

Academy Newsletter

Co-op Academy Stoke-on-Trent

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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 6th 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.



Co-op Academy
Stoke-on-Trent





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.



Celebrating GCSE Results Day 2023

Co-op Academy Stoke-on-Trent's class of 2023 gathered during the summer to collect their GCSE results. The special day marked the end of many years of determination and resilience on the part of our students. We are proud of all their achievements and pleased to see how these results open up places at colleges, sixth forms and apprenticeships.

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

"We are delighted with this year's results. Despite a return to the much tougher standards of 2019 our students have achieved some outstanding results. We are incredibly proud of their achievements and wish them every success for the future."



Scholarship Success



Two of our Year 11 students have started at boarding schools this September having secured scholarships for their sixth form education.

Shea Carter has started at Pangbourne College and Shannon McGlade is at Dean Close School.

Through their time at Co-op Academy Stoke they were both integral members of the Co-op Young Leaders programme, banking countless hours volunteering as a young leader, supporting in all sorts of ways such as organising fundraising events, supporting Year 7 students upon their arrival at the academy, and acting as quizmasters.

Shea was a central member of the student council throughout his time at the academy, and has been especially notable for his work on equality, diversity and inclusion. In addition to being a pioneer behind the school's first Cultural Diversity Day, Shea was also one of the authors of our student-penned Equality Charter, a document which now sits at the centre of the academy community.

Shannon is a talented performer and has been involved in various shows and performances throughout her time here, something which greatly impressed interviewers during the scholarship application process and which she is planning to continue at Dean Close.

We wish them all the very best as they embark on their exciting adventures and look forward to hearing of their ongoing successes.

Super Summer School

We were thrilled by the enthusiasm of our new cohort during our recent summer school programme, designed to warmly welcome some of the incoming Year 7 students. The event served as a fantastic introduction to our academy and ignited the enthusiasm of our new students.

Drama took centre stage as students delved into the world of theatre with Mickey's Theatre School, in addition to scaling our climbing wall, learning some new instruments and valuable life skills

Music enthusiasts discovered their musical talents while others embraced cooking.

Our summer school commenced with creative workshops led by Middleport Matters. Students engaged in diverse art projects, exploring their artistic talents and setting a creative tone for the summer.

These experiences were not only enjoyable but equipped our students with valuable life skills. Students participated in various sports activities, promoting fitness, teamwork, and sportsmanship. They also had a memorable visit from a travelling zoo.

Thank you to our dedicated staff, especially Ms Garrity, Ms Aitken and Mr Rowley, and community partners who made this summer school a memorable experience for our Year 7 students.



Co-op Academy Stoke Students Embark on a Thrilling Sailing Adventure in the Isle of Wight



The summer holidays took an exciting turn for a select group of students from the Academy as they set off for the Isle of Wight to participate in the UKSA Sea Change sailing programme.

Upon arrival, students wasted no time in getting acquainted with the world of sailing. They learned essential skills such as knot tying, navigation, and safety protocols. Under the guidance of experienced instructors, they quickly became adept sailors.

The UKSA Sea Change programme provided students with opportunities to challenge themselves and build self-confidence. Facing the open sea and taking responsibility for their vessel boosted their independence and self-esteem, all whilst working in teams with students from across the country.



This remarkable adventure to the Isle of Wight through the UKSA Sea Change programme not only offered Co-op Academy Stoke-on-Trent students an unforgettable summer but also valuable life skills, lasting friendships, and a deeper connection to the natural world. The experiences gained during this journey will undoubtedly shape their futures in more ways than one. Thank you very much to Royal Springboard and UKSA for making this visit possible.

Oxford University Summer School



A group of our students embarked on a prestigious summer school as part of our association with Universify. During the holidays, they got the chance to spend a week at Oxford University, providing a window into the world of higher education and academic excellence.

During their Oxford visit, our Year 10 students engaged in a range of activities, including attending university-style classes, living in student rooms in college, exploring the historic city of Oxford and talking to current university students.

Now in Year 11, these students have embarked on a year-long mentoring program designed to support their academic growth and university aspirations.

We are incredibly proud of the dedication and ambition demonstrated by our Year 10 students during their participation in the Universify programme and look forward to supporting them throughout Year 11 and beyond.

Match Report: Co-op Academy vs. Biddulph

In a thrilling Year 11 school football match, Coop Academy faced a formidable opponent in Biddulph. Despite the final score of 2-0 in favour of Biddulph, Co-op Academy displayed unwavering determination and resilience that deserves commendation.

The match kicked off with an unexpected early goal by Biddulph, straight from kick off they scored a goal worthy of prime Barcelona 15 plus passes ending with the ball in the back of the net. This put Coop on the back foot right from the start. However, the Coop team showed tremendous character by quickly regaining their composure against a strong opposition.

Throughout the game, Coop Academy exhibited an incredible work rate, running tirelessly across the field. They were aggressive in their tackles, demonstrating their commitment to gaining control of the game. It was

evident that the Co-op players gave it their all, leaving nothing on the field.

