

# Welcome to our Christmas 2025 Newsletter



Dear Parent/Carer

We have had so many incredible events and learning experiences running in our academy over the Autumn term, and we are very proud to share some of the highlights of these with you.

This term has seen a whole host of amazing activities, from inter-form Dodgeball to our Great Christmas Bake Off, we've appointed a record number of student leaders across all year groups, created our student Wellbeing Ambassadors team and, of course, held our annual spectacular Christmas Concert.

It is a privilege to be able to share with you some of the work and achievements of our wonderful students in our newsletter.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents for their continued support and wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We look forward to seeing everyone in January.

Rebecca Shaw  
Headteacher  
Co-op Academy Failsworth

## Term dates

### Last Day of Term

ALL DAY

19  
December

### Start of New Term

ALL DAY

05  
January



What's been going on at Failsworth this term...

Christmas Concert 2025

Tuesday 9th December saw the Academy's annual Christmas concert featuring all the school's ensembles and soloist talent. There was also a huge raffle where monies made went directly to our two charities, the Community Fridge and our Uniform Exchange scheme. Featured pictures include singer soloists Luca Dudson and Ben Newberry who sang 'We Are Walking in the Air'. Arian Pourmousa is featured on the piano, playing music by Einaudi. There are pictures of some other ensembles, including the KS3 Rock Band, Wind band and Guitar ensemble.

A wonderful night was had by all.







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**Great Christmas Bake Off**



Our Year 8 students took part in our Yule Log bake-off challenge.

Each team had 10 minutes to design their cake, and 40 minutes to create it.

They were up against the toughest judges in the business – our canteen staff!

After a tough deliberation, 8J were crowned the winners! Here they are posing with their masterpiece.

Well done to everybody taking part!





#ItsWhatWeDo #ShowYouCare #SucceedTogether

**Career Events This Term**

## **September 2025:**

### **Year 11**

- Final Year 11 Varsity – Students from Year 11 go to Oldham Sixth form to attend ‘taster’ classes about what their A-Levels would look like.
- Year 11 Mega Day – AI-centred event at Oldham College sees students undertake a little project to help improve lives through the use of AI.

## **October 2025:**

### **Year 10**

- Year 10 KPMG Visit – Year 10 Students went to the KPMG building in Central Manchester and had to create an app that would assist a hospital in its operations.
- Scattered throughout, we have had multiple college talks and visits from colleges such as Oldham College, Tameside & Clarendon, Xaverian and Hopwood Hall.

## **November 2025:**

### **Year 9, 10 & 11**

- Young Person’s Careers Event – Year 9 students – Oldham Council organised a ‘Careers Fair’ event just for school students throughout the borough, and it was highly praised by our students, who asked us when such an event would take place again!
- We held highly successful mock interviews for our Year 11 students with over 20 employers coming to our academy to interact with our students in an ‘interview’ style environment.
- NHS: An event for young people – Year 10 students went to an amazing event centred around the medical departments of Midwifery, Gynaecology, Pharmacy, Physiotherapy, Speech & Language Therapy, The Northern

Contraception and Sexual Health Clinic. However, our students were very excited to return home with casts from their Orthopaedic department complete with stories of their newly found 'injuries'.

## **December 2025:**

### **Year 10 & 11**

- **Year 10 Gateways at the University of Manchester – this cohort of students spent the day learning about the requirements to enter university, as well as a campus tour!**
- **Year 10 Oldham Sixth Form Varsity Program Trip – our top Year 10 students that are aiming high for their academic achievements, were invited to attend taster sessions of 'A-level' style classes to prepare them for the educational step-up they are aiming for.**
- **Year 11 Gateways Graduation Ceremony at the University of Manchester – celebrating achievements is important. So to wrap up the efforts of students in the Year 11 cohort group, students were invited to attend this celebration of their successes as well as gain crucial information about applying to the University of Manchester itself!**

