



Co-op Academy  
Failsworth

• Christmas 2024  
Newsletter

# We wish you a very nice Christmas

Dear Parents and Carers

As we approach the end of the Autumn term and we head into the Christmas break, I want to take this opportunity to thank you for all your support over this first successful term of the year. If you look at the newsletter you will see a fantastic celebration of events within the Academy.

A special mention to Year 7 who have made a positive start and to Year 11 who have had their first set of mock exams already this year.

Finally, I would like to wish you a very enjoyable Christmas break and I hope it brings a really good New Year for all of our Academy community. I look forward to welcoming you back on Monday 6 January 2025.

Merry Christmas.

Phill Quirk  
Headteacher



Phill Quirk  
Headteacher



# End of term arrangements

Last day of term is:

**Friday 20th December 2024**

School will close at normal time.

We re-open for all students on

**6th January 2025**

## With Thanks...

We would like to dedicate our Christmas 2024 front cover to our **Year 9 students**

'The Year 9 art cohort has been exploring observational drawing through the lens of 'junk food,' focusing on chocolate bars, sweets, crisps, and pop cans. Students have skilfully captured accurate proportions and typography while applying a range of tones and hues using coloured pencils, water-soluble pencils, and watercolour paints. The results showcase high-quality work that demonstrates their dedication and talent—work they should be incredibly proud of. We are truly impressed by their creativity and attention to detail.'

# Academy Holidays and Term Times

## 2024/2025-26

Last day of term	Friday 20 December 2024
Christmas holiday	Monday 23 December 2024 to Friday 3 January 2025
School returns	Monday 6 January 2025
<b>Staff Training</b>	<b>Friday 31 January 2025</b>
Last day of term	Thursday 13 February 2025
Spring Half Term holiday	Friday 14 February to Friday 21 February 2025
School returns	Monday 24 February 2025
Last day of Term	Friday 4 April 2025
Easter holiday	Monday 7 April to Monday 21 April 2025
School returns	Tuesday 22 April 2025
May Day	Monday 5 May 2025
Last day of Term	Friday 23 May 2025
Summer Half Term holiday	Monday 26 May to Friday 30 May 2025
School returns	Monday 2 June 2025
Summer closes	Friday 18 July 2025
<b>Staff Training</b>	<b>Monday 1 September 2025</b>
Autumn Term Begins	Tuesday 2 September 2025
Last day of term	Wednesday 22 October 2025
<b>Staff Training</b>	<b>Thursday 23 October &amp; Friday 24 October 2025</b>
Autumn Half Term holiday	Monday 27 October to Friday 31 October 2025
School returns	Monday 3 November 2025
<b>Staff Training</b>	<b>Monday 10 November 2025</b>
Last day of term	Friday 19 December 2025
Christmas holiday	Monday 22 December 2025 to Friday 2 January 2026
School returns	Monday 5 January 2026
<b>Staff Training</b>	<b>Friday 23 January 2026</b>
Last day of term*	Wednesday 11 February 2026
Spring Half Term holiday	Thursday 12 February to Friday 20 February 2026
School returns	Monday 23 February 2026
Last day of term	Friday 27 March 2026
Easter holiday	Monday 30 March to Friday 10 April 2026
School returns	Monday 13 April 2026
May Day	Monday 4 May 2026
Last day of term	Friday 22 May 2026
Summer Half Term holiday	Monday 25 May to Friday 29 May 2026
School returns	Monday 1 June 2026
Summer closes	Friday 17 July 2026
<b>Staff Training</b>	<b>Monday 20 July 2026</b>

The Academy is closed for students on Staff Training days



# Christmas Concert 2024



Co-op Academy  
Failsworth

On Wednesday 18th December, many of our fantastic music and drama pupils performed in our annual christmas concert.



We enjoyed performances from the wind band, choir, guitar club, samba band, drama club and three talented rock bands! We also had a number of brilliant soloists including vocal performances from Thomas Ward, Sophie Johnson, Amy Bent and Vanessa Amadasun; violin performed by Candy Lin; drum kit performed by Samuel Yeboah and piano performed by Aria Pourmousa. We had a huge range of talent on display, from our beginner musicians and actors in Year 7, all the way up to our most experienced performers in Year 11.

