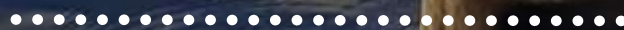




# Our Academy

News from across Co-op Academy North Manchester



WINTER 2021

# Welcome from our Principal

Dear Parents/Carers,

As was the case with 2020 it's again difficult to put into words a summary of 2021 and reflecting on the letter which was sent 12 months ago there are many similarities between the circumstances under which this letter is written. One thing which certainly remains the same is how proud we all are of the resilience, commitment and dedication of the staff and pupils in dealing with the challenges they have continuously faced and continue to face.

Our teachers remain committed to the best possible classroom offer, they handled the challenges around the cancellation of exams with integrity and commitment, they produced a fantastic remote curriculum, adapted to teaching in the virtual classroom and supported pupils as they returned into the school building.

Our teams of associate staff have worked incredibly hard to keep our site clean and safe over the course of the year, to set up and run a testing centre, provide hot meals, carry out home visits and work to keep systems and routines running smoothly.

And yet, it is our pupils who have provided the inspiration for this. We know our pupils, we take the time to understand their needs, listen to their wants and try to provide that rounded education where they can develop their talents and feel confident and proud. Their unwavering good behaviours, their politeness and their respect have meant that although this year has been the most challenging, it has felt like we are truly working together for the best in everyone.

As 2021 draws to a close, our newsletter gives us a chance to reflect on the considerable contributions that our pupils have made to both the academy and the wider community over the last term. In this publication you will be able to hear about residential trips to Jamie's Farm and Ghyll Head, find links to videos of our Christmas concert celebrating the array of talented musicians in our school, our career's fairs, STEM club successes and much more.

We're about to enter a new and again uncertain period, we will welcome back your child in January without really knowing what again we will have to change but we can say with certainty that our values of Respect, Commitment and Trust will remain once more at the heart of what we do. We know we can rely on our pupils, our staff and our families to support one another and to make 2022 a great year.

I do hope that this newsletter gives you a further glimpse of the life of our academy. Please take time to read it and to speak to your child about it. Encourage them to continue to embrace all areas of school life as we start 2022 so that they can gain the most from their education here at Co-op Academy North Manchester.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to wish you a restful and safe holiday period. I look forward to seeing everyone, fully equipped for learning and in full uniform on Wednesday 5th January 2022 following the testing which is taking place on the 4th, ready to start the new year together.

Best wishes,

Sharon Hands

Principal

# Pupils have continued their reading journey part of their new timetabled reading lessons

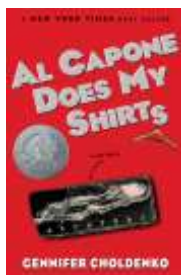


Our pupils have continued their reading journey as part of their timetables. The reading curriculum has many strands - one of which is a series of reading lessons with approaches taken to improve fluency, confidence and develop a wide and rich vocabulary.

The lessons are based on research into how schools and teachers across all subjects can improve reading fluency and comprehension. Teachers will focus on motivating pupils to read for purpose and pleasure. This term our pupils have been reading:



Year 7 have read 'Treasure Island' The Story has been adapted by the National Theatre to this classic a modern twist. It is a story of human nature, trust and how greed can take over our souls!



Year 8 have read Al Capone Does My Shirts. A historical fiction novel for young adults by the author Jennifer Choldenko. In the book, Mathew Flanagan and his family move from Santa Monica to Alcatraz Island when his father takes a new job as an electrician and a guard in the well-known Alcatraz prison.



Year 9 have read A Christmas Carol . This classic novel recounts the story of Ebenezer Scrooge, an elderly miser who is visited by the ghost of his former business partner Jacob Marley and the spirits of Christmas Past, Present and Yet to Come. After their visits, Scrooge is transformed into a kinder, gentler man.

# Tips for encouraging your child to Read at home

Sometimes it can be a struggle to get your child to pick up a book instead of a video game controller. But these tips from Children's Healthcare can help encourage teens to reach for the J.K Rowling rather than the TV remote.

**Create a reading culture at home.** Make books easily available throughout the house; read to small children regularly; let your kids see you reading for fun; talk about the books you're reading over dinner. Some parents also have success hosting book clubs at home for older kids and teens, with snacks, games and discussion around a shared book.

