

Positive
student
stories

Community
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inclusion

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and Diana
Awards

Introducing
cultural
capital

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Our
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The Newsletter



Principal's Welcome



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this letter finds you safe and well and that you enjoy this edition of the newsletter.

Once again, thank you for your continued support over the past few weeks. I realise that any time you receive a message to say we have another positive Covid case, there will be a mix of emotions. However, the aim is to keep everyone informed and, in some cases, advise that particular children need to isolate. It's always with deep regret that we have to direct any students to isolate, but it's always following advice from Public Health England. It is always, also, with the safety of students and their families in mind.

I must remind all parents and carers that it is now a legal requirement if your child is directed to isolate. Isolation means staying away from school and staying in the family home without visiting friends or family. Students must complete and submit their school work through Google classroom so that they don't fall behind. In most cases, teachers will still be teaching the majority of the class in school, but all the work they are doing will be on Google classroom. We are currently finalising an instructional video to help parents who are trying to support their child at home in these circumstances. This will be available over the coming days.

I am pleased to report that we have not had any recent cases that have required students to isolate; however, we remain vigilant and responsive as always.

Face coverings

We are still having to distribute a large number of face masks to students at the start of each day. In most cases, students have come to school in PE kit, leaving their mask in a blazer pocket. We have been recording this on Classcharts; however, we will be sending a MyEd message to alert parents and carers to the issue next week.

Please do check with your child that they have their mask every day. We cannot sustain the expense of handing masks out so frequently.

Uniform arrangements

As you will be aware, in the current situation, students are allowed to wear their PE kit for the day when they have PE. This is working well, on the whole; however, I want to clarify the clothing they should wear on those days:

- Academy white polo shirt
- Academy shorts
- Academy black hoody or reversible rugby top
- Plain black tracksuit bottoms and plain black gym leggings (optional)
- Trainers
- Academy Black/Green socks (optional)
- Academy base layer (optional).

Most students are wearing their kits perfectly, and with pride. However, a small number of students are not currently meeting expectations, for which we have been flexible so far. By the start of the next half term, we will be strictly enforcing these expectations, and there will be sanctions applied to students not wearing the correct kit on their PE days. This is to ensure that kit is worn smartly and that we have equity for all by avoiding branded items.

Students in Year 10 and 11 studying Sport must only wear their PE kit on the day they have core PE.

As the weather starts to become colder and wetter, please encourage your child to wear a coat to school. Some students seem to want to avoid wearing a coat, but I am pleased to say that this is becoming less common. Students mustn't substitute wearing a coat for a hoodie under or over their blazers. They provide no protection and are not welcome in school.

Fire drill

Today, we ran our first fire drill since zoning the school for Covid. Our students responded incredibly well and adapted to the new assembly points quickly and sensibly. Unfortunately, we had a brief downpour of rain just as everyone lined up, but thankfully it was short-lived, and we were able to dry out quickly!

This has helped build confidence that we can still operate safe practices around Covid while clearing the building in the event of a fire. Well done to all students.

Please be alert

We have been made aware that there are 'edibles' - foods infused with illegal drugs, being distributed in the local area. These are often disguised as sweets, such as 'gummi bears' and are known to be extremely dangerous. In some cases, children have been sold or given these products and, after eating them, have gone on to become very unwell.

They are known to contain a high concentration of drugs, often cannabis. If these were to be brought or sold in school, it would be dealt with in the same serious way that any possession or drug dealing would be. However, the primary concern is for the safety of our children. I would urge parents and carers to talk to their children about being vigilant, expressly not accepting food products that they don't know the source of.

May I wish you all a great weekend and we look forward to welcoming our students back on Monday to start their final two weeks before the October half term.

My best wishes
Matt Hacker

The Co-op Ways of Being



| Mr Hacker | Principal

Our values are really important to us and I felt it was important to remind everyone, particularly our Year 7 parents and carers, of what it means to be a co-operative learning community.

The Co-op Ways of Being underpin everything we do and we refer to them all of the time. It would be really valuable for you to refer to them with your children too.

They're simple, common sense and easy to relate to for everyone. They are to:

Do what matters most

- We all focus on doing the right things for everyone in our community.
- We're straightforward. We say what we will do simply and honestly, and we do what we say we'll do.
- We challenge when things aren't right - we don't look the other way.
- We earn trust from each other because we always do the right thing.