Congratulations to all our pupils who performed on the night and a big thank you to everyone who came to watch and support the pupils!



All the money raised from ticket sales and the excellent raffle, organised by the citizenship team, will be donated to the academy's chosen charities.



Mr Sheppard – (Head of Expressive Arts)



# Dance

## Year 7–Year 9 Dancers 2nd Place!!



Harlow & Lilimae Year 7



Isabelle & Ava Duet–Year 8

On Thursday 12th December, our dance club pupils competed in 'Gotta Dance' Oldham where they came 2<sup>nd</sup> with our group dance! They worked so hard each week to learn and refine a contemporary dance routine. Pupils represented the academy so very well and performed in front of over 100 people, well done! We also had a variety of solo and duet performances, some of which were placed 1st and 2nd!



Miss Harris – P.E & Dance teacher

# Enterprise & Marketing

The Year 10 Enterprise and Marketing students went on a trip to PwC (PricewaterhouseCoopers) Manchester as 'Part of the New World' to develop their business, communication and financial management skills. Students really enjoyed their day especially the tour around the building to see how a real business is run. Students were amazed to see the views of Manchester from the rooftop! They worked in teams together with some staff from PwC to develop their ideas and build their knowledge of Enterprise, some of our students even asked for a job! The staff commented on how well some of the students led their teams and communicated with each other. Well done Year 10, next stop...The Apprentice!





# Languages



This year, 180 students participated in our new Pen Pal Project by writing letters in Spanish to students in Spain. It's been a fantastic way for them to improve their Spanish skills and build connections with peers from another culture. The students really enjoyed the experience and were excited to share a bit about their lives here.





Another term is gone! Amazing how time flies when you are having fun, and what an amazing 2024 it has been for our future generation of busy bees!

We would like to take this opportunity to give our Year 11s a final reminder of their college applications deadlines:

Blue Coat Sixth Form - 20th December 2024

Loreto College - 10th January 2025

Xaverian College - 17th January 2025

Oldham Sixth Form College - 17th January 2025

Connell - 17th January 2025 (Priority Deadline 18th November 2024)

Ashton Sixth Form College - January 2025

[Here is a recap of this year's Top 5 Careers events!](#)

At Number 5, is our 'In-school Institutions Introductions' where we invite representatives from our local institutions such as Oldham College, OSFC (Oldham Sixth Form College) and Xaverian to introduce themselves to our Year 11 students and answer any questions they may have regarding their potential applications.

With the increasing popularity of apprenticeships, we also invited NLTG (North Lancs Training Group) highlighting some of the benefits of 'on the job' experience from their institution as their apprentices have moved on to working on projects such as The Shard, Heathrow T5 and the Olympic Village.

Flying steady at Number 4, is our OSFC Varsity Academy seeing some of our Year 10s and 11s most ambitious, talented and hardworking students selected to engage in stretch and challenge activities in preparation for their future studies at sixth form and at university.

Varsity Academy is proudly linked to the OxNet project, established by Pembroke College (Oxford University) and as Dr Richard Lee, Assistant Principal at OSFC, and founder of the Varsity Academy explains:

"Research suggests that it is never too early for students to work at developing higher level knowledge and skills, or to begin thinking about their future progression routes. The Varsity Academy is our way of contributing to this process and we are really grateful for the schools' wholehearted support in establishing the project."



# Student



# Careers Corner

Securing its place at Number 3 is our longstanding University of Manchester Gateways Programme which targets local pupils who have the ability to progress into higher education, and are from backgrounds that are currently under-represented. This programme is designed to enable students to find out more about university life, explore UoM's range of degree courses and develop a range of metacognition skills that will aid success at school and beyond.



Our students were feeling camera shy so here is a popular UoM 'graduation picture spot' with the black boulder believed to be a whopping 20,000 years old!

Sitting together in second place, these not only rank as part of the Top 4' world's largest accounting firms both boasting cool views of Manchester! We are very grateful to our hosts at KPMG (Year 9s) and PWC (Year 10s) Manchester offices where our students were invited to experience a 'day in the life' of a staff member as well as partake in problem solving activities, public speaking practice and an office tour. We were impressed with the appropriate questions asked by some of our students. Aim for the sky!

