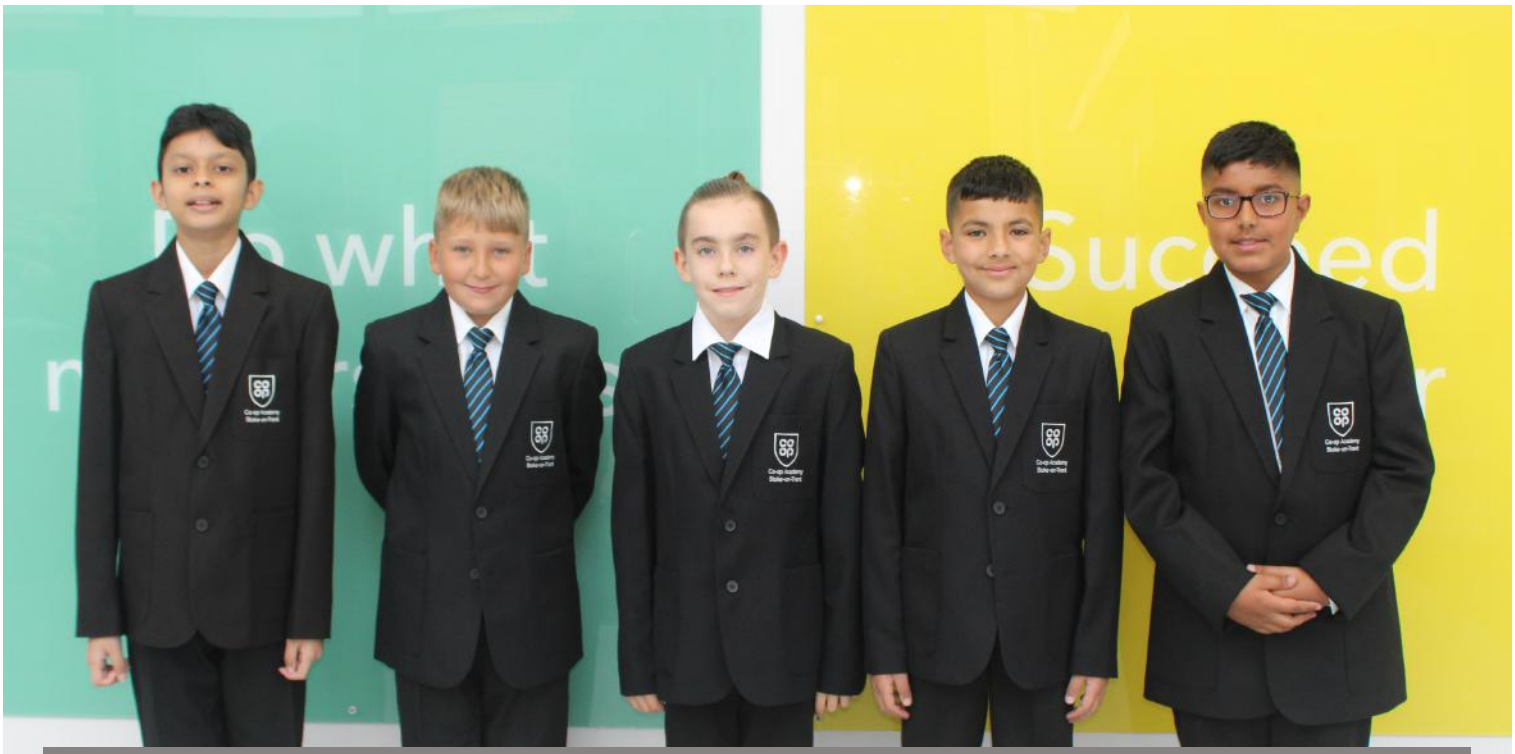
Academy Newsletter

Co-op Academy Stoke-on-Trent

2024/25 Issue 1 - September 2024



A Remarkable Start: Welcome to our new Year 7

As we ushered in a new academic year, there was an air of excitement and anticipation that filled the hallways of our academy. September 4th marked the first day for Year 7 students at Co-op Academy Stoke-on-Trent, and it was a day filled with bright smiles, smart attire, and the promise of a remarkable journey ahead.

Our Year 7 students walked through our doors with their heads held high, dressed impeccably in their school uniforms.

