involved in politics.

The hustings took place at the MEN offices in Chadderton on Thursday 12th February.
Thank you to all at the MEN for inviting us!

Co-op Academy Stoke-on-Trent

Inspiring the future: Welcoming Co-op Academy Grove

We had a fantastic day last week when we welcomed Year 5 students from Co-op Academy Grove to our school.

To say we were impressed would be an understatement. Their energy and enthusiasm were incredible, and it was a joy to have them exploring everything our Academy has to offer.

The students really made the most of their time with us, diving into a range of activities across our music, drama, and art departments. Whether they were performing, creating, or discovering new stories in our library, their talent and curiosity were clear to see. It was a brilliant opportunity for them to get a taste of life at secondary school and to use some of the fantastic facilities we have here.

What stood out most was how well they demonstrated the qualities of MAGIC learners. They showed real maturity and a positive attitude throughout all their sessions. Seeing such a dedicated group of young people engaged in their learning was a real highlight for our staff.

We had a wonderful time hosting them and are already looking forward to hopefully seeing many of them join our Academy family in 2027. A huge well done to all the Year 5s for being such brilliant visitors!



Badminton Shuttle Stars

On Thursday 29th January, ten of our Year 3 and Year 4 pupils visited the National Cycling Centre in Manchester for a Shuttle Stars event organised by Badminton England.



The event took place alongside the English National Badminton Championship. It gave our pupils the chance to experience a major sporting event up close!

Throughout the day, the children took part in a range of activities and had the opportunity to play badminton with young rising stars who represent England. It was an exciting experience and a great way to build confidence, teamwork and new skills.

The day became even more memorable when BBC Newsround contacted the organisers and asked to film a segment about the event. Our pupils were interviewed and featured in the piece. They also appeared on ITV Granada News!

We are incredibly proud of how the children represented our academy - both on the court and on TV. They showed enthusiasm, confidence and respect. They represented our school brilliantly!

Opportunities like this help our pupils see what they can achieve, both in sport and beyond. Well done to everyone involved.

“Our children were a true credit to the academy both at the event and in how they spoke to interviewers. We are so proud that they were able to engage with such a valuable experience and share this with others”

Joshua Berry, Headteacher

Ballet at the Royal Opera House

Last week, our Year 8 and 10 scholars travelled to London to visit the Royal Opera House for a performance of the classic ballet Giselle. For many of our students, this was a new experience, and it was fascinating to observe their reactions as they arrived at such an iconic venue.



The production was truly impressive. The athleticism, the artistry, and the scale of the performance left a lasting impression on the entire group. Of course, no trip to the theatre would be complete without an ice cream during the interval, which was enjoyed by everyone. After the show, we took the opportunity to walk along the Embankment in the spring sunshine. It was a wonderful way to spend the afternoon, taking in the views of the River Thames and the London Eye while discussing the performance. As with the majority of our trips, this experience was fully funded by the Academy to ensure that all our students can access high-quality cultural opportunities.

Ms. Williamson, who accompanied the students, said: *"It was a privilege to watch our Scholars experience such a world-class production. Seeing them transition from initial curiosity to genuine awe by the end of the show was a highlight. These experiences are about much more than just a day out; they are about broadening horizons and showing our students that spaces like the Royal Opera House are accessible to them."*

The Scholars' Programme is designed to stretch and challenge our most ambitious students, providing opportunities that reach beyond the standard curriculum. Through a mix of academic enrichment, cultural visits, and guest lectures, the programme aims to develop the critical thinking and cultural capital necessary for them to excel in their future academic and professional lives.

Co-op Academy Florence MacWilliams celebrates official opening with Community Gala

Co-op Academy Florence MacWilliams marked its opening this week with a community gala held at its new £32 million campus in Stoke-on-Trent.



Held on Monday 23rd February, the celebration brought together more than 60 invited guests to mark the completion of the state-of-the-art secondary school. The academy will ultimately provide 1,150 places for students aged 11-19, significantly enhancing the local education provision.

Guests enjoyed an evening of student musical performances and presentations from key figures behind the project's development. Speakers included Elizabeth Clewlow, the school's founding headteacher and Chris Tomlinson, CEO of Co-op Academies Trust. They were joined by Dame Kathryn August, who chaired the Trust Board during the school's initial proposal stage.

In her address, **Ms. Clewlow** said:

"This evening's opening gala is a thank you to everyone who has contributed to making this vision a reality. It celebrates our community's dedication, collaboration and unwavering belief in the power of education."

"As the founding headteacher, I feel an immense sense of pride seeing Co-op Academy Florence MacWilliams come to life. Together, we are not just opening the doors to our fabulous state-of-the-art facilities, but opening doors to opportunity, growth and a bright future for every student who walks through them."

The academy welcomed its inaugural Year 7 cohort in September 2024, with students initially taught in temporary accommodation while construction was completed. Since then, it has expanded to include an additional year group and will continue to grow by 180 students annually. Demand is already strong, with a waiting list in place for September, as the school develops under the leadership of Co-op Academies Trust.

The new campus provides modern, purpose-built facilities designed to support high-quality teaching and learning, reflecting the Trust's long-term commitment to investing in the young people of Stoke.

Co-op Academy Medlock

Reaching new heights: Our 'Name the Crane' competition winners!

It's official! The giant cranes towering over Mayfield Park finally have names, and we have the incredible imaginations of our local children to thank for it.



Students were invited to take part in Mayfield's Name the Crane competition, and the results were nothing short of spectacular. Here is a look back at the fun, the creativity, and the exciting day our winners got to see their giant metal friends in person.

A Flood of Creativity

When we launched the competition, we knew the children would bring their A-game, but we were completely blown away by the response. We received dozens of fantastic, funny, and clever entries. From imaginative puns to superhero-inspired monikers, narrowing down the choices was the hardest job the site managers have faced all year!

The Winning Names

After much deliberation from our judging panel, two stand-out names were officially chosen to grace our towering construction cranes.

A massive congratulations to our winning students for these brilliant names:

Sir Lifts-A-Lot: A perfect, mighty name for our heavy-lifting tower crane.

Crane Austen: A clever, literary spin for our second crane working on the east side of the site.

A VIP Site Visit

To celebrate, we invited the winning children and their teachers to the building site for a special VIP tour.

The kids were kitted out in their very own mini hard hats and high-vis jackets, transforming them into honorary site managers for the morning. They received a special safety briefing before heading out to the viewing platform to see Sir Lifts-A-Lot and Crane Austen hard at work in the sky.

The children also had the chance to speak with our site engineers and ask questions.

Looking Ahead

We want to send a huge, heartfelt thank you to all the children who entered the competition and made this project so special. Every time we look up at the sky from the playground, this new building takes shape, we will be reminded of the creativity and brilliant energy of our local community.

Students inspired to think more sustainably at Eco Conference

Students and pupils from across our Trust recently came together for an exciting day of learning at the Co-op Live arena.



This was the first time the annual Eco Conference was held at the world-class venue, bringing together 98 young people from 16 different academies. It was a fantastic chance for our students to learn how small changes can make a big difference to our planet.

Throughout the day, students took part in workshops run by Co-op colleagues and local partners. They enjoyed a sustainability talk and quiz with fairandfunky and teamed up with Groundwork to learn how to reduce water wastage. In a creative session with the Co-op Live team, students repurposed old staff uniforms to make draught excluders. They had the choice to take these home or donate them to a local charity to help others keep warm.

The day also included a behind-the-scenes tour of the arena. Students visited the Artists' Dressing Rooms and the Bentley Suite, all while learning about the eco-friendly features built into the stadium. For lunch, they even worked with professional chefs to make their own pizzas using sustainable ingredients. Everyone went home with a "SCRAPtastic" craft book full of recycling ideas and a special Co-op Live keepsake.

We are so proud of how our students worked together to think about the future. By learning how to save water and reuse materials, they are bringing brilliant ideas back to our community. It was a wonderful day that showed how our young people are ready to protect the world around them.



Co-op Academies Trust Spelling Bee crowns Primary and Secondary champions

Students from across Co-op Academies Trust came together today for our Trust Spelling Bee Final, showcasing their spelling skills, teamwork and nerves of steel in front of a lively audience.

After several impressive heat rounds earlier in the day, some of which produced the highest scores in Spelling Bee history, the competition culminated in exciting primary and secondary finals.

A dramatic Primary Final

The primary final saw Co-op Academy Penny Oaks face Co-op Academy Glebe, with three pupils from each team taking turns to spell increasingly challenging words.

The tension built quickly as both teams faced difficult opening words. Penny Oaks' first word, benevolent, and Glebe's discrepancy both proved tricky, but the teams soon found their rhythm.

Penny Oaks successfully spelled articulate, while Glebe answered with a correct spelling of negotiation. After several closely fought rounds, the scores were level – sending the final into sudden death.

Both teams continued to battle through difficult words, including simultaneous and repercussion, before Penny Oaks correctly spelled conspiracy. When Glebe narrowly missed resilience, Penny Oaks were crowned the Primary Spelling Bee Champions.

One stand-out performer was Penny Oaks pupil Godsfavour, who correctly spelled every word she was given throughout the entire day.

Secondary Final victory for Strinesdale

The secondary final saw Co-op Academy Florence MacWilliams compete against Co-op Academy Strinesdale, with three pupils from each team again taking turns on stage.

The competition began with two difficult words – conspicuous for Florence MacWilliams and paraphernalia for Strinesdale – both proving challenging.

However, Strinesdale secured the advantage in the next round by correctly spelling obligation. When Florence MacWilliams were unable to spell their final word, commencement, Waterhead claimed victory and were crowned the Secondary Spelling Bee Champions.

Audience joins the challenge

The excitement wasn't limited to the stage. During the final rounds, students from all remaining teams took part in an audience spelling challenge, writing down the same words as the finalists.

Those who took part were entered into a raffle, with winners including students from Failsworth, Beckfield, Portland, Grove and Bebington. Prizes ranged from books to chocolate bars.

Across the Trust, students demonstrated incredible spelling ability, confidence and resilience. Congratulations to Co-op Academy Penny Oaks and Co-op Academy Strinesdale, and well done to every pupil who took part.

Co-op Academies Trust

Sony Music and Nectar Woode inspire students at Co-op Academy Belle Vue

Students at Co-op Academy Belle Vue had a day to remember when Sony Music and artist Nectar Woode visited the school as part of the Beyond the Instrument programme.

Through the programme, Sony Music gifted the academy a grant for new musical instruments and equipment. The funding is helping the school invest in recording equipment and new instruments. Some of the funding will also support future music workshops, including a planned Key Stage 3 event.

The highlight of the day was meeting Nectar Woode in person. The RCA Records UK/Since '93 artist spent time chatting with students about music, creativity and her journey into the industry.

Students performed some of their own songs, sharing their passion and talent with Nectar. She offered great feedback and tips, helping to build their confidence and share more on her own music journey.

During an open and honest Q&A, students asked Nectar about school life, the teachers who inspired her and the artists who shaped her. She spoke about her love of classic soul music and early influences including Stevie Wonder and Donny Hathaway.

The session ended with a very special moment. Nectar performed a brand-new, unreleased song called Naturally live in the classroom! It was the first time she had played it publicly, even before performing it at an upcoming Olivia Dean concert.

Students also shared their excitement about music on BBC Radio 5 Live, where they spoke about their passion and even had some of their performances aired.

Polly Stepan Moore, CEO and co-founder of Restore the Music, spoke about the importance of creating a lasting legacy in schools. Through programmes like Beyond the Instrument, organisations are working together to make sure young people have access to instruments and opportunities they might not otherwise have.

Helen James, Head of Music, at Co-op Academy Belle Vue, has played a key role in building the school's music culture. Her work impressed the Sony team so much that she was invited to attend the BRIT Awards with them.



Reflecting on the day, **Nectar Woode** said:

"It was such an inspiring day meeting the students. Co-op Academy Belle Vue has done such a great job at allowing the students to be free with their creativity and collaborate with other students. There was a real buzz when I walked into the classroom with students just being excited to talk about their creative process and that's what it's all about. It was a full circle moment for me, as I went to an Academy myself back in the day, so seeing what funding can really do within a school was super inspirational all around."

The visit was about much more than new instruments. It was about giving young people the chance to explore their creativity and see what might be possible for their future.

"Beyond the Instrument continues to show just how powerful music can be in motivating and inspiring young people. It's inspiring to see students at Co-op Academy Belle Vue discovering new confidence and creativity through hands-on access to instruments and the guidance of artists like Nectar."

Charlotte Edgeworth

Director of Diversity,
Inclusion and Social Impact at Sony Music UK



Co-op Academy Friarswood

Eco Conference 2026

On Tuesday, Mrs Bebbington and Mr Linley-Simon (our Co-op Community Pioneer) took some eco-warriors to Co-op Live to attend this year's eco conference.



They were joined by many other academies in our trust to take part in different activities all aimed at increasing awareness of how we can help to look after our planet. To top this off, they had a tour around the arena to find out just how eco-friendly Co-op Live is. The children were very impressed! They are now going to plan and run a school assembly to share their findings with all of our children. #SucceedTogether

Science Fairs 2026

On Friday 13th March, our school turned into a giant laboratory! To celebrate the end of British Science Week, we held our first-ever Science Fair.



The hall was buzzing with excitement as children from every class showed off their amazing work. Parents, carers and staff came along to see what our scientists had discovered.

What did the children do?

To get ready for the big day, every student worked hard to follow the steps of a real scientist. They had to:

Ask a question: think of something safe and interesting to test.

Make a plan: figure out how to do a fair test so the results were honest.

Collect data: do the experiment and write down what happened.

Explain the results: tell everyone what they learnt from their hard work.

The Big Judging

Our guest judges, Mr. Trower and Miss Charles, walked around to look at the colourful display boards. They listened to the children give presentations and were blown away by how much everyone knew. It wasn't easy to pick winners because every project was so brilliant!

"I am so proud of every single child! Seeing their big smiles and hearing them talk about their experiments was the highlight of my week. They didn't just learn science; they became scientists!"

Mrs Akhtar, Science Lead

Co-op Academy Grange

Free Bike Giveaway

What an incredible day we had at our Community Event where we gave away free bikes, toys & baby items.

More than 200 people attended, making it a fantastic opportunity for families in our community to come together and access a range of free items.

A huge thank you to On Trak for sponsoring the event and to the fabulous Safeguarding Team and Co-op Academy Grange for organising such a meaningful day. Your dedication to supporting our community made this event truly special.

It was wonderful to see so many smiling faces and families benefiting from the generosity and teamwork that made it all possible.

A massive thank you to all who helped and supported to help make the event on Saturday 14th March a massive success!



Local primary schools shine at Man United Dragon's Den event!

We had a fantastic time at today's Dragon's Den event!



We were joined by five local primary schools for our annual Dragon's Den event with the Manchester United Foundation. Each team came up with their own creative ideas inspired by Manchester United, from remote control cars to colour-changing shirts and even stadium cleaning equipment. The effort and imagination and research was incredible!

The pupils also got to play Manchester United-themed games, dance along with Fred the Red, and win lots of Man United-themed prizes, making the day even more exciting!

A big thank you to our judges, Miss Daley, Mrs Chambers, and Jason Williamson from the Manchester United Foundation, for their feedback, questions and time!

Co-op Academy Penny Oaks

Grow to School Gardening Day

Today was our spring term gardening day with Grow to School

We work in partnership with Grow-to-School to grow, tend and harvest plants and vegetables in our allotment.

Today the fabulous Vashti visited us again to lead each class's gardening session. Vashti links in our science topics with our gardening work so we were able to combine our learning about topics such as habitats and photosynthesis with harvesting spinach and broccoli!

In Year 6 the children made a vegetable bed using natural resources they could source from the environment.

In Year 5, we harvested broccoli, lettuce and mezzuna leaves and Maine potatoes which we will put in our window to watch the roots develop over the next few weeks ready to plant in summer 1. During gardening, we planted new seeds to grow peas and more lettuce, which we are excited about watching grow. At the same time we made our very own miniature allotments which included 5 beds and had to represent 5 different vegetables growing.

Year 3 used natural materials to make a picture of the inside of a flower and then planted onions.



Doing all we can to improve pupil attendance at Rathbone

As a reward in a recent draw, the pupils with the highest attendance seized the opportunity to soak Head of School, Mr Jones in the playground.



Head of School, Sean Jones and Jac Jenkins; Curriculum and Pupil Development Leader, are determined to make every day count and get pupils into school every single day. As a reward in a recent draw, the pupils with the highest attendance seized the opportunity to soak Sean Jones in the playground. All the pupils gathered around to watch the spectacle.

Co-op Academy Rathbone caters for primary-aged boys who all have a EHCP for complex needs such as autism, ADHD and a wide range of social, emotional and mental health needs. Statistically, they can be some of the lowest attending pupils nationally due to a variety of factors, as well as their needs.

Rathbone is bucking the trend at the moment with attendance placing the academy in the top 8% of special schools nationally and the top 2% for Years 3 and 4. This is fantastic progress, with attendance now around 4% higher than the same period in 2025.

MARCH 2026



Co-op Academies Trust shortlisted for two national awards

We're really pleased to share that our Trust has been shortlisted in two categories at the 2026 MAT Excellence Awards: SEND Award and Community Trust of the Year.

This recognition reflects the work happening every day across our academies to support students, families and communities.

Being shortlisted for the SEND Award recognises the way we support children with additional needs across our Trust. In our schools, inclusion isn't something extra, it's part of who we are. We work together to remove barriers, reduce stigma, and make sure every child feels they belong.

That includes:

- giving staff the training and tools they need
- creating calm, supportive classrooms
- working closely with families
- listening to what pupils need to thrive

"We want every child to feel understood, supported and able to succeed. This recognition reflects the consistent, day-to-day work happening in our schools to make that a reality."

Ian Berryman, Executive Headteacher

Our shortlisting for Community Trust of the Year reflects the partnerships we've built with families and local organisations.

