



Co-op Academy  
Manchester

# Co-op Academy Manchester

23 September 2020

Dear parents /carers,

Firstly, I just wanted to say thank you for all your support and understanding during what has been a challenging half term for us all since we returned back to school in September. Your partnership with us has enabled us to reintegrate all students back into education and re-engage them with academy life.

We understand how frustrating it has been for some of you and your families in recent weeks when students have been sent home to isolate but we thank you for your ongoing cooperation with this as we continue to follow Public Health advice.

Although this first half term has been different in lots of ways and the pandemic has limited our academy offer, we have still taught the whole range of subjects, ensuring students have had access to specialist rooms; prioritised wellbeing and mindfulness in tutor sessions, maintained our family structure albeit in year groups, celebrated student achievements and reopened some of our provisions, including the Student Support Centre, our Alternative Provision Centre and our extra curricular offer.

As we move into this half term break I would like to take this opportunity to wish all students a well deserved break and a chance to relax and refresh ready to come back ready to learn new things and make even more progress in their studies.

Furthermore, as a new half term approaches, I would like to share with you some changes that will take place when we all return after the break around the leadership structure in the academy.

As you know from previous communications, I was asked to step up from my role as Senior Vice Principal at the academy at the end of the Summer term and take on the role of acting Head of School due to Mr Brice's promotion to Executive Headteacher across the Trust in Manchester. Whilst I have embraced the challenge, (and indeed it has been that in light of current events) I have quickly grown to realise that I have found myself being taken away from what I have always enjoyed doing - being on the ground each day with students and staff, leading teaching and learning, being in the classroom, developing staff, being in and out of lessons, meeting with parents and carers, leading new initiatives and driving standards for all students.

I have missed these interactions and have therefore requested that the Trust allow me to return to the post of Senior Vice Principal where I can continue to do what I have enjoyed for several years and work alongside the academy leadership team to take the academy forward in its journey to becoming a centre of excellence for all.

I have always been a firm believer in following your passions and I can assure you that mine are in making your child's school the very best it can be.

I want to thank you for all your support and the trust you have placed in me during the last few weeks. Please be assured the academy will continue to grow and thrive in partnership with you and our governors.

As I return to my role as Senior Vice Principal, I am delighted to let you know that the Trust has asked Chris Beard (Vice Principal for Curriculum and Standards) to step up into the acting Head of School role. The academy will continue to be supported by Steve Brice in his capacity as Executive Headteacher. In lots of ways, this ensures both continuity and stability for the academy as we continue to navigate through these challenging times. Chris will write to you in the new half term to introduce himself fully as he takes up post to lead us forward.

Yours faithfully

Melanie McMorrow

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Some other notes for parents and carers:

## Applications for Head Prefects and Family Captains

There are opportunities for all students to apply for leadership roles. If your child has been self-isolating, they may have missed hearing about these. Please let your child know that they can apply from home via the instructions at <https://vle.cam.coop/leadership> (<https://vle.cam.coop/leadership>).

## Haircuts, uniform and face masks.

Can we please politely remind parents and carers of our uniform policy, which can be viewed in full on our website (<https://manchester.coopacademies.co.uk/parents/uniform/>). For many the half-term is a chance to get a haircut and buy new shoes, so you may wish to check our rules (e.g. no extreme haircuts or unnatural colourings). We are currently viewing face masks as part of a child's uniform and expect students to bring one to school every day.

## Lockers

If your child wishes to swap their locker so that they have one in their bubble area, we would be happy to help. To do this, your child should bring their old locker key to the Library. Please remember that each Year Group has their own Library times - you can check these here (<http://manchester.coopacademies.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/17/2020/10/Library-times.png>).

## Extra-curricular clubs and Library news

After half term we will be launching our new after school clubs with students. We will have a programme for each Year Group, who will be able to access clubs in their bubbles. Please have a conversation with your child about your expectations for them staying after school, e.g. that they must let you know if they intend to stay late for a club.

Before lockdown we lent a lot of library books which are now due back. Please look under beds, in sock drawers or anywhere else where a library book might be hiding, and return to the academy. These can be placed in the returned books box (there is one in each bubble area) or your child can bring them to the Library on their bubble day.

## Term dates

We hope everyone has a relaxing half-term break and look forward to seeing students again on Monday 2 November. Term dates can always be found on our website at <https://manchester.coopacademies.co.uk/parents/term-dates/> (<https://manchester.coopacademies.co.uk/parents/term-dates/>).