We are incredibly proud of the maturity and politeness displayed by our Year 7 students. The transition to secondary school can be daunting, but our new cohort handled it with grace and confidence. They showed respect not only for their tutors, year team, other members of staff and classmates but also for the academy's values that we hold dear. At Co-op Academy Stoke-on-Trent we value inclusivity, respect, excellence, and ambition, and it's heartening to see our new students embodying these principles from the very beginning.

Assistant Headteacher, Ms Williamson, had this to say about our Year 7 students:

"I am truly impressed by the Year 7 students' conduct on their first day. They've demonstrated a level of maturity and respect that is truly commendable. It's evident that they are ready to embrace the opportunities that lie ahead at Co-op Academy Stoke-on-Trent. I have no doubt that they will go on to achieve great things and make us all proud."

As we look forward to the rest of the school year, we are excited to witness the growth, learning, and achievements that our Year 7 students will undoubtedly experience. Their first day has set the tone for a year filled with promise, and we are privileged to be a part of their educational journey.

Scholarship Success

"Being part of Co-op Academy Stoke-on-Trent has taught me that no matter what background you come from you can still excel. Thank you to everyone at the Academy for all the support".

Four students from Co-op Academy Stoke-on-Trent have headed off to boarding school for Sixth Form having been awarded full scholarships for their KS5 studies.

Catinca Mistreanu achieved top grades of 9s in all her GCSE subjects, and will be heading to Berkshire to attend Wellington College where she intends to study Chemistry, Maths and Physics. Catinca said "I wouldn't have been able to get to where I am today if it weren't for the support I've received at Co-op Academy. I owe it to all the teachers and the school for supporting me in every single way."

Layla Parkes will be studying English Language, Philosophy, Psychology and Politics at Woodhouse Grove in Yorkshire, having achieved a grade 9 in English Literature and Distinction in Health and Social Care. Layla said "Thank you to all my teachers for going above and beyond to provide me with so much support".

Clara Matute Azaly achieved an impressive set of results, including a grade 9 in Spanish, and will be starting at Durham School in September. She said "The Academy has been like a second home to me. So much support has come from the school and I'm so grateful!" Having previously sung at prestigious venues such as the Telford International Centre, she will be making the most of the school's extra-curricular opportunities alongside Politics, English Literature and Spanish.

Meshi Nde-Muyamah is off to Stowe following her success in her GCSEs, including a phenomenal grade 9 in both English Language and Literature. She will be studying Biology, Chemistry and Psychology alongside a "Pre-Med" elective, hoping to achieve her goal of going on to study Medicine. Meshi said "Being part of Co-op Academy Stoke-on-Trent has taught me that no matter what background you come from you can still excel. Thank you to everyone at the Academy for all the support".

Headteacher, Shane Richardson, said: "We could not be more proud of the four students who have amply demonstrated that it doesn't matter where you come from. Hard work and relentless commitment can bring you success."

Celebrating GCSE Results Day 2024

The publication of this year's GCSE and vocational results saw Co-op Academy Stoke-on-Trent's 'Class of 2024' celebrating their many excellent achievements, with a large number of students making greater than expected progress in a range of different subjects.

This is the culmination of their hard work, resilience and determination throughout their time at Co-op Academy Stoke-on-Trent, and we are sure students, family and friends will be proud of their individual achievements.

To our record-breaking Year 11 students we say: We wish you all the very best in your next ventures, and we can't wait to celebrate these results with you again later in the year for our Celebration Evening.

Mr Richardson, Headteacher, was justifiably proud of all our students, and the commitment they have shown to their GCSE and vocational courses;

We're absolutely delighted that once again our students have achieved some wonderful results. This is testament to their incredible hard work, Herculean determination and the fantastic teachers who have supported them for the last five years. While the pandemic is seemingly fading into the past, we cannot forget that these young people started their secondary education at its height and therefore this adds still further to the successes that they are now celebrating. We are incredibly proud of them all.

We're
proud
Statement of Results

Venimus, Vidimus, Vicimus - Scholars' Programme trip to Rome!

From September 17th to 20th, a group of Scholars embarked on an unforgettable educational trip to the heart of ancient history–Rome. Departing from Manchester Airport, this immersive experience was made possible by the generous support of the Latin Excellence Fund, an initiative dedicated to fostering a deeper appreciation for classical languages and cultures.

The group wasted no time diving into the city's rich history. Their first stop was the iconic Colosseum, an awe-inspiring symbol of Roman engineering and gladiatorial spectacle. As the scholars explored this ancient amphitheater, they imagined the roar of the crowds and the intense battles that once took place in the very space they were standing.