Across our Trust, we work closely with communities to understand what support is needed and then act on it together. From providing food and hygiene support, to supporting attendance, we really believe in working with communities, not just in them.

Liz Garrity, Head of Community Development, said *"The award recognises the hard work of so many people within the Community Team. Those that have been developing relationships with communities and staff in academies to know the real needs, collaborating with companies and charities on behalf of all our academies. This work is about people helping people. We listen to our communities and work alongside them to remove barriers and create real opportunities for children and families."*

These nominations recognise the care, commitment and teamwork across our Trust. From classroom staff to community teams, colleagues are working together to do the right thing for children and families.

We're proud of everyone involved and we're looking forward to celebrating with colleagues from across the sector in June!

Young scientists shine at Smithies Moor

Our Year 5 and Year 6 pupils took centre stage this week, demonstrating their passion for science during an engaging presentation project.



The event on Tuesday 17th March featured a range of fascinating topics, with pupils tackling big questions such as “What is an atom?” and “What would happen if the world stopped turning?” After carrying out their own research, the pupils confidently presented their findings and answered questions from the judging panel.

It was inspiring to see the level of teamwork and mutual support throughout the presentations. Pupils worked collaboratively, encouraged one another and showed kindness and respect while their peers were speaking.

This project not only highlighted the pupils’ growing scientific knowledge, but also demonstrated their confidence, communication skills and positive attitudes towards learning.

The winners were “How does an Axolotl adapt to its Environment?” from pupils in Year 6 and “What’s the difference between turtles and tortoises?” from our Year 5 pupils.

Well done to all the young scientists involved!

Sponge SLT for Red Nose Day!

On Friday 20th March, our school playground was filled with cheers, and a lot of very cold water.

It was Red Nose Day and we came together to do something brave and brilliant for Comic Relief.

Mrs Clark, Mr Trower, Miss Price and Miss Charles all stepped out onto the playground. They weren't there for a meeting – they were there to get sponged!

One by one, the children took aim with big, yellow sponges. The water was soaking and freezing, but every splash was met with a huge laugh. Even though the teachers were shivering, they had the biggest smiles on their faces!

We do these silly things because they make a real difference. The money we raised helps families who are having a tough time, both here in the UK and around the world.

Mrs Clark, Headteacher, said: *"It was a chilly morning, but seeing the joy on the children's faces made it all worth it! We had so much fun. More importantly, we are so proud of our pupils for helping us raise money for people in need. It shows how much we care about others."*

A huge thank you to everyone who joined in and donated. You've shown that by working together and having a bit of fun, we can help change lives.



Co-op Academies Trust

Celebrating creativity at the annual Poetry Festival

Pupils from across the Trust recently came together for an incredible day of performance and creativity at our Trust-wide Poetry Festival.

Pupils from Co-op Academy Clarice Cliff, Grove, Hillside, Medlock, New Islington, Nightingale, Parkland, Portland, Princeville, Woodlands, and Woodslee, joined forces to share their love for words and rhythm.

The day was split into three rounds. First, the children took to the stage for spoken word performances, delivering energetic rap-style pieces. This was followed by a focus on voice and expression, where groups worked together to perform classic poems like those by William Blake. The final round was a true spectacle, as pupils used movement, dance, and props—including some very creative “iguanas” on leashes—to bring their poems to life.

Beyond the performances, the festival was about building confidence and making new friends. Pupils from different schools spent the day performing and cheering each other on. They even filled out feedback sheets to share praise and kind words about other teams’ work. It was wonderful to see our pupils working together and showing such pride in their shared achievements.

Winners

Rising stars - Co-op Academy Woodslee

Original performance - Co-op Academy Nightingale

Creative writing - Co-op Academy New Islington with their Original Poem

Best use of props - Co-op Academy Medlock

Best team work - Co-op Academy Princeville

“It was a joy to see the coming together of everybody’s efforts. The whole day ran beautifully, which is truly down to the time, effort and commitment of our performers. Engaging with poetry is always a real treat for me, but the level of creativity and enjoyment shown by the children this time was really special.”

Martha Rafferty, Director of Primary English



Peak Wildlife Park Trip 2026

What a brilliant trip for Year 1! Visiting Peak Wildlife Park to see real penguins is the perfect way to bring their learning to life.

It is great that Patrick was there to give a talk. Hearing all those interesting facts straight from an expert will make it so much fun for the children to write their own information pages. They will have plenty of exciting things to share!

Meeting the wallabies sounds like a wonderful extra treat. Getting to stroke them and see how friendly they are is a special, hands-on memory the children will definitely treasure.

Writing about a trip they loved is a perfect way to practice their writing skills.



Co-op Academy North Manchester

Hooked on cooking: A fish filleting masterclass

On Friday 6th of March we were delighted to welcome the expert team from Fish for Heroes.

They joined us to share their passion for sustainable seafood and professional kitchen skills. Our Year 10 Hospitality and Catering pupils traded their usual utensils for filleting knives, oyster shuckers and fish scalers to learn how the professionals do it.

The session started with a demonstration of the art of the fish fillet. A fundamental, albeit fiddly, technique for any aspiring fishmonger.

The session pushed a few of our pupils out of their comfort zone, especially when it came to handling the fresh produce. But once they'd familiarised themselves, there was no stopping them.

Several pupils discovered a natural talent, and their confidence grew. Before the first hour was up, every student had rolled up their sleeves and got stuck in, showing focus and technical precision.

Skills on display included:

- **Precision Filleting:** Mastering the knife skills required to prepare fish with minimal waste.
- **Professional Plating:** Learning how to use colour and texture to create eye-catching restaurant presentations.
- **Sustainable Sourcing:** Understanding where our food comes from and how to make ethical choices in the kitchen.

Once our young chefs had mastered the prep, they plated up a series of restaurant-quality dishes... And they looked as good as they tasted.

The workshop highlighted a vital lesson in modern catering: that delicious, high-quality seafood dishes can be simple, inexpensive, and sustainably sourced.



Cooking up a storm: Our Co-op culinary contestants!

The kitchen was buzzing recently as we held our school finals for the Co-op Culinary Competition.



Our fantastic pairs of budding chefs stepped up to the plate to see who would represent the Academy in the next stage.

The challenge was a real test of creativity: students were handed a mystery bag of ingredients and told to get cooking! The results were honestly wow moments for everyone watching. From perfectly seasoned dough balls to gourmet sandwiches and professionally topped pizzas, the standard was incredibly high.

After much deliberation from our thrilled judges, Amelia and Jade were crowned the winners. Their creation, a stunning and delicious heart-shaped pizza, really stole the show and proved that they have both the skills and the creative flair to go all the way.

While Amelia and Jade took the top spot, every single student who took part was amazing. The focus and passion they showed throughout the final were a real credit to the Academy. We also want to say a huge thank you to Ms Hewitt for her hard work in organising the competition and supporting our talented chefs throughout the process.

Amelia and Jade are now through to the grand finals at Angel Square in Manchester. We have got our fingers firmly crossed that they can follow in the footsteps of our previous champions, Halimah and Hooria, and bring home the overall trophy.

"It was a joy to watch our students in action. The mystery bag challenge is never easy, but the way they stayed calm and produced such high quality food was brilliant. Amelia and Jade's heart-shaped pizza was a stand-out, and we are all rooting for them as they head to Angel Square. They are already winners in our eyes!"

Ms. Williamson, Assistant Headteacher

Co-op Academy Medlock

Medlock sings MOBO Awards 2026

Over 70 schools across Manchester joined forces for Manchester Sings MOBO Awards 2026, celebrating the city's incredible musical diversity and the joy of raising their voices together.



Led by One Education Music - Manchester's music service - in partnership with Mobo Awards and Sing Up, each school recorded their own versions of the iconic 1990s gospel anthem "Optimistic" by Sounds of Blackness.

The project also features a special contribution from rising Manchester rap artist Marley, supported by Unity Radio and showcases our incredible school choir. The video has been produced by Broaden Studio.

Our choir have been getting ready to be recorded every Tuesday lunchtime with Mrs Kent and Mrs Nutton-Jones.

Let's tell the world that CO-OP ACADEMY MEDLOCK SINGS!

Celebrating our identity: A vibrant Culture Day at the Academy

What an incredible day we had for our recent Culture Day!

It was fantastic to see the Academy transformed into a sea of colour as students and staff arrived in vibrant outfits representing their unique backgrounds and identities. From traditional national dress and religious garments to favourite football shirts and outfits representing Pride, the variety on display was a brilliant reflection of who we are.

Throughout the day, students took part in a range of creative activities. Many designed their own personal flags to represent their heritage, while others helped decorate a massive Co-op flag with positive messages about the importance of diversity. These activities were a perfect way to celebrate the British Value of Mutual Respect and Tolerance, showing how much we value every individual's story.

One of the most popular spots was the Henna station, but the real show-stopper was the huge food marketplace. Our Co-op Young Leaders (CYLs) did a fantastic job running the stalls, where we served food and drink from different continents entirely free of charge. There were some real highlights, including the Puff Puff and Supermalt on the Africa stall which were huge hits, though it is fair to say we weren't quite so sure about the Vegemite over at the Oceania table!

Assistant Headteacher, **Ms. Williamson**, was delighted with how the day brought everyone together: *"Culture Day has been a true highlight of the year. Seeing our students express themselves so confidently and learn about each other's heritage with such curiosity and respect was wonderful. It's days like this that bring our commitment to British Values to life, particularly the way we celebrate our differences while standing together as one community."*

The day was a powerful reminder of how lucky we are to be part of such a diverse and welcoming school. A massive thank you to our CYLs and all the staff who helped make it happen!



Co-op Academy Clarice Cliff

Clarice Cliff Community Day

Our First Ever Community Day was a Super Success!

What a day! We are all still “buzzing” after our amazing Community Day on Saturday, 21st March. After our special walk to school with the “real” Easter Bunny and Chick earlier in the week, the weekend was the perfect way to keep the fun going.

The sun was shining, the music was playing, and it was so special to see all our wonderful families and friends coming together. Thank you to everyone who joined us!

The school hall was shaking with excitement from 11:00am as Momentum Cheer UK joined us. They showed us some incredible stunts and high-energy cheers. We even had a special cheer: “Two, four, six, eight, Clarice Cliff is really great!” Did you know these amazing athletes are heading all the way to Orlando, USA, to compete? We are so proud of them and wish them huge luck!

Our “Emergency Services Zone” was a massive hit!

- **The Fire & Rescue Team** brought their big red truck—it was amazing to see all the life-saving kit up close!
- **Staffordshire Police** were there to say hello and show us how they keep our streets safe.
- **St John Ambulance** taught us some super first-aid tips.
- **Road Safety Teams** showed us how to be “Street Wise” and stay safe on our travels.

At 1:30pm, the Michelle Moss School of Performing Arts took centre stage. Their singing and dancing was spectacular! When we weren’t watching the show, we were busy:

- **Jumping** on the Little Rascals Bouncy Castles (they were huge!).
- **Aiming high** at the archery range.
- **Getting sparkly** with face painting and glitter tattoos.
- **Meeting creepy-crawlies!** Our brave students loved meeting the bugs and insects.

Nobody went home hungry! We tucked into delicious fresh pizza, cakes, popcorn, and candyfloss. It truly was a treat for the tummy!

Community Day is all about looking after each other. We were so happy to have:

- **Changes YP:** Helping our young people feel brave and heard.
- **Girlguiding Staffordshire:** Showing us how to be leaders and go on adventures.
- **Money Matters:** Giving the grown-ups some handy advice and support.



Co-op Academy Delius

Musical Spectacular at St George's Hall

On Monday we took to the stage at St George's Hall for the annual Musical Spectacular alongside other schools in Bradford!

Pupils from Co-op Academy Delius and Co-op Academy Southfield came together to form an incredible, large-scale signing choir. The group performed a moving rendition of "When I Grow Up" from the musical Matilda, a song that captures the wonder and big dreams we hold for the future.

It was a beautiful full-circle moment for our community; the choir featured a huge range of ages, from our littlest performers in EYFS to older Southfield students who actually began their journey at Delius years ago!

Our dancers at Co-op Academy Delius absolutely sparkled in their ballet performance of "One Short Day" from Wicked! This year we've been working with the incredible Martin Howland from Project Resurgence, to show that ballet is for everybody! A huge shout-out to our two soloists who kicked things off by singing the intro through their headpiece mics and to everyone who took to the stage - you were amazing!



Living walls

Our mission to make our school a greener place has been successful.



Last September, Year 6 children came up with the fantastic idea to plant green walls on our school as part of our RHS-initiated National Education Nature Park programme.

The RHS have kindly granted our academy with £5,000.00, for us to take action and enhance biodiversity in our inner-city school ground.

Equipment for 20 square meters of green wall has been provided by Wonderwall, the best local company for living walls with an outstanding international reputation.

With the support of Mrs Mirazi, children from all year groups have got their hands dirty, planting just under 1000 easy-maintenance, perennial woodland plants on 4 separate green wall panels on the outside of our school building.

A real success and reason to celebrate cleaner and cooler air, more greenery and biodiversity for the years to come.

Special thanks go to Natasha Devoe, who has supported this project with so much care and dedication, investing plenty of her time, providing us with her expert knowledge and lending a helping hand in all parts of the project on a voluntary basis.

Connell Co-op College

VIP Carabao Cup final experience for one lucky student

One of our Year 12 Sport and Exercise Science students, Eva, was chosen by City in the Community (CITC) to experience a VIP day out at the Carabao Cup Final.



Eva was chosen based on her extensive volunteering roles in grassroots football – coaching, refereeing and more – to help her local club, Glossop North End (who she also plays for).

Eva describes her day out: *"I had the best day. It really was an unforgettable experience! I'm so grateful to CITC for the opportunity to represent them at Wembley as a VIP at the final between Man City and Arsenal."*

"It was such an amazing experience and gave me a fantastic insight into how big the football industry is. I got to see the Carabao Cup, meet ex-players and pundits, and go behind the scenes into the Royal Box, press conference room and media suite. Paul Dickov presented me with a Carabao Cup ball signed by all the players, and it blew me away."

"I was also interviewed by ITV for their EFL show, as well as giving other interviews where I spoke about my journey and ambitions in football. This experience has made me even more determined to build a career in football and help create more opportunities for women and girls involved in the game."

Bringing Rochdale Pioneers to life in dance performance

Pupils from Co-op Academy Grove stepped onto the stage at the Stoke Schools Dance Extravaganza with a performance inspired by the Rochdale Pioneers.

The annual event, themed 'Walking in the shoes of...', saw 25 Year 4-6 students represent us at Victoria Hall on Tuesday 24th March 2026. Pupils had been rehearsing since Christmas in preparation for the performance.

The dance was created to reflect Grove's recent connection to the wider Co-op family, with pupils choosing to base their performance around the Rochdale Pioneers and the values they stood for. Choreography and rehearsals were led by Miss Thea Mounteney, one of the academy's Year 6 Teaching School Assistants.

At the start of the performance, pupils introduced their piece by explaining the inspiration behind it. They described how their dance celebrated the strength, bravery and enthusiasm of the workers who came together to build something fair and lasting, drawing a link between teamwork in dance and the co-operation shown by the Rochdale Pioneers.

Set to a soundtrack including It's a Hard Knock Life, I'm a Believer and We Are Family, the performance showcased the pupils' energy, teamwork and creativity on stage.

The academy was also able to work with Deborah Star to secure funding from a local Co-op store, helping to provide outfits and props for the performance!

After the event, Amy Brown shared that the academy had enjoyed "a fantastic evening" at the dance performance.



Co-op Academy Southfield

Eid Mela

What a Day! Our Eid Mela Was Pure Magic!

A massive THANK YOU to everyone who joined us yesterday. With over 300 people in attendance, the atmosphere was buzzing with community spirit, smiles, and celebration. From the stunning calligraphy and mehndi to the student crafts, every moment was a testament to the talent and heart of our school.

An event this size doesn't happen by accident. We want to send a huge thank you to:

Our Incredible Staff: For working tirelessly behind the scenes to make sure everything ran smoothly.

Our Families & Students: You brought the energy and the vibes that made the afternoon so special!

Bala Hissar: For providing that absolutely beautiful food—it was the talk of the Mela!

DJ Bally: For keeping the tunes spinning with such an upbeat banga soundtrack.

BYDP: For your vital charitable work in the community.

We're still buzzing from the excitement!



Co-op Academy Glebe to lead Reception Network across Stoke and Staffordshire

We're really proud to share that Co-op Academy Glebe has been chosen as a Lead School in the Department for Education's new Reception Networks programme.



This is part of the government's Best Start in Life strategy, which focuses on giving every child the strongest possible start to their education.

Glebe is one of just 45 schools across the country selected for this role. It recognises their strong early years provision and the brilliant leadership at the school who are committed to supporting others.

From this summer, Glebe will lead a network of schools across Stoke and Staffordshire. It's about schools working together, sharing what works and making sure every child benefits from high-quality early education.

As a Trust, we believe in people helping people. This network brings that to life, connecting teachers and leaders so that good practice is shared. It also works both ways. While Glebe supports other schools, they'll also bring back new ideas and the latest research into their own classrooms.

The programme supports a national ambition for 75% of children to reach a good level of development by the end of Reception by 2028. It's a great programme to help give children the strongest early start and better prepare for the rest of their school life.

As a Lead School, Glebe will work alongside colleagues across the region to support high-quality practice, including:

- **Sharing knowledge** - creating space for open, honest conversations about what works in the classroom
- **Opening their doors** - giving other practitioners the chance to see strong practice in action
- **Working together** - using shared tools and approaches to improve outcomes for all children

This recognition reflects the hard work and care shown by the team at Glebe every day. It's a great chance to make a huge difference for children and communities.

