

NEWSLETTER



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COPLEY PRINCIPAL DELIGHTED AT OFSTED REPORT

Ruth Craven
Copley Academy Principal



A Stalybridge secondary school has been given a boost after receiving a positive report in their latest inspection. Copley Academy was inspected in December last year by a team from Ofsted.

The report, published on the 2nd of February, describes how leaders have “made great strides” in improving the academy, and Ofsted describes that under principal Ruth Craven’s leadership; “A welcome period of stability is ensuring that pupils, parents, and staff have greater confidence that the improvements at Copley Academy are sustainable and here to stay”. Leaders have raised teachers’ expectations of the standards that pupils, including pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), can achieve. It adds:



“Pupils say they feel ‘happy and proud to attend Copley Academy’ and feel that ‘staff support helps them to feel safe in school’.

Inspectors praised the “broad and ambitious” range of subjects on offer in the academy’s curriculum and recognises that leaders and staff have “high aspirations” for all students.

Principal Ruth Craven couldn’t be happier with the academy’s performance.

She said, “It is fantastic that Ofsted has recognised the progress we have made and it is a testament to the hard work of our wonderful staff and students that we have been able to achieve this, especially given all the challenges of the pandemic”.

In reference to what the academy does well, inspectors awarded a grade of ‘Good’ for the work that staff does to support student’s personal development, particularly in the way that the ‘Great Lives’ curriculum prepares them for life beyond school.

“We are looking forward to continuing our improvement journey together in the coming months and years, and I believe that this academy can be judged as at least Good in all areas in our next inspection,” said Mrs. Craven.

Particular praise was also given to Great Academies Education Trust, with inspectors highlighting that “over the last two years, leaders, trust representatives and those responsible for governance have made great strides in putting Copley Academy back together”.

Reflecting on the report, Brendan Loughran, CEO at Great Academies Education Trust said; “The judgements in this report reflect the transformation that has taken place at Copley Academy. There are no surprises in the report and we look forward to supporting Ruth and the staff on the academy’s next stage of improvement”.

DRAMA STUDENTS

GET INTO CHARACTER

Year 10 GCSE drama students have had a wonderful time working with a west-end performer. Michael Southern from ‘Stage-ed’ joined us to deliver a thought-provoking and invaluable workshop based on Willy Russell’s Blood Brothers.

Students were able to explore the plot, characters, and themes of the play both practically and theoretically. What a day it was! They worked together beautifully to create some extremely impressive drama. We were even allowed time to question Michael on his role as ‘Sammy’; one of the lead roles in the professional production of Blood Brothers in the West End. Michael commented on the incredible focus, talent, and professionalism shown by our young people.

Each student involved received several GREAT points for their involvement and we even gifted Michael with a signed thank you poster for allowing us into his world as a working performer.



ASHTON SIXTH FORM REALISING ASPIRATIONS PROGRAMME

**3
AWARD
WINNERS**

A group of ten Year 10 students signed up for Ashton’s Realising Aspirations Programme.

Students visited the college every Thursday after school and completed a range of subject specialist and study skills workshops to start to introduce them to Key Stage 5 study. The students were brilliant and found the experience rewarding and incredibly valuable. At the end of the programme, all students from participating Tameside Schools attended an Award ceremony and Copley Academy had not one, but three award winners! Faye Pritchard, Grace Pullar, and Holly Pimlott. The standard of their work, which the students have shared with Miss Tidbury, was incredibly impressive.



COPLEY STUDENTS TAKE CENTRE STAGE IN THE ABOUT TAMESIDE MAGAZINE



GCSE WALKING, TALKING MOCKS



YEAR 11 STUDENTS

SUBJECT BOOSTERS

This year we wanted to support our Year 11 students to make sure they were prepared for their exams. Students were provided with GCSE booster sessions.

Our mathematics department turned the main hall into one large classroom with Mr Phillips leading a "walking talking mock" for over half the year group. Whilst the English department, in preparation for English language paper 2, provided pizza for students who stayed late the afternoon before the exam, despite having two exams that day!



LOCAL MP JONATHAN REYNOLDS VISITS COPLEY

We had a visit from our local MP Jonathan Reynolds.

He met with some of our students who asked some challenging questions about levelling up, education, environment, and local business life in parliament.



WILD-ED PROGRAMME IS GROWING

Year 8 students who are part of the Wild-Ed programme have been busy carrying out their plans to improve Copley's natural environments and biodiversity.