And finally, taking our top spot in the rankings \*Drum rolls\* It's JD UP: That's a Wrap!

We were all wowed by the state-of-the-art space where they put the students through their fitness paces, explored the world of photography and videography with tutorials on campaign shoots, modelling and styling, learning about job roles in different retail departments and more. They even got to ask the Global Managing Director Mike Armstrong, Chief People Officer Nicola Kowalczyk and Regional Sales & Operations Manager Paul Orange some questions related to their own career journeys that started out in retail positions that eventually led them all the way to the Executive Leadership Team today.



But who really had them hyped up and roaring?

"Our guy Chunkz! The YouTube King took questions from the audience and presented special awards to all standout attendees from the day" - JD Sports Blog

The Careers Department of Co-op Academy Failsworth would like to thank all students and parents for their continued support and extend a warm Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year! Roll on 2025!

# Local Community Fundraising for our Community Fridge

Following a visit to brand new, local over 60s independent living space Sydney Grange, we have secured a £500 donation from the McCarthy Stone Foundation to support our families this Christmas at the Community Fridge.

They said: "With more people expected to rely on food banks this winter due to the cost-of-living crisis, the McCarthy Stone Foundation has donated £500 to a community fridge in Failsworth to help hard-pressed families this Christmas. This comes as a study has revealed 10 million children and adults in the UK are experiencing food insecurity."

Thank you from all of us at Co-op Academy Failsworth to the McCarthy Stone Foundation for their very kind donation!



# GCSE Citizenship kicks-off

## Community Fridge Fundraising

As part of their GCSE in citizenship pupils are required to organise an active citizenship project on an issue of their own choosing. Angel, Lily, Gracie-Mai and Miley, all Year 11 pupils, decided to focus on our Community Fridge.

Last half term, the girls organised a food collection event for Year 7. Students brought in donations each morning for the Community Fridge. These items were tracked and the form who brought in the highest number of items across the week won a double lunch reward on Friday.

Congratulations go to 7E who donated 103 items over the week!

In total 405 items were donated. A huge thank you to all parents and carers for their kind donations.

As part of this project, Janae in Year 7 went above and beyond: she saved her pocket money and used this to buy 4 bags of shopping to donate to the project, a special thank you to Janae for her act of kindness!

Well done to all of our Year 7 students for getting involved and our Year 11 Citizenship students for organising this great fundraising event!





# Attendance Matters



We would like to remind parents that, if possible, medical appointments should be made outside of school hours as this will impact on your child's attendance percentage. If your child does have an appointment during school time, it is expected that they will attend school around the appointment and not take a day or afternoon off.

If your child is poorly and not fit to attend school, please ring the school absence line before 8:30am on the day of absence and our attendance team will take further details from you. This line is manned from 8:00am but, if there is no answer, please leave a message on our 24-hour voicemail service and this will be retrieved as soon as possible. Please note we must hear from parents/carers **every day** of a student's absence by phone for safeguarding reasons.

YEAR 7, 8 and 9 students should arrive by 8:10am each day to ensure they are at their registration room in time to get their morning mark for 8:15am.

YEAR 10 and 11 students are expected to arrive by 8:30am each day. This is to ensure all students are at their lesson in time to get their morning mark for 8.35am when the second bell rings.

If students arrive after 09:05am, they will lose their morning mark and get a U (Late) code. This will affect their attendance percentage and could result in Fixed Penalty Notices from the Local Authority.

Please also be aware that any student that has three or more days of absence (whether authorised or not) will receive a home visit conducted by the Attendance Team. These are courtesy Safe and Well visits and are conducted as part of our Attendance Policy

On behalf of the Attendance Team, I would like to wish students, parents and carers a wonderful Christmas break and we look forward to students back on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

## Contact Us

Please send any attendance queries, holiday requests and/or medical evidence to our email address: [attendance@coopfailsworth.co.uk](mailto:attendance@coopfailsworth.co.uk). To report an absence, please call the absence line on 0161 688 3900 (Option 1).



# School Uniform Exchange



Need school uniform?  
Old uniform too small and want to reduce waste?  
Why not try the school uniform exchange?