Kirsty Suleman, Head of School at Co-op Academy Glebe, said: "We're really proud to be chosen as a Lead School. This is a recognition of the care, skill and commitment our team shows every day in giving children the best possible start. We're looking forward to working alongside other schools in our local area to help make a difference for our children and families."

Manchester Primaries Choir



Term

APRIL - JULY 2026



Three

Co-op Academies Trust

Fairtrade football tournament brings our academies together

A day full of teamwork, energy and friendly competition.

Students from three of our academies recently came together for a brilliant Fairtrade football tournament.

The event wasn't just about football. It was also a chance for students to learn more about Fairtrade and why it matters. Before the games began, Mark from We Are Fair Trade spoke to students about how everyday choices, like the footballs we use, can make a real difference to people around the world.

The tournament was organised by three of our Academy Community Pioneers, working together to bring the day to life.

Daryl Tomlinson, Regional Community Manager, said: *"It was fantastic to see three of our Academy Community Pioneers coming together to make this happen. When our academies collaborate like this, everyone benefits. The level of teamwork and the sportsmanship from all the students was brilliant to watch. It is exactly what 'succeeding together' is all about."*

Students played with real enthusiasm and respect throughout the day, supporting each other on and off the pitch.

A special mention goes to eight student leaders from Co-op Academy Belle Vue, who helped run the event. They led warm-ups, refereed matches and encouraged players throughout the day.

Hannah Molloy said: *"I was completely blown away by the maturity and leadership of the students from Belle Vue. They took charge of the warm-up drills, confidently refereed the matches, and took on the very important job of observing the games to select the winners for the sportsmanship awards. They were true role models throughout the day and ensured the whole event ran smoothly."*

For many students, the highlight was meeting others from different academies and being part of something bigger.

Jo Alderson from Co-op Academy Broadhurst said: *"Our students loved every minute. Days like this make such a difference - they build confidence, create new friendships and give pupils something to be proud of. They haven't stopped talking about it since we got back!"*

A huge well done to all the students who took part, and a big thank you to our Community Pioneers and staff who worked so hard to make the tournament a reality.



Over 500 pairs of shoes donated to support families

Having the right uniform, including comfortable shoes, helps children feel ready for the school day. But we know that with the rising cost of living, replacing school shoes isn't always easy for families.

That's why we're really grateful to two brilliant charities, Sal's Shoes and ShoeAid, who have donated over 500 pairs of brand new shoes for children across Co-op Academies Trust.

Sal's Shoes have provided more than 400 pairs, which are being shared across our academies so they reach the children who need them most. ShoeAid have also donated 118 pairs to support our academies in Merseyside.

This started with a simple conversation. Our Regional Community Development Manager, Deborah Star, reached out to see if there was any support available for families in our Merseyside academies. From there, things quickly grew.

Thanks to that initial connection, children across our Trust - from Greater Manchester to Staffordshire, Leeds to Bradford - are now benefiting from this support.

Deborah said: *"When I initially reached out to Sal's Shoes and ShoeAid, we were simply looking for practical ways to support families in our Merseyside communities. To see this grow into a Trust-wide initiative that is now benefiting students from Staffordshire right through to Bradford is incredible. It is a perfect example of what can happen when we work with partners who genuinely want to help us do what matters most."*

A new pair of shoes might seem small, but it can make a big difference. It means children can come to school feeling comfortable and confident. It takes pressure off families. And it helps make sure every child can take part fully in their day, from lessons to playtime!



Michelle Stacey, Designated Safeguarding Lead at Co-op Academy Broadhurst, said: *"Proper footwear is something many of us take for granted, but for some of our families, the cost of replacing outgrown school shoes is a genuine and constant worry. When a child comes to school in comfortable, well-fitting shoes, it instantly impacts their confidence. These donations have taken a huge weight off our parents' shoulders and are making a massive, practical difference to our students' daily lives."*

We want to say a big thank you to everyone at Sal's Shoes and ShoeAid. By working together, we are ensuring that financial barriers do not stand in the way of our students' education, proving once again what it means to show you care.

Co-op Academies Trust

Supporting attendance with HH Global

Being in school every day makes a really big difference. Not just for learning, but for children's confidence, wellbeing and sense of belonging.

That's why we've been working with our long-standing partner HH Global to support attendance across our academies.

This spring, they provided every academy with a £30 voucher to use as a reward for good attendance. Each school used this in a way that worked best for their community - from prize draws and Easter treats to rewarding 100% attendance.

At Co-op Academy Medlock, the vouchers built on earlier support from HH Global, who also helped fund new musical instruments for pupils.

Jen Edmondson said: *"The support from HH Global has been brilliant. These rewards give our students that extra encouragement to be in school every day, which is where they need to be to succeed."*

Other academies got creative too:

- Clarice Cliff used the voucher to buy Easter eggs so more students could benefit
- Stoke ran a 'Countdown to Easter' prize draw
- Hamilton and Northwood are using them as end-of-term rewards
- Belle Vue recognised students for their commitment during Science Week

This is just one part of the wider support from Lee Hodgson-Winfield, Account Director at HH Global and his team this academic year, helping us remove barriers and support our students in practical ways.



"At HH Global, our company values focus on loving our clients, pursuing excellence relentlessly and to have passion and pride in all that we do. As Co-op's managed print services provider since April 2020, our Social Value Action Plan has developed over time.

In early 2024, we completely re-invigorated our Social Value Action Plan to deliver more value back to the focus areas defined by Co-op. Aligning against the three Co-op Social Value focus areas (Equal access, Peace of mind, sustainability) and collaborating with the Co-op Procurement Team, we designed a plan to have both immediate and lasting impact.

Since 2024 we have engaged multiple stakeholders across The Co-operative Group, Co-op Academies and Barnardo's (Co-op's lead charity partner) - listening to their challenges."

HH Global



Volunteers from Water Plus help transform eco garden at Co-op Academy Grove

Pupils at Co-op Academy Grove are set to benefit from a newly revitalised outdoor space, following a volunteering day delivered in partnership with Water Plus.



Five volunteers from Water Plus joined staff at the academy to help transform an overgrown area into a vibrant eco garden, ready to support learning and wellbeing activities throughout the summer term. The team worked together to lay bark, clear overgrown sections and improve access, completing the final stages needed to bring the space back into use.

The garden will now be used as a sensory space for pupils, while also supporting learning about the environment and climate change. It will play an important role in the academy's Eco Club, giving pupils the opportunity to engage with sustainability in a hands-on and meaningful way.

Deborah Star, Regional Community Development Manager at Co-op Academies Trust, who organised the volunteering day in collaboration with Water Plus, said: *"Huge thank you to the amazing volunteers from Water Plus! They were an incredible team to work with on the day, enthusiastic and doing whatever needed to be done to help transform this learning space for the children of Co-op Academy Grove."*

Mrs Shirley Carrigan, Headteacher at Co-op Academy Grove, added: *"Thank you to the great and kind-hearted Water Plus team for helping us create such a fantastic space for learning. Sustainability isn't just a topic in the curriculum – it's a value that shapes character and community. Spaces like this empower our pupils to engage with the environment in a meaningful way and understand how they can make a positive difference."*

The volunteering day reflects the positive impact of partnership working between Co-op Academies Trust and Water Plus, bringing together organisations to support local communities and create meaningful opportunities for young people.

Co-op Academy Clarice Cliff

Longton Pig Parade 2026

What an incredible Sunday! Our children took to the streets for the annual Longton Pig Parade, and they truly brought the magic of Peter Pan to life.

Dressed as brave Lost Boys and shimmering Tinkerbells, our pupils marched with so much pride and joy. Not to be outdone, the adults joined the crew as pirates—with a special appearance from Mr. Plants as the formidable Captain Hook!

The atmosphere in the town centre was electric! A massive thank you to Urban Wilderness for organising such a vibrant, colourful event that brings our whole community together. We are already counting down the days until we can do it all again next year!



Co-op Academy Brierley

A pool on the playground, swimming comes to Brierley!

We're really excited to share that a pop-up swimming pool had arrived at the school this term, and it's already proving to be a fantastic opportunity for our learners!

Having the pool here at school meant there was no travelling involved, creating a familiar and welcoming environment where children could build their confidence in the water. With heated water kept between 27 and 32°C, small group lessons, certified swim teachers and qualified lifeguards, our learners were able to develop their swimming skills in a safe and supportive setting.



Most importantly, our own teachers were there throughout the sessions, providing familiar faces, encouragement and reassurance alongside the Swim team. This helped create an environment where every child could feel comfortable, whatever their starting point.

From taking those first steps into the water to developing new skills and growing in confidence, our learners made fantastic progress throughout the programme. Swimming is such an important life skill, and we're incredibly proud to have given our children the opportunity to become more confident, competent and safe in the water.

It has been brilliant to see so many of our learners challenge themselves, celebrate their progress and, most importantly, enjoy making a splash!

Parent Swim Club

This term our Swim Afterschool Club is parent swim – where parents get the opportunity to come & swim with their child in our school pool!

Our parents have really enjoyed joining in with what their child does at school and seeing just how confident their children are in the water!

Sometimes swimming baths can be too busy and loud, and if we're honest... cold. But our swimming pool is a calm and safe place our pupils are used to coming to, so sharing these experiences with their parents here helps make swimming just so much more fun! (Our pool is also lovely and warm!)



Jamie's Farm

A group of our Year 10s traded their school shoes for wellies and headed out for a week at Jamie's Farm.



It was a complete shift in gear from the usual school routine, giving the students a chance to live and work as part of a busy farm family.

Everyone got stuck in, whether that was mucking out the livestock, feeding the animals, or helping the farmers manage the land. It wasn't just about the physical work, though; the students also took charge of the kitchen, working together to prep and cook fresh, communal meals for the whole group.

What was most impressive was seeing the group channel their natural energy into the life of the farm. Away from the four walls of a classroom, they took on massive amounts of responsibility with a real sense of purpose. We saw them step up as natural leaders, using their voices to coordinate tasks and support one another when the work got tough.

They've come back to school with a bit more mud on their clothes, but a lot of pride in what they achieved. Jamie's Farm aims to help young people "maximise their potential," and seeing this group in action, it's clear they've done exactly that.

A huge well done to our Year 10s for their hard work and for representing the school so brilliantly.

Jamie's Farm is a charity dedicated to transforming the lives of young people by providing unique farm experiences that promote self-esteem, resilience, and a sense of purpose. With a focus on building positive relationships and learning through practical activities, the farm creates an environment where children can thrive.

Co-op Academy Leeds

Parliament Trip - GCSE Romanian

Students and staff from Co-op Academy Leeds have been supporting to lead the campaign to pressure exam boards to introduce GCSE Romanian.

There are currently over 20 heritage language GCSEs, yet there are no accreditation opportunities for multilingual students who speak Romanian - the UK's third most spoken language.

On the 27th April the campaign held a meeting in the Houses of Parliament to make their case to MPs. Eduard and Larissa, Year 10 students, made speeches in front of 120 politicians, ambassadors, and journalists about why this injustice needs to be corrected and the impact this would have on their future opportunities. One MP present remarked that the students were 'future politicians'.

The students were a credit to the school, city, and wider Romanian community. Please find below images of Eduard making his speech, and alongside local MP Mark Swards.



Bunzl Retail's continued support for our Academies

Bunzl, in conjunction with their suppliers, customers and Opcos, coordinated the donation of a vast amount of equipment to support students across Co-op Academies Trust, alongside an additional resource for Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) settings.



The donation includes items ranging from printers, kitchen utensils, clocks, picture frames and practical classroom resources. And staff have been creatively re-purposing items to support learning and play!

At Co-op Academy Glebe, Early Years staff have transformed some of the donated materials into hands-on learning tools. Wooden spoons are now being used as counting sticks, while magazine holders have been attached to painting easels to help prevent paint pots from spilling during activities.

Helen Maybury, Academy Community Pioneer at Co-op Academy Glebe, said: *"The Bunzl goods have been put to amazing use in our Early Years setting. The children are learning through play every day, and it's been brilliant to see how staff have adapted the resources in creative ways."*

As part of the partnership, Bunzl has also supported the Trust's work tackling digital poverty by donating seven Chromebooks for students to use in lessons.

Liz Garrity, Head of Community Development, said: *"We have a fantastic working relationship with Bunzl and this support has made a real difference across our academies and communities. Their generosity and commitment to helping young people is invaluable. A special thanks to Hollie Barker and Paula Griffiths for their ongoing support coordinating deliveries and resources for schools."*

Mark Speak, Divisional Managing Director at Bunzl, said: *"At Bunzl Retail Supplies, we recognise our impact on the communities we are part of. Working closely with Co-op Academies has strengthened our focus on supporting young people and local families. Through this partnership, we've been able to support academy initiatives, volunteering opportunities and careers education, while also helping students learn more about Bunzl and the opportunities available to them in the future. It's a partnership that has real benefits for everyone involved."*

The partnership reflects the shared values between Co-op Academies Trust and Bunzl - supporting communities, reducing barriers for young people, and making a practical difference where it matters most.



A warm welcome for Co-op Academy Rathbone!

Colleagues from Co-op Academy Rathbone joined our senior leadership team for an induction event at Co-op's Headquarters on Friday 8th May.

The day brought together teachers, support staff and leaders to explore the values, ethos and shared ambitions that sit at the heart of Co-op Academies Trust.

Russell Gill opened the day with a welcome to the Co-op, sharing the history of the co-operative movement and how its principles continue to shape education across our schools today. CEO, Dr Chris Tomlinson, followed with an overview of the strategic vision for Co-op Academies, reflecting on the importance of being part of a growing and connected family of academies.

Colleagues also heard from leaders across a range of areas, including community development and colleague benefits. Sessions explored the support available across our Trust and how working collaboratively helps academies thrive both locally and nationally.

Steve Brice shared the ambitions for Co-op Academies from a local, regional and national perspective, while Ian Berryman, Executive Headteacher, spoke about academy development planning and the future for Rathbone as part of our Trust.

Reflecting on the day, Ian said: *"The induction day was a fantastic opportunity for colleagues from Rathbone to come together and begin building relationships across Co-op Academies. There was a real sense of positivity throughout the day and it was brilliant to see colleagues engaging with our shared values and vision for the future. We're excited about the journey ahead and the opportunities this partnership will bring for both colleagues and students."*

Colleagues from the Community and People teams highlighted the many ways academies, colleagues and local communities are supported across our Trust. The Marketing Team shared how they help academies strengthen engagement and communication with families.

The event also gave colleagues time to connect with one another, ask questions and reflect on the opportunities ahead as part of the Co-op family.

The induction event marked an important milestone as Co-op Academy Rathbone continues its journey with us after a successful first year at our Trust. With shared values, collaboration and community at the centre, colleagues left the day with a strong sense of belonging and excitement for the future ahead.

"It was a pleasure to welcome colleagues from Co-op Academy Rathbone to One Angel Square as they begin this new stage of their improvement journey with Co-op Academies Trust. The induction provided an important opportunity to share our strategic priorities, collaborative approach and the support available across our network of academies. We look forward to working together, supporting and challenging Co-op Academy Rathbone in the years ahead to ensure the school becomes a truly excellent academy."

Dr Chris Tomlinson,
CEO Co-op Academies Trust

Year 10 Work Experience

Last week, over 90% of our amazing Year 10 students went out on work experience.



During this time, they got to be accountants, hairdressers, engineers, joiners, chefs, solicitors, architects, civil servants, gym instructors, child minders and many more careers!

These experiences have:

- Given them an insight into the world of work
- Developed their communication skills and confidence
- Built their employability skills for the future

A huge thank you to all the employers who supported our students, giving them your time and helping them learn. We rely so much on your good will and commitment to helping young people.

None of this would have been possible without the support from those at home. Thank you to all the parents and carers who helped find the placements, supported the students to get there and made sure they were prepared.

Phoenix Place



Primary pupils help bring new Co-op Play Shop to life at Eureka!

Pupils from Co-op Academy Beckfield have played a special part in a brand-new partnership between Co-op and Eureka! The National Children's Museum in Halifax.



The new Co-op Play Shop has been created to help children and families learn about shopping, food and sustainability through play. Designed for children up to the age of 11, the interactive space includes mini shopping trolleys, self-service tills and hands-on activities inspired by everyday experiences in a Co-op store.

As part of the project, Year 5 pupils from Co-op Academy Beckfield recorded voiceovers featured within the Play Shop experience. The children will also have the opportunity to visit Eureka! to see and hear their work brought to life.

The partnership aims to help children explore important topics such as reducing food waste, sustainable diets and energy use in ways that feel fun, practical and accessible.

The project reflects Co-op's wider commitment to creating Access to a Sustainable Future and giving children meaningful opportunities to learn through play and real-life experiences.

We're incredibly proud that Beckfield pupils have helped shape a project that will now be enjoyed by families from across the country.

Co-op Academy Manchester

Let's Grow Together community event

It was wonderful to see so many smiling faces at our Let's Grow Together event during the half-term break. The sun was shining beautifully, and we all enjoyed cooling down with some delicious ice pops!

We were delighted to welcome our local neighbours, families, and the brilliant children, staff, and volunteers from the Equal Education Chances holiday club. We spent the morning planting food in our new raised beds, sowing sunflower seeds and making our school community even stronger.

Our Community Fridge was also open during the event, offering food and support to our local families.

This wonderful day was made possible thanks to some amazing support from our friends and partners:

- **Awesome Books:** For their incredibly kind donation to our book swap.
- **Co-op:** For providing our beautiful new little library to display all of our lovely books.
- **Co-op Academies Trust Community Team:** For all their help and support behind the scenes and on the day.

Seeing our community come together to share books, grow plants, and look after one another shows how much our people truly care. Thank you to everyone who came along to make the event so memorable!



A warm welcome to our new Cumbria Hub

We are delighted to share that schools from South Cumbria Multi-Academy Trust will be joining Co-op Academies Trust.



Following approval from the Department for Education, six schools will join us, forming our brand-new “Cumbria Hub”.

