

Newsletter



**Cowplain
Community
School**

A Business Academy

Dream. Believe. Achieve.

Over the last term I have been struck by the talents of our students. It seems that almost every day they are participating in activities related to arts, science, team building, sport, reading, the list goes on and on! This has been highlighted during the last week when a huge number of students across the age ranges participated in Rock Challenge and our show, *Back to the 80s*. Rock Challenge is always a fantastic event; we have only participated for the last three years and we are always up against schools that have been taking part since it started, some for more than fifteen years. However, our performances are getting better and better and this year Cowplain Community School won eight awards! We are also unique in that we actually participate twice on the evening, once in our own right and then with Rachel Madocks School. It makes me incredibly proud to see our students working as a team and helping the students from Rachel Madocks, as well as challenging themselves in their own performances and really pulling together to represent Cowplain. I know they learn a massive amount about themselves, both in the lead up to the performance and on the (very long and tiring) day. Similarly, *Back to the 80s* is another fantastic show, especially for those of us who were in our youth during that decade! Again, I congratulate our singers, actors, dancers, musicians and backstage crew who made it really memorable.

Last week the government announced it was going to support 25% of schools to extend their hours. Firstly, it baffles me as to why the government will support a privileged quarter and not 100%, but also I am perplexed as to what it thinks schools do now! We don't shut at 2.30pm, our school is open until 10pm, with many students staying behind to act, dance, sing, play sport, learn a musical instrument, take part in Duke of Edinburgh schemes or simply to do a couple of hours revision. In the summer we will be presenting ideas to you to extend this *Period 6+* provision even further and reinforce our commitment to our students that Cowplain Community School will support and nurture their talents, aspirations and interests.

I wish you and your family a very happy Easter and look forward to welcoming our students back in the Summer term.

**Mr IR Gates
Headteacher**



Fundraising

Hot 100

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Mathematics

Business

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Catering

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Fundraising



Students and staff raised £582.64 for Sport Relief during the non-uniform day in March.

Many congratulations to Mrs Booth, Teacher of Business, Computing, Media and Child Development, who raised an additional £310 by taking part in the Sport Relief Swimathon, swimming 2.5km in 1 hour 27 minutes!

Well done Mrs Booth!

We are continuing to raise funds for Toilet Twinning through a number of activities. During the Spring term we held a movie afternoon, a cake sale and also held a students versus staff badminton and table tennis tournament to raise funds for this worthy cause. We are about halfway to our goal of £240 and will continue to fundraise during the Summer term.

We have a defibrillator in school for use in emergencies and would like to raise funds to purchase a second defibrillator to be kept in our PE area which could be used by those hiring our community facilities. After a cardiac arrest, every minute without defibrillation and CPR reduces the chance of survival by 10%. A high energy electric shock, given to the heart in some types of cardiac arrest, may restore a more stable rhythm. If you would like to discuss fundraising ideas, or would like to be involved in raising money for this equipment, please contact Mrs Ellis, Matron, on 023 9261 2020.



Hot 100

At the end of the Spring term the top 100 students from each year group were invited to take part in the Hot 100 Mad Hatter's Tea Party to celebrate their achievements and success.

The event was hosted by Tweedle Dee and Tweedle Dum from Alice in Wonderland, aka Ms Salsbury and Mrs van den Braak, ably assisted by a host of Easter bunnies.

Congratulations to all involved!



We were saddened to learn of the death of Sandra Cheek earlier this year after a short illness. Mrs Cheek was Head of Science at Cowplain Community School for many years and taught a great number of students over her teaching career until she retired in 2011. Having gained a BSc Hons in Chemistry at Kings College, London, Sandra qualified as a teacher at the University of Bath before teaching at a number of schools across Hampshire.

World Book Day

World Book Day started with a literary quiz in tutor time which was further reinforced by reading aloud and a number of activities and competitions took place throughout the day as part of our continued commitment to literacy at Cowplain.

Students across all year groups dressed as characters from fantasy books such as Harry and Hermione from *Harry Potter* and Elena from *The Vampire Diaries*; the school was filled with Oompa Loompas from *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, Dorothy from *The Wizard of Oz* and even Skulduggery Pleasant and the shark from *Jaws* made an appearance.

Library Manager Mrs Milford dressed as Gansta Granny whilst Miss Buxton, Teacher of English and History, taught her lessons as Miss Havisham from *Great Expectations*. Miss King was quite unrecognisable hidden behind Dumbledore's beard!

Miss Moore, Teacher of Maths, dressed as *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe* - all at the same time! Year 7 student Alfie Moth, Mrs Lush-Smith, Teacher of English, and the Business Studies teachers all dressed as Wally from *Where's Wally?*



"I like dressing up as a character because it's like stepping into their life"

Elouise Miller, Year 7

"I like to act and you get to do that as a character for the day."