## What we need?

Co-op Academy Failsworth Blazers  
Co-op Academy Failsworth Jumpers  
Co-op Academy Failsworth PE Kit  
Co-op Academy Failsworth Ties  
School Skirts  
School Trousers  
New Socks  
New Tights  
School Bags

All donations are washed and cleaned by our team at the Academy.

## What is it?

The uniform exchange is where parents can take donated uniform and reuse that instead of buying it new. This reduces waste as well as supporting our less fortunate families by giving our students an equal opportunity to their peers to have access to our uniform.

# Failsworth

# Community

# Fridge

## About:

The community fridge is a facility for families to access non-perishable food, sanitary and hygiene products free of charge. All of these products are donations from the Academy, staff, students and the local community and businesses.

'A simple solution to wasting less through the sharing of good quality food.'

## Where and when?

Failsworth Sports Campus,  
Brierley Avenue, Failsworth,  
Manchester, M35 9HA

Opening Hours:  
Monday - Friday  
2pm - 5pm  
(during term time)



Any questions, contact us on 0161 688 3909 or email [communityfridge@coopfailsworth.co.uk](mailto:communityfridge@coopfailsworth.co.uk)



Since the start  
of the year  
we have provided

**24,800**

**breakfasts**

**Well done**  
to our breakfast  
club team!

# Available support in the Community...

For Children, young people and families over the festive season.



Kooth.com (online support) [www.kooth.com](http://www.kooth.com)



Families in Mind - 0161 3309223 Oldham email: [familiesinmind@togmind.org](mailto:familiesinmind@togmind.org)



MIND - Early Intervention/workshops/Counselling  
0161 330 9223 Oldham/Tameside/Glossop MIND



M-thrive [Mthrive@mft.nhs.uk](mailto:Mthrive@mft.nhs.uk) - Emotional health/Wellbeing  
01612035333 - they do drop in sessions Monday - Wednesday 14.30 - 17.30 and Tuesday - Friday 12noon. Covers North Manchester



Samaritans. [www.samaritans.org](http://www.samaritans.org) This website is aimed at providing 1:1 support via phone, email or messaging - Phone 116 123



SHOUT is a FREE confidential 24/7 text messaging service for anyone who is struggling to cope. Speak to a trained volunteer about how you are feeling. Text 'SHOUT' to 85258 to start the conversation.



TAKE5@togmind.org – Arts and mindfulness online support. You will need to attend a Take 5 drop in session before you can access this art therapy.



42<sup>nd</sup> street - Offers individual therapeutic support - [www.42ndStreet.org.uk](http://www.42ndStreet.org.uk). Email: [TheTeam@42ndsStreet.org.uk](mailto:TheTeam@42ndsStreet.org.uk).  
0161228 7321. 42<sup>nd</sup> street accept referrals for all children and young people who live, attend schools, or who are registered to a GP in Tameside, Trafford, Glossop, Salford and all of Manchester.

# Available support in the Community...

For Children, young people and families over the festive season.



Kooth.com (online support) [www.kooth.com](http://www.kooth.com)



Families in Mind - 0161 3309223 Oldham email: [familiesinmind@togmind.org](mailto:familiesinmind@togmind.org)



MIND - Early Intervention/workshops/Counselling  
0161 330 9223 Oldham/Tameside/Glossop MIND



M-thrive [Mthrive@mft.nhs.uk](mailto:Mthrive@mft.nhs.uk) - Emotional health/Wellbeing  
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0161228 7321. 42<sup>nd</sup> street accept referrals for all children and young people who live, attend schools, or who are registered to a GP in Tameside, Trafford, Glossop, Salford and all of Manchester.



# Families

# in Mind

**A mental health and wellbeing service for families.**

## What is Families in Mind?

Families are diverse, unique, and special. At times, challenges do arise that make things difficult in the family; conflict and struggles happen. Families in Mind is a service that can support your family through this, helping you navigate these moderate conflicts and/or experiences.