We believe in helping communities thrive by working together. This move isn't about changing what makes these individual schools special. Instead, it is about supporting them, sharing our resources, and creating great new opportunities for pupils and staff alike.

Dr Chris Tomlinson, CEO of Co-op Academies Trust, said: *“We are very pleased to be welcoming South Cumbria Multi-Academy Trust schools into our Trust. I understand how important these schools are to their communities. We recognise the challenges that have been reported but also the excellent practice within the schools that we can build on, and we see this as a positive and exciting opportunity to work together - building on the strengths already in place and ensuring every child has access to an excellent education.*

What stands out to us is the strong alignment in values, and commitment to pupils. We are not here to impose a one-size-fits-all approach, but to work alongside school leaders, staff and communities to help each school thrive.”

Steve Jefferson, Acting CEO of South Cumbria Multi-Academy Trust, added: *“This marks an important and positive step forward for education across Barrow. Our six schools will form the first Cumbria Hub of Co-op Academies Trust, which has already successfully established regional hubs in Manchester, Merseyside, West Yorkshire and Staffordshire.*

Over time being part of a large Trust will bring increased capacity, investment and significant benefits. Pupils and staff will have access to wider educational opportunities, enhanced support and shared expertise across a diverse and broad network of schools.

We are proud of what has been achieved across our Trust to date. This next step is about building on these strengths to ensure our schools continue to flourish.”

A huge welcome to all our new colleagues and families.

Volunteer day - Garden Glow-up 2026

A huge thank you to our volunteers who came to give our garden area and community garden a well-deserved glow-up!

Working together in the heat wave over half-term to give both areas a fresh look for the children in school and getting our community garden another step closer to being finished and ready for local use. The volunteers were welcomed from Zebra, Water Plus, Co-op Food, CTRG and Biffa.

The outside areas look amazing! Thank you to everyone again who gave their time to help us maintain such a valuable area in the school.



Co-op Academy Grange

Wizard of Oz performance

What a journey!

Our trip down the Yellow Brick Road has come to an end, and what an incredible adventure it was!

From Kansas to the Emerald City, our cast and crew brought the magic of Oz to life with confidence, creativity and enthusiasm.

We would like to say a huge thank you to our dedicated staff, whose hard work, support and commitment behind the scenes made this production possible. From rehearsals and costumes to staging and technical support, their efforts helped create a truly magical experience for everyone involved.

We are incredibly proud of our talented students, who embraced every challenge and gave outstanding performances, and grateful to all the families and audience members who came along to support them.

There's no place like Grange.



Co-op Academy Priesthorpe Achieves School of Sanctuary Award

This moment was the culmination of a year-long commitment to building a more inclusive, welcoming, and compassionate school community.

On the 15th of June, a group of dedicated Co-op Young Leaders from our academy, travelled to Chapel FM for a truly special occasion. There, they proudly received the School of Sanctuary award from the Lord Mayor of Leeds—marking a significant milestone in our school's journey.

What made the journey particularly remarkable was that it was driven by the passion and leadership of our Co-op Young Leaders, supported every step of the way by Priesthorpe staff.

Over the past year, the Co-op Young leaders have played a central role in shaping our school's ethos. They have helped to prepare assemblies, coaching-time activities, and, most importantly, supported new students as they joined our community—helping them to feel safe, valued, and at home.

Daniela Faldusova, EAL Coordinator, said: "As we reflect on this incredible accomplishment, we recognise that becoming a School of Sanctuary is not the end of the journey, but the beginning of an ongoing commitment to uphold these values every day."

Louise Pratt, Headteacher, said: "I am incredibly proud of our Young Leaders. This award is worthy recognition of the work they have done, alongside staff, to ensure Co-op Academy Priesthorpe is a community where everyone feels they belong."



JUNE 2026



Co-op Academy Hamilton celebrates strong Ofsted report across every area

We have some wonderful news to share with our academy family this week. The recent Ofsted inspection has praised our school community, highlighting the safety, happiness, and incredible support our children receive every single day.

We achieved a Strong Standard judgement across every category inspected under Ofsted's new framework. This includes achievement, attendance and behaviour, curriculum and teaching, early years, inclusion, leadership and governance, and personal development and wellbeing. Safeguarding was also found to be effective.

Inspectors described Hamilton as a place where **"pupils flourish at this highly inclusive school"** and said pupils are **"very well prepared for the next stage of their education."**

The report highlights our ambitious curriculum, high-quality teaching and unwavering commitment to inclusion. Inspectors found that leaders and staff know pupils exceptionally well and hold high ambitions for every child, regardless of their needs or circumstances.

The positive culture across our school was also recognised, with inspectors noting that attendance is above national figures and that pupils enjoy coming to school and taking part in learning and wider school life.

Our early years provision was praised for giving children **"a highly effective start to their education"**, while inspectors found that pupils achieve highly across the curriculum. The report also highlights that the proportion of pupils meeting the expected standard in phonics is consistently above national averages.

Throughout the inspection, inclusion emerged as one of our school's greatest strengths. Inspectors noted that pupils feel **"valued, understood and supported"** and that all children are able to take part fully in school life.

The report also recognised our school's culture and values, describing breaktimes and lunchtimes as **"joyful and harmonious"** and highlighting the kindness, respect and positive attitudes demonstrated by pupils every day.

Headteacher, **Yvonne Glaister**, said:

"We are incredibly proud of this report because it reflects what our school community works so hard to achieve every day. We want every child to feel happy, safe, supported and able to succeed, regardless of their starting point or circumstances. The report recognises the dedication of our staff, the enthusiasm of our pupils and the fantastic support we receive from families. It is especially pleasing to see our inclusive approach and strong relationships highlighted so positively by inspectors."

Dr Chris Tomlinson, CEO of Co-op Academies Trust, added: *"This is a fantastic achievement for everyone connected with Co-op Academy Hamilton. To be recognised as operating at a Strong Standard in every category is a reflection of the relentless commitment of colleagues, pupils and families. What stands out throughout the report is the impact the school is having on children's lives. Inspectors saw a school where pupils thrive, where inclusion shapes daily life and where every child is supported to achieve their very best. We are incredibly proud of the whole school community and staff team. This is richly deserved and well earned."*

Co-op Academies Trust

Students showcase creativity at Trust-wide Art Exhibition

This week, seven secondary academies came together to celebrate the artistic talents of students from across the Trust at our annual art exhibition.

Now in its second year, the exhibition was organised by Jane Beaumont, Art Teacher at Co-op Academy North Manchester, who once again invited Year 8 and 9 students from across the Trust to create meaningful works of art.

This year's theme, "This Is Me", encouraged students to explore and express their identities through original 2D artworks. The pieces reflected a variety of personalities, cultures, interests, experiences and aspirations.

Nine participating academies selected up to five artworks to be displayed in the atrium at One Angel Square, Manchester, from the 8th - 15th of June. Throughout the week, Co-op colleagues were invited to view the exhibition and vote for their favourite pieces via a QR code.

The exhibition attracted more than 300 votes from colleagues from across the organisation with winners announced at a special celebration event on the final day of the exhibition.

Stoke-on-Trent-based artist and guest judge at the event, Rebecca Davies, challenged students to design and create a Met Gala-inspired outfit using only paper. Working in teams, they transformed simple materials into imaginative fashion pieces inspired by their chosen themes and personal stories.

Among the stand-out creations was an outfit celebrating their inner child, a dress crafted from paper fans to symbolise being your own biggest champion, and a David Bowie-inspired design encouraging people to embrace their uniqueness.

Rebecca said: *"What a wonderful celebration of art and creativity - the exhibition was such a great example of how art can create space for young people to express themselves, their identities and what they feel passionate about. The students worked with such independence and enthusiasm throughout the day and the teachers were incredibly supportive and hands-on too. A big 'thank you' to them for being so encouraging towards all the young artists in the room. Thank you for inviting me along to be a part of this special event."*

Jane Beaumont added: *"I am so proud of the effort, imagination and enthusiasm shown by all of the students who took part and want to say a big 'thank you' to all of the art teachers who supported their participation."*

"This year's theme encouraged our students to reflect on who they are and what matters to them and the results were outstanding. The event once again demonstrated the power of art to help young people express who they are, build confidence and connect with others through creativity. Seeing their work displayed and being celebrated by colleagues across the Co-op has also been a fantastic experience for everyone involved."

Artist's Choice Award

Staish - Swinton

Public Vote Winners

1st Place: Maryam - Belle Vue

Joint 2nd Place: Thomas - Walkden

Joint 2nd Place: Harrison - North Manchester

3rd Place: Aiman - Grange

Staish



Maryam



Thomas



Harrison



Aiman



Co-op Academy Clarice Cliff celebrates national recognition in the Pearson Teaching Awards

The academy's whole school team has been named a Bronze Winner in the prestigious Award for Making a Difference – Primary School of the Year category, recognising the collective commitment, dedication and impact of staff across the school community.



The Pearson National Teaching Awards celebrate excellence in education across the UK, recognising individuals and teams who make a significant difference to the lives of children and young people.

Alongside the Bronze award, several members of staff were recognised with Certificates of Achievement in their respective categories:

- **The Early Years Team** – Early Years Team of the Year
- **Amanda Harris, Assistant Headteacher and SENDCO** – The Award for SEND and Inclusive Practice
- **Sophie Scott** – Outstanding New Teacher of the Year
- **Dario Ciccotti** – Unsung Hero

Emma Day, Headteacher at Co-op Academy Clarice Cliff, said: "We are incredibly proud to see the hard work, dedication and passion of our staff recognised on a national stage. These awards reflect the commitment shown every day by colleagues across the academy to ensure our children receive the very best education, support and opportunities to succeed."

The awards were celebrated as part of National Thank a Teacher Day on 17th June, when the full list of winners was announced and recognised nationwide.

Congratulations to everyone at Co-op Academy Clarice Cliff on this fantastic achievement.

Co-op Academy Penny Oaks

Father's Day Cricket Match

Dads join us for a cricket match to celebrate Father's day.

Today we held a cricket match on the field to celebrate our lovely dads. With Father's Day fast approaching, we wanted to host a special event to mark the occasion and to celebrate our lovely dads and all they do for us.

Mr Waddington led a cricket match between the dads and children. Afterwards, they all sat together to enjoy food prepared by Mrs Garner.

One dad told us: *"It is lovely to be able to spend the afternoon with my child. His mum normally comes to all the events so it is very special to have an event just for dads. It was nice to spend time talking to the other dads and to have a laugh together."*



Key Stage 3 Choir

On Friday 19th June, Southfield's KS3 Choir went on a coach to Manchester to watch the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra at Media City.



We got to have some time outside in the sunshine with students from other schools before the show started.

We then went inside and listened to the Orchestra and learnt all about how the pieces were put together and what all the instruments were called and what they sounded like.

The students were amazing and a credit to Southfield - We even had a go at conducting the whole orchestra!

Co-op Academy Brierley praised for inclusive culture in first Ofsted inspection

Co-op Academy Brierley is celebrating a positive first Ofsted inspection, with inspectors recognising the school's highly inclusive culture, strong leadership and commitment to helping every pupil thrive.

The Leeds SEND school, which opened in September 2023, achieved a Strong Standard in attendance and behaviour, inclusion, leadership and governance, and personal development and wellbeing. Safeguarding was also found to be effective.

Inspectors highlighted the caring and supportive environment at the school, stating that "pupils are cared for deeply at this school" and that pupils "feel a deep sense of belonging".

The report recognised the impact the school is having on children who may have experienced challenges in education before joining Brierley, noting that pupils quickly feel "safe, welcome and understood" and benefit from an ambitious curriculum tailored to their individual needs.

Inspectors praised the school's inclusive approach, finding that leaders have created "a highly inclusive culture where pupils' needs are identified quickly and accurately". Staff were recognised for their expertise and dedication, with inspectors noting that they have "secure knowledge and confidence to manage pupils' needs skilfully" and work closely with specialists and external agencies to provide comprehensive support.

The calm and positive atmosphere across the school was also highlighted. Inspectors observed that pupils arrive happy, settle quickly and are ready to learn, while staff consistently model positive interactions that help pupils feel secure and supported throughout the school day.

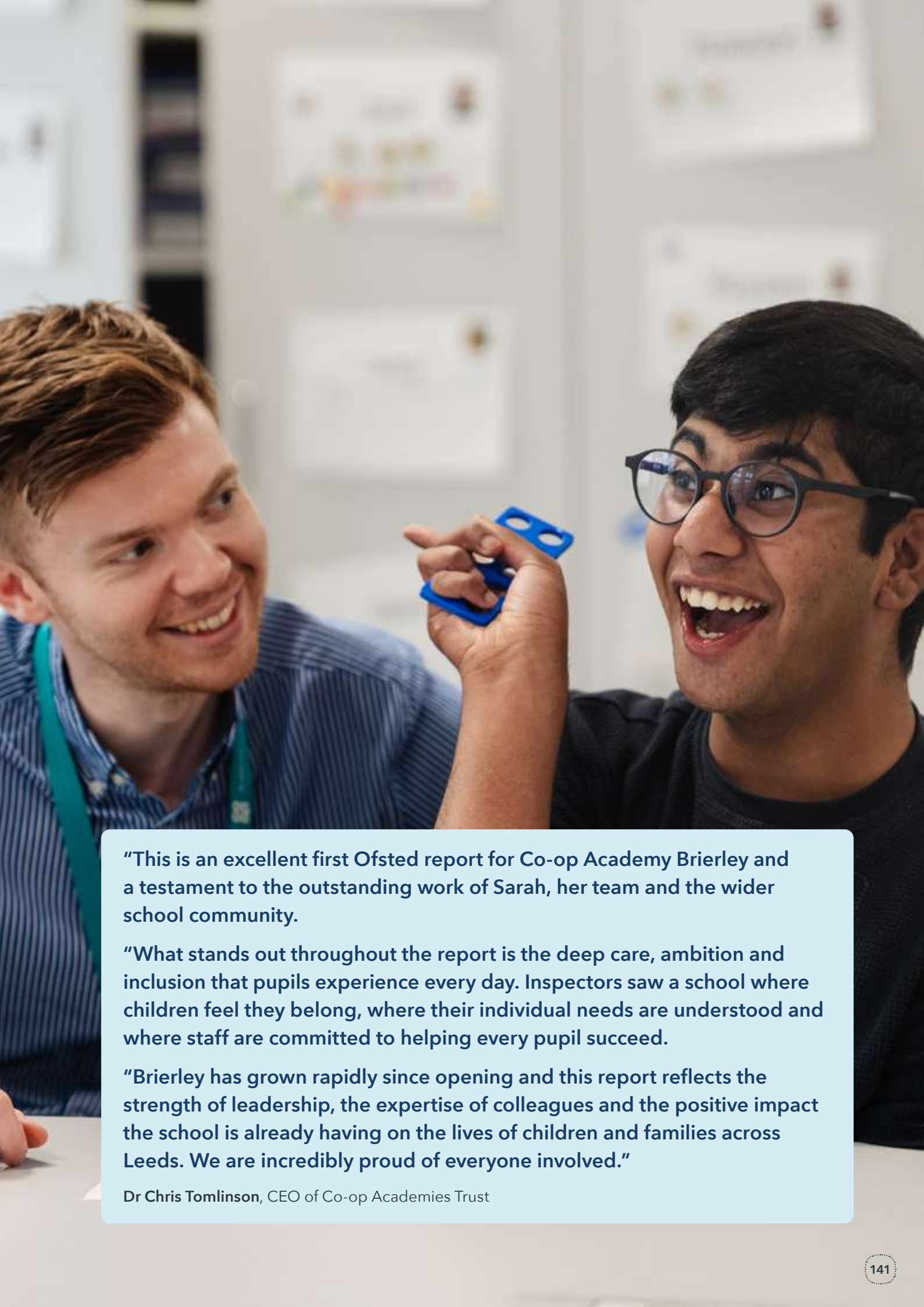
Attendance was recognised as a particular strength, with inspectors noting the school's purposeful approach and the significant improvements made since opening. Behaviour systems were also praised, with positive relationships between staff and pupils at the heart of the school's approach.

The school's work with families was also praised. Inspectors noted the positive relationships built through activities such as coffee mornings, cooking sessions and growing projects. Parents and carers spoke positively about the caring staff, the progress their children make and the warm, welcoming atmosphere across the school community.

Sarah Harridge, Headteacher at Co-op Academy Brierley, said: *"We are incredibly proud of this report and what it says about our school community. Since opening, we have worked hard to create a school where every child feels safe, valued and understood, and where their individual needs are at the centre of everything we do."*

"It is particularly pleasing to see inspectors recognise the inclusive culture we have built, the dedication of our staff team and the strong relationships we have with pupils and families. This report reflects the commitment, care and expertise shown by colleagues every day, as well as the resilience and achievements of our wonderful pupils."

A huge congratulations to Sarah, the staff team, pupils, families and everyone connected with Co-op Academy Brierley on this fantastic achievement!



"This is an excellent first Ofsted report for Co-op Academy Brierley and a testament to the outstanding work of Sarah, her team and the wider school community.

"What stands out throughout the report is the deep care, ambition and inclusion that pupils experience every day. Inspectors saw a school where children feel they belong, where their individual needs are understood and where staff are committed to helping every pupil succeed.

"Brierley has grown rapidly since opening and this report reflects the strength of leadership, the expertise of colleagues and the positive impact the school is already having on the lives of children and families across Leeds. We are incredibly proud of everyone involved."

Dr Chris Tomlinson, CEO of Co-op Academies Trust

Co-op Academy Penny Oaks

Playing with the Halle Orchestra

Our Year 6 children played with the Halle Orchestra at St George's hall.



Over the last few weeks, the Year 6 children have been learning two new songs on the guitar with Mr Parker in preparation for the Bradford Music Service event at St George's Hall, where the children played these songs alongside the Halle Orchestra. They also learnt two songs to sing along with the rest of the children who attended.