Alana Kendrick, Year 7, dressed as Penny from Girl Online by Zoe Sugg



"Celebrating World Book Day reminds us of how lucky we are to have opportunities to read and enjoy books as well as acting to remind us of the importance of reading and literacy in our daily lives."

Ms Butcher, Teacher of English

Mathematics

Cowplain students built links with higher education by working alongside students from the University of Portsmouth in a workshop dedicated to Problem Solving.

Students from Years 9 and 10 paired up to solve replicas of questions from the new GCSE Mathematics specification. The problems were aimed at all ages and abilities allowing all students to access the challenges.

Our students were very competitive, with some managing to answer questions that had previously appeared on AS Level Mathematics papers!



United Kingdom Mathematics Trust

In February, students from Years 9 and 10 took part in the UKMT Challenge, an international Mathematics challenge involving students across the United Kingdom and Europe.

The challenge involved answering 25 multiple choice questions in one hour and was sat in school under normal exam conditions.

The top 40% of students nationally received a Gold, Silver or Bronze certificate and each institution received a Best in School certificate.

For this year's challenge, Jackson Chandler (9AN) achieved the highest score in the school. He received a Gold certificate for his success and was entered into the next stage of the competition, the Kangaroo Challenge. **Well done Jackson!**

The following students were awarded with certificates:

Gold

Philip Weaver (10HW)

Silver

Jasmin Hind (10SL)
Thomas Marshall (10RR)
Kieran Ralph (10RR)

Bronze

Jake Burfoot (10SL)
Josh Harman-Vega (10JR)
Callum Macmillan (10BT)
Kristian Maudsley (10MK)
George Starkey (10BT)
Eloise Taylor (10SL)
Imogen Whitwham (10BT)
Sophie Arnold (9LB)
Mia Hatchard (9AN)
Brandon White (9JM)

Congratulations to all our students for their achievements!

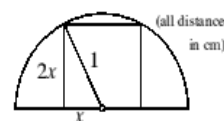
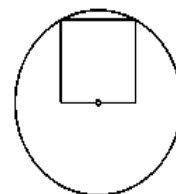
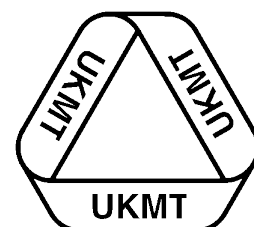
Example question and answer from UKMT Challenge:

The circle has radius 1 cm. Two vertices of the square lie on the circle. One edge of the square goes through the centre of the circle, as shown.

What is the area of the square?

A $\frac{4}{5} \text{ cm}^2$ B $\frac{\pi}{5} \text{ cm}^2$ C 1 cm^2 D $\frac{\pi}{4} \text{ cm}^2$ E $\frac{5}{4} \text{ cm}^2$

Let the length of the side of the square be $2x$ cm. Then, using Pythagoras' Theorem in the triangle shown, $(2x)^2 + x^2 = 1^2$. So $4x^2 + x^2 = 1$. Therefore $x^2 = \frac{1}{5}$ and the area of the square is $4x^2 \text{ cm}^2 = \frac{4}{5} \text{ cm}^2$.



Business



The Year 9 Business students were asked to help with Rock Challenge by designing the T-shirt for the students and staff to wear. The Business students were given the theme and then tasked with researching, designing and creating a prototype before pitching their ideas to the class. The ideas were passed to Miss Leng and Mrs Brooks who made the final decision.

The entries were fantastic and students spent a lot of time designing and putting together their presentations.

The overall winners were a combination of designs from two groups. **Congratulations to Hannah Teal, Sophie Arnold, Ben Mitchell, Jordan Walker and Megan Clements.**

Microsoft

Students from Cowplain Community School had the opportunity to visit Microsoft's UK headquarters at the Thames Valley Park campus in Reading for an *Office 365 in Education* event.

The ambassadors from Years 7, 8 and 9 toured the facilities and also took part in a PowerPoint challenge. They were very pleased and proud to receive second prize, winning Office 365 training from Coretek, one of Microsoft's partner companies.

During the day the students investigated Office 365, the latest online version of the Microsoft Office package. We are excited to report that we will soon be able to offer every Cowplain student five free copies of this software, which includes Word, Excel and PowerPoint – plus many other software packages for students to explore!

