



Co-op Academy
Manchester

Co-op Academy Manchester

Dear parents and carers,

We have a few things to update you on.

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COVID-19 cases

We have been notified today of a two new Covid-19 cases within the academy community. One is from the Year 8 bubble and one from the Year 9 bubble. This has led to a small group of students in being asked to self isolate. These families have been contacted separately.

If you haven't been contacted, your child is expected to attend school as normal.

We know that you may find this concerning but we are continuing to monitor the situation and are working closely with Public Health England. This letter is to inform you of the current situation and provide advice on how to support your child. Please be reassured that for most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

We will continue to undertake a thorough deep-clean of the academy each evening and continue to feel confident about the steps we have taken to protect students and staff. Public Health England / The Department for Education have instructed the academy that any siblings you have in different year groups/bubbles can continue to attend the academy unless anyone in your household group develops CoViD 19 symptoms.

If you are worried about what to do if you or someone in your household develops symptoms, please check this guide. (<https://manchester.coopacademies.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/17/2020/09/Covid-19-Advice-for-Parents-in-GM-17.9.2020.pdf>)

Skirts

There is an issue re-emerging with the suitability of the skirts that some students are wearing. Where this is an issue, this is largely because the skirts are far too short and/or are stretchy. The academy uniform policy is clear in that girls should wear:

Black academy trousers or plain black skirt (knee length or just above and not pleated). Trousers and skirts must be straight, and must not be Lycra, denim or similar stretchy/skin-tight material.

Parents are free to buy trousers and skirts from whatever supplier they choose as these core items are often available at very affordable prices from the high street and online. To help parents who might have struggled finding compliant academy skirts, I have listed an example of three suppliers below with web links.

Straight Skirt in Black (Uniform Direct) £11

<https://www.uniform-direct.com/acatalog/Straight-Skirt-in-Black-2125814.html> (<https://www.uniform-direct.com/acatalog/Straight-Skirt-in-Black-2125814.html>)

Senior Girls' Long Pencil Skirt (Marks & Spencer) - Price Range £10 - £14

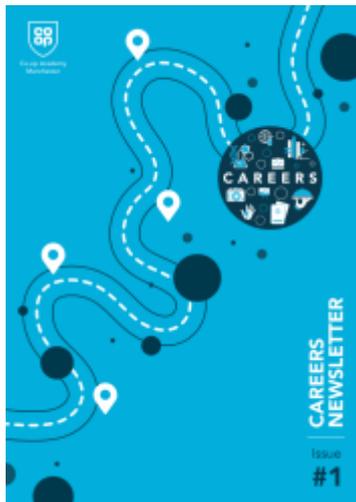
https://www.marksandspencer.com/senior-girls-pencil-skirt-with-crease-resistant/p/p60100363?image=SD_04_T76_0193_Y0_X_EC_90&color=BLACK&prevPage=plp&pdredirect
(https://www.marksandspencer.com/senior-girls-pencil-skirt-with-crease-resistant/p/p60100363?image=SD_04_T76_0193_Y0_X_EC_90&color=BLACK&prevPage=plp&pdredirect)

Senior Girls Black School Pencil Skirt (Asda) From £4

<https://direct.asda.com/george/girls-school-skirts/senior-girls-black-school-pencilskirt/GEM618437,default,pd.html> (<https://direct.asda.com/george/girls-school-skirts/senior-girls-black-school-pencilskirt/GEM618437,default,pd.html>)

Please take the time to check your child's academy skirt to make sure that it is long enough and that it is not made of stretchy material, and if required, purchase a replacement one that complies with the academy uniform policy. We will be giving a period of one week for parents to address any outstanding issues with academy skirts before we start taking action with students who are in the wrong uniform.

Careers Newsletter



([https://manchester.coopacademies.co.uk/wp-](https://manchester.coopacademies.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/17/2020/11/Careers-Newsletter-V2.pdf)

[content/uploads/sites/17/2020/11/Careers-Newsletter-V2.pdf](https://manchester.coopacademies.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/17/2020/11/Careers-Newsletter-V2.pdf))

Our Careers Team are proud to share our very first Careers Newsletter for all parents, which you can download here (<http://manchester.coopacademies.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/17/2020/11/Careers-Newsletter-V2.pdf>).

It gives you a quick look at our careers programme for Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11, as well as explaining what the trends are in Greater Manchester's industries.

Year 8 Parents Evening

We look forward to speaking to parents and carers of Year 8 students on Tuesday 17 November. The parents evening will take place online via videocalls through <http://coopmanchester.parentseveningsystem.co.uk/> (<http://coopmanchester.parentseveningsystem.co.uk/>) - a big thank you to all those parents and carers who have booked their slots already.

The system works well on smartphones, tablets or computers and no extra software is needed. There is a help page for parents at <https://support.parentseveningsystem.co.uk/article/801-video-parents-how-to-attend-appointments-over-video-call> (<https://support.parentseveningsystem.co.uk/article/801-video-parents-how-to-attend-appointments-over-video-call>) if you want to find out how it works on the night.

Some parents have found it tricky to log in - please note that you need to type in your name and your child's name exactly as it appeared on the admission form (we sent a copy of this in a text message). So for example, if your child is known by different names, it needs to be the one that matches our records. Please call our reception team on 0161 795 3005 if you are having any issues and we will do our best to support you.

Please note that we have limited appointments to 7 per student. This is to ensure that all parents have a fair chance to speak to a number of teachers. Whilst we understand that you may want to speak to all your child's teachers, there simply aren't enough slots available - especially for some teachers who have 4 or more Year 8 classes (and therefore teach over 100 Year 8 students).

Parent Forum

Before COVID-19, we had a regular programme of face-to-face meetings with parents and carers to discuss topics that affect many of our families. In the past conversations have covered lunches, ILTs, uniform, reports and more.

Although we are all restricted from meeting because of the virus, we are keen to meet with parents and carers online via a platform such as Zoom. In addition, we will be asking parents and carers three quick questions each week to survey your views on a range of topics.

If you have been working via videocalls during lockdown, you will understand that they do not always work well with large number of participants. For that reason, we are asking parents and carers to volunteer to join our pool of individuals who want to be part of the discussion. If we have a large pool of people, we may then draw a random group to represent parents at each Forum. To give everyone a fair chance, once you have taken part in a forum meeting, we would wait until everyone in the pool has also had a chance to take part before asking you again.

If you are interested, please let us know via this survey (<https://forms.gle/uajp65jccDm8xXkE6>).

And finally,

As we write to you on Remembrance Day, you may wish to watch a video of three Year 7 students reading In Flanders Fields by John McCrea on our Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/CoopManchester/>), Twitter (<https://twitter.com/CoopManchester/>) or academy website (<https://manchester.coopacademies.co.uk/stories/>).

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