The children were treated to 65 minute concert performed by the orchestra and linked the theme of the World Cup. We were excited to be part of the show!

Year 11 Prom

A night full of memories we'll never forget.

We danced all night, the atmosphere was electric and everyone looked absolutely stunning. Thank you, Thornton Hall for hosting such a wonderful event. We have seen some great prom arrivals over the years, but arriving by Tractor is definitely up there!! Thank you to Andrew Plimbley from Claremont Farm for the ride!



Kellogg's donation helps students start the day ready

Students across Co-op Academies Trust have been given a helping hand during exam season thanks to a generous donation from Kellogg's.



The company donated 70 boxes of cereal to every academy across the Trust, helping schools provide breakfast for students at a time when a good start to the day matters more than ever.

Whether preparing for GCSEs, SATs or everyday learning, having breakfast can make a real difference. It helps students arrive feeling ready to focus, learn and do their best.

The donation is the latest example of the positive impact that strong partnerships can have for children and young people. Working together, Kellogg's and Co-op Academies Trust are helping to remove barriers so that every student has the opportunity to thrive.

Liz Garrity, Head of Community at Co-op Academies Trust, said: *"Kellogg's have been a fantastic partner, working closely with both the Co-op and our Community team to create opportunities and support projects that make a real difference for our schools and the communities they serve. We're incredibly grateful for this donation, which comes at such an important time for our students."*

Alexander Beck, Social Impact & Sustainability Advisor at Kellogg's, said: *"At Kellogg's, we know that breakfast can make a real difference - particularly during exam periods, when students need fuel to focus and perform at their best. That's why we're proud to be supporting all Co-op Academies with cereal donations throughout the exam season, helping ensure pupils can start their day right."*

"This support builds on our long-standing commitment to breakfast clubs over the past 25 years, driven by our belief that every young person deserves a positive start to the day when it matters most."

The donation also reflects the shared commitment of Kellogg's, the Co-op and Co-op Academies Trust to supporting the wellbeing of children and young people, both inside and outside the classroom.

A huge thank you to Kellogg's for their generosity and for helping our students start each day ready to succeed!



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Students put their culinary skills to the test in Co-op MasterChef final

Students from across Co-op Academies Trust swapped the classroom for the kitchen as they took part in the grand final of this year's Co-op MasterChef competition.

After qualifying through regional heats held at academies across the Trust, finalists came together on Wednesday 24 June at the Co-op's headquarters for an unforgettable day of cooking and teamwork.

Hosted on the Foodology floor, the final gave students the opportunity to work alongside the Co-op's Head Chef Dai Llewelyn and colleagues from the Co-op Product team, who shared their expertise and supported students throughout the day.

The finalists were challenged to prepare a range of dishes from scratch, including homemade pizzas and homemade dips, showcasing the cooking skills developed throughout the competition. The competition brought together students from every secondary across the Trust, celebrating their creativity and passion for food.

As well as competing for the title, every finalist received a goody bag thanks to the generous support of Bunzl. Packed with baking ingredients, cooking utensils, gift cards and other goodies, the bags gave students everything they need to continue developing their love of cooking at home.

Congratulations to our 2026 Co-op MasterChef champions, Co-op Academy Walkden and to every student who took part throughout the competition.

Drew Wicken, Director of Design & Technology at Co-op Academies Trust, said: *"What a joy it's been to watch this competition grow into its second year. The skill and creativity the students poured into their recipes and dishes this year was simply outstanding; every one of them should be incredibly proud."*

All of the students who took part were a wonderful credit to their academies and to the Trust as a whole. A huge, heartfelt congratulations to Co-op Academy Walkden on winning this year's competition. I already cannot wait to see what our young chefs create next year!"

Experiences like this are just one of the many opportunities available to students through the Trust's unique partnership with the Co-op Group. By connecting young people with industry experts and real-life experiences, students are able to develop new skills, build confidence and discover exciting career opportunities beyond the classroom!



Inspiring the next generation: A spectacular WOW Week Careers!

What an incredible, eye-opening day we had at school this week!

As part of our annual WOW Week (World of Work), our pupils were treated to a full day of career exploration, inspiring guest speakers, and hands-on learning that brought the future right into our classrooms.

Kickstarting the Day: Words of Wisdom

The excitement began first thing in the morning with a special whole-school assembly. We were thrilled to welcome a diverse group of guest visitors from various industries, who took the stage to share their unique career journeys.

From the qualifications they needed to the daily rewards of their jobs, our guests gave the children a real insight into what's possible with hard work and determination. The pupils listened intently, asking brilliant questions that showed they are already thinking big about their own futures.

Hands-On in the Classrooms

Following the assembly, our guests headed into the classrooms to lead interactive, specialised workshops. This was a fantastic opportunity for pupils to get a closer look at different professions.

Depending on the year group, children found themselves trying out practical tasks, solving real-world work challenges, and learning about the technology and skills used in the modern workforce. The classrooms were buzzing with creativity, teamwork, and problem-solving.

Families Join the Fun:

The Afternoon Careers Fair

The grand finale of the day took place in the afternoon, as we opened our doors to parents and carers for our grand Careers Fair.

The school hall was transformed into a bustling marketplace of opportunity. Local businesses, professionals, and even some of our own multi-talented parents set up stalls to showcase their lines of work. Families walked through together, chatting with experts, gathering information, and sparking meaningful conversations about future goals.

Big Trips for Upper Key Stage 2

While activities were buzzing on-site, our oldest students headed out into the community to get a first-hand look at higher education and the entertainment industry:

Year 5 at Connell College: Our Year 5 students took a giant leap toward their futures with a visit to Connell College. They got a taste of college life, explored the campus, and learned about the exciting pathways and subjects available to them after high school.

Year 6 at the O2 Apollo: Meanwhile, our Year 6 students went behind the scenes at the iconic O2 Apollo. They got a rare glimpse into the music and events industry, learning about the massive variety of careers—from sound engineering to event management—that make a major venue tick.

A Huge Thank You!

A massive thank you to all of our incredible visitors who took time out of their busy schedules to inspire our pupils. Thank you also to the parents and carers who joined us to make the afternoon such a success.

Our pupils left school with big smiles, bright ideas, and a brand-new sense of motivation for their studies. The future is looking incredibly bright!



Year 3 trip to the Potteries Museum 2026

On Wednesday, our Year 3 children went on a trip to Hanley's Potteries Museum.

We had a fantastic day and the children really enjoyed it! We spent the morning exploring different rocks and their uses as well as investigating the different rocks to see how they absorbed water.

In the afternoon we watched a film about Rita Baines who flew planes during WW2, including a Spitfire! We then got to see a Spitfire!

What a lovely day Year 3 had!



Students celebrate community action at Time for Change final

Year 7 students from across our Trust came together at Co-op's headquarters to celebrate creativity and community action at the final of this year's Time for Change final!



The 16-week programme gives students the chance to identify an issue they care about and work together to make a positive difference in their school or local community.

After presenting their projects to a panel of judges, Co-op Academy Brierley were crowned this year's winners, with Co-op Academy Failsworth named runners-up!

Students explored a wide range of important issues, with projects focusing on everything from supporting older people to use technology to stay connected, to tackling fast fashion. Other groups looked at ways to care for the environment, including plans to clean up local green spaces and plant oak trees for future generations.

Throughout the programme, students developed valuable skills including teamwork, communication, problem-solving and presenting, while discovering how even small actions can make a real difference.

As part of the final, every team presented their project to a panel of judges from Co-op and partner organisations. It was a fantastic opportunity for students to share their ideas with professionals, answer questions and receive valuable feedback. Judges included Keela Walsh, Academies Business Partner at Co-op, Phil Cuthbertson and Zoe Cameron from HH Global, Jamie Otter from Stone King, and Heather Linch. They were incredibly impressed by the creativity, confidence and commitment shown by every group.

Jo Sykes, Director of Careers at Co-op Academies Trust, said: *"Time for Change is about helping young people realise that their ideas matter. It's been fantastic to see students working together to tackle real issues in their communities while building confidence and skills that will stay with them long after the programme has finished."*

Congratulations to every student who took part in this year's Time for Change programme. The ideas, enthusiasm and determination on display were a brilliant reminder of the positive impact young people can have when they're given the opportunity to lead.

Co-op Academy Southfield

RHS Pilot Project

From March to July, our KS5 students proudly took part in the first RHS Pilot Project, which focused on promoting wellbeing through horticulture while developing students' knowledge and practical gardening skills.



Research has shown that spending time with plants and engaging in horticulture can have a positive impact on mental health and wellbeing by reducing stress, improving mood and creating a calmer learning environment. With this in mind, students worked together to help bring more greenery into the Sixth Form.

The project began with students exploring the local community to identify a variety of plants, trees, bulbs and other species. They then developed valuable life skills by managing budgets and planning a visit to Tong Garden Centre, where they selected and purchased seeds and plants for every classroom in the Sixth Form building.

Throughout the project, students learnt how to grow and care for plants while creating welcoming classroom spaces that can support both learning and wellbeing. They also strengthened their teamwork, communication and decision-making skills through every stage of the project.

The project was a great success, and we are delighted that the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) has invited us to take part again. We were pleased to accept the invitation and look forward to continuing this exciting partnership and further promoting wellbeing through horticulture across our school.

Flora donation helps students get active and learn new skills

Students across Co-op Academies Trust are set to benefit from new sports equipment thanks to a £20,000 donation from Flora!

The donation was raised through a fundraising campaign in Co-op stores, where 25p from every pack of Flora Buttery sold was donated to the Trust. The funding will help academies buy new equipment, giving thousands of students more opportunities to get active, try new sports and enjoy being active together.

To celebrate the partnership, a group of students from Co-op Academy North Manchester visited Co-op's headquarters at 1 Angel Square for a special cookery masterclass.

Led by professional chef Mark Rigby, students learned how to make three family favourites - macaroni cheese, garlic bread and Eton mess. Along the way, they picked up practical cooking skills, built confidence in the kitchen and discovered more about healthy eating.

The students didn't leave empty-handed either. Flora provided cooking dishes and utensils to help them recreate the recipes at home, while Co-op gifted shopping vouchers so they could buy the ingredients to cook for their families.

The partnership is about much more than fundraising. As well as helping schools invest in new sports equipment, it has given students the chance to learn new skills, try something different and take healthy habits home with them.

Keela Walsh, Academies Business Partner at Co-op, said: *"This partnership has been about so much more than raising money. It's given students the chance to learn new skills, get active and build healthy habits that they can take with them beyond the classroom. We're incredibly grateful to Flora for helping create opportunities that will make a real difference to our young people."*



Co-op Academy Stoke-on-Trent

Scholarship success

We are thrilled to confirm that six of our Year 11 students have achieved fully funded scholarships to some of the country's most prestigious independent sixth forms.



The students have secured “110% scholarships”—which cover the entirety of their tuition fees alongside boarding and additional school expenses—at top institutions across the UK. This September, Kareem, Sam, Noah, Tayyeba, Rhys, and Cristian will take up their places at destination schools including Wellington College, Dulwich College, Dean Close School, Old Swinford Hospital, and Ellesmere College.

These life-changing opportunities have been achieved through the Academy's ongoing partnership with the Springboard programme, which helps talented young people access fully funded bursaries and boarding school placements. This latest success brings the total number of Co-op Academy Stoke-on-Trent students to secure these competitive scholarships to 15 since 2023.

Ms Williamson, who oversees the programme at the Academy, expressed her pride in the students' achievements: *“We are absolutely delighted for our six scholars. To secure a place at schools of this calibre is a remarkable achievement, and it is a direct result of their hard work, talent, and dedication throughout the rigorous application process. Seeing 15 of our students access these incredible opportunities over the last few years is fantastic, and we know they will continue to thrive and excel in their new environments.”*

The entire Academy community extends its warmest congratulations to Kareem, Sam, Noah, Tayyeba, Rhys, and Cristian as they prepare to take their next academic steps this September.

Florence's LTA Youth Leaders attend the Nottingham Open

During electives, Miss Twigg has been leading a fantastic group of our Year 7 students through the LTA Youth Leaders course, where they have been developing their confidence, leadership skills and teamwork.

Today, students had the opportunity to attend the Nottingham Open and experience the action from centre court. As one of the key tournaments in the lead-up to Wimbledon, it was an inspiring day for our students and a chance to see professional tennis up close.

Experiences like these help to nurture not only sporting aspirations but also personal growth, resilience and leadership. We are incredibly proud of the students who represented Florence so brilliantly.



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Partnership with Woodcraft Folk gives students unforgettable outdoor adventure

More than 100 students from Co-op Academies Trust have enjoyed residential trips to the Peak District thanks to a partnership with youth charity Woodcraft Folk.



The charity provided funding for students from five of our West Yorkshire academies to spend one or two nights at Lockerbrook Outdoor Centre, giving them the chance to step outside their comfort zones, build confidence and experience the outdoors together.

Students from Co-op Academies' Brierley, Beckfield, Priesthorpe, Southfield and Penny Oaks all took part in the residentials, enjoying outdoor activities while developing new skills and friendships.

The residentials gave students the chance to challenge themselves, work together and grow in confidence surrounded by the stunning Peak District landscape.

Feedback from group leaders highlighted the positive impact of the experience, with almost nine in ten saying students became more confident and independent, while over 90% reported improvements in teamwork, engagement and happiness through spending time outdoors!



The partnership builds on the shared values of Co-op Academies Trust and Woodcraft Folk, whose work focuses on helping young people develop confidence, life skills and a sense of belonging through practical experiences and outdoor learning.

Liz Garrity, Head of Community at Co-op Academies Trust, said: *"Experiences like these can have a lasting impact on young people. The residentials gave students the opportunity to try something new, challenge themselves and build confidence alongside their peers. We're incredibly grateful to Woodcraft Folk for making these experiences possible and for sharing our belief that every young person deserves opportunities to grow beyond the classroom."*

A huge thank you to Woodcraft Folk for making these residentials possible for our students.

Co-op Academy Glebe

The Glebe Charity Song Goes Live!

We are so excited to finally share this year's charity song 'You're the Voice'!

Our wonderful school choir worked incredibly hard to bring this powerful song to life, with the rest of the school joining them to create a truly special video. But this song is about so much more than music, it's about hope and using our voices to make a difference.

Our children have put so much time, energy and heart into learning the song and sharing its important message and we couldn't be prouder of them. From rehearsals to recording, they have shown incredible talent and teamwork!

The video is completely free for everyone to enjoy, so please grab a cuppa, turn up the volume and enjoy watching our amazing children raise their voices together!

Scan the QR code below.



Ground breaking at Co-op Academy Smithies Moor

Work has officially started on a brand-new, eco-friendly building for Co-op Academy Smithies Moor.



The new school is being built as part of the government's School Rebuilding Programme, with Bowmer + Kirkland contracted to bring this build to life.

The new school will be full of spaces to help students learn and thrive. Featuring a multi-use games area, a forest school, improved landscaping and biodiversity features, secure cycle parking, and enhanced access arrangements.

Sustainability is a key focus, with the building set to include a biosolar roof and air source heat pumps.

Caroline Watkiss, Headteacher, said: "Today is a really exciting milestone for our school community. Our new school will provide an inspiring environment where every child can learn, thrive and achieve their very best. We can't wait to see our pupils enjoying these fantastic new facilities and creating memories here for many years to come."

Lianne Lawson, contracts manager at Bowmer + Kirkland, added: "We're delighted to be working with the Department for Education and Co-op Academies Trust to deliver this fantastic new school.

"This project will create a modern, sustainable learning environment for future generations, and we're proud to play our part in bringing this important investment to the local community."

We look forward to sharing more updates as the school begins to take shape!

Celebrating Young Musician of the Year 2026

We recently celebrated the grand final of the Young Musician of the Year 2026 competition. It was a fantastic night that brought our academies together to share in the joy of live music.

This year, we had over 250 entries from across the Trust. After lots of practice and regional semi-finals in March and April, our finalists got the chance to perform at the beautiful Stoller Hall in Manchester.

The event was extra-special because we partnered with EQTY in Music, a brilliant charity that has been working with 12 of our secondary academies.

Through this partnership, our students got to experience professional soundchecks and play alongside top industry session musicians. This kind of support helps our students express themselves, show their talents, and be themselves on stage.

Our primary school performers set a wonderful tone for the evening. Mia from Co-op Academy New Islington and Elizabeth from Co-op Academy Friarswood both gave beautiful, brave performances that delighted the audience.

From our younger secondary school groups, Stefan from Co-op Academy Grange and Josh from Co-op Academy Bebington showed incredible dedication and skill.

Our older secondary school students also shone brightly. Rosa from Co-op Academy Priesthorpe and Sophie from Co-op Academy Failsworth gave moving performances that showed just how hard they have worked.

While judges chose winners for the different age groups, the real joy of the night was seeing how much our students cared for each other. Backstage and on stage, they cheered, clapped, and supported one another. Just stepping onto that stage was a massive achievement for every single student.

Matt Asher, the music director for our Trust, was incredibly proud of everyone who took part. He said: *"I am incredibly proud of every single student who took part. The standard of musicianship on stage was incredible to watch. Standing up on stage at a venue like Stoller Hall takes a massive amount of courage, and seeing our young people from across all our academies support each other so brilliantly was just wonderful."*

Winners

KS2

Mia - Co-op Academy New Islington
Elizabeth - Co-op Academy Friarswood

KS3

Stefan - Co-op Academy Grange
Josh - Co-op Academy Bebington

KS4

Rosa - Co-op Academy Priesthorpe
Sophie - Co-op Academy Failsworth



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Maths Excellence Fund 2026

As we come to the end of our second year of the Co-op Academies Maths Excellence Fund, we wanted to look back at all the wonderful things our students and staff have achieved together this year.

At our Trust, we want to make things happen for our young people. Thanks to this special programme, students across our academies have been building their confidence, challenging themselves, and discovering just how much they can achieve.