Show you care

- We're down to earth and we show this in all the things that we do.
- We all take ownership - if we know we can make something better, then we do what we can.
- We always make sure we do things fairly and responsibly.
- We listen to people because we care about them.
- We help everyone in our community, because that's what makes us different.

Be yourself always

- We want to be confident about who we are and know that it's okay to be ourselves.
- We inspire everyone to do their best because we value what they do and we lead by example.

- We're open to change and challenge. Having lots of different points of view means we can come up with better ideas.

Succeed together

- We support each other. We know that it's okay to learn from our mistakes and great to share success together.
- We respect each other for being ourselves and we know the value we each bring to our Co-op.
- We all contribute to making our Academy an enjoyable and successful place to learn.

Governor Voice



| Mr Green | Staff Governor

I'm Nathan Green and I'm one of the Science Teachers here at Co-op Academy Walkden. It is really nice to be asked to contribute to the newsletter in my role as Staff Governor. Some of you may recognise me from Parents Evenings and/or cadet events if I have been lucky enough to teach your children.

As well as the main governing body I also sit on the student's standards committee, which means I have a particular interest in the experience that our students have and helping to ensure it is the best one possible.

I'm relatively new to the board and it's been quite a roller coaster start to life as a governor! None of us could foresee what the last few months have brought us and my roles as teacher and governor have given me quite a unique insight into the Academies preparations for the return to full lessons, as well as the improvements we are looking to put into place. I, and the board, have been very impressed with the way our students have responded to the 'new normal' as seems to be the term everybody is using.

I only joined the board last year. Through the application process, I was up against some very strong staff members and I was delighted to be appointed. I applied for a number of reasons. I wanted a greater insight into the workings of the Academy but also wanted to help to play a bigger role in shaping improvements. I feel the Staff Governor role is very well placed in this respect as, unlike the other board members, I am lucky enough to see the daily impact the decisions the board makes upon the lives of our staff, students and their futures, and therefore can recommend any further improvements we can make.

I am really looking forward to my first full academic year on the board and can't wait to see the plans we have, lead to improvements within the Academy.

If you have any questions for me you can contact me via walkden.info@coopacademies.co.uk

Student Highlights

We are proud to share our students' stories. There's nothing better than hearing about the successes of our students, both old and new!

Has your son/daughter achieved something, in or out of school? Get in touch via walkden.info@coopacademies.co.uk

Do you know a alumni of Walkden High or Co-op Academy Walkden? We want to be able to inspire the next generation with amazing success stories. Share our email and ask our alumni to get in touch via walkden.info@coopacademies.co.uk.



Some of our students in Year 8 and 9 took part in a sponsored walk to support the AceGrace Foundation.

Freddie, Ella, Luke, Thomas, Theo, and Jake all walked the first part of the challenge which saw a walk from Boothstown to Filey. That's 120 miles that was walked over 4 days.

You can find more about the AceGrace foundation here: <https://gracie-jones.muchloved.com/>

The walk raised around £7.5k, which is amazing!

We are so proud of you all. Well done.



Daryl Shaw, one of our Walkden High School alumni got in touch with us this week.

Throughout high school, Daryl always enjoyed the sciences. After she left us, she went to Pendleton college and studied BTEC Applied Science. At the end of her time in college, she gained D*D*D* and went on to Manchester Metropolitan University where she studied Biomedical Science.

This year, Daryl graduated with a First Class Honours degree which is just phenomenal!

She now works as a biomedical support worker for Royal Oldham hospital. She is part of the team that looks after the COVID samples for all of Greater Manchester. Well done Daryl. We are so proud of you!



Succes for all: Inclusion Centre



| Miss Peet | Inclusion Centre
Manager

What is the new Inclusion Centre?

The purpose of the Inclusion Centre is to enable and support students who are struggling, to access the mainstream curriculum. The Inclusion Centre is a calm and safe learning environment which supports students becoming the best version of themselves.

Why do we have an Inclusion Centre?

We have an Inclusion Centre to support and identify underlying needs which may be preventing students from reaching their full potential.

What are the aims?

The aims are to provide an inclusive environment for all of our learners to achieve.