## Is this the right service for your family?

**Our aim is to empower families. With our support your family can:**

- Set family goals and work together
- Identify and understand the varied roles and responsibilities of family members
- Explore the strengths of your family
- Identify areas that can contribute to conflict and explore ways to reduce this
- Learn productive ways to communicate
- Explore and share difficult emotions in a safe, non-judgemental place

## How? Next Steps

**How?** Families in Mind will prioritise the well-being of your family. We carefully match your family's needs with the most suitable practitioners, ensuring that you receive personalised support, specifically tailored to your situation. Working with every member of the family we will plan a range of activities that help you understand your difficulties and achieve your goals. We aim to make these as inclusive, interactive, and enjoyable as possible.

**Next Steps** If you feel this service will benefit your family, then please register your interest by **scanning the QR code to the right**, or simply email [familiesinmind@togmind.org](mailto:familiesinmind@togmind.org) and request a referral form. Once you have registered, a practitioner will be in contact to invite you all to an initial session. The purpose of the first meeting is to find out a little bit more about what is and has been happening in your family and to explore if this service is right for you. Then if your family wishes to access our service (Family Solutions) we can get you booked in.

We understand that on occasion a family may not wish to start Family Solutions - in these circumstances we will provide information about other support services in the local area.



# Take 5 & Create

Arts group for wellbeing



**Every Wednesday between 3:30-4:30pm we have a FREE craft and create art group available at Take 5 TOG mind, 19-25 Union Street OL1 1HA**

**The sessions are aimed at 8-12 year olds, they are fun, relaxed and a great way to meet new people your age**

Come along whenever you can to our weekly sessions to get creative with us!



**If you would like any more information please get in touch**

Email

[take5@togmind.org](mailto:take5@togmind.org)



Call

0161 330 9223



Tameside, Oldham and Glossop





# Families in Mind

## What is Families in Mind?

— our service for low level family support for families who are experiencing some challenges/difficulties they would like to work through together.

**Who is the service for?** - this might be the right service for your family if you would like to:

- Explore and share difficult emotions in a safe place
- Learn productive ways to communicate
- Explore the great strengths of your family
- Identify the different roles of your family members
- Identify issues that can contribute to conflicts
- Find solutions together as a family

**What does it involve?** - our practitioners will work with your family through a range of interactive activities that help you to understand your difficulties and achieve goals as a family.

**How do we access?** - you will have a family assessment where we will find out a bit more about your family situation to see if this service is right for you. If not, we will provide information on other local services that may be able to support you.

### To book an assessment:

**Call:** 0161 330 9223

**Email:** [familiesinmind@togmind.org](mailto:familiesinmind@togmind.org)



 @YiMind

 0161 330 9223

 office@togmind.org

 www.togmind.org

216-218 Katherine Street

Ashton-under-Lyne

Lancashire

OL6 7AS

**Youth  
in mind**

 **mind**  
Tameside,  
Oldham  
and Glossop

Tameside, Oldham and Glossop Mind. Registered Charity (No. 1123549)

Registered Company Limited by Guarantee (No. 6340472)

# Take 5 Drop in



Attending a Take5 drop in is the first step in accessing the support we offer.

A drop in is a short appointment (45 mins) where we explore how you're currently feeling and the situations you're going through. You will be asked questions like...

How are you feeling right now?

How long have you been feeling like this?

What do you normally do to cope?

After this, we'll be able to help you pick which of our support options might be best suited to you and what you need right now.

**Drop ins are open to all young people aged 8-18 in Oldham**

(living at an Oldham postcode, registered with an Oldham GP or attending an Oldham school)

**When:** Every Thursday 3PM-7:15PM

**Where:** 19-25 Union St, Oldham OL1 1HA

Contact us on **0161 330 9223** or email us on **take5@togmind.org**

Keep up to date with everything we're doing via our social media



"Youth In Mind"



@youth\_in\_mind\_

Tameside, Oldham & Glossop Mind  
19-25 Union Street  
Oldham  
OL1 1HA

Tameside, Oldham and Glossop Mind. Registered Charity (No. 1123549)  
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# Peer Support Group!



