

October 2025 news

#TheSwintonWay



Co-op Academy
Swinton

Careers Evening 2025

We had an incredible attendance at our annual careers evening, with 95% attendance from our students, parents and carers and it was a huge success!

We had around 20 brilliant stall holders, from colleges to organisations and foundations, who gave up their time to inspire and inform our students. We also held workshops on different pathways, college courses, apprenticeship routes and post 18 education!

Careers is a vital part of our academy's key value of succeeding together both with students and parents. Our academy has an excellent reputation when it comes to careers and our students all get into their destinations.

Key Dates

October 22nd:
Half-term 1 ends

November 21st:
Mock Exams end

December 19th:
Half-term 2 ends

November 3rd:
Half-term 2 begins

December 6th:
Christmas Markets

January 5th:
Half-term 3 begins

November 3rd:
Mock Exams begin

December 10th:
Year 11 Parents Evening

Principal's Message

Dear Parents, Students and our Swinton Community,

As we come to the end of our first half term, I would like to take a moment to celebrate the many successes of the year gone by and share the exciting opportunities that lie ahead. Last year was truly brilliant, full of achievement, growth and memorable experiences and we are committed to building this momentum as we continue to aim higher.

This year our GCSE results were outstanding with students performing and gaining qualifications above the National Average and exceeding the outcomes of Independent/Private schools. Our key headline measures have improved significantly and I have listed a few below for you:

- GCSE Biology exceeded National Average
- GCSE Chemistry exceeded National Average
- GCSE Physics exceeded National Average
- GCSE English Language exceeded National Average
- GCSE English Literature exceeded National Average
- GCSE French exceeded National Average
- GCSE Spanish exceeded National Average
- GCSE Drama exceeded National Average
- CNAT Technical Award in Sports Studies exceeded National Average

This is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our students, staff, and families, and we could not be prouder of their accomplishments.

Alongside academic success, we remain passionate about providing opportunities that broaden students' experiences beyond the classroom. Highlights for the coming year include:

- The launch of our Cadet Detachment for Year 8 and 9 students, offering exciting leadership and personal development opportunities.
- Continuing our partnership with the Manchester United Foundation, which brings a wide range of activities, mentoring, and opportunities that inspire and support our young people.
- Strengthened partnerships with The King's Trust and the Duke of Edinburgh Award, offering our students unique opportunities to build resilience, teamwork, and life skills.
- An established link with Barnardo's, supporting students both in and out of school, with a strong focus on mental health and managing anxiety.

In addition, we provide our students with a personalised and bespoke careers package that begins in year 7 via our workshops, 'World to Work Day', work experience and excursions. Our students work alongside and learn from trained professionals such as Engineers, Lawyers, Business entrepreneurs and many others.

At Co-op Academy Swinton, we also place great importance on supporting our families. Whether through our pastoral care, access to external services, or our growing community partnerships, we are committed to working together with you to ensure every child can thrive.

All of this reflects our dedication to the Co-op values and they underpin everything we do, ensuring that our school is not only a place of academic learning but also a supportive community where every student has the chance to succeed.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. I wish you and your family a safe half-term and look forward to welcoming our students back on Monday 3rd November at 8:20am

Yours sincerely,



Open Evening 2025

A huge thank you to everyone who came along to our annual Open Evening!

We loved welcoming so many families into the school and giving them a glimpse of what The Swinton Way is really about. Hundreds of families had the chance to tour our facilities, explore our departments, and meet our wonderful staff!

If you weren't able to make it and would like a tour of the academy, please don't hesitate to get in touch: swin-info@coopacademies.co.uk







Tag Rugby Champions!

A huge well done to our amazing pupils who represented Co-op Academy Swinton brilliantly during a Tag Rugby event at Co-op Academy Walkden.

They went unbeaten throughout the tournament, securing 3 wins and 1 draw, and clinched 1st place by edging past Walkden on tries scored!

Late Comeback for Year 11!

Congratulations to the Year 11 football team on their first win of the season!