With Miss Tidbury and Ben, from Action from Conservation, students got creative (and messy!) with making and decorating bird and hedgehog houses that will be placed in key parts of the school grounds. The group is also helping Copley in its quest to become an Eco-School. Miss Tidbury will be submitting evidence later this academic year to achieve the award.



FUTURE GREAT STARS

YEAR 5 GREAT LEARNING DAYS

Miss Tidbury has been busy organising the visit of Year 5 students from St Pauls, Gorse Hall, Wild Bank, and Silver Springs to come and enjoy some great learning days at Copley.

The event allowed pupils to sample life at a secondary school and allowed them to become excited about the next stage of their learning journeys. Students were involved in a range of lessons from PE, Languages, Food Technology, Science, Computing, and English as well as having the opportunity to use the school facilities. The days were a great success, and Copley is looking forward to welcoming some of the students back in July when they will be participating in a Future Great Stars Challenge against each other to solve a "who dunnit" murder mystery.

SCHOOL DIVERSITY WEEK



As part of Pride Month, Copley Academy joined in the School Diversity Week and arranged several activities across the school.

With the support of Mr Baron, a group of students sold rainbow ribbons to raise money for "Just Like Us", an LGBT+ charity that supports young people. Subjects such as English, History, and GREAT Lives provided learning opportunities for students and Miss Tidbury encouraged students to show that they are allies by signing up to the Copley Rainbow.

BUILDING ASPIRATIONS IN ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION

A group of Year 9 and 10 students who have career aspirations in engineering and construction, visited the site of the new Co-op live indoor Arena.

Due to open in 2023, the arena is set to be Britain's biggest indoor entertainment venue and will be able to house 23,000 people for concerts. Copley students got to hear all about the project from apprentices and workers as well as see first-hand the huge effort, labour, and resources that are going into the arena's construction.



CAMP INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AT COPLEY

Students from both Copley Academy and Great Academy Ashton have signed up to participate in Camp International, an organisation that provides students with the opportunity to visit various places around the world and participate in life-changing activities that benefit the local communities.

Students can finance their visits through fundraising and student Elizabeth Kerr spoke last week to Tameside's Rotary Club to explain her funding raising plans and how the opportunity has impacted her already. Thank you to the Club that has provided Elizabeth with some sponsorship for her fund-raising endeavours!



POST 16
READY
GREAT
LIVES

YEAR 10 STUDENTS

NEXT STEPS FOR COPLEY STUDENTS

Year 10 students attended the Tameside Careers Fair which was being held at Stalybridge Town Hall. Students got the opportunity to interact with a range of local Further Education providers, as well as employers and training services, to help them start to think about the possible post-16 routes.

Mrs Orr-McCook also took students on a tour of Tameside College to visit their impressive catering facilities and learn more about the realities of the catering and hospitality sector. The visit was rounded off with an impressive four-course meal!

During National Apprenticeship Week students had the opportunity to hear from both apprenticeship providers as well as their apprentices. SETA Engineering and Balfour Beatty both met with students during the week and students had the opportunity to learn more about some of the biggest British companies that offer apprenticeships as well as some of the many famous faces who started their working lives as apprentices. Selected Year 11 students were also involved with an ASK Apprenticeship workshop, which built up their skill set to research and apply online for apprenticeships for September 2022.

The theme of worked related learning continued into National Careers Week. Staff displayed their working journeys on their classroom doors to show not only the range of employability and soft skills that they have developed over the years, but also their diverse experiences and working lives to reflect the labour market, jobs, and careers.

During this week Year 10 students were also involved in a mock interview day. The Salford Foundation supported the event, where students answered a series of questions about themselves and their aspirations for the future so that the interviewer could provide the student with feedback on the quality of their answers and body language. All students received personalised feedback that will be used in the Summer Term as part of the GREAT Lives curriculum, to help them become Post-16 ready.



UPDATES FROM OUR LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE

Reading and library lessons have continued with the reading resolutions and the reading Game. Students were asked to try at least 3/4 of reading resolutions from a list and were challenged to think of their own. This could be anything from reading a book a week to a younger sibling, reading a book published the year you were born or reading an autobiography. The Reading Game consists of looking at a selection of books and deciding on the best front cover, blurb, and starting paragraphs on different genres of books. Each group gets the chance to repeat the process with a different genre of the book at least three times. This was a brilliant activity to get students to look at books from genres they wouldn't normally look at. We even had collections of poetry books and non-fiction genres such as history and sport. It created lots of lively discussion between students and resulted in several loan requests, which after all is a measure of success.