**Are you 15 - 18 and interested in building your self esteem and confidence?**

**Peer support is a safe space for you and others to talk openly and support one another - This can help with:**

- Opening up about feelings and experiences
- Boosting self esteem and confidence
- Introducing ideas and approaches that others have found beneficial
- Helping you to connect with others and value your strengths

**Every Wednesday from 5pm till 6pm!**

**Our Oldham Office: 19-25 Union St, Oldham OL1 1HA**

**If you would like to find out more about this service feel free to come to a drop-in on Thursday's between 3pm and 7pm.**

**Alternatively call us on 0161 339 9223.**





# Home - Cruse Bereavement Support

(Manchester based)

## NHS Bereavement Helpline

The helpline can offer guidance and advice on dealing with grief and loss and is staffed by trained nurses who are highly skilled and experienced in working with bereaved families.

The helpline is open 8am to 8pm every day.

- Phone 0800 2600 400

## Greater Manchester Bereavement Service

Find the right support for you. This service is available for those recently bereaved or if you are supporting someone affected by a bereavement:

- Phone: 0161 983 0902 (Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm - except on Bank Holidays) or visit
- Website: [Greater Manchester Bereavement Service](#)

## Bereavement Advice Centre Oldham

Free, practical information and advice for when someone dies including what to do first, how to register a death, finding a funeral director, probate and other legal procedures:

- Phone: 0800 634 9494 (Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm)
- Website: [Bereavement Advice Centre](#)

## Healthy Minds Oldham

One to one counselling to help manage feelings of depression or anxiety that may be related to bereavement.

This service accepts self-referrals and referrals from your GP.

Phone: 0161 716 2777 (available 9am-5pm)

Website: [Oldham Healthy Minds](#) - NHS website

## Healthy Young Minds

Help for children and young people to manage feelings of depression or anxiety that may be related to a loss or trauma.

Referrals can be made by GPs, parents and carers.

- Phone: 0161 770 7777 (available Monday to Friday, 9am - 5pm)
- Website: [Healthy Young Minds](#) - NHS website

## Child Bereavement UK

Help for children and young people (up to age 25), parents and families to rebuild their lives when a child grieves.

- Phone 0800 02 888 40
- Email [support@childbereavementuk.org](mailto:support@childbereavementuk.org)
- Website [Child Bereavement UK](#)

## If you feel you are in Crisis, Oldham Services

Should you feel that you are unable to keep yourself safe or a Parent, Carer or Friend is unable to support you in keeping safe, please do not hesitate to contact the following.

- **NHS Pennine 24/7 Mental Health helpline** – Telephone 0800 014 9995. 24 hours a day, 7 days a week if you have a increased mental health need. Here you can speak with a mental health professional who can provide support and advice on the best avenue of support.
- **NHS 111 Service** – Telephone 111 from a mobile or landline and speak to a representative who can advise you where to get help 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- **Your Doctor/GP** – Telephone your doctors surgery or attend in person. If you are unsure of the number, you can do a quick google search to find it.
- **Accident and Emergency Department** – Either telephone 0161 624 0420 or attend in person. The Department is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week – Royal Oldham Hospital, Rochdale Road, Oldham, Greater Manchester OL1 2JH.
- **Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)** – If you think a child is being abused or mistreated or you have concerns about a child's well-being please contact 0161 770 7777 (Mon-Fri, 8.40am-5pm) or alternatively, you can email [child.mash@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:child.mash@oldham.gov.uk) or [adult.mash@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:adult.mash@oldham.gov.uk). The contact number can also be used for adults should you have any concerns for their wellbeing.
- **Papyrus** – Telephone 0800 068 4141 between 9am – 12pm, 7 days per week, If you or a loved one is struggling with thoughts or feelings of suicide. You can also call in confidence to speak about anything you are finding challenging in life.
- **The Samaritan's** – 116 123 open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The Samaritan's offer a safe place for you to talk anytime you like, in your own way, about whatever is getting to you.
- **ChildLine** – Free to phone 0800 1111 (24 hours) or on line [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk). Childline help anyone under 19 with any issue they are going through, big or small.
- **NSPCC** – 0808 800 5000 open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The NSPCC work to protect Children and Young People and prevent abuse.

**it is important that you speak with someone about how you are feeling – a Parent, Carer, Teacher, Friend or one of the above.**





# Co-op Academy Failsworth



Get in touch

[www.failsworth.coopacademies.co.uk](http://www.failsworth.coopacademies.co.uk)

0161 688 3900 | [info@coopfailsworth.co.uk](mailto:info@coopfailsworth.co.uk)