**We are planning some new trips to different universities, so look out for your invite!**

## **September – Year 11 MEGA Day**



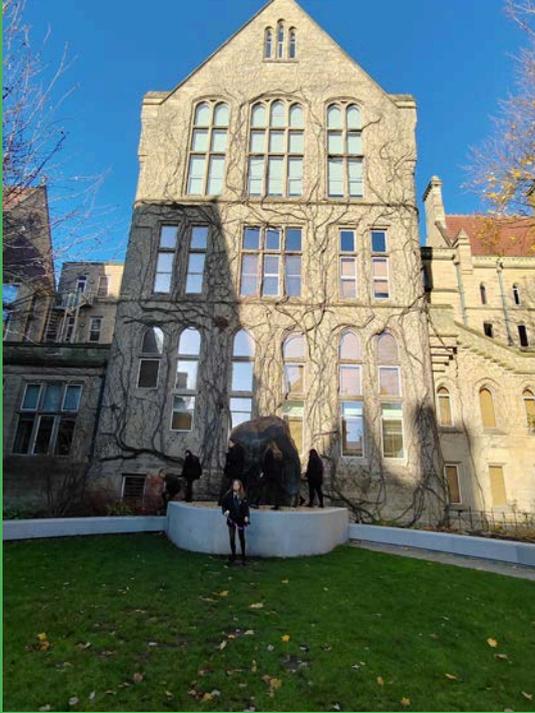
## October – Year 10 KPMG Visit



## November – Year 9 – Young Persons Career Event

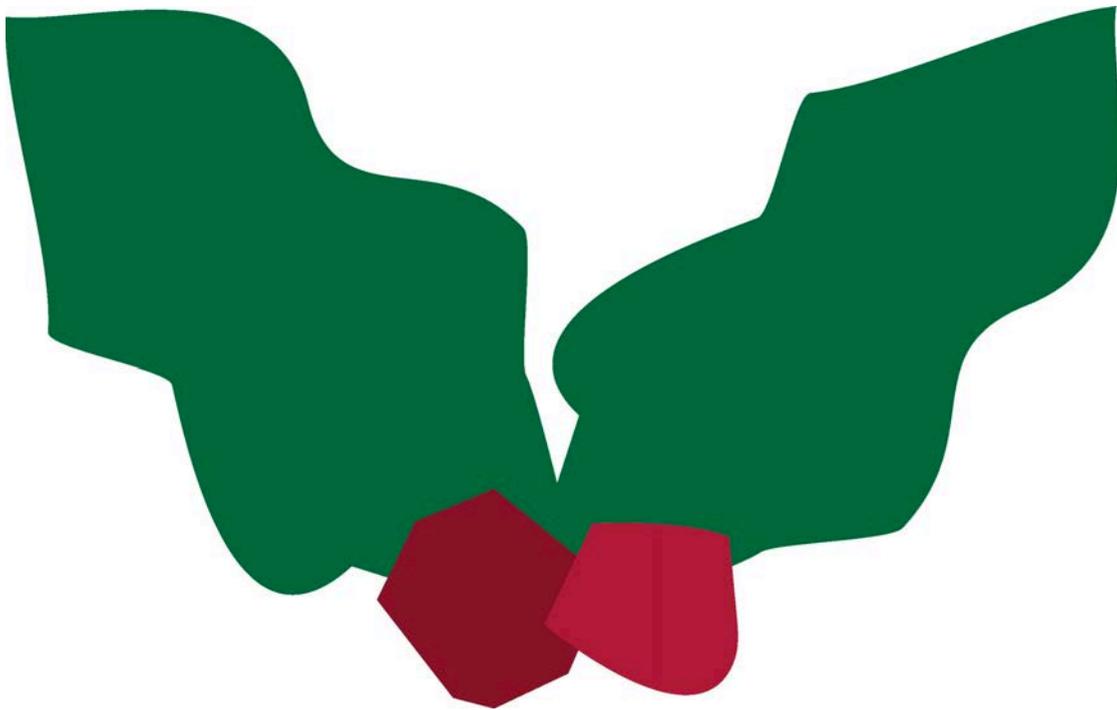


# December – Year 10 - Gateways Event at the University of Manchester



# December – Year 11 – Gateways Graduation Ceremony





## Co-op Failsworth Academy Dance Event



On Thursday 11th December, pupils from Years 7-10 took part in 'Gotta Dance' Oldham where they showcased solo and duet performances! George Eyre Year 10 won 1st place for an amazing jazz solo, with Isabelle Booth being awarded 2nd place for a fabulous contemporary solo. All pupils represented the academy with such pride and confidence. Well done everyone!





## Available Support Around and About Over the Festive Period

### KOOTH & QWELL Support



As we approach the festive season we would like to share a reminder to all students, staff, parents & carers that support is available all over the Christmas holidays. Please see our live chat hours below.