We have looked at Chinese myths and legends and how the Chinese Zodiac was created. Students looked at some of the traditional decorations seen during this time such as spring couplets. The lesson was topped off with everyone receiving a fortune cookie for their contribution and hard work during the lesson.

For the Harry Potter Book Night, library lessons featured Diagon Alley, and students were asked to create their shop for Diagon Alley after watching a PowerPoint on the various shops from J K Rowling's imagination. As always Harry Potter Book Night was recognised across the school. It is 25 years since the first book was published and the theme this year was magical journeys. We decided to concentrate on the magical creatures from the books and had a magical creature treasure hunt around the school. Prizes of fluffy owls, pencils, and chocolate frogs were awarded to the pupils who handed in the correct 12 creatures and answered the questions about each one.



WELL DONE ELIZABETH BUDDING YOUNG POETS

The Foyle Young Poet of the Year competition was an opportunity for students to submit entries of any style, or length.

This year's topics submitted to The Poetry Society focussed on womanhood, corruption, and identity. Congratulations to Elizabeth Kerr, whose entry was selected for publishing in an upcoming anthology! Her brilliant poem 'Because I Am A Woman' gives voice to the concerns of young women growing up in a patriarchy and explores the idea of finding one's power. Well done Elizabeth, we can't wait to see what you do next!



LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!

Students were provided with the opportunity to watch Joseph and his Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat at the Manchester Opera House.

For many, not only was this their first school visit in two years, it was our first time back in a theatre. The show was amazing, featuring Jason Donovan as the Pharaoh and a heavily pregnant, but very energetic, Alexandra Burke.



**Our Year 7
Basketball Team**
Runners-Up!



SPORTS ROUNDUP

YR 7 BASKETBALL

Congratulations to our Year 7 basketball team who came runners-up in the Tameside basketball competition last month.

This is a great achievement and shows that hard work and commitment pay off. The pupils have attended regular after-school sessions this year, working on their basketball skills. It is also lovely to see the students in their brand-new basketball kits looking like a million dollars.

DODGEBALL TOURNAMENT

Our Year 9 and 10 dodgeball tournament was a great success.

The boys were victorious beating every school that attended and receiving the gold medal. The girls just missed out on a winners medal finishing fourth but they performed amazingly with determination, hard work, and fantastic teamwork. The whole evening was enjoyed by all and both teams were a credit to Copley and the PE department.

**WELL
DONE
GOLD!**



**GOOD
NEWS
LEARNING
JOURNEY**



GOOD NEWS LEARNING JOURNEY

LIFE IN HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

Year 11 students have been extremely busy completing their coursework in understanding the Health and Social care services. Students have shown an excellent attitude to learning when completing coursework during the lesson as well as attending extra lessons after school.

Which is great to see – Well done year 11.

Year 10 students have been busy in preparation for the external examinations. They have been working hard in lessons, attending afterschool revision sessions, and completing homework tasks – which has developed students' independent study skills.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE CAREERS INFORMATION

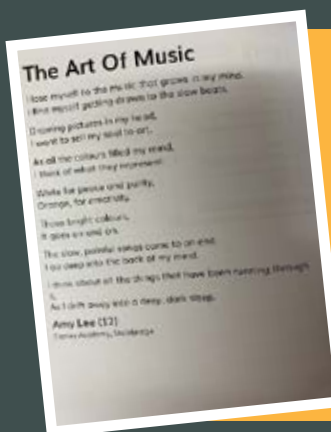
During our lessons students have been given an insight into Allied Health Professions (AHPs) with the NHS, looking at the different roles and understanding the skills, qualities, and progression routes.

Within the career information students have enjoyed watching short video clips showing the 'day in a life' of:

- A Dietitian
- A Music Therapist
- A High-Intensity Therapist
- An Occupational Therapist, and
- A Physiotherapist

Students have also been involved in workshop opportunities with The Greater Manchester Health & Social Care Careers Hub. Discovery sessions have provided opportunities to find out more about the NHS careers.