The next highlight was a guided tour of the Roman Forum, the bustling centre of political, commercial, and social life in ancient Rome. Walking through the ruins of temples, basilicas, and government buildings, the scholars were able to visualise the grandeur of the Roman Empire at its height.

One of the more hands-on experiences came on the third day with a visit to a Gladiator School. The students were given the chance to train like ancient Roman warriors, learning basic sword-fighting techniques and getting a sense of what life might have been like for gladiators in the Colosseum. This engaging activity brought history to life in an exciting and unique way.

The day concluded with a visit to St. Peter's Basilica, one of the most significant sites in Christianity. Located in Vatican City, the basilica's stunning architecture, Michelangelo's breathtaking Pietà, and the grandeur of the dome were awe-inspiring. The scholars reflected on the blending of ancient Roman heritage with the city's religious significance as they wandered through one of the most beautiful churches in the world.

The final day brought a blend of sightseeing and Roman culture. One of the most enchanting stops was the Trevi Fountain, the grandeur of which, with its baroque design and mythological statues, left everyone in awe.

Next on the agenda were the Spanish Steps, a popular meeting place for both locals and tourists. The scholars climbed the steps to enjoy panoramic views of the city, soaking in the vibrant atmosphere that has drawn artists and poets for centuries.

The scholars' four-day Roman adventure was packed with historic sites, immersive activities, and unforgettable cultural experiences. Thanks to the Latin Excellence Fund, these students not only deepened their understanding of ancient Rome but also made lifelong memories. The students returned to the academy filled with new knowledge, inspiration, and a shared passion for history that will stay with them for years to come.

Trip leader, Ms WIlliamson, was thrilled with the students' attitudes on the visit; "On several occasions we were complimented by local people we interacted with, be it shop owners complimenting our Italian or our tour guide at the Colosseum saying we were the best school group she'd ever seen. The students embarked on the trip with a respectful curiosity and I'm so pleased that they were able to take so much from the visit."

"Not only did they get the chance to experience one of the world's greatest cities, but also to consolidate their knowledge of ancient Roman culture and civilisation, all whilst enjoying lots of Italian food! Well done to all the scholars for such a fantastic attitude throughout."

Thank you to Ms Williamson, Ms Latham and Mr Horscroft for leading the visit. We can't wait for the next residential!

New year, new pitch at Co-op Academy Stoke-on-Trent

We are thrilled to announce the launch of our upgraded astroturf facility at Co-op Academy Stoke-on-Trent. Our astroturf pitch has been transformed from a 2G sand-filled surface to a cutting-edge 3G Artificial Grass Pitch, complete with rubber crumb infill and a FIFA-quality shockpad.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony was a special occasion, with Year 10 students Kenny and Charlotte leading the way. Their involvement highlighted the significance of this upgrade for our school community.

In addition to the new astroturf, we've installed new football goals, division nets, and LED floodlights, enhancing our facilities and ensuring optimal conditions for training and matches.

"I am absolutely delighted that we have been able to deliver a brand-new astroturf for our students. Sport and being active is such an important part of being fit, healthy, and mentally strong as a young person. This is another way in which we are demonstrating our commitment to give students the very best facilities to learn, grow, and achieve."

This upgrade will provide our students with excellent opportunities to engage in sports, no matter the weather. We look forward to seeing the many exciting activities and achievements that will take place on our new pitch.