# Christmas and New Year opening hours

You can access Kooth any time you need; we're always open. If you're looking for a one-to-one chat with our team, check below to see when they're available over Christmas and New Year:

Christmas Week	New Year Week
6 - 10PM Saturday 20th December	6 - 10PM Saturday 27th December
6 - 10PM Sunday 21st December	6 - 10PM Sunday 28th December
12 - 10PM Monday 22nd December	12 - 10PM Monday 29th December
12 - 10PM Tuesday 23rd December	12 - 10PM Tuesday 30th December
12 - 8PM Christmas Eve Wednesday 24th December	12 - 8PM New Years Eve Wednesday 31st December
4 - 8PM Christmas Day Thursday 25th December	4 - 8PM New Years Day Thursday 1st January
12 - 8PM Boxing Day Friday 26th December	12 - 10PM Friday 2nd January

From 3rd January 2026, our team will be available as usual: 12 - 10pm Monday to Friday and 6pm - 10pm at weekends. 

## Other Support



**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@tognmind.org](mailto:familiesinmind@tognmind.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.




**Families in Mind**  
We can support your family with:

Conflict | Connection | Boundaries  
Communication | Family Roles

A mental health and wellbeing service for families

**Where** Various locations across Tameside, Oldham, and Glossop.

**Next Steps** Here's how to get in touch:  
- Call: 0161 330 9223  
- Email: [familiesinmind@tognmind.org](mailto:familiesinmind@tognmind.org)

Tameside, Oldham & Glossop Mind  
We are a trusted service designed to help families manage moderate conflicts. A challenge. Working together to support all members of the family.

[tognmind.org/young-people](https://tognmind.org/young-people)

Support of Charity Number: 104668

**Parent and Carers** 

SilverCloud's online parent and carer programmes are tailored for parents /carers of children and teens aged 8-18 years old. The programmes are evidence based and built around Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT), psychoeducation and positive psychology.

**Programmes available on SilverCloud:**

- Supporting An Anxious Child
- Supporting An Anxious Teen

These self help programmes will support you in understanding your child's anxiety and give you tools to help your child manage their feelings and worries.

If you would like to sign up to SilverCloud parent/carer programmes or have any further questions, please speak to your practitioner or contact the office on 0161 3309223.



## Positive Steps to Wellbeing

### Be kind to yourself



Our culture, genes, religion, upbringing, education, gender, sexuality, beliefs, and life experiences make us who we are. We all have bad days.

Be kind to yourself. Encourage rather than criticise yourself. Treat yourself the way you would treat a friend in the same situation.

### Take up a hobby and/or learn a new skill

Increase your confidence and interest, meet others, or prepare for finding work.



### Exercise regularly



Being active helps lift our mood, reduces stress and anxiety, improves physical health, and gives us more energy.

Get outside, preferably in a green space or near water.

Find an activity you enjoy doing, and just do it.

### Have some fun and/or be creative

Having fun or being creative helps us feel better and increases our confidence.



Enjoy yourself!

### Help others



Get involved with a community project, charity work, or simply help out someone you know.

As well as benefiting others, you'll be doing something worthwhile which will help you feel better about yourself.

### Relax



Make time for yourself. Allow yourself to chill out and relax. Find something that suits you – different things work for different people.

Breathe... (Imagine a balloon in your belly, inflating and deflating as you breathe in and out)

### Eat healthily

Eat regularly, eat breakfast, eat healthily, eat fruit and vegetables, drink water.



### Balance sleep

Get into a healthy sleep routine – including going to bed and getting up at the same time each day.



### Connect with others



Stay in touch with family and friends – make regular and frequent contact with them.

### Beware drink and drugs



Avoid using alcohol (or non-prescribed drugs) to help you cope – it will only add to your problems.

### See the bigger picture

We all give different meanings to situations and see things from our point of view. Broaden out your perspective and consider the bigger picture (the helicopter view)



### Accepting: 'It is as it is'

We tend to fight against distressing thoughts and feelings, but we can learn to just notice them and give up that struggle.



What meaning am I giving this? Is this fact or opinion? How would others see it? Is there another way of looking at this? How important is it, or will it be in a year's time? What can I do right now that will help most?

Some situations we just can't change. We can surf these waves rather than try to stop them. Allow those thoughts and sensations just to be – they will pass.

[www.getselfhelp.co.uk](http://www.getselfhelp.co.uk)

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[www.get.gg](http://www.get.gg)

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

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

Facebook: "Youth In Mind" Instagram: @youth\_in\_mind\_

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

Tameside, Oldham and Glossop Mind. Registered Charity No. 1022040.  
Registered Company Limited by Guarantee (No. 0348470)



## Take5 @ TOG Mind

Take5 continues to offer the following services—each require an initial assessment to determine appropriateness and need.