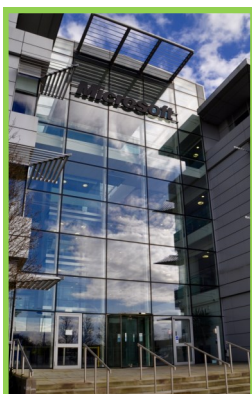
"The Microsoft trip was very interesting and very educating. We got to see many things such as their park, buildings, brand new products and much more. The HQ in Reading was enormous and is actually the biggest Microsoft office in England. They even had their own Starbucks, games zone and lounge along with their offices dotted all over. We learnt that they had recently redesigned their offices so they are now more flexible."

Istvan Franczuz, Year 9 Computing Champion

"This was a really valuable opportunity to stay up to date with student-focused technology."

We have access to resources that will really make a difference to our students in the classroom."

**Mrs Connell,
Head of Computing**



Food Preparation and Nutrition

Our Year 10 Catering students have finalised the menus and completed their GCSE practicals. Mrs Bushell and Mrs Gleed are both incredibly proud of the students' achievements, the standard of food presented and the level of professionalism shown in the kitchen.

Congratulations to the students on their achievements!



Feedback

It is always nice to receive positive comments so we thought we would share this feedback from *Back to the 80s*: "I just felt I had to email re last night's performance of *Back to the 80s*, it was fabulous. I came to watch my nephew Oakley Anderson playing Feargal the nerd. I was absolutely blown away by his performance and that of the entire cast.

He totally brought that character to life, what with the speeches, lines, songs, solos and dance routines I was in awe!! The rest of the cast were also amazing and I could see how much time and rehearsals they had put in to make it as successful as it was, and also the back stage pupils who also deserve a pat on the back as it would not have run so seamlessly without them. I also thoroughly admire and respect the teachers and other staff who have put in time and effort to make this a reality, they are an asset to your school.

Thank you again for a fabulous evening, looking forward to the next one already." **Marie Anderson**

Rock Challenge

In March our students took part in Rock Challenge with a performance titled *The Trigger*. The piece was based on the school shootings in America and how the effects of social media can have the potential to influence people to cause harm. Sixty students were involved in the performance which took place at Portsmouth Guildhall. This year our students scooped an incredible eight Awards for Excellence:

- Soundtrack
- Video Performance
- Entertainment
- Lighting
- Costuming Character
- Concept
- Visual Enhancement
- Set Design and Function

An incredible achievement! Well done!



Rachel Madocks School

A group of students from Year 9 worked alongside students from Rachel Madocks School with severe and profound multiple learning difficulties to support them with their Rock Challenge entry. Their performance, *The Wall*, was based on the different sides of life, both happy and sad, and was also awarded eight Awards for Excellence.

This was an amazing achievement and we look forward to working with Rachel Madocks again in the near future.

Back to the 80s

The annual show took to the stage at the end of the Spring term. *Back to the 80s* was based on music from the decade including classic hits such as *Video Killed the Radio Star*, *Footloose*, *Come on Eileen* and *Total Eclipse of the Heart*. The musical followed Corey Palmer and his friends, the popular girls, the cool guys, the nerds and the outcasts, through their final year at William Ocean High School.



As always the great cast was supported by the incredible musicians and back stage crew who did a superb job behind the scenes.

Well done!

School Production

This year's show was *Back to the 80s* and has been terrific fun for students and staff alike. Full of pumping 80s tunes and outrageous costume, hair and make up, the show charted the final year of an American high school student, following the highs and lows in the run up to the school prom.

In addition to box office ticket sales, this year we also performed to nearly 500 Year 4 and Year 5 pupils from our Partner Primary schools, including Woodcroft Primary, Hart Plain Junior, Padnell Junior and Denmead Junior School and they were very enthusiastic audiences. **A huge thank you must go to all involved and, no, we do not know what we are doing next year yet!**



Year 7 Show

The Year 7 show will be a mixture of songs, dances and scenes from a variety of shows, like the Showstoppers evening that the current Year 8 presented last year.

The accompanying band will be made up of current students from all year groups but the performers will be just Year 7 students who will be led by the Productions Team and Arts representatives from the Student Leadership Team.

You may even see the Year 7 Pastoral Team perform too! Auditions for Year 7 students will take place after the Easter break and there is no preparation required.

Come on Year 7, show us what you can do!

Portsmouth Music Festival

Cowplain musicians have been competing in various sections of the Portsmouth Music Festival. This year we entered a number of students from Years 10 and 11 and Callum Trimby won the best guitarist award in the Rock and Pop section. Many of our musicians also enter other sections of the festival and congratulations must go to all involved. **Well done!**

Europe Day 2016

This year, the Cowplain Band *Bandter* will be going to Maurepas, near Paris, to represent Waterloo in the Europe Day celebrations. They will meet students from France, Germany and Poland and we will tell you all about it in the summer newsletter.