**Don't be picky about what your kids choose to read, as long as it's age-appropriate.** Whether it's a novel, a comic book, a magazine or an e-book on a tablet - letting your child choose something that they find interesting or engaging, it makes reading feel less like a chore or assignment and more like fun.

**Make an event out of trips to the library.** Just like you would a birthday party or the playground, help your child learn to associate going to the library with fun. Bring snacks; try out story times at different locations; let them roam up and down the aisles; help them sign up for their very own library card.

**For older kids and teens, connect reading to your teens tech-savvy.** You can do this by encouraging your child to blog about what their reading. You can also help them find age-appropriate online reading groups and book clubs that they can participate in. If they are not interested in lugging around another book in their bag, show them how to download books on a tablet or e-reader. Introduce them to books that are related to some of their favourite movies.

Mr Spann, English Lead, Said:

*"2020 was the National Year of Reading and has continued to be at the forefront of the academy's focus on improving literacy and reading for all pupils regardless of ability in 2021. We are seeing the benefits of this across all classrooms due to the word rich environments being created".*

# JAMIE'S FARM



## CULTIVATING CHANGE

In October nine pupils set off for a five night stay at Jamie's farm. Surrounded by rolling hills and exceptional views the farm is situated in the Wye Valley and the Forest of Dean.

Pupils were able to experience first hand what farming life had to offer. They were up at 7.30am each morning for an 8am start. They were each allocated jobs that included mucking out the animals and ensuring they had been fed before getting back together and making breakfast for the whole group.

After breakfast there was no time to rest! The group set about chopping wood, fence making and tending to the gardens. Picking some freshly grown produce to make a delicious and nutritious lunch for everyone.

It wasn't all work work work, after the days jobs had been completed the group got to go on some hikes and explore some the local area.

During the evenings the group got together to discuss the day whilst enjoying a home cooked meal followed by some downtime with games or a movie.



A Year 9 pupil commented:

*"I had the best time at Jamie's Farm, I really enjoyed looking after the animals and getting involved with all the other jobs. My time at the farm has taught me how important education is and doing my best"*

Click [here](#) to watch a short video of the groups time at Jamie's Farm



# Remembrance Day



Our Academy honoured our heroes with a Remembrance Service, a two-minute silence plus a whole school read.

Reverend Eddie Roberts joined us to mark Armistice Day with heartfelt service to honour our heroes in a special assembly to Year 7s. The one-hour service involved our Year 11 pupils reciting poems and our cadets making an act of remembrance.

A Year 7 pupil said:

*"I am thankful for the sacrifices of the men and women who went to war, I learnt so much from listening to the remembrance ceremony."*

A year 11 pupil said:

"I think that the remembrance ceremony was a great way to celebrate and remember the lives lost during the war, I felt honoured to be part of the ceremony."

The service also had a roll of honour to pay tribute to the 'old boys', former pupils of our school, who lost their lives during the Second World War. We ended with a two-minute silence and staff and pupils throughout our academy joined in.

To further remember our fallen soldiers, throughout the day, pupils read an extract from a book in each lesson. Stories were read from Home Again: Stories about Coming Home from War produced in partnership with The Royal British Legion. Each story reflects a different experience of the end of the war and demonstrates the diversity of backgrounds, skills and perspectives that the men and women involved brought to the war effort.

We respect those who served to protect us and we commemorated this throughout our academy day.