This year has been packed with activities that brought students together from different regions to learn, compete, and have fun with maths.

Big revision days: Our Year 11 students from all academies came together for two dedicated revision days designed to help them aim for top grades (Grade 7 or above).

Friendly competitions: We hosted a Year 10 'MathsFeast' competition and a Year 7 and 8 'Maths Olympics', giving students a fantastic space to team up and solve puzzles.

University Masterclasses: Our Year 9 students visited top universities for special masterclasses. Students from Merseyside went to the University of Liverpool Maths School, Stoke students visited Keele University, and Greater Manchester students headed to the University of Lancaster Maths School.

Back in our classrooms, the fund has allowed us to offer extra support and exciting new projects every single week.

Weekly clubs and extra sessions: Our younger secondary students have been enjoying weekly Axiom Maths clubs and fortnightly booster sessions to help raise their skills.

Stepping up: For students aiming for higher grades, schools offered extra Year 11 revision sessions, Level 2 Further Maths, and even GCSE Statistics in some academies.

Independent projects: We launched the 'Philomath' project for Year 9 students, encouraging them to lead their own maths research.

Moving up to secondary school: We created a special maths transition activity to help our Year 6 pupils feel confident and excited about maths as they move up into Year 7.

Brilliant online tools: Every student across our academies has had access to the Sparx maths homework platform to support their learning at home.

To give our students the best experience, we also invest heavily in our staff. This year, we held a Trust-wide training day where maths teachers from all our academies came together in person to share ideas. We also provided continuous training for our early career teachers, heads of maths, and our Graduate Maths Excellence Specialists.

We are incredibly proud to share that all five of our very first Graduate Specialists are staying with us. From September, they are moving onto salaried teacher training to become fully qualified maths teachers in our academies.

This programme is proving to be a huge success, and we cannot wait to see it grow next year.

None of this would be possible without our dedicated team, which includes our Maths Directors, Specialist Executive Maths Teacher, and our Graduate Specialists. Driving this forward every day are our fantastic heads of departments, teachers, senior leaders, and headteachers.

Most importantly, we could not achieve any of this without the brilliant support of our students' parents and carers. Thank you for working with us to help our young people succeed.

Co-op Young Leaders Recognition Awards 2026

Co-op Leaders Recognition Awards, celebrating the exceptional young people who shape our school communities for the better.

Our first-ever Co-op Young Leaders awards was truly remarkable, we had 35 students nominated from 12 different academies across our primary academies, secondary schools, and post-16. Every single nominee has demonstrated what it means to be a true leader and a role model to their peers.

The awards were built around our Co-op Ways of Being, split into four distinct categories. Competition was incredibly fierce, with two outstanding winners selected for each category.

Here are the remarkable winners of the 2026 Student Leaders Recognition Awards:

1. Do What Matters Most

Awarded to students who focus on the bigger picture, display immense responsibility, and take action to make a real difference.

Winner 1: Ruby, Esme, Jacob and Kingdavid from Co-op Academy Northwood

"Despite their young age, these students have shown incredible commitment to improving our school community. Every morning, they are a vibrant presence at the school gate, meeting and greeting their peers with infectious enthusiasm. Their friendly faces help ease morning nerves and make every child feel welcome from the moment they arrive."

Winner 2: Eloise from Co-op Academy Priesthorpe

"As part of her leadership development Eloise has delivered to our Community Council, worked with other young learners across the city as part of a student summit with the Leeds Learning Alliance and even visited 11 Downing Street to speak with the Chancellor of the Exchequer Rachel Reeves. Eloise is the type of student that has exceptional rectitude and you will find her doing what matters most at any occasion."

2. Show You Care Award

Recognising students who demonstrate deep empathy, support their peers, and consistently put others first.

Winner 1: Jenson from Co-op Academy Failsworth

"Jenson always ensures he puts others' thoughts and feelings before his own. He is a great role model within the school and students go to him often. He is a valued member of the student leadership team."

Winner 2: Romani from Co-op Academy Portland

"On the first Tuesday of every month a small group of children attend Oxtan Grange care home. Romani has been a regular for over two years and has struck up some lovely relationships with the elderly residents. Romani was particularly fond of a lady who was an author; she had dementia and could no longer remember her career, or her successful 35 book history. Every time we went Romani would patiently show her own books, she would explain the author was her and she would read to her."

Before Christmas Romani was told she was on the end of life care and she made her a special Christmas card.

When she died, the lady left Romani a book of hers and her family left a message saying how grateful they were to the children but especially to Romani."



3. Succeed Together

Celebrating leaders who champion teamwork, collaboration, and bringing people together to achieve a goal.

Winner 1: Harriet from Co-op Academy Manchester

"Harriet was appointed Joint Head Prefect last July due to her positive and determined approach to Student Leadership. She has been a Coop Young leader for three years proving herself to be reliable and trustworthy through her work at a number of after school events.

She can be entrusted to help run the "front of house" at events such as Progress Evenings and Open Evenings. Whether she is leading tours, meeting and greeting families or supporting staff, she has a mature and sensible attitude. Harriet is an excellent role model."

Winner 2: Luo Chen from Co-op Academy Stoke-on-Trent

"Luo Chen is a fantastic example of what it means to Succeed Together at the Academy. It has been brilliant to watch his confidence and leadership skills grow as he works alongside everyone from his own peers to much younger students. Whether he is helping to train others, supporting the Christmas fair, or lending a hand at parents' evenings, family meals, and community events, Luo Chen always makes sure the team thrives. He is incredibly versatile and willing to work with anyone to get the job done, proving that we achieve our best results when we work as one."

4. Be Yourself, Always

Honouring students who show authenticity, stand up for what is right, and inspire others by being proudly independent.

Winner 1: Justin from Co-op Academy Leeds

"Justin exemplifies what it means to be a proactive young leader. The moment an idea is mentioned, he takes initiative, he'll research it thoroughly, develop a solid plan, and execute it effectively. He consistently seeks involvement in every facet of the student leadership team, driving cultural and extracurricular change. His communication across multiple projects is relentless, and his dedication is instrumental in pushing the team forward."

Winner 2: Zac from Connell Co-op College

"This year, Zac took the initiative to enrol in the 20 volunteering programme, committing to at least 93 hours of service. From the outset, he showed dedication by attending weekly workshops, enrolling onto online CPD and embracing every opportunity to learn and develop. He has since transitioned into an active volunteer role, One City sessions on both Tuesdays and Fridays.

Zac is not only a role model within City in the Community programme but a young leader who embodies the spirit of community, inclusion, and service. His dedication, compassion, and proactive approach make him a truly deserving candidate for recognition."

A massive thank you to all the staff who nominated our young people for their hard work.

Pupils showcase confidence and creativity at this year's Public Speaking Competition

Pupils from across Co-op Academies Trust came together at One Angel Square on Friday 3rd July for the annual Public Speaking Competition, celebrating confidence, communication skills and the power of young people's voices.



Before pupils took to the stage, the competition began with a welcome from Marvin Walters, the Director of Secondary English at the Co-op Academy Trust and our panel of judges, which included:

Lee Hodgson: Account Director at HH Global

Jo Gilson: Senior Account Manager at HH Global

Jo Bishop: Performance Data & Reporting Manager - Group Procurement at Co-op

Rebecca Derbyshire: Group Procurement at Co-op

Samantha Tweedale: Supplier Engagement Manager at Co-op

Keela Walsh: Academies Business Partner at Co-op

Melissa Morris: Relationship Director at Barclaycard Payments

Over the course of the day, pupils delivered their speeches across 4 groups, with each participant receiving peer feedback and encouragement for their efforts.

The judges were impressed by the quality of the speeches, the confidence shown by pupils and the wide variety of topics explored, including speeches on 'The Dangers of Palm Oil', 'Artificial Intelligence', 'The Power of Ideologies' and 'The Gender Paradox' to name but a few. There were also numerous Spoken Word Poems and Short Stories, created and performed by our very own talented pupils.



The competition brought together 34 talented pupils from 12 of our secondary academies, where pupils had the opportunity to deliver speeches in front of an audience and a panel of judges at the Trust's Manchester headquarters.

Throughout the day, pupils showcased their passion, creativity and confidence as they presented speeches on a wide range of topics, demonstrating the excellent speaking and listening skills they have developed in their academies.

After a fantastic day of presentations, the judges announced this year's winners:

Overall Winner:

Freya - Co-op Academy Swinton

Runner-up:

Ayesha - Co-op Academy Strinesdale

Third Place:

Alex Joy - Co-op Academy Strinesdale

Additional awards:

Highly Commended Poem:

Maisie - Co-op Academy Manchester

Best Original Poem:

Sophia - Co-op Academy Manchester

Most Emotional Response 1:

Kian - Co-op Academy Failsworth

Most Emotional Response 2:

Riley - Co-op Academy Strinesdale

Funniest:

Azhar - Co-op Academy North Manchester

Best Original Speech 1:

Gandhi - Co-op Academy Failsworth

Best Original Speech 2:

Zhana - Co-op Academy Failsworth

Highly Commended 1:

Finn - Co-op Academy Bebington

Highly Commended 2:

Tammy - Co-op Academy Swinton

Highly Commended 3:

Fulfilla - Co-op Academy North Manchester

Highly Commended 4:

Michelle - Co-op Academy Belle Vue



Co-op Academies Trust

Colleagues share innovative approaches at the Festival of Education

Colleagues from Co-op Academies Trust have shared their expertise with educators from across the country at this year's Festival of Education, showcasing the impact of innovative approaches that are helping students develop a love of learning.

The Festival of Education is one of the UK's leading education events, bringing together thousands of educators, school leaders and sector experts to share ideas, celebrate innovation and explore the future of education.

Representing Co-op Academies Trust, colleagues from Co-op Academy Oakwood delivered sessions focused on the power of reading and storytelling in the classroom, sharing their experiences and expertise with education professionals from across the country.

Executive Headteacher Rimah Aasim and Claire Spivey presented 'The Impact of Faster Read in Primary', sharing Oakwood's journey and the impact the approach has had on students' reading experiences.

Following conversations at the Racial Equity Networking Dinner, education expert Mary Myatt visited Co-op Academy Oakwood to see the impact of Faster Read first-hand.

During her visit, Mary observed lessons where students were fully immersed in the stories they were reading. She later spoke with a group of students, who impressed her with their detailed knowledge of books and stories, as well as their enthusiasm and passion for reading.

The visit led to Rimah and Claire being invited to present alongside Mary Myatt at the Festival of Education, sharing how Faster Read has helped students develop a deeper connection with reading.

During their session, they explored how reading with prosody, passion and purpose can have a significant impact on students, not only supporting outcomes, but also improving their love of reading, behaviour, stamina for learning, engagement and empathy.

"It was a great honour to be invited to present alongside Mary Myatt about the impact of Faster Read for the students of Oakwood. Sharing the journey and the impact with other educators demonstrated the power of reading and how just reading with prosody and passion has an impact on the children we teach."

Rimah Aasim,
Headteacher, Co-op Academy Oakwood



Director of Primary Curriculum for West Yorkshire, Lee Mullen, also represented Co-op Academies Trust at the event with his session 'The Effective Use of Stories Across the Curriculum'.

Lee's session explored how stories can be used as one of six powerful ways to share new knowledge with students in the classroom. Delegates explored how stories can support learning, alongside the importance of using hinge points as effective assessment opportunities and designing tasks that allow students to make meaningful connections.

Reflecting on the experience, Lee shared how valuable it was to work alongside educators from across the country and hear from leading voices within education.

Lee said: *"It was such a wonderful experience to work with educators from across the country, and see my hard work validated by such a wide range of experts. I had the opportunity to listen to other talks, including from Sir Michael Oliver, as well as network with some really influential people in the sector."*

"Representing Co-op at such a prestigious event is one of the proudest moments of my career so far."

The Festival of Education was a fantastic opportunity for colleagues to share the excellent work taking place across Co-op Academies Trust and demonstrate the expertise, creativity and commitment of our teams.

By sharing our approaches, learning from one another and celebrating the successes of our academies, we continue to work together to make a positive difference for our students.

Recognition Awards 2026

Colleagues from across our Trust came together at Rochdale Town Hall on Friday 10th July for the 2026 Recognition Awards, celebrating the incredible people who make our Trust such a special place to learn, work and belong.

The evening brought together colleagues from across our academies and central teams for a night of celebration, appreciation and connection. It was a chance to recognise the dedication, compassion and commitment shown by colleagues every day across our Trust.

The celebrations began with two inspiring performances from our pupils. The Steel Drums group from Co-op Academy North Manchester brought energy and excitement to the entrance of the event with their performance, followed by the Primary Choir featuring pupils from Co-op Academy Medlock, Co-op Academy Broadhurst and Co-op Academy New Islington, who filled the evening with warmth and pride.

Before dinner was served, students from Co-op Academy Swinton took to the stage with a fantastic set of performances, including *Somewhere Only We Know* by Keane, *Six* from the musical *Six*, and *One Last Time* by Ariana Grande. The performances were a wonderful reminder of the talent within our academies and the opportunities colleagues create for children and young people every day.

This year, we received more than 700 nominations from colleagues across the Trust. Each nomination celebrated someone who makes a meaningful difference through their dedication, teamwork and commitment to our pupils, communities and each other.





JULY 2026



This year's winners...

Belonging Champion

Amanda Harris - Co-op Academy Clarice Cliff
Kaya Chew - Co-op Academy Manchester
Rachael Sneddon - Co-op Academy Walkden

Central Colleague of the Year

Josh Dale - Central Team
Mike Nolan - Central Team
Pally Galbraith - Central Team

Collective Impact Award

Greater Manchester ACP Team:

Amanda Maugham, Emen Hussain, Hannah Molloy,
Jen Edmondson, Susan Roberts, Georgina Wild

Belle Vue Quality of Education Team:

Neilam Atcha, Bethany Swindell,
Kashmala Rathore, Laura Drinkwater

Brownhill Attendance Minibus Team:

Melissa Chippendale, Vikki Hughes

Community Excellence Award

Hannah Danby - Co-op Academy Brierley
Samra Mirza - Co-op Academy Grange
Olivia Williamson - Co-op Academy Stoke-on-Trent

Curriculum Expertise & Practice Award

Charlotte Gleeson - Co-op Academy Belle Vue
Oliver Strelczenie - Co-op Academy Brierley
Elisha Pighills - Co-op Academy Delius

Department of the Year

Bebington ISAP - Elevate and Motivate:

Alistair Denham, Helen Richardson,
Leanne Robinson, Michelle Rogers

Northwood Early Years Team:

Natasha Coore, Hannah Slinn, Amy Brennan,
Janine Simpson, Jenny Spruce, Lauren Whitby

Southfield Attendance Team:

Dan Foster, Isma Batool, Kiran Afzal

Director of the Year

Bhavini Vithlani - Central Team
Jay Timotheus - Central Team
Lee Mullen - Central Team

Geoff Clarke Award for Inclusion

Joanna Graham - Co-op Academy Brownhill
Clarice Cliff Attendance Team:
Kerry McDonald, Samantha Hudson
Wendy Coyne - Co-op Academy North Manchester

Innovation & System Impact Award

Logan McMillan - Central Team
Charlotte James - Co-op Academy Stoke-on-Trent
Beccie Stant - Co-op Academy Woodslee

Inspirational Leader Award

Melanie Boffey - Co-op Academy Brierley
Dionne Wiltshaw - Co-op Academy Northwood
Shaun Leathers - Co-op Academy Portland

Lifetime Achievement Award

Deborah Fletcher - Co-op Academy Grange
Andy Blair - Co-op Academy Leeds
Asif Ali - Co-op Academy Leeds
Marianne Francey - Co-op Academy Oakwood
Eileen Tolcher - Co-op Academy Portland

Newcomer Award

Charlotte Wilson - Co-op Academy Beckfield
Danielle Owen - Co-op Academy Medlock
Kiarna Smith - Co-op Academy Northwood

Opportunity Driver Award

Dave Wheetman - Co-op Academy Grange
Lucy Weighman - Co-op Academy Walkden
Isabella Taylor - Connell Co-op College

Progress & Achievement Award

Jamie Stubbs - Co-op Academy Clarice Cliff
Zeri Salem - Co-op Academy Stoke-on-Trent
Adam Lamara - Co-op Academy Walkden

Support Staff of the Year

Chris Locke - Co-op Academy Bebington
Karina McLoughlin - Co-op Academy Medlock
Louise Standring - Co-op Academy Stoke-on-Trent

Teacher of the Year

Sandie Utley - Co-op Academy Bebington
Beth Wiggins - Co-op Academy Portland
Sam White - Co-op Academy Priesthorpe

Ways of Being Champion

James Rhodes - Co-op Academy Florence MacWilliams
Shamila Khan - Co-op Academy Southfield
Emily Faulkner - Co-op Academy Walkden

Wellbeing & Support Champion

Emilie Lawson-Noctor - Co-op Academy Bebington
Georgina Clark - Co-op Academy Brownhill
Kimberley Hall - Co-op Academy Portland

Co-op Academy Friarswood

Celebration of learning

On Monday, we welcomed our families in to share the great work that their children had done throughout this academic year.

As the weather was still very warm, everyone took their work outside to find a comfortable spot on our fields. It was fantastic to see so many smiles of pride from both children sharing their achievements and parents seeing everything their children had completed this year. Thank you to everyone who was able to attend this special afternoon.

We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did!