The team showed outstanding character and resilience in a challenging match against All Hallows R.C.. After falling behind 3-1, they fought back brilliantly to secure a 4-3 victory with a dramatic last-minute winner. A fantastic effort from the team!



Win Against The Odds for Year 8!

Our Year 8 boys football team achieved an amazing 4-3 win at St Patricks !

They showed incredible resilience to come from 2-0 down, stuck together as a team and end up deserved 4-3 winners against a school who are highly regarded and are always at the top end of school sports tables.

The boys were absolutely delighted on the bus home, it was a great experience all round.



National Poetry Day

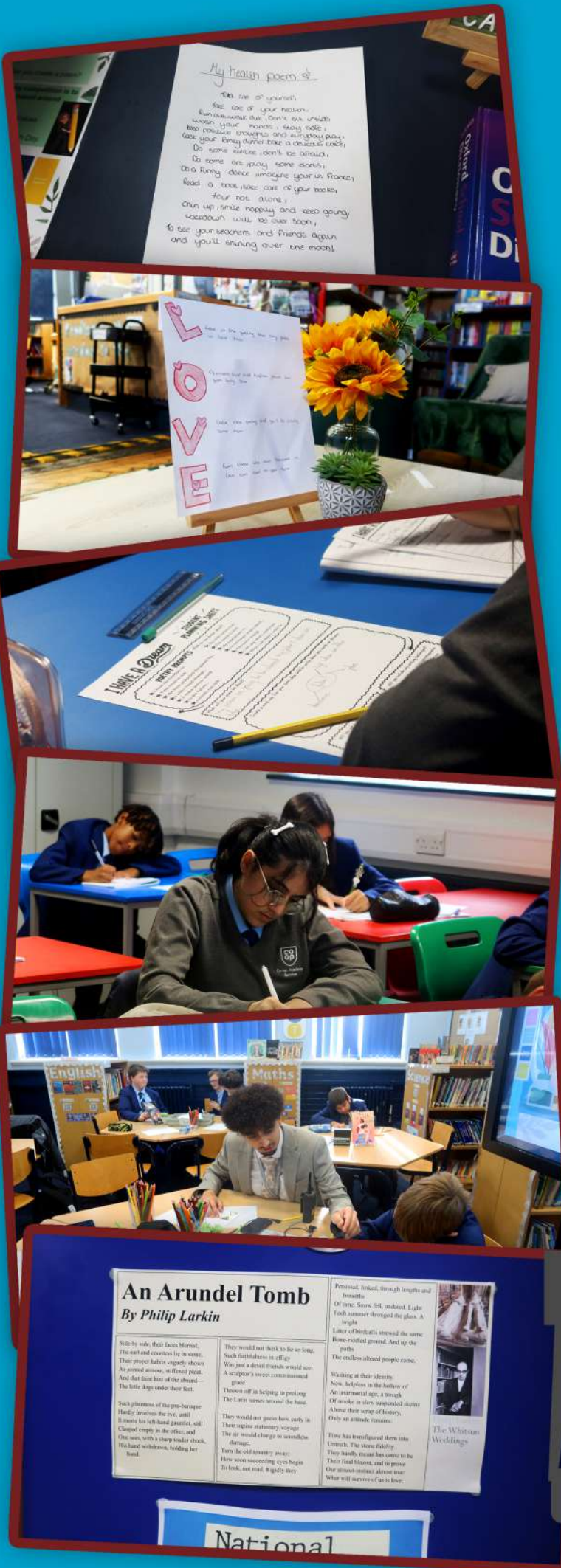
Thursday 2nd October

We celebrated National Poetry Day across the school, with our English Department centring their lessons around poetry! Students had the chance to hear their teachers' favourite poems, with staff displaying these on their doors, and many also sharing personal favourites of their own.

KS3 students explored different types of poetry and let their creativity shine by planning and writing their own poems for the Young Writers' Competition, inspired by the theme "I Have a Dream."

Meanwhile, KS4 students took a deep dive into Thomas Hardy's "Neutral Tones", developing their skills in analysing unseen poetry. Miss Wilks selected Oliver in Year 10 as an example of outstanding analysis of Hardy's work!