Despite their valiant efforts, Co-op Academy was unfortunate not to find the back of the net. Their attacking plays showcased creativity and determination, coming agonisingly close to scoring on a few occasions. In the end, it may not have been their night, but the resilience, sportsmanship, and tenacity displayed by the vast majority at Co-op Academy are qualities that will undoubtedly serve them well in future matches. Kudos to the team for their commendable performance!

Students involved,
Jake, Dean, Devon, Ashley, Kyle, Charlie, Ethan, Prince, Mo Elnour, Connor, McKenzie, Mounib, Dadwar, Ismail, Sam and Isaak



CAS Racing Compete at Aintree Racecourse

Students from our CAS Racing Elective recently embarked on a memorable journey to Aintree Racecourse, 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 Aintree 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!



Aspiring Engineers Shine at Engineering Experience

We are thrilled to share that, over the summer, a group of our Year 9 and 10 students participated in Staffordshire's Next Engineers: Engineering Experience.

Over the course of a week, our students worked in close-knit teams with students from across the county, applying their "Engineering Habits of Mind" to tackle real-world engineering projects. From the "Save The Water" challenge to constructing a fully-functional hydraulic arm and even the formidable "Trebuchet" challenge, our students proved their mettle.

But the experience didn't end there. Our students also had the opportunity to visit Staffordshire University and explore the General Electric sites in Stafford and Redhill. These visits allowed them to witness first-hand the boundless opportunities the engineering industry offers.

On Friday afternoon, our aspiring engineers showcased their projects and hard work to an audience of over 150 family members, friends, and esteemed business guests.

Being selected for GE Foundation's Next Engineers initiative is an honour, and it highlights our students' commitment to learning and developing the skills needed for a future in engineering.

We are very proud of our students who embraced this opportunity with zeal and determination. We are committed to nurturing the engineers of tomorrow and providing them with the skills, mentorship, and experiences they need to succeed in the engineering field.



Family Welcome Evening



We are thrilled to share the success of our recent Family Welcome Evening, as we came together to strengthen our partnership with parents and carers.

On Thursday 14th September, we had the pleasure of welcoming hundreds of parents and carers into the Academy. This event provided an opportunity to discuss our educational goals, values, and approach. Your active participation and questions demonstrated your commitment to your child's education.

Your presence at the Family Welcome Evening is a testament to your dedication to Co-op Academy Stoke. We deeply appreciate your support and look forward to continuing our journey together.

If you have any questions or want to get more involved, please don't hesitate to reach out using the details shared in the Family Welcome Booklet.



Year 11 visit Coalbrookdale

Our Year 11 History GCSE students started the year with a fascinating curriculum visit to the Coalbrookdale Museum of Iron.



Nestled in Shropshire, the Coalbrookdale Museum of Iron is an immersive journey into the heart of the Industrial Revolution—a vital part of our history GCSE course.

Mrs. Hodgkins, our Head of History, couldn't be happier with our students' behaviour and enthusiasm: "Our students were amazing. They were respectful to everyone they met, and they really got into exploring the museum and the historic sites around Coalbrookdale. This experience will greatly enrich their understanding of the history we're covering in class."

A museum representative shared their delight in hosting our students: "So great to welcome students to Coalbrookdale Museum of Iron yesterday! We wish them the best of luck with their GCSE studies." Well done to year 11 and thank you Mrs Hodgkins and other staff who accompanied on the visit.

A Magical Matinée with "The Ocean at the End of the Lane"

A group of Year 8 students embarked on a journey into the realms of fantasy when they had the wonderful opportunity to witness the enchanting world of "The Ocean at the End of the Lane" at the Regent Theatre in Hanley.

Before the matinée show, our Year 8 students were treated to a unique behind-the-scenes experience. They participated in an engaging workshop that unveiled the intricate process of bringing a theatrical production to life, with some students even getting the change to operate the 'hunger bird' puppets featured in the show.

A highlight of the day was the presence of Ronnie Lee, an actor in the production and a proud alumnus of Brownhills. Mr. Lee shared his inspiring journey and how our Head of Drama, Ms. Leighton, played a pivotal role in shaping his career path. Hearing from him during the workshop and then witnessing his performance was an exceptional opportunity for our students to see a local success story come to life.

Additionally, the lucky students had the privilege of visiting the Potteries Museum and Art Gallery, where they delved into the rich history of Stoke. They explored artefacts such as the Staffordshire Hoard and learned about the city's pivotal role in the history of the Spitfire, further connecting them with their local heritage.

The students' participation in this extraordinary experience was made possible through their involvement in the Speak Up! project, a National Theatre initiative. This project empowers young individuals by providing them with a platform to engage with the arts and theatre, fostering creativity, self-expression, and a deep appreciation for the performing arts. It's a testament to the dedication of our students to the world of theatre and the arts.