- **Assessment appointments**—every Thursday (booked appointments only)
- **Early Intervention Service**—Low level 1:1 guided self-help. One session a week for 5 weeks, 20-30 minute appointments.
- **Counselling**—1:1 talking therapy, consisting of 8-10 sessions lasting 50 minutes.
- **Anger/Anxiety Group Course**—Solution-focussed and peer support. Once a week for 4 weeks, 1hr group session. Split into junior/senior groups for age-appropriate material/peer support.
- **Digital Friendship Skills**—Information-based session aiming to improve the quality of online relationships, manage friendships and learn about digital wellbeing. Peer support and solution-focussed support. Once a week for 4 weeks, 1hr group session.

Take5 offers these online sessions for CYP without needing for an initial assessment:

- **Arts for wellbeing**—Weekly session aimed at promoting arts and creativity for wellbeing, relaxation and self-expression. Schedule updated via social media @youth\_in\_mind\_
- **Mindfulness**—Session designed to provide a space for building skills at self-regulation, grounding and mindfulness. Offered once a month.

To arrange a drop in appointment or register interest in attending an online session.

Email: [take5@togmind.org](mailto:take5@togmind.org)  
Phone: 0161 330 9223

For updates and daily wellbeing strategies:  
Instagram: @youth\_in\_mind\_  
Facebook: "Youth In Mind"

19-25 Union Street  
Oldham  
OL1 1HA

T: 0161 330 9223  
E: [take5@togmind.org](mailto:take5@togmind.org)  
W: [www.togmind.org](http://www.togmind.org)

Tameside, Oldham and Glossop Mind. Registered Charity No. 1022040

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## Bereavement Services



Child Bereavement UK  
Callie Harrop 07827332824 [callie.harrop@childbereavementuk.org](mailto:callie.harrop@childbereavementuk.org)  
Sarah Smith 07587076047 [sarah.smith@childbereavementuk.org](mailto:sarah.smith@childbereavementuk.org)



Cruse Bereavement Care  
Call 0800 800 1677 Monday and Friday, 9.30am to 5pm; Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 9.30am to 8pm; Saturday and Sunday 10am to 2pm.



Grief Encounter  
Call 0800 802 0111 Monday to Friday, 9am to 9pm, or email [contact@griefencounter.org.uk](mailto:contact@griefencounter.org.uk)



Hope Again  
Call 0800 800 1677 Monday to Friday, 9.30am to 5pm, or email [hopeagain@cruse.org.uk](mailto:hopeagain@cruse.org.uk)



Winston's Wish  
Call 0800 802 0021 Monday to Friday, 8am to 8pm, or email [ask@winstonswish.org](mailto:ask@winstonswish.org)

Giving hope to grieving children

**kooth**

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

**Families  
in Mind**

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

**MIND**  
Tameside, Oldham  
and Glossop

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

**M•Thrive**

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**

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**  
85258  
here for you 24/7

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.

**Take  
5**

TAKES5@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.

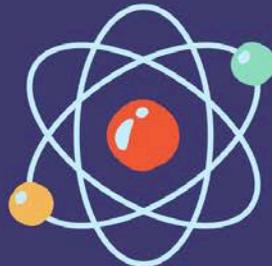
**42<sup>ND</sup>  
STREET**

42<sup>nd</sup> street - Offers individual therapeutic support -  
[www.42ndStreet.org.uk](http://www.42ndStreet.org.uk). Email: [Theteam@42ndStreet.org.uk](mailto:Theteam@42ndStreet.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.



COOP ACADEMY FAILSWORTH

# SCIENCE FAIR



**12TH MARCH 2026**

**START TIME: 2PM**

Entries welcome from years 7 - 9

Prizes include: Science gadgets and gizmos

**PROJECTS  
DUE 2/3/26**

You will be required to complete a project board which documents your research/experiment and you will be given time to plan in your science lesson - Help will also be given in STEM club on Tuesdays after school

# Attendance Matters

Thank you for your continued support with our Attendance Drive this term. We would like to take this opportunity to remind you of some of our Attendance Protocols:

All students should arrive by 8:15am each day to ensure they are at their registration room in time to get their morning mark for 8:20am. Arrival at school after 8:20am will result in a late mark and detention.

If students arrive after 9:05am, 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.

If your child is poorly and not fit to attend school, please ring the school absence line before 8:20am on the day of absence and our attendance team will take further details from you. This line is manned from 7:30am 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.

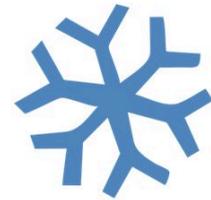
We would like to remind parents that, if possible, medical appointments should be made outside of school hours as this will impact on your child's attendance percentage. If your child does have an appointment during school time, it is expected that they will attend school around the appointment and not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

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.

We hope you have a restful break and look forward to welcoming students back in January 2026.

## Contact Us

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



# 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)