CREATIVE SKILLS ON SHOW IN ENGLISH



YOUNG WRITERS – EMPOWERED

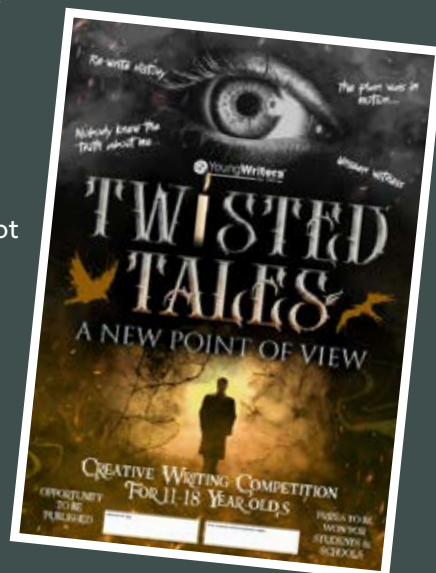
Congratulations to Amy, who won a spot in the Young Writer's Empowered anthology for her piece 'The Art of Music', which was submitted to the competition at the start of this year.

YOUNG WRITERS

TWISTED TALES

Students are currently submitting entries for the Young Writers Twisted Tales creative writing competition.

Students are asked to consider how much a story changes if we change the point of view and to explore character perspectives by flipping the script and writing an untold side of the story. The deadline for entries is 17th July.



TRANSITION ACTIVITIES

Local primary school pupils who will be joining us in September have received a copy of The Explorer, a novel by Katherine Rundell, along with an activity pack, to read over the summer. The Explorer is an exciting and funny novel about a group of children who must survive in the Amazon after their plane crashes. We hope they will enjoy reading it as much as previous students!

This half term we also welcomed a number of Year 5 pupils from our local primary schools. The pupils worked with Mr. Baron to get a flavour of life in the Copley English Department, as they read and analysed the poem 'Blessing' by Imtiaz Dharker. The pupils are part of our 'Copley Great Stars programme', which aims to prepare children for the move into secondary school.



READING BINGO

Reading bingo cards were available during English library lessons for pupils who wanted to take part. Some books could be used from our reading and library lessons and this was an opportunity to find out your thoughts on them.

Congratulations to our Reading Bingo winner Jamie P in Yr. 8. Jamie handed in a completed bingo card alongside completed reading bingo worksheets with more information about the books she had chosen for the challenges. Her thoughts on the books she had read were insightful and a delight to read. Jamie will be added to our reading role model gallery for her efforts in extra-curricular reading activities and for her recommendations of books to buy for the LRC.

CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK

The English Department challenged students to read to a younger sibling or family member as much as possible during May.

A PowerPoint was created about the benefits of reading to younger children to improve their vocabulary and other important literacy skills while developing close bonds and a love of books and reading for pleasure. Leading by example is a great way to encourage good behaviour and reading habits, leading to a lifelong love of reading. It can strengthen your reading skills in the process.

We have a number of students who regularly take books from our picture books/ books for younger children, alongside their novels, to read to their siblings. We would like to give a special mention to Daniel in Year 8, who has already done this of his own volition all year and was the inspiration behind our challenge to get others to join him. Daniel will be part of our reading role model gallery being prepared for a display in the LRC in September.

READATHON UPDATE

Our Year 7 and 8 students completed a sponsored read before the Christmas break.

Those who took part raised £250 for the charity Read For Good, which aims to provide books and reading sessions for children who are confined in hospital due to illness. Special mention goes to Tia, Brooke, and Jack, who raised £90 between them! We look forward to running the Readathon for the second year in the new Autumn Term.



SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

Years 7 and 8 will have been given a booklet of summer reading challenges for the holidays at the end of term. Inside are extracts from some popular children's fiction books, some myths and legends, and a few challenges and fun quizzes to entertain.

We hope these inspire them to keep reading during the holidays. We have included a reading challenge sheet with some ideas to note down books to create their personalised reading list. It's up to students how many and which challenges they complete. We will be giving small prizes to students who try some challenges and hand their booklet to the LRC in Sept.

Don't forget our school library e-book collections are available throughout the summer on Sora via the Sora app or on-line via the website below. You will need your unique library logins and passwords to access them, available from Mrs. Holding in the LRC. www.soraapp.com



STUDENTS SPEAK

LANGUAGES OF SUCCESS

After a three-year gap, Year 11 Germanists braced the challenges of the Speaking exam.