Who runs it?

Miss Peet - Inclusion Manager runs the Inclusion Centre and her team of Inclusion Officers: Mrs Dronfield & Mr Adu-Opoku.

What happens in it?

Students access the mainstream curriculum through Google classroom and complete work within the centre. They reintegrate into mainstream lessons following a bespoke programme aimed at developing self esteem, resilience and improved engagement with the curriculum.

Where is it?

The Inclusion Centre is situated next to the Hive and has its own entrance and exit separate from the main building.

Why do we have an inclusion centre?

The Inclusion Centre exists to ensure that all students are able to receive their educational entitlement and to help them overcome any barriers that may get in their way. Therefore, the Inclusion Centre operates in a slightly different way, so that the majority of students can, over

time, be reintegrated into their mainstream setting. In this case, doing what matters most is making sure that every student is able to learn and make progress.

How do students end up there?

The Inclusion Centre supports children with a variety of needs:

- reintegration of students who have been unable to attend school
- students who need to develop skills of managing their own behaviour
- students who need an alternative provision to our mainstream offer
- students whose behaviour would otherwise require them to be excluded from school.

A huge thank you...



Thank you to everyone who took part in our Virtual Cake Quiz for Macmillan Cancer Support. We managed to raise £252 which is just fantastic.

Macmillan Cancer Support provide tools to people diagnosed with cancer to navigate their journey in the best way possible.

Like lots of other charities, Macmillan Cancer Support have missed out on vital fundraising opportunities this year, so we are glad we could help them this September.

Black History Month



October is Black History Month and here at Co-op Academy Walkden, we are celebrating it for the second year running.

Started in 1926, by Carter. G. Woodson, Black History Month began as a way of remembering important Black people and events that shaped Black History.

It is celebrated in America, Canada, the UK, Ireland and the Netherlands. In the UK we celebrate Black History Month in October.

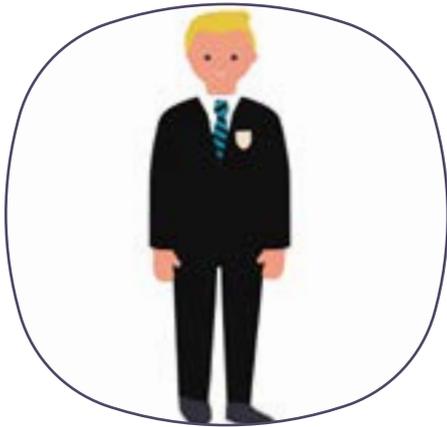
Last year, we were able to promote Black History Month with a series of events. Yetti, from Yetti's Kitchen, came in to run cooking workshops with our students. The students dished up BBQ chicken wings, jollof rice, homemade coleslaw and fried plantain chips at dinner. We also had a photo gallery, celebrating prominent Black icons in the community.

This year, as we can not hold events within the Academy, we are focusing on education. We believe that stamping out inequality, racism and prejudice starts through education. That is why, this Black History Month, we have created a webpage packed full of information and activities for you and your child to have a go at.

There are films to watch, books to read and recipes to cook!

You will find our website [here](#).

Senior School Leaders



Louie | Senior Student Leader

I became a Senior Student Leader as I hoped that I could help the school progress. I want to support those who I felt were less visible. I also wanted to do myself justice.

I knew that I could do a good job of being a Senior Student Leader and I am proud that I have reached my goal.

The application process was very different this year. Firstly, we had to show interest in becoming a Student Leader. To do this, we had to write an application outlining why we deserved to be a Student Leader. After we had been appointed as a Student Leader, we could apply to become a Senior Student Leader.

As a Senior Student Leader, my main goal is to lay the foundation for generations to come. Myself and my peers want to be able to leave a better school for students to come to in the future.

My first project as a Senior Student Leader was the Virtual Open Evening video. As we cannot hold a normal open evening, we had to make a video highlighting the main parts of the Academy. This project has been crucial to show that we are now thriving post-lockdown with the support of students and teachers alike. It also helps parents and students see what our school is like, whilst keeping themselves safe.