There was a real buzz in our English lessons and throughout the school as students explored poetry with creativity and enthusiasm. A proud and inspiring day for all with some incredible poems being written by our staff and students!



An Arundel Tomb

By Philip Larkin

Side by side, their faces married,
The carvings and carvings lie in stone,
Their proper habits vaguely shown
As if some ancient, enigmatised play,
And that first hint of the ahead—
The little dogs under their feet.

Such placeness of the pin-herms
Hardly jealous of the eye, until
It meets the left-hand guardian, still
Clawed empty in the other, and
One sees, with a sharp under shock,
His hand withdrawn, holding her head.

They would not think to lie so long,
Such faithfulness in effigy
Was just a detail friends would see:
A sculptor's sweet commissioned grace
Shown off in helping to protect
The Latin names around the base.

They would not guess how early in
Their prime antiquary voyage
The air would change to windowless
dunage,
Turn the old anatomy over;
How soon succeeding eye begins
To look, not read. Rightly they

Perpetual linked, through lengths and
lengths,
Of time. Sewer felt, midday light
Each summer through the glass. A
bright
Line of drifts tells around the same
Bone-riddled ground. And up the
paths
The endless ahead people race.

Waiting at their identity
Now, helpless in the hollow of
An immemorial age, a wreath
Of smoke in slow suspended skulls
Above their wrung of history,
Only an attitude remains.

Time has transfigured them into
Unmirth. The stone fidelity
They hardly meant has come to be
Their final blazon, and to prove
Our almost instant about time
What will survive of us is love.



The Whitson
Weddings



Co-op Academy
Swinton

Art and Photography

Our GCSE Year 11 Art students are demonstrating outstanding commitment as they continue to develop their independent projects leading up to their final pieces and hand-in date.

Their focus, creativity and determination are evident in the quality of their work, and it is a pleasure to see such strong ideas taking shape. We are incredibly proud of the progress being made and look forward to seeing their final pieces during their 5 hour mock examination.



Art and Photography

Our GCSE Photography students have been producing some exceptional work!

Year 10 students are developing independent responses inspired by the work of Marina Walker, exploring composition and natural form through their photography. They will then learn how to edit in a professional, natural fashion using Photopea. Meanwhile, Year 11 are refining their projects in response to Christopher Relander, demonstrating creativity, extreme technical skill and originality.

Please enjoy the photographs featured. Due to GCSE Photography students dedication and outstanding efforts, we have a whole school display incoming... details to follow!

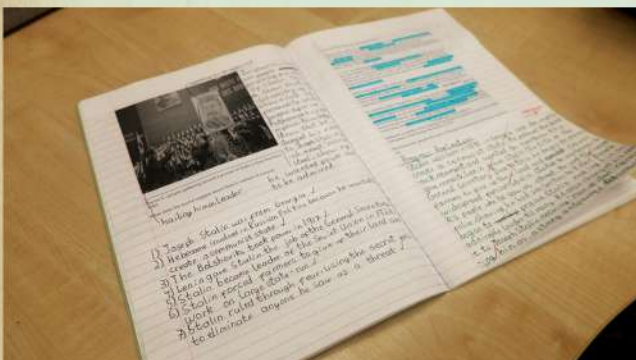
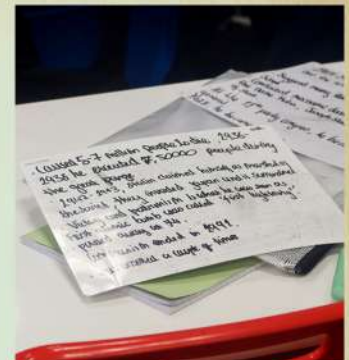


History

Our History Department have been exploring communist Russia, the rise of Stalin and the formation of the Soviet Union, diving into one of the most significant and complex periods of 20th-century history.

In lessons led by Mr Pilling, Year 9 students investigated how Stalin became involved in Russian politics, the events surrounding the Bolshevik takeover, and the key role Lenin gave him before his rise to power. They examined how Stalin ultimately became leader of the Soviet Union in 1924, and what he did to establish himself as dictator, including the harsh methods he used to control the population.