### The old boys of this school who gave their lives during the Second World War:

J. E. Aberdein	H. Earle	G.R. Leigh	V.G. Sagar
J.C. Aldred	J.R. Egan	W.A. Livesley	D.O. Singleton
L Appleton	R. Etheridge	A.E. Marder	J.E. Sketcher
H Armes	R. Fish	J.H. McDowall	D. Smith
H. Ashton	J. Foster	J.E. Millar	E.P. Smith
F. Ball	S. Garside	E.W. McLelland	K. Smith
W.L. Ball	S. Goldman	J. Mottershead	F.H. Smith
E.S. Blood	E. Grisenthwaite	F.E. Mottershead	R. Spelman
G.W. Brain	L. Grundy	E. Nelson	K. Spooner
W.A. Brown	G. Hinde	F. Parkinson	J. Taylor
D.R. Campbell	A. Haigh	R. Pearson	W.L. Taylor
R. Campbell	K. Harper	A. Pilling	H. Triffit
K. Case	E. Healey	J. Prosser	P.B. Trueman
A.J. Challender	E. Hebden	E. Ramsay	A. Wallace
D.W. Chamock	W. Houghton	E.A. Rands	N. Ward
A. Crawshaw	A. Home	N. Ramsbotham	H. Wilson
G. Crawshaw	H. Jackson	F. Roberts	G.F. Wimbury
J. Crossley	E. James	R.A. Rickard	H. Woods
J.M. Crossley	L. Jones	L. Roylance	G. Young
N. Dennerly	F. Jeffrey	L. Rothwell	MEMBER OF STAFF
W.W. Dorrell	E.W.D. Kirkby	J. Scholes	A.R. Quinn
E.Disley	R. Leah		
H. Doughty	A. Lee		
J. Doughty	C. Lee		

# Year 10 Careers Event



Our pupils are fully prepared and informed to choose the career path which is right for them. We are committed to ensuring that our pupils have the highest aspirations and expectations of themselves and that they develop skills that are needed for the next steps of their journey in leading happy and successful lives, both throughout the key transition points in school, as well as transition to KS5.

In October we invited pupils to attend a careers event where local colleges, apprenticeship providers plus employers including the Co-op, and the armed services set up stalls to talk our young people through the next steps needed to succeed in their careers and post 16 options.

Our Year 10 and 11 pupils took advantage of this fantastic opportunity to really explore the variety of options available to them. They were commended for their maturity and their extensive interest in post-16 education with many coming away from the event understanding where they need to be to progress to the next step of their journey.

# Mock Interview Event



The Academy offers a range of different career experiences, for example, opportunities which develop skills of reasoning, problem solving, cooperation and communication are all important within a rich careers curriculum.

Careers are spoken about in a range of settings: assemblies, form times and throughout subject curriculum areas. Leaders provide an energy and commitment to excellent careers provision across the school. The academy is proud to have an increased number of pupils accessing apprenticeships, sixth form colleges and schools and destination measures provide clear evidence of the success of the strategy.

Opportunities across the curriculum involve: Dedicated sessions in PSHE , Drop-down Events, Options Evenings, Enterprise Events, Assemblies with guest speakers, Mock interviews, Work experience, Careers Library and other online resources.

In November we invited local Further Education providers, businesses and apprenticeship providers to our Mock Interview Event. Year 11 pupils were given an interview timeslot and had their first experience of a job interview and provided with feedback.

The event was a huge success and students were said to have excelled in preparing for the event and presenting themselves in a mature, professional manner. Pupils now feel more prepared for their post-16 interviews and for leading happy and successful lives.



Ghyll Head Outdoor Education and Activity Centre is Manchester City Council's Outdoor Education Centre, based in the heart of the Lake District National Park. It's a truly fantastic location and environment to experience the great outdoors. In November 120 pupils were selected due to their leadership skills and abilities to attend a residential trip to experience outdoor learning opportunities and build their skills in an adventurous and challenging environment.

Some of the activities they took part in were

- kayaking across Lake Windermere;
- zip-wiring across the grounds of the house;
- Ghyll scrambling up a small stream; hiking up one of the main hills in the surrounding area.
- climbing tower with two wall climbing routes of varying difficulty
- orienteering

L Watkins, Head of PE, Said

*"Pupils embraced the challenges and showed true resilience and great cooperation. It was fantastic to see how their leadership skills developed over the course of the trip."*

We have launched a number of Leadership roles in the academy please encourage your child to apply maybe they can be our next Peer Mentor or Sport Leader?



"I really enjoyed the kayaking, I've always wanted to try it but never had the chance before, it was so much fun."

Year 7 pupil




# Anti-bullying Week


During Anti-bullying week pupils took part in a range of activities for Anti-bullying Week. The national awareness week aims to unite against bullying. To show our support, pupils have been writing their anti-bullying pledges:

## Anti-bullying Pledge


I pledge to...



"Take care of people. If people are being mean to each other, I pledge to report it."