My part in the video was acting and voice over. I am visible in the video, but am also shown to be narrating the actions of people on the screen. From this project I have learned many things about the school that I did not know previously. I believe that this project will help with not only my life skills, such as developing organisation skills and resilience, but it will also help the Academy. It will allow Year 5/6 parents and pupils see what the Academy has to offer. We are a safe environment for our new students and support is always on hand should they need it.

Christmas Card Challenge



Every year we send a Christmas card to community members; it shows that we care about them. Working in partnership with our local community allows us to succeed together. This makes Walkden and our Academy a better place for all.

This year, we want our Co-op Academy Walkden Christmas card to be designed by our students. Over the next few weeks, Year 7 - 11 will be set the design challenge. The challenge will be set via Google Classroom as part of their homework. The challenge is open to all students in all year groups.

The deadline for entries is Wednesday 4th November 2020.

Here is what they need to know about our Christmas card challenge.

- Open to all year groups - Year 7 - 11, all abilities, all mediums.
- Your design must fit a standard 5 x 7-inch card. If you can not design your card in this format, please submit your design on a piece of A4 paper. Your design can be landscape or portrait.

The design must include:

- Our school name. This must be in Arial font (if the design is digital). The text must be white if it is on a coloured background.
- A Christmas greeting. Again, if the design is digitally produced, Arial font must be used. The text must be white if on a coloured background.

Other things to consider:

- Think about how you can include the Co-op values in your images/subjects/colours/graphics/text?
- Think about what makes us unique at Walkden? How can you connect our card to us and who WE are?
- Think about our community and the theme of the community at Christmas. How can you incorporate this into your graphics/images/ideas/colours/text?

How to submit your entry

- Submit as a JPEG (High res) or PDF (High Res) via Google Classroom.
- If you do not study art/photography at Key Stage 4 but wish to submit an entry, please email walkden.info@coopacademies.co.uk.
- The deadline for the entries is Wednesday 4th November 2020.

Virtual Open Evening



Unfortunately, this year, we could not offer a face-to-face open evening for our Year 5 and 6 parents/carers and students. This is very disappointing as we really enjoy meeting our potential new Year 7 families but the safety of the community and our staff must be our first priority.

So, instead of the face-to-face open evening, we hosted a virtual one! Parents/Carers were asked to sign up to a mailing list and on the 1st October 2020, they were sent a video virtual tour, alongside an email, packed full of information about the Academy.

The virtual tour took our potential parents and students through a whole day at the Academy, so they got to see everything we have to offer.

The virtual tour video was created and filmed by a team of our staff but a huge thank you must go to Mrs Hall for her time and dedication to filming and editing it so professionally! Also a huge thank you must go to our Senior Student Leaders - Louie, Abbie and Heidi who were also involved in the filming.

The virtual tour video has now been made live to everyone. The video went on our website on the 5th October 2020, so if you want to watch it, you can find it [here](#).

If you know anyone who has a son/daughter in Year 5 or 6 who may want to watch this video, please feel free to share the link.

Over the coming months, we hope to make more videos to go on our website and on our social media. We think these are much more engaging to our students, parents and future cohorts. So, keep your eyes peeled.

Celebrating Diversity



| Mrs Crane | Head of PRE
and PSHE

The Anne Frank Trust works in partnership with schools to develop knowledge and understanding of the damaging effect that prejudice and hateful attitudes cause and empower each student to take a stand against these. They work to develop positive attitudes and the idea of personal responsibility and respect for all.

At Co-op Academy Walkden, we have been running an ambassador programme. During the Easter term 2019, students trained as guides in the pop up exhibition of Anne Frank's life. Following this event students then attended workshops and conferences across the country. Students went on to teach programmes of study on prejudice to their peers in the Academy during Philosophy, Religion and Ethics lessons. This then led to a project on anti-prejudice and anti-bullying which was made into a short film.

This work has enabled us to develop a culture of tolerance and respect for one another here at Co-op Academy Walkden and provided the student ambassadors with the skills to challenge prejudice and discrimination, and promote inclusivity.

On the 11th of June 2019 three of our student ambassadors were selected to host the celebration of Anne's 90th birthday. There were over 300 delegates attending this prestigious event held in the 'Speakers Chambers' at the Houses of Parliament, London. This celebration demonstrated the importance of projects like the work of the Anne Frank Trust and the legacy that Anne's life has had on the world.