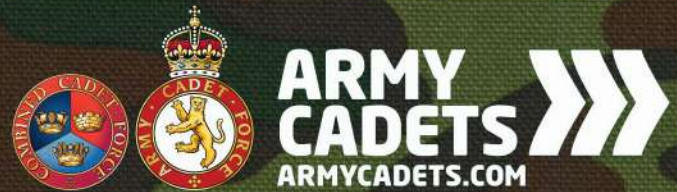
Mr Pilling chose Millie's work as an outstanding example of work on the subject showing excellent knowledge and understanding as well as independent thinking!



Each term our Year Teams select 5 students of the term from each year group who are then invited to a well earned Pizza Party! Students are selected on criteria such as behaviour, attendance and quality of work!

We hold these celebrations throughout the year to reward those who truly embody our Ways of Being, so keep showing those Co-op values every day!

Well done to everyone who was recognised, keep up the great work!



Our Cadets are already showing real enthusiasm and commitment as they get involved in the programme under the guidance of Dr Curley!

There's plenty to look forward to, from learning new skills like fieldcraft, first aid and navigation, to weekend camps, adventure training, and the chance to earn qualifications and step into leadership roles.

Miss Stevens Raises £1800 For Prom!

Miss Stevens completed a skydive from 15,000 feet to raise money for the Year 11 Prom and has raised nearly £1,800 going towards our aim of making prom free for all our Year 11 students!

It's an incredible achievement and a big boost for the prom fund. A huge thank you to Miss Stevens for going above and beyond and to everyone who has donated so far, there is still time to donate using the QR code!



Year 11 Explore the World of Finance



Year 11 have been preparing for life after school by studying financial literacy in Mrs Baxter's class.

They were comparing real-life interest rates from some of the UK's most popular high street banks in an attempt to figure out what would give them the best return. It was a great opportunity to apply maths to real-world situations they might face in the near future.



Year 11 Show Focus and Teamwork at Grade 9 Maths Revision Day

Our Year 11 students have been working hard at the Grade 9 Maths Revision Day at Angel Square!

They tackled challenging exam questions through teamwork and determination, boosting both their skills and confidence.

We're so proud of their brilliant attitude and outstanding behaviour. Well done, everyone

An Evening with Our Prefect Parents

In September we had the pleasure of welcoming the parents of our prefects into school for a special event celebrating student leadership. Mrs Chambers delivered an inspiring talk highlighting the significance of the prefect role and the positive impact our student leaders have across the school community. Parents also had the opportunity to meet with staff and governors, ask questions, and gain insight into what promises to be an exciting and rewarding final year for our prefect team.



Paris 2026

Our MFL department are delighted to announce that our Year 8 and 9 students have the opportunity to visit Paris next year from Wednesday 1st July - Friday 3rd July 2026.

The trip will include:

- Guided tour of the Stade de France
- Breathtaking views from the Montparnasse Tower
- Sightseeing at the Eiffel Tower, Arc de Triomphe, Champs-Élysées, Montmartre & Sacre Coeur

Full details, including pricing, how to secure a place and dates, are in the letter given to students to take home.

For more information please contact Miss Heap at melissa.heap@coopacademies.co.uk

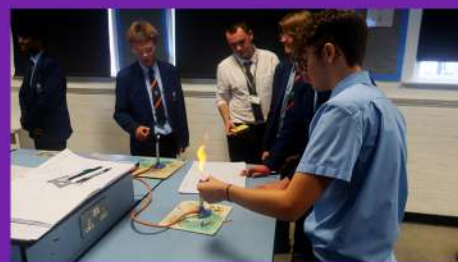


Flame Test Lights Up Year 11 Science!

Recently in their Science lessons, Year 11 carried out the flame test with Mr Lacey to identify metal ions based on the colours they produce when heated.

The practical involved testing a range of compounds and noting the flame colours, from lithium's red to copper's green.

To add some challenge, students raced to see who could correctly record all the flame colours first. It made for a focused, fast-paced lesson with some friendly competition along the way.