"To be kind to other people and cheer up the people who need happiness in their lives."



"Stand up to bullying. Help anyone who is getting bullied and tell my teacher."

Year 10 pupils delivered whole school assemblies and promoted our new 'Show You Care' email. That allows pupils to report anything that might be causing them concern. They also worked with Year 7 pupils in Drama and ICT to help promote our Anti-bullying charter.

One of the reasons I wanted to become an Anti-Bullying Ambassador is that I want to ensure that all pupils are supported and feel safe in school so that they can achieve and be their best. The training I have attended has helped me understand that more people are affected by bullying and how we can help to stop it."

Mrs Fiddler, Assistant Vice Principal, said:

"Our Anti Bullying Ambassadors work really hard to support all pupils across the academy, they want to ensure that everyone feels safe and is able to be an up-stander not a bystander. It is important that we have the confidence to tell a trusted adult if we are unhappy, upset or if other individuals are being unkind to others."

Parent/carers and pupils have also been reviewing our Anti-bullying Charter:



Co-op Academy  
North Manchester

# Anti-Bullying Charter

## Our Academy promises to:

- Not tolerate any bullying no matter how minor.
- Deal with bullying in a way that is effective and solves the issue. Whether it is direct or not, it MATTERS.
- Make sure that all pupils and staff feel safe and protected.
- Resolve any conflicts so that we will grow stronger as a community.
- Help any victims regardless, through an objective viewpoint.
- Respect and uphold anyone's wishes to keep information private unless it poses a threat to oneself or threatens the wellbeing of others.
- Help everyone. We will always be there to those who need it because we're one family.

Head of School:

*S. Hands*  
.....

Chair of Governors:

*O. Whittaker*  
.....

Signed on behalf of the  
Anti-bullying Ambassadors:

*S. Fiddler*  
.....

# Anti-bullying Tips

1

## Tell an adult

Bullying is a horrible thing; it can make you feel rubbish. Tell someone. Whether that's your parents/carers, an older sibling, a teacher or a friend - pick someone you trust. They will want to help make the bullying stop. If you are in school tell your form tutor, class teacher or Head of Year.



2

## Never retaliate with aggression

Retaliating can make a situation worse. Don't hit someone back, call names or shout. It can make a situation worse; it will most likely spiral out of control. If you do, you may get in trouble yourself. Try to respond maturely. You could say "I do not like it when you say that" or "Please can you stop doing that." Then tell a trusted adult about what happened.



3

## Always remember it's not your fault

Every person in the world is unique. This is what makes us amazing. It doesn't matter what colour your hair, skin or eyes are. It doesn't matter how you walk, talk or speak. Bullying is a choice someone else is making, not because you are different.



4

## Collect evidence

If the bullying is happening online, take a screenshot. Whether it's a nasty post, text message or picture. If it's face-to-face, write down when and what happened. This evidence can help your school to stop the bullying behaviour.



5

## Choose who you hang out with







Sometimes it can be those who we think are our 'friends' that are saying or doing things that upset us. Remember, it's up to you who you spend your time with. Hang out with people who make you feel good, not friends who make you feel bad or upset.



# Internet Safety Tips



Keeping yourself safe online.









-  Never give out your real name
-  Never tell anyone where you go to school
-  Never give out your address or telephone number
-  Never agree to meet anyone from a chatroom on your own
-  Tell an adult if someone makes inappropriate suggestions to you or makes you feel uncomfortable online.
-  Only meet someone from a chatroom in a public place with one of your parents or another adult. If they are genuinely who they say they are they will be happy to do this

## Danger Signs



### What do I need to be aware of when I go online?

If a person online does any of these danger signs you must tell your parents or another adult.

-  Tries to insist on having your address or phone number.
-  Emails you pictures which make you feel uncomfortable and which you would not want to show to anyone else.
-  Wants to keep their chats with you secret.
-  Tells you that you will get into trouble if you tell an adult what has been going on.
-  Emails you pictures which make you feel uncomfortable and which you would not want to show to anyone else.
-  Wants you to email them pictures of yourself or use a webcam in a way which makes you feel uncomfortable.
-  Person shares information with you and tells you not to tell anyone else about it.
-  Wants to meet you and tells you not to let anyone know.