Following their sustained work as ambassadors with the Anne Frank Trust three of our students were then nominated and subsequently awarded the Diana Award. This is one of the most prestigious accolades that a young person can receive for their continued contribution to a charitable organisation to make a change for good within the community. The journey of these amazing young people hit the headlines and their story became a feature of a Granada Reports that was aired at the start of summer this year. Their passion and determination to make a difference in their community and their contribution to developing and embedding the Co-op ways of being with their peers and staff has been absolutely amazing.

Combined Cadet Force



| Mrs Bawden | PE teacher
and Coningent Commander

The CCF (Army) is the Army Cadets section of the Combined Cadet Force. The CCF Army sections account for almost half of cadet figures with a total of nearly 29,000 cadets and 2,100 supporting adult volunteers based at contingents within over 260 schools across the UK and Northern Ireland.

The CCF aims to promote the qualities of responsibility, self-reliance, resourcefulness and a sense of service to the community.

Joining the CCF provides a wonderful opportunity to take part in Army themed activities and events, all of which focus on building self-disciplined individuals with self-courage and a sense of worth.

Whilst in the CCF, cadets will complete the Army Proficiency Certificate. When first starting as a cadet, students will wear the title of cadet and will begin their training. As a cadet they will follow the Army Proficiency Certificate (APC) syllabus which consists of five subjects and sets a standard. The following topics will be covered in their first year as a cadet:

- Drill and Turnout
- Military Knowledge
- Skill at arms and shooting
- Map and compass
- Fieldcraft
- First aid
- Expedition - Using various APC skills to walk and navigate long distances
- Cadet in the community - Physically helping out with local events and projects.

Since the opening of the CCF, Army section in April 2019 we have established a contingent of around 45 cadets ranging from Year 8 - Year 11.

During this time the cadets have successfully completed their First Aid qualification where they spent a weekend working with staff from St John Ambulance. Completion of Map and Compass, Drill and an introduction of Fieldcraft take place during parade nights at Walkden. Skill at Arms Training saw the cadets gain a qualification which allows them to fire the L98A2 cadet rifle. For this training, the cadets spent 2 full weekends at Fulwood Barracks in Preston, accompanied by staff.

Unfortunately due to COVID-19, training had to be stopped. The cadets could not take part in our annual Easter and Summer camps. These camps would have seen the cadets take part in further training as well as put their skills to the test by spending a week at Altcar Training Camp.

Our plans for this year have not changed in that the cadets will be continuing to make their way through the APC Syllabus, however under current guidelines and Academy policy we are under a few more constraints. However, from the 6th October 2020 the CCF will see the return of the Year 9 cadets. Just like school, cadets will be eased back in slowly before commencing their full training after October half term. We are then planning a phased return of the rest of the cadets a year group at a time. We hope to get all of the cadets parading after the Christmas holidays.

In addition to parade night we have a number of weekend activities planned including

- First aid training
- Drill training
- Skill at Arms training
- An expedition walk.

If your child is in Year 8 or above, and they are interested in joining cadets speak to any of the following cadet staff:

- Mrs Bawden
- Mr Johnson
- Mr Green
- Miss Richards
- Mrs Sayer
- Staff Sergeant Alden.

Alternatively you can email Contingent Commander Bawden - Mandy.Jayne.Bawden@coopacademies.co.uk

Cultural Capital



| Mrs Reynolds | English
Teacher

Imagine your child sitting within a bubble: the world that they have come to think of as 'normal', with its patterns, the things that are accepted and celebrated, and the things that are frowned upon and punished. This bubble contains everything the child has learnt about the world.

Of course every bubble is slightly different, and as the child looks across at their peers, they will begin to notice similarities and differences: that child may use slightly different language, enjoy and appreciate different lessons, have different natural abilities. The more they socialise with others, the more they acknowledge that everyone is different - and this is not 'right' or 'wrong' necessarily, in fact these differences may help us learn and develop.

At Co-op Academy Walkden, we believe that these bubbles - the cultures that our children experience - can be expanded and developed across the teaching curriculum, and we are working to allow your son or daughter to prepare to meet the world outside of school.