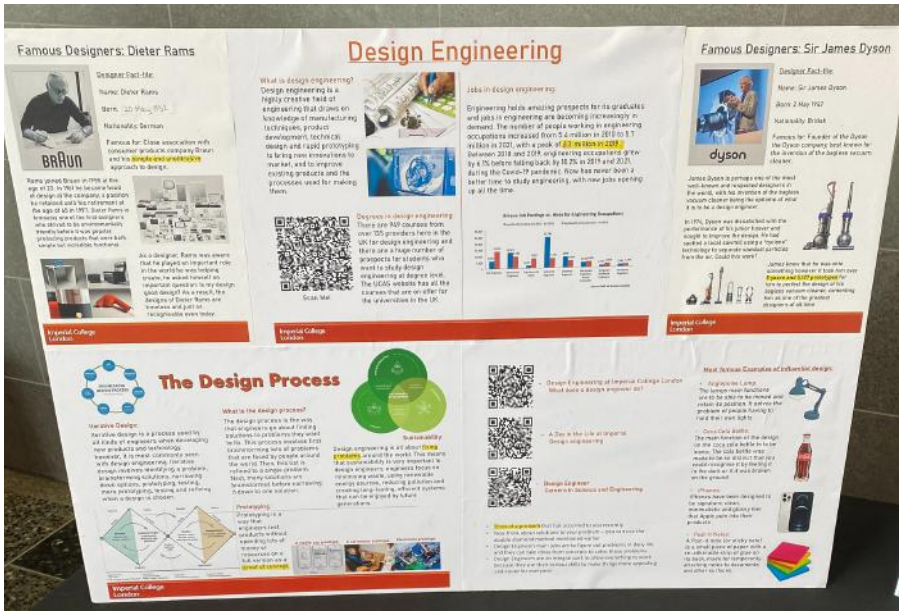
A prestigious summer of learning

Whilst the media would have you believe that teenagers spend their summer holidays asleep or on video games, that was certainly not the case for a number of enterprising students from Co-op Academy Stoke-on-Trent. Midway through their GCSE courses, our Year 10s made the most of opportunities made available to them by heading off to London and Oxford.

The Oxford University Summer School marked the start of the Universify programme. We have worked with Universify for several years, with the aim of raising aspirations and ensuring more students from state schools feel able to make applications to prestigious and selective universities. Out students took part in a range of activities including lectures, workshops, presentations and touring Oxford's dreaming spires. They are now embarking on a coaching programme throughout Year 11 before returning to Oxford for a revision residential in the run up to GCSEs.

In London, meanwhile, our students attended the prestigious and highly selecive Imperial College Insights Summer School. two students from Co-op Academy featured amongst the 40 total from across the country, and we are especially proud to have been the only school nationally to have had more than one student selected.

Students had a rigorous few days following either a Science or Engineering pathway. The summer school culminated in a university style research poster, summarising the projects that students had been working on throughout their time. We are incredibly proud of everyone who made the most of these opportunities and look forward to hearing about their futures at such prestigious universities!



RE Leaders hand over £400 charity donation

Our students continue to demonstrate our Ways of Being Co-op throughout their everyday lives at the Academy and this was especially evident as we handed across a cheque for £400 to representatives from Dougie Mac.

The money, raised by our RE Leaders, was the perfect representation of our value of Show You Care. The student leaders had worked together to plan an Eid Celebration, recognising the diversity of our student body and ensuring that everyone is able to feel valued and celebrated. They planned and ran a range of events, from bake sales to penalty shoot outs, alongside activities to raise awareness. It was the students themselves who chose local charity Dougie Mac as the recipients of the fundraising, recognising their essential work for families in Stoke who are experiencing the most challenging circumstances.

We have got lots more charity events in the pipeline, and we're especially looking forward to continuing to work more closely with Dougie Mac throughout 2024/25 and beyond.

9SL support Foodbank Harvest Campaign

Last academic year, 8SL supported Stoke-on-Trent Foodbank via the First Give social action programme. The tutor group were successful, under Mrs Leighton's guidance, in winning a £1000 grant for the charity.

However, their social action didn't stop there. The foodbank's management team were so touch and impressed by a poem written by the class that they have included it in their annual Harvest appeal.

The poem, which implores listeners to think of the lives of foodbank users, provides a moving narration to the appeal video, and is expertly recited by Draven.

CAS Racing Compete at Mallory Park Racecourse

Students from our CAS Racing Elective recently embarked on a memorable journey to Mallory Park, where they had the unique opportunity to put their custom-built car to the test in the Greenpower race.

After an early start, our enthusiastic students arrived at Mallory Park Racecourse to participate in the highly anticipated Greenpower F24 race. This event is a platform for young engineers and budding racers to showcase their talents, and it draws participants from schools across the UK.

The star of the day was undoubtedly the car meticulously designed and crafted by our students. Each week, these students dedicated their time and effort to refining their creation, blending engineering finesse with innovative solutions. Our team took to the track with gusto, manoeuvring the challenging Aintree circuit with impressive skill and teamwork. The excitement in the air was palpable as our students demonstrated their prowess lap after lap. Throughout the day, what truly shone through was the collaborative spirit and unwavering enthusiasm of our students. They have done a fantastic job to build the car and learn more about the world of automotive engineering.

Congratulations to our dedicated students, and a sincere thank you to Mr. Parkes and Mr. Parsons for their invaluable contributions to this remarkable experience. We look forward to sharing more exciting updates from the team in the near future. Stay tuned!