Drama Students Enjoy Thrilling Trip to Bolton Octagon

25 of our drama students, along with Mrs Prady, visited the Bolton Octagon to watch *Snake in the Grass*, a dark comic thriller with plenty of twists. The students were a credit to the school throughout the trip, showing great behaviour and enthusiasm. A big thank you to Mrs Prady for organising and facilitating the trip!



Year 11 Sports Studies Students Make a Splash at Salford Quays

Our Year 11 Sports Studies students had an incredible day at Salford Quays Watersports Centre, taking part in kayaking and paddleboarding as part of their R187 coursework.

The experience gave them the opportunity to develop practical skills, testing their resilience, teamwork, and determination. All our students were so engaged and had a great time on the water!



Safeguarding

FUN FOR ALL: NEW YOUTH ZONE SALFORD

Salford has an amazing new youth club facility that offers fantastic opportunities for young people ages 8-19 years old, including supporting children with additional needs. At only 50p per visit this opportunity is perfect for the half-term! It's also open 7 days a week!

The Youth Zone will play host to an unbeatable mix of sports, creative and performing arts, enterprise and loads of other stuff to do. Whether you want to make your own beats in the studio, or get your nails done in the salon, create your CV or use the gym... there's something for everyone. You can even just come in and have a brew and chat with a youth worker.

<https://salfordyouthzone.org/what-we-offer/>

WE ARE SYZ

We are a charity for Salford's young people, set up to give them the opportunity to discover their passion and their purpose.

The city's new Youth Zone will be opening its doors in June 2025.

We will give young people from a diverse range of backgrounds access to incredible facilities in a vibrant, purpose-built space packed with engaging activities, the opportunity to make friends, develop new skills, unlock their potential and have fun.

OUR VISION

Children and Young People in Salford are inspired to lead health, happy, safe and successful lives.

OUR MISSION

Salford Youth Zone provides children and young people with somewhere safe to go, something positive to do and someone trusted to talk to.



Your Safeguarding Team



Mrs Coote
Designated
Safeguarding Lead
(By IT Corridor)



Miss Chadwick
Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead
(Safeguarding Office,
by History Corridor)

If you have a worry or an issue you can speak to **any** member of staff you feel comfortable speaking to, but our **Safeguarding Team** in school are listed above who are always available to speak to during the school day and term time.

Your School Uniform



Co-op Academy
Swinton

Be ready to learn with all the uniform you need for the new term! Here is what your child will need:

- Academy Blazer
- Academy Jumper
- Shirt, light blue, plain
- Academy Tie (clip-on)
- Shoes, plain black only

Students can choose between wearing a Skirt or Trousers:

Skirt (Must be worn with plain black tights, Denier 60+), Trutex navy blue, stitch down pleat

Trousers, must not be skinny fit/tight fit. Can be straight, bootcut, flare fit.



PE Kit

Our PE Kit is now fully Unisex, your child will need a range of the following items:

- School Branded Navy Shorts
- School Branded 1/4 Zip Long Sleeved Jersey
- School Branded Navy Leggings
- School Branded Navy Hoodie
- School Branded Navy Jogging Bottoms
- Navy or Black Knee Length Socks

Everyday Equipment

- Black Pen, Green Pen, Pencil, Rubber, Pencil Case, Scientific Calculator and Ruler

- A Rucksack, able to accommodate PE Kit, A4 sized books and all other equipment



All your school uniform needs are easily available at our uniform suppliers:

- Whittakers, 123-125 Chorley Rd, Swinton, Manchester M27 4A
- Debonairs (online only)
<https://debonairschoolwearwythenshawe.co.uk>

For our full list of uniform requirements please visit: <https://www.swinton.coopacademies.co.uk/parents/uniform>



Co-op Academy
Swinton

Co-op Academy Swinton Community Pantry

We're excited to announce our partnership with MCKS, where we aim to provide support to the Swinton Community

Opening Times

The Community Pantry will be open in JB's
Tuesday 2:00pm - 4:00pm
Wednesdays 7:30am - 10:00am
TERM TIME ONLY

Entry is via the leisure centre



#TheSwintonWay