We focus on 5 key areas linked to expanding your child's cultural territory:

- Oracy - the skills of communicating verbally within a range of contexts
- Disagreeing well - familiarising them with how to create arguments, listen to counterarguments, negotiate and disagree - without conflict!
- Powerful theories - where the ideas of great thinkers can be applied in a range of subjects
- Literacy - developing vocabulary: one of the most marked indicators of a child's future aspirations
- Being a powerful citizen - the role we play as powerful people within our community

These core cultural skills underpin our teaching and learning, and support our Co-op Core Values.

Careers Focus



| Ms Loughnan | Careers
Officer

Year 11 - Post-16 Open Events

There are lots of open events being provided by our local colleges and sixth forms over the coming months. Some of these events are online and some are live! You can find out more about them on the college/sixth forms website. The names and the dates of the providers open events that we know about are listed below. Please contact Ms Loughnan or Mr Mangas if you need any other information via the Walkden info email - walkden.info@coopacademies.co.uk.

Open Events - Providers and Dates

Bury College. 7th October - 27th November 2020

Xaverian. 10th October and 18th October 2020

Loreto College. 10th October, 18 October and 7th November 2020

Myerscough Collge. 10th October, 20th October and 17th November 2020

The Manchester College. 12th October to 15th October, 23rd November to 26th November

Wigan and Leigh College. 12th October 2020

Winstanley College. 15th October and 4th November 2020

Access Creative. 27th October 2020

Salford Colleges. 2nd, 3rd and 4th November 2020

Bolton Sixth Form College. 7th November to 25th November 2020

Bolton College. 16th November 2020

Literacy Corner



| Miss Kane | English Teacher
- Catch Up and Enrichment

Black History Month



October is Black History Month and we have some excellent recommendations!

One of our favourite authors is Benjamin Zephaniah.

Why not give some of his fantastic poetry a read? Or, why not give one of his books a read?

Check out this website for more of his work - <https://poetryarchive.org/poet/benjamin-zephaniah/>

Book recommendations



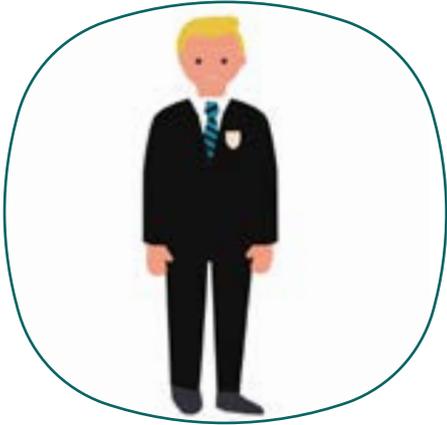
The Literacy Department look at novels that encourage students to fall in love with reading. We promote engagement but we also promote a passion for books too.

This week, we have added one of our favourite novels - it includes the themes of: mutual respect, overcoming challenges and LGBTQ+ relationships.

Things A Bright Girl Can Do by Sally Nichols

Through rallies and marches, in polite drawing rooms and freezing prison cells and the poverty-stricken slums of the East End, three courageous young women join the fight for the vote. A perfect weekend read!

Attendance Matters



| Mr Thomas | Attendance
Manager

When a student does not attend school, an appropriate code must be entered in the register so that the school can record the specific reason for the absence. These codes are varied and cover a whole range of reasons for non-attendance.

If your child is going to be absent from school, it is important that you contact school on each day of the absence and tell us why. We can record this in the register, and where additional support is required, we can help you with this, or direct you to those that can help.

If a student is absent, and we have no reason, this presents us with a safeguarding concern. Additionally in these circumstances, we are unable to authorise that day's absence as we have no explanation.

You can record an absence in one of two ways; firstly, by calling the main school number 0161 850 1625 and select option 1. During office hours, one of the attendance team will answer this phone, and outside of those hours, there is a 24 hours answering machine. When leaving a message please state clearly the name of the child, and be as specific as you can, as to the reason for absence.

The other way to record, an absence is through the My Ed app. This is the primary way in which school communicates with parents. On the messaging side of the app, you will see an 'absence' tab. Please send your message through here.

If we are unable to identify a reason for absence, we will call parents/carers, and in certain circumstances ask our Attendance Officer to conduct a home visit.

We operate an open door policy, and if you wish to discuss your child's absence, both current or in the future please contact one of the team.



Co-op Academy
Walkden

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