# Extra Curricular



September saw the re-launch of our Extra-Curricular offer with over 80 clubs available running before school, at lunchtime and after school.

Our extensive offer ranges from singing in the choir, enjoying sporting activities in P.E, or getting involved in History Club, opportunities are available for all our pupils and are a real strength of the school. Each night, pupils can also attend homework club where a range of resources are available to support their learning.

Every pupil is expected to attend at least one club, and we find that most pupils attend more than one. We encourage pupils to be as actively involved as possible, as clubs enable them to learn new skills, meet new people and to find an interest that they can take with them when they leave the school. Attendance to extra-curricular clubs is rewarded through our ClassCharts programme, with consistent attendance receiving additional positive points.



As well as our clubs, pupils have the opportunity to meet guest speakers, go on trips to many interesting locations and experience unique workshops. We encourage pupils to be a part of our extra-curricular offer. Not only does this demonstrate commitment, but they get to learn and develop new skills, build relationships and experience opportunities that they may not normally get to experience. Our extra curricular offer is frequently shared with our pupils and further information can be found on the website.

The academy has been successful across a wide range of different competitions, not just in sport, but also in other areas such as Debate Mate and STEM competitions. There has been a number of sporting successes this term with pupils competition in Netball, Football, Athletics, Boccia and Basketball. This represents our commitment to our extra-curricular offer and the sense of happiness, success and pride that it brings to all in our academy.

Every year the academy showcases its music, dance and drama clubs through various performances. Performances this year have been shared via our social media sites.

L Watkins, Head of PE, Said:

*"It is great to see the commitment of our pupils and staff to extra curricular. I hope that pupils continue to try new activities and broaden their interests in the New Year."*



# MU Foundation

Over this past term members of staff from the Manchester United Foundation including the Head of the Foundation, John Shiels, delivered an assembly to all the pupils in Year 11 about a new initiative called RISE, which pupils are invited to get involved with and provides a range of opportunities for young people.

The Manchester United Foundation also encouraged Year 10 pupils to apply to be a ball assistant at Manchester United. One of our pupils was successful and will be attending home games in the Premier League, FA Cup and Champions League. Pupils who completed applications will be taken to Manchester United for a Museum and Stadium tour as a reward for applying for the role.

As part of our Mental Health and Wellbeing offer Year 7 pupils took part in the MU Foundation Healthy Minds Project. They participated in physical activities but also focused on positive thinking, staying calm and showing resilience and respect.



# Open Day Success

At the beginning of the year, we welcomed Year 6 pupils and their parent/carers to experience our Academy. Families were taken on a tour of the academy by our teachers and pupils.

The event gave those starting secondary school next year a chance to explore our Academy. Year 6 could listen to our pupils talk about their favourite subjects. Meet members of our Student Leadership Team and see our Academy in action.

We had a limited number of tours for families. Due to high demand, they became full very quickly and we were able to increase our capacity.

Here's what a parent said about their tour:

" I attended this school when it was the boys school, I didn't know what to expect. It is certainly very different to when I came to school. The pupils who gave us our tour were fantastic. The way they spoke about the school and all the opportunities they have was great to hear. Everyone who I encountered was friendly, and respectful and the tour was brilliant. I was blown away by your facilities and staff."

"My child was amazed by everything he saw, from the classrooms to the cinema. He is a keen footballer so the 3G pitch was a particular hit. Thanks so much for allowing us to see the academy. I know my son is really excited at the thought of coming here in September"



# Key Dates

Covid-19 Testing	Tuesday 4th January 2022
First day back in school	Wednesday 5th January 2022
Year 10 Remote Parents' Evening	Thursday 13th January 2022
Parent Forum	Wednesday 26th January 2022
Last day of Spring Term 1	Friday 18th February 2022
First Day of Spring Term 2	Monday 28th February 2022

Key dates may be subject to change.

To keep up-to-date visit

[www.northmanchester.coopacadmies.co.uk](http://www.northmanchester.coopacadmies.co.uk).



# Merry Christmas

and have a lovely Winter Break.

Scan the QR code to enjoy performances from our virtual  
Christmas Concert



Open your camera on your phone and hover  
over the QR code below to open the web link.





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