2026 Graduation

Graduation for our brilliant Year 6's



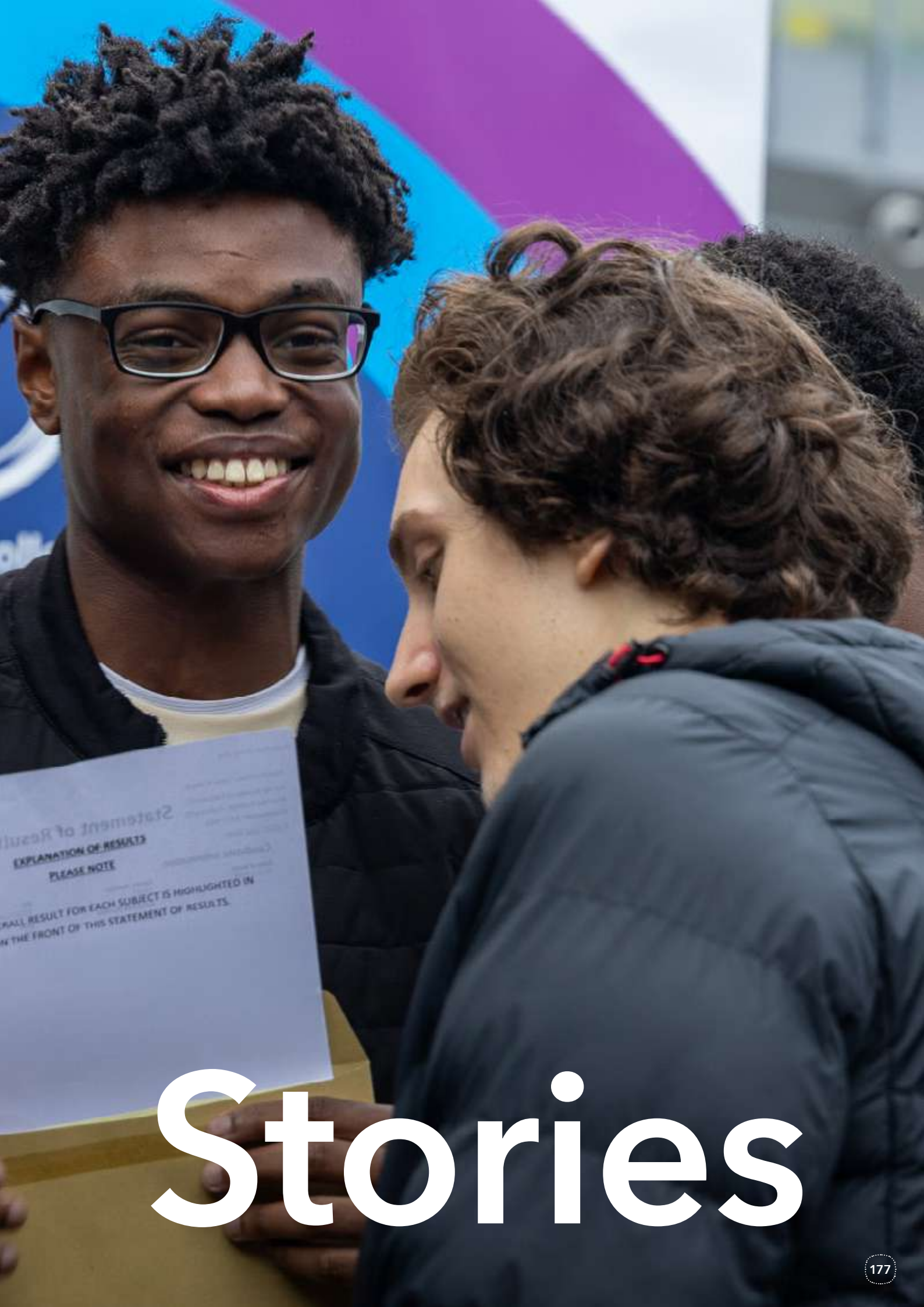
We're so proud of how far you've all come, and can't wait to hear about your future adventures at high school!

We loved celebrating our year 6's with their families. Each pupil had some heartfelt words spoken about their personal Delius journey, before strutting down the red carpet to a song of their choice!

We will miss you all!



Success



Stories

CO-OP ACADEMY BEBINGTON



Jackson

When Jackson joined Co-op Academy Bebington in Year 7, he arrived with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and faced significant speech and pronunciation challenges. Now, as he prepares to leave Year 11, he has grown into a confident and independent young man who is a valued member of the school community.

Jackson is known for his positive attitude and self-confidence. When teachers tell him he has done well, his response is often a smile and a confident, "I know!"

He has built strong relationships with staff and students alike at Bebington, taking the time to check in with others and remembering details about the people around him. After completing a British Sign Language course, Jackson even spent some of his lunch breaks practising with staff and helping them improve their signing.

Jackson has embraced school life, particularly through his love of football, where he enjoys playing with his peers and encouraging others from the sidelines. He also completed work experience as a Teaching Assistant, proudly insisting everyone called him "Mr Cook" while helping staff with classroom technology.

His determination has been reflected in the classroom too. In Maths, he improved his score in the school's "2-Minute Challenge" by fourteen times compared to when he first started.

As Jackson prepares to move into sixth form, the school is incredibly proud of the progress he has made. His journey is a testament to his resilience, enthusiasm and a willingness to make the most of every opportunity that presents itself.

CO-OP ACADEMY BEBINGTON



Mike & Ethan

When Mike and Ethan were in Key Stage 3, mainstream education presented significant challenges. Disengaged from learning, both struggled with attendance, punctuality and behaviour, making it difficult to see the value of education. Recognising the social and educational barriers they faced, the ISAP (Inclusion Support and Alternative Provision) panel enrolled them onto the Elevate Programme at the end of Year 9, providing the opportunity for a fresh start.

Built around overcoming barriers to learning, the Elevate Programme combines personalised teaching with strong emotional support to help students thrive. Through a tailored curriculum and positive relationships with staff, Mike and Ethan quickly transformed their attitudes to school. Now in Year 11, both have attendance above 95%, excellent punctuality, zero negative behaviour points and a dramatic increase in positive behaviour points.

Their progress has also been reflected academically. Both were selected to join a mainstream maths intervention class and are on track to achieve their target grades in Maths and English GCSEs.

Alongside this, they have completed ASDAN Level 1 qualifications in Personal and Social Development and Motor Vehicle Studies, discovering a passion for mechanical engineering and the automotive industry.

We are delighted that both students have secured places in Bebington Academy's sixth form, where they will continue their education. They have embraced every opportunity, growing into polite, confident and respectful young people who embody the values of our school.

Congratulations to Mike and Ethan on their outstanding achievements. We wish them every success in their GCSEs and look forward to seeing them continue to thrive in sixth form.

CO-OP ACADEMY BELLE VUE



Luna

Luna's journey at Co-op Academy Belle Vue is a wonderful example of successful social inclusion and the transformational impact of high expectations, care and exposure to opportunities.

Joining the academy in Year 9 after moving from Sweden, Luna faced the challenge of adapting to a new country, a new education system and learning within a different language environment. From the very beginning, Luna approached every challenge with an exceptional work ethic and determination.

Through the support of staff, alongside Luna's own commitment to success, she has flourished both academically and personally. Luna is now predicted to achieve Grades 8 and 9 across her subjects, an incredible achievement that reflects not only her academic ability, but also the character she demonstrates every single day.

Luna has embraced every opportunity available to her at Belle Vue. She has attended intervention sessions, completed extensive independent study and consistently gone above and beyond what is expected. She is highly respected by staff and peers alike for her maturity and kindness.

Headteacher **Mr Fletcher** added: *"Luna is one of the hardest working students I have come across. The amount of additional work, revision, and independent practice she has completed to unlock her potential has been exceptional. She never looks for shortcuts and has fully earned the success she is now achieving. We are incredibly proud of her."*

CO-OP ACADEMY BELLE VUE



Jimmy

Zimmy's story is a powerful example of the importance of community, strong relationships with families, and the impact that genuine partnership can have on a young person's success.

Throughout his time at Co-op Academy Belle Vue, Zimmy has continued to show remarkable determination and strength of character. His ability to continue thriving both personally and academically during difficult periods is something we are incredibly proud of.

A key factor in Zimmy's success has been the strong partnership between home and school. Through close communication, shared support and a collective commitment to ensuring the very best for him, staff and family have worked together to provide care and encouragement at every stage. His journey truly demonstrates the power of community and the importance of schools and families working hand in hand.

Headteacher **Mr Fletcher**, said: "Zimmy's resilience has been exceptional. Even during challenging personal circumstances, he has continued to show positivity, determination and a willingness to succeed.

"The partnership between school and home has been incredibly strong and has allowed us to work together to ensure Zimmy feels supported, challenged and cared for every step of the way."

Zimmy's story highlights that inclusion is not simply about academic outcomes, but about ensuring every young person feels supported, understood, and able to succeed regardless of the challenges they may face.

Unlocking potential through
expert knowledge and character





CONNELL CO-OP COLLEGE



Adriana

Adriana studied the triple BTEC Applied Science course and is hoping to get D*D*D. She has accepted a place at the University of Lancashire to study (BVMS) Veterinary Medicine & Surgery (foundation entry).

After completing her six years of study, Adriana is planning to work as a veterinary surgeon in a clinic in the UK for at least two years before travelling to places such as Australia where she could work with more exotic animals.

During her time at Connell Co-op College, Adriana was the Head of the Student Council and also volunteered as an ambassador at open events, interview evenings and supporting the college Eid celebration.

Embracing every opportunity during her time at Connell, Adrianna also took part in a variety of enrichment classes including driving theory lessons, volleyball and the college's book club.

Reflecting on her time at Connell, **Adrianna** said: *"I have truly cherished every moment during my time at Connell. One of the things that I will miss the most is the strong sense of community and the dedicated teachers who supported me every step of the way, helping me achieve my goals."*

"I will also miss the friendships I formed during my time here as when I first joined Connell I didn't know anyone and was quite anxious about making friends. The welcoming environment made it easy to connect with others and create lasting relationships."

Shaheen Khan-Jones, Teacher of Applied Science, said: *"Adriana has made an outstanding contribution to college life, both academically and through her leadership roles. She is driven by curiosity and has been a pleasure to teach. Best of luck for your exciting future, Adriana."*

CONNELL CO-OP COLLEGE



Diana

Diana joined Connell Co-op College after studying at Wright Robinson College in Gorton. She has excelled on the Triple BTEC Applied Science course and is hoping to achieve an outstanding D*D*D* when she receives her results this summer.

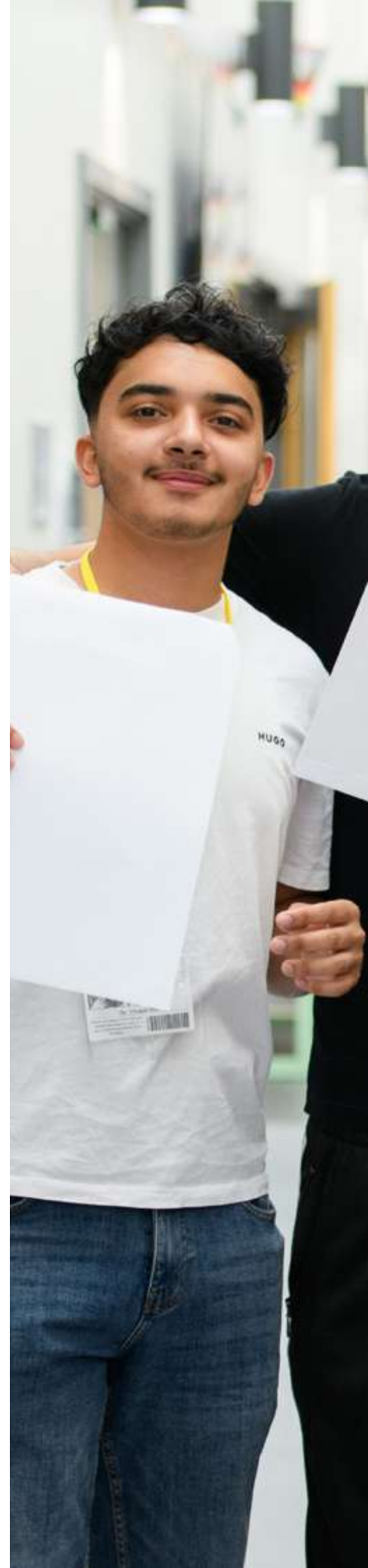
Passionate about helping others, Diana is currently exploring her future career options, with ambitions to pursue either dental therapy or nursing. While she is particularly interested in dental therapy, she is taking time to find the right course that aligns with her goals and hopes to continue her studies at the University of Huddersfield.

Inspired by family members working in healthcare and caring professions, Diana has always been drawn to a career where she can make a positive difference to people's lives. Ultimately, she hopes to work within the NHS and, in the future, would love the opportunity to travel and potentially live and work abroad.

Alongside her academic studies, Diana has made a significant contribution to college life through her role as Vice Leader of the Student Council. In this position, she represented the student voice, attended regular meetings and helped organise key events including Eid celebrations and Culture Day.

Speaking about her involvement, **Diana** said: *"I joined the Student Council because I wanted to support other students by listening to their ideas and concerns and helping to make positive changes within the college. It gave me some amazing opportunities, including meeting the then Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham."*

Shaheen Khan-Jones, Teacher of Applied Science, said: *"Diana is driven by deep, insightful questions and is defined by the hard work it takes to answer them. She's also coupled with an unmatched work ethic. Best of luck in your exciting next steps, Diana."*





CO-OP ACADEMY FAILSWORTH



Emme

Emme became part of the Hub Alternative Provision (AP) at Failsworth in Year 7 following difficulties in accessing and engaging with mainstream education. As a result, her learning experience and behaviour in school were often affected.

Throughout her time in the Hub AP, Emme has demonstrated a commitment to her own development. She has responded positively to support, shown increasing self-awareness and worked hard to overcome barriers that previously impacted her progress. Her determination to improve and her willingness to accept guidance have been key factors in her success.

Over the years, Emme has grown into a thoughtful and motivated young person and she has developed greater confidence in her abilities. This has led to improved relationships with both staff and peers, and helped her to establish a more positive approach to learning.

Her maturity and perseverance have also enabled her to make significant strides both personally and academically.

As she completes her GCSE examinations, Emme has shown commendable dedication and commitment to achieving the best outcomes possible. She has approached this important stage of her education with a strong work ethic and a clear sense of purpose.

Emme has made huge progress and consistently demonstrated resilience in the face of challenges. She should be proud of the positive choices she has made and the effort she has invested in her education. Her achievements reflect both her character and determination, and she is ready to continue building on this success in her next steps.

CO-OP ACADEMY FAILSWORTH



Layton

Layton joined the Hub Alternative Provision (AP) at Failsworth in Year 9 following a difficult period where he was finding it hard to engage with mainstream education. At the time, he needed support with emotional regulation and behavioural management as these challenges often resulted in difficulties in building positive relationships with staff.

Since joining the Hub AP, Layton has demonstrated exceptional personal growth and development. He has embraced the support available, shown increased maturity and developed a strong sense of accountability.

Through sustained effort and commitment, he has built positive and respectful relationships with both staff and peers and has become a valued member of the school community. Layton's attitude towards learning has also improved significantly and he now approaches his education with focus and

a clear understanding of the importance of achieving his long-term goals. His engagement in lessons and willingness to seek support when required have been a credit.

In preparing for his GCSEs, Layton has shown outstanding dedication and has invested a lot of time and effort into his studies. He has developed aspirations for his post-16 pathway and is well placed to continue his success beyond secondary education.

The progress Layton has made, both personally and academically, is significant and thoroughly deserved. He is commended for the positive choices he has made and the commitment he has shown in overcoming barriers to achieve his potential.





CO-OP ACADEMY GRANGE



Atefa

Atefa's journey is an absolute inspiration and a shining example of what can be accomplished through passion and hard work. Having joined Co-op Academy Grange from Afghanistan, Atefa has flourished, adapting to a new environment with determination.

Her relentless work ethic and focus on her studies have rightfully earned her a place as one of the highest-achieving students in her entire year group.

Atefa's academic curiosity and ambition have taken her far beyond the standard curriculum. This year, she successfully took part in the prestigious University Programme, which included a residential stay at Oxford University, an experience that allowed her to sample life at a world-class institution and further fuelled her high aspirations.

From September, Atefa will take the next big step on her academic journey as she plans to head to college to study Mathematics and Sciences at A-Level, laying the groundwork for her ultimate goal: a future career in medicine. Given her extraordinary determination and drive to help others, there are no doubts that she will make a fantastic medical professional.

Staff at Grange are immensely proud of everything Atefa has accomplished during her time at the school and they look forward to seeing her continue to flourish as she steps into this exciting next chapter.

RESULTS DAY 2026, CO-OP ACADEMY BEBINGTON



RESULTS DAY 2026, CO-OP ACADEMY STOKE-ON-TRENT



CO-OP ACADEMY LEEDS



Akida

Throughout her time at Co-op Academy Leeds, Akida has been a shining example of resilience and growth. From her start in Year 7, she developed a passion for Physical Education, demonstrating a positive attitude both within the academy and through her involvement in sport outside of school.

Like many young people, Akida faced some challenges but she has been determined to learn from these experiences.

Through hard work and maturity, she has continuously strived to be the best version of herself, growing into an outstanding role model and a highly respected member of the academy community.

As an ambassador for PE, Akida has represented the academy in football, netball and athletics, consistently displaying fantastic sportsmanship while also supporting younger students.

Akida has also worked incredibly hard throughout Sports Studies, applying herself fully to both the practical and theoretical aspects of the qualification. Her commitment to her studies during Year 11 has been unparalleled. She has worked tirelessly, attending every revision session and holiday class, and completing every additional task possible to achieve her best this summer.

Adam Rayner, Subject Leader for PE, said: *"Akida should be extremely proud of everything she has achieved and we would like to thank her for the positive impact she has had on the department and the wider academy. We wish her every success in the future."*

Akida's journey is a true testament to the power of resilience and personal growth and we wish her every success as she continues on her educational journey.

CO-OP ACADEMY LEEDS



Hamzah

Throughout his time at Co-op Academy Leeds, Hamzah has been an example of kindness and determination. With aspirations of becoming a game developer, he has consistently demonstrated a passion for both Computer Science and Art, combining his creativity and technical skills.