Both Ms. Fitton and Mr. Jones were so incredibly proud of the efforts that they put into, not only the preparation for this exam but all of the other papers too. We hope that there will be many happy faces in August when the results are published! Our Year 10 students have also completed their first full mock papers and whilst getting ready for the challenges that Year 11 has to offer, some are also looking forward to our first foreign residential in a long time, due to take place in November 2022! There will be more about that in the Christmas newsletter! Our Key Stage 3 groups have continued to embrace both German and French culture in their lessons. Recently we looked at the LGBTQ+ communities in Germany and France and are currently undertaking more in-depth research projects into various aspects of life in these countries.



**WELCOME
MR NASH
HEAD OF HISTORY**



It has certainly been an enjoyable term so far. It was great to see our Year 11s preparing for their History exams, there were lots of students showing an amazing attitude to learning by attending the boosters. At Key Stage 3, Year 7s have been learning about the Islamic World and have just started the Tudors, producing some lovely work on Henry VIII. We even had Allan Hirsch creating a TikTok account from the perspective of one of Henry's wives. Not sure what Henry would have thought about that one!

It has also been lovely to see students researching beyond the curriculum. For example, Maisie-Cay Green has been researching about her family in World War One and brought in a newspaper from 1915 – sadly announcing that her great-great-grandfather, Joseph Hoolahan, and great-great-uncle, John William Kane, (both from Hadfield) had been killed in action. Year 8 have also been working hard learning about the Impact of the British Empire. Year 9 have been demonstrating empathy and maturity in learning about the Holocaust. We have also scheduled a video call with a Holocaust survivor and his family. Students in Year 9 have been thinking hard, carefully planning thoughtful questions to ask. We have also had students sharing their personal stories of family members who survived the Holocaust and whilst heart-breaking to hear, these are a powerful reminder of why it is so crucial to study the Holocaust today. In regards to Year 10, they have been working hard revising for their mocks and they are finishing off the America 1920-73 unit in preparation for their studies in Year 11.

COPLEY LOUD AND PROUD

This year Copley's LGBTQ& group 'Loud and Proud' entered its second year. The group was open to all-year groups thanks to the decrease in Covid restrictions, and it was wonderful to welcome a range of our students from Year 7 to Year 11. Over this year the group has formed some wonderful friendships with one another and has been able to offer support and guidance for the unique set of experiences queer children face.

This year the group have contributed massively to the ethos of togetherness around the school, creating educational resources which were delivered in form time, driving forward the activities within School Diversity Week, and raising £75 for the LGBTQ& charity Just Like Us through the sale of rainbow ribbons. The students have also been

allowed to speak to members of staff and Heads of the Department, sharing their ideas on how we can make Copley an inclusive environment for all students. In particular, the group has spoken to the PE department, about gendered language and changing rooms, Mrs. Holding, to request a number of books that are now available through the LRC, the English department about their favourite readings of fictional characters, and members of Senior Leadership Team about ideas for improvements to their daily school lives. Thank you to all members of staff who have taken the time to come down, engage and show your support for our students. As a reminder, Tameside Pride is taking place on July 16th in Cheethams Park. It would be lovely to see as many students and their families as possible turning out to support the wonderful LGBTQ& charities and youth groups we have in Tameside.





Winning Team!

Kallum Battersby, Charly Rose Davies,
Sophie Froggatt, Jake Rankin,
and Kamil Roguski

YEAR 10

PRINCES TRUST PROJECT FOR BUDDING ENTREPRENEURS

Our Year 10 Enterprise group took part in a national enterprise event, organised by the Prince's Trust. The Prince's Trust is an organisation that works with young people to give them skills and abilities for adult life, and in particular ready for work.

Students were split up into groups of 4 or 5 and took part in several activities that were designed to test their entrepreneurial skills.

The competition was designed to find out if students had an aptitude for entrepreneurship and all the students performed well. The students had to pitch a business idea to professionals, which took into consideration the type of business, what the business

would sell, how the business would operate, and how the business would make a profit.

Each of the students took up different positions within their business, such as marketing manager, personnel manager & finance manager. The students had to articulate their role and how it fitted into the business.

As it was a competition there had to be a winning team and the winning group of students were Kallum Battersby, Charly Rose Davies, Sophie Froggatt, Jake Rankin, and Kamil Roguski; the students did well in beating off some stiff competition!

As a result of their performance, the winning group was selected to go to the regional finals, which were held at Old Trafford Football Stadium.



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**Great Academies
Education Trust**

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