Ski Trip



In February students from Years 8 and 9 headed to Les Menuires for the annual ski trip.

A good layer of snow had fallen prior to the students arriving in France so there was plenty to soften the falls! With temperatures dropping to minus 10 degrees the students had to wrap up warmly before hitting the slopes.

The students travelled up and down the snow covered mountains on the chairs lifts or cable car, making the most of the snow and the expert tuition from the skiing instructors in France. In the evenings they took part in fun activities such as casino night and an egg drop and all agreed they had a brilliant time on the ski trip.

Preparations are already underway for the 2017 ski trip; we are planning to visit Foppolo in Italy.

Achievements

Congratulations to Year 10 student Abi Lambert who was lucky enough to dance on the main stage in a competition at Disneyland Paris in March. Abi said that this experience was magical and that it was wonderful to perform in such a sensational venue which really built her confidence and performing skills. Abi is part of the Hayley Sexton School of Dance based in Copnor, Portsmouth.

Well done Abi!

Sophie Knight has been selected to represent the English Dance Squad in Italy this summer. There are over 30 different countries competing - we look forward to reporting back on Sophie's progress in the next edition of the newsletter. **Good luck Sophie!**

Congratulations to Sonny Driscoll and Josh Richards from Year 8 for finishing in the top 20 students at the recent cross country meet. The event was held at Crookhorn School and the boys competed against runners from throughout the Havant area. Sonny and Josh went though to the South East Hampshire Cross Country Championship where they both ran extremely well in difficult conditions at Blackfield and Langley Sports Centre.

Well done to both Sonny and Josh for their performances!

Congratulations to our Year 9 Netball Team for winning the Netball League. The girls attended the Sports Presentation Evening and were awarded the trophy and individual gold medals. The Year 9 students were the only year group to win the Havant Netball League so many congratulations on this achievement!. We are looking forward to seeing them play in their new Netball Team kit!

News

Miss Wright-Davies, Head of Girls' PE, played at the 2016 National Squash Championships held in Manchester and reached the Final. She is currently ranked No 2 in Britain (Women Over 35) and has been selected to play in the home internationals as No 1 for Wales.

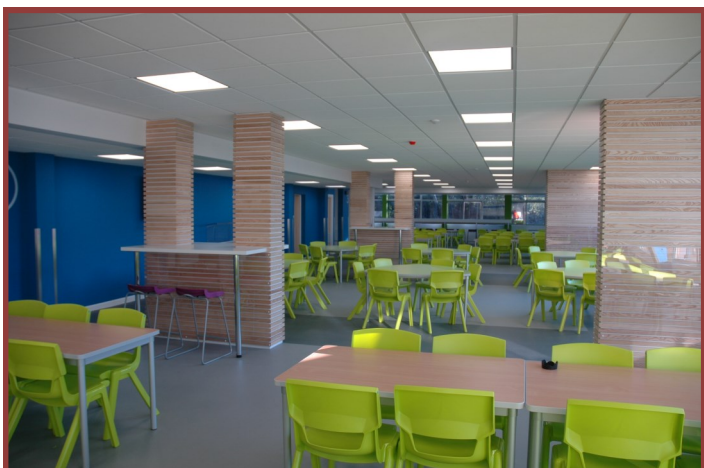
Congratulations Miss Wright-Davies!

Dining Room

George Hollingbery visited Cowplain Community School and was invited to officially open the state-of-the-art catering facility and to cut the ceremonial ribbon to mark the occasion. After asking "Are you George?" Darcy Crowe, Year 7, was invited to help cut the ribbon.

Following a welcome address from Ian Gates, Mr Hollingbery declared the facility open and formally launched the new kitchen and dining area. He was invited to tour the new facility and taste some of the food on offer with our Kitchen Manager, Helen Sandham. A new menu has been developed following discussions with students and staff which can be seen on the school website.

These tranquil new facilities have an open plan layout and are decorated in blue and green with attractive ash wood relief panels. New additions include dedicated servery areas, a jacket potato oven and professional hot and cold displays; the convection ovens are the same as those used in The Shard in London. The new facility and menu is popular with students across all year groups.



Badminton

Throughout the Spring Term, we ran a Badminton Tournament for Year 4 Gifted and Talented PE pupils from our local primary schools. Sixty pupils took part and competed against each other to reach the Final which took place in our sports hall in March, watched by many spectators!

Well done to all the pupils who took part and special congratulations to the following:

Girls competition

Layla Powis (**Denmead**) – 1st place
Anna Eastwood (**Hart Plain Junior**) – 2nd place
Sienna Perkins (**