Hamzah's journey through secondary school has been marked by perseverance and a commitment to self-improvement. Recognising Mathematics as a subject he found particularly challenging, he refused to let this become a barrier and has worked hard to strengthen his understanding and make significant progress.

Beyond his academic achievements, Hamzah has fully embraced academy life, taking part in extracurricular activities, attending revision sessions and bringing laughter to those around him with his trademark sarcasm. He leaves the school having become a well-respected member of the year group.

Miss Booth, Hamza's Art Teacher, said:

"Hamza has been an absolute pleasure to teach. His artwork is so beautiful and I really hope he continues to share his talents and creativity in the future."

Hamzah has never allowed challenges to define him or stand in the way of becoming the best version of himself. Instead, he has approached every opportunity with enthusiasm, determination and a desire to grow.

We are incredibly proud of everything he has achieved during his time at Co-op Academy Leeds and look forward to seeing where his talents take him next.

CO-OP ACADEMY MANCHESTER



Sam



Olivia

Sam demonstrated extraordinary resilience following the tragic loss of his mother just weeks before his final exams. Returning to school the very next day, his unwavering focus and determination were a true testament to his character.

Sam worked hand-in-hand with the dedicated pastoral team at Co-op Academy Manchester, navigating this profound personal bereavement with immense courage. Thanks to this shared dedication Sam has achieved a set of inspiring GCSE results.

Sam said: *"The last year has been really difficult for me, but I've been supported really well by my Heads of Year Miss Jackson and Miss Rehman. They have really helped me by giving me someone to talk to. I have worked hard and am proud of myself for completing my exams."*

Miss Jackson added: *"Sam has been a delight! He suffered a close loss this academic year and many people would have been off school or work for a long time. Sam was in the very next day to make his mum proud. He has done nothing but try his best. We are so proud of him and know he will go on to do amazing things."*

Olivia showed immense strength after experiencing a close bereavement just a week before her final exams began. Despite facing huge challenges at such a critical moment, her commitment never wavered. Olivia attended every examination and booster session, displaying discipline and maturity throughout a very challenging period.

Working closely with the pastoral team, she accessed targeted support that helped her navigate this time while remaining focused on her academic goals.

Olivia said: *"I have really enjoyed my time at Co-op Academy Manchester. The support I've received from staff and my friends has really helped me to succeed and although I've had lots of highs and lows during the last year, I'm really proud of myself for finishing my exams."*

Miss O'Connor added: *"I have loved teaching Olivia this year. She has shown strength and courage in the face of great adversity and we are all so proud of her 'can do' spirit and resolve to sit her exams. She has attended boosters and given this exam season her all. She is a real inspiration to us all."*

RESULTS DAY 2026, CO-OP ACADEMY MANCHESTER



RESULTS DAY 2026, CO-OP ACADEMY WALKDEN



CO-OP ACADEMY NORTH MANCHESTER



Emily

Since joining Co-op Academy North Manchester, Emily has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to making her local community a cleaner, safer and more inclusive place for everyone.

This year, Emily took a leading role in a major campaign to clean up Blackley. Showing initiative and leadership, she and her team successfully lobbied Manchester City Council and partnered with 'Keep Manchester Tidy' to organise a massive community litter pick. The event brought together the school community with 20 academy members getting involved to collect more than 20 bags of litter.

Emily's impact went beyond local environmental action as she recognised that social inclusion means ensuring everyone has equal access to support.

At a recent Cost of Living event, she coordinated with the local councillor to distribute posters and leaflets, actively encouraging residents to use vital council services rather than resorting to fly-tipping. By breaking down barriers to civic resources and bringing people together, Emily has nurtured a sense of pride and belonging across the community.

Emily's hard work, leadership, and community-focused outlook have left a lasting legacy at the academy, proving how young people can drive real, positive change.

CO-OP ACADEMY NORTH MANCHESTER



Ollie

Co-op Academy North Manchester is committed to empowering students to become active citizens who can make a positive difference within their communities.

As part of a Citizenship campaign exploring school absenteeism and the wider social factors that influence engagement, Ollie identified the impact the role that local communities play to directly affect positive change.

Working alongside staff and fellow students, Ollie helped to set up a termly food bank within the academy.

What began as a small initiative operating from an unused cupboard has now developed into a dedicated space providing practical support to families experiencing financial hardship. Ollie also played a leading role in organising a fundraising initiative in partnership with local services and Manchester City Council, helping to deliver a community-

focused event that brought together a range of organisations and residents.

These projects were designed to support families whilst strengthening connections across the academy and wider community. Ollie recognised the importance of working collaboratively to address local challenges to support the wellbeing of pupils and their families.

The success and growth of his initiatives demonstrate the positive impact that can be achieved when students are empowered to lead meaningful change. They also reflect the academy's commitment to social inclusion, ensuring that all members of the community feel valued, supported and connected. Through practical action, partnership working and student leadership, the academy continues to create opportunities that promote belonging and positive outcomes for all.

CO-OP ACADEMY PRIESTHORPE



Lyndon

Very few pupils demonstrate the Co-op Ways of Being “Be Yourself, Always” more than Lyndon. He is a kind, compassionate and hard-working young man with a fabulous sense of humour.

Since joining Co-op Academy Priesthorpe, he has made enormous progress in learning to understand all aspects of himself, including his strengths and difficulties, and has learned to develop strategies to help him overcome the significant barriers to learning that his autism presents. He has learned to manage his sensory needs, social anxieties and emotional regulation well and is now ready to succeed in the next steps he takes. Lyndon has a very strong sense of right and wrong and has become a vocal advocate for vulnerable peers. He is a proud advocate for other autistic students in the academy and is generous with his time to support younger peers within the Oasis area of the academy giving them both friendship and advice.

Despite having been told at primary school that he would not be able to complete any exams due to his struggles with focus and learning, he has become extremely diligent in his studies and has independently built a detailed revision timetable for himself which has followed religiously even at weekends and in school holidays.

He plans to go to Leeds City College next year to study business and plans to then get a degree in Business and return to Co-op Academy Priesthorpe as a business studies teacher.

CO-OP ACADEMY PRIESTHORPE



Kamran

Every student's path through school is unique, but some young people face hurdles that require extraordinary personal strength. Kamran's journey at Co-op Academy Priesthorpe shows what can be achieved when determination meets targeted support.

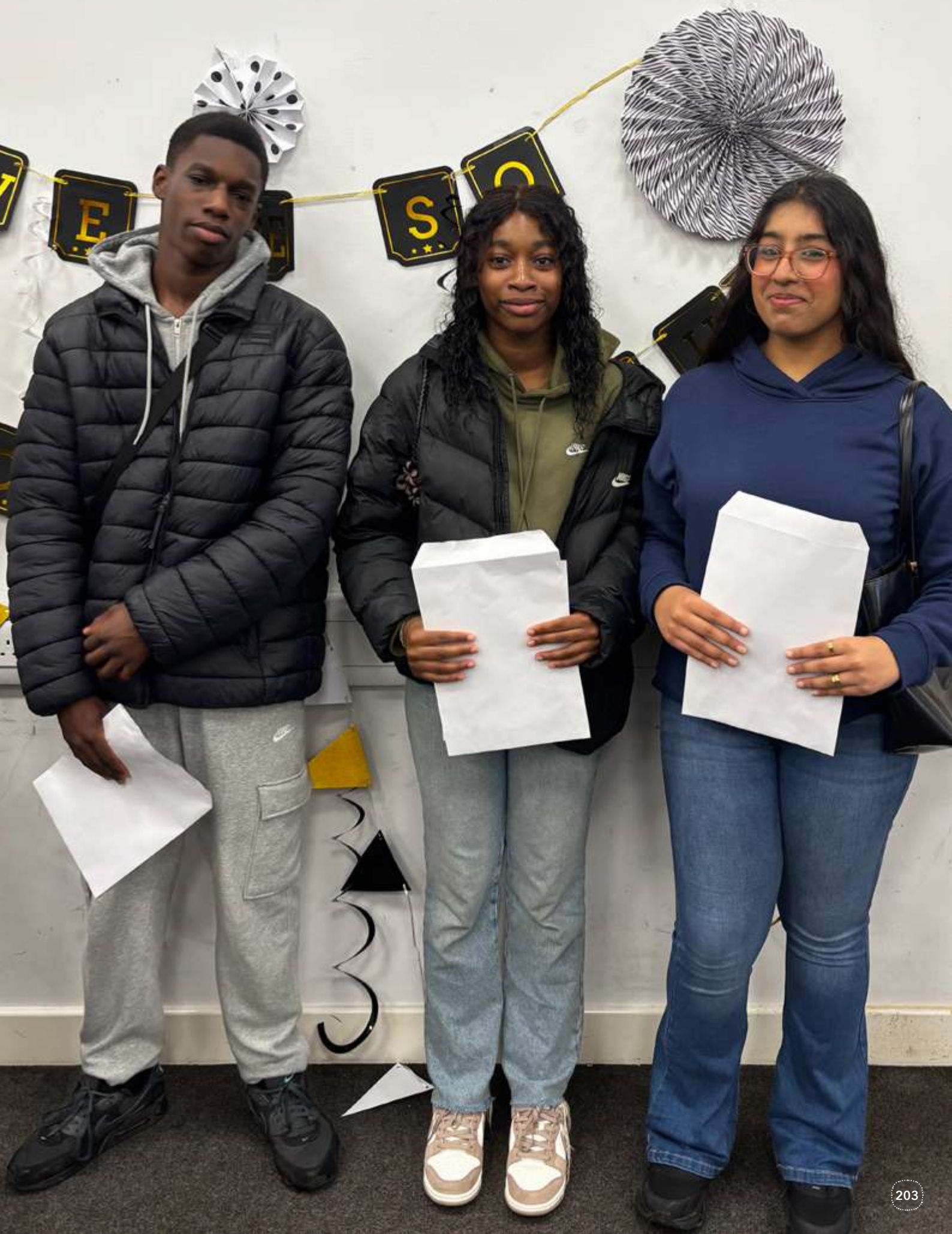
During his time at Priesthorpe, Kamran faced profound personal challenges, leaving his family home to live with his grandparents. Just as he was settling in, his grandfather sadly passed away from cancer. Struggling with grief, his school engagement dropped, and his future looked increasingly uncertain. Recognising these barriers, the school's pastoral team stepped in, utilising the Bridge Alternative Provision (AP). The Bridge offered a structured, safe space away from traditional classroom pressures to help Kamran process his loss, anger and rebuild his confidence. As academy routines wrapped around him, he bounced back with admirable maturity, taking total ownership of his future.

Today, things look very different. He successfully transitioned back to mainstream classes and is projected to achieve Grade 4s or better across all of his GCSE subjects.

His ambition, however, goes much further. He has already begun the rigorous recruitment process to join the Parachute Regiment. To prepare for the physical selection exams, he has been undertaking gruelling training in his own time and has been supported side-by-side by the Year 11 Manager, an ex-forces Airborne Artilleryman who passed the formidable 'P Company' selection.

From personal loss to achieving academic success alongside his military future, Kamran embodies resilience. The entire Priesthorpe community is incredibly proud of him, and look forward to watching him earn his maroon beret.







Adiza

Year 11 can be tough at the best of times, but Adiza had an extra challenge thrown her way during her GCSE courses at Co-op Academy Stoke-on-Trent when her family had to move house, leaving her living 25 miles away.

Changing schools at such a critical time wasn't an option for Adiza, who was determined to stay at the academy to finish her exams with her friends and teachers. To support that dedication, the academy stepped in to do what matters most and provided her with a rail pass to help manage the journey.

A 50-mile round trip every single day takes a lot of stamina, but Adiza excelled. She made it every single day, showing up early before school to revise and staying late for after-school sessions. Even when she broke her arm in the middle of exam season, she kept her chin up and persevered, which is a reflection of her character.

Adiza's English teacher, **Miss Evans**, said: *"Throughout the exam period, Adiza has shown an incredible level of determination and strength. I know how challenging it has been for her to balance the demands of her studies with travel and competing deadlines, yet she has faced every obstacle with resilience and maturity. She should be immensely proud of everything she has achieved."*

Reflecting on her time at Co-op Academy Stoke-on-Trent, **Adiza** said: *"Thank you so much to my teachers and the academy for all their support, I'm so pleased I was able to remain at the school for my GCSEs."*

Adiza's story is a brilliant example of how we succeed together when hard work meets the right support. Now that exams are behind her, Adiza is planning to study Health and Social Care at college, and we have no doubt she will continue to shine.

CO-OP ACADEMY STOKE-ON-TRENT



Kareem

Kareem is a student who has always thrown himself into every single opportunity available to him, leading by example and ultimately taking on the role of Head Boy. His dedication has led to some truly phenomenal achievements recently.

Kareem took part in the Universify programme and his dedication during the programme resulted in him being nominated for a prestigious award and invited to a special ceremony held at the House of Lords. Kareem also secured a life-changing boarding school scholarship to the prestigious Wellington College.

What makes these achievements even more impressive is how Kareem handles himself behind the scenes. Even when things haven't been easy, his work ethic and resilience have kept him progressing helping him to remain entirely focused on his goals.

Reflecting on his journey, **Kareem** said:

"I am incredibly grateful to Co-op Academy Stoke-on-Trent for the support and opportunities I have received throughout my time there. The dedication of the staff has helped prepare me for the next chapter of my education at Wellington College."

"As I move forward, I hope to use what I have learned to make a positive difference and help inspire the next generation, just as others have inspired me."

Senior Leader, **Mrs Drew**, has been incredibly proud of his journey, she said: *"It is with a great deal of pride that we celebrate Kareem's achievements. Throughout the five years Kareem has been a Co-op student he has worked incredibly hard and has been intent on being successful. He has experienced some difficulties at times but has been extremely resilient and has overcome them to become a stronger, more independent young person."*

CO-OP ACADEMY SWINTON



River

In Years 9 and 10, River's attendance at Co-op Academy Swinton was low due to his severe anxiety. The amount of school he had missed became a concern for the academy both pastorally and academically.

River has an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and through the dedicated support of the SEND team and his Teaching Assistant, Mrs Stewart, he has made remarkable progress. He has transformed into an engaged and motivated student, becoming a well-liked member of the school community.

Mrs Stewart has worked closely with River to build his confidence and develop his independent learning skills, an area he previously found challenging.

Through her encouragement and belief in his abilities, River has grown in self-confidence and now feels capable of succeeding across his subjects.

River knows that if he is feeling overwhelmed or worried, he can speak to Mrs Stewart, who will provide the support and reassurance he needs. Alongside this dedicated support, River has shown great determination, working hard to overcome challenges and make significant academic progress. The Attendance Team have worked with the SEN and Pastoral Team to support River with his attendance which has risen over 35% in Year 11. River now enjoys his lessons and has also expanded his friendship group.

Reflecting on his journey, **River** said:
"I feel so much happier about my exams now and I am doing so much better than I was in Year 10 or my first set of mocks."
The change in River has been remarkable. Thanks to all the teams who have worked with him, he has transformed into a young person who is engaged in school life.

CO-OP ACADEMY SWINTON



Poppie

Poppie's journey throughout her time at Co-op Academy Swinton has been inspiring. She has grown into a confident, hard-working and highly respected member of the Year 11 cohort, showing how much can be achieved through determination and the right support.

Over the past two years, Poppie has embraced every opportunity available to her and has worked closely with the pastoral, safeguarding and Year 11 teams to overcome challenges and focus on her future. Through these strong relationships and her own commitment to success, she has developed into a student who consistently demonstrates the academy's values both inside and outside the classroom.

Poppie was one of the first students in the year group to achieve the 1,000 points needed to qualify for prom and has gone on to earn an outstanding 1,939 positive points, placing her amongst the highest-achieving students in the year group.

Alongside this, she has collected numerous Golden Tickets and has shown an unwavering commitment to her learning by attending after-school, Saturday school and holiday revision sessions throughout the year.

All of Poppie's teachers speak about the change in her in class. She works hard, is polite and has exemplary behaviour. She has grown from a student who missed lessons to a student who is more than willing to put in the extra hours needed in order to achieve.

Poppie's story is a wonderful example of personal growth, perseverance and achievement. She has embraced every opportunity to succeed and leaves the academy as a confident young person with a bright future ahead of her.

CO-OP ACADEMY WALKDEN



Olivia

Olivia joined Co-op Academy Walkden in 2021 and immediately demonstrated a determination to be successful. Olivia had already faced challenges that no child should face before arriving at the academy, having been diagnosed with Aplastic Anemia, but this did not get in her way as she pushed herself to become the best that she could be.

In the spring of Year 9, Olivia had to undergo a challenging medical procedure, which meant she would not be able to attend school for some time. Despite this barrier to her education, Olivia still showed outstanding resilience by accessing lessons in hospital and then at home, even trialling the use of new technologies to allow her to still be included within school life.

Olivia has experienced many setbacks, but this never stopped her. Despite missing a full year of her GCSE's in the academy, she has now sat a full suite of GCSE exams and has shown incredible determination to get the best outcomes possible. The resilience and determination Olivia has displayed during her time at Walkden will no doubt push her to continue to succeed, and we wish her nothing but the best.

CO-OP ACADEMY WALKDEN



Sal

Sal's path through secondary education has been one of resilience. After attending two different schools and overcoming challenging experiences, she joined Co-op Academy Walkden with a determination to thrive and make the most of every opportunity.

Joining Walkden at the start of Year 11, Sal was encouraged to be herself. Feeling listened to and having her opinions heard has seen her grow in confidence and become the hard working student she is today. Despite navigating a personal loss and family challenges, Sal has faced everything head on, showing maturity and resilience and emerging a stronger person.

Sal has worked exceptionally hard during this year to maximise her success in her exams, all while having caring responsibilities outside of school. We are incredibly proud of all she has achieved so far, and wish her all the future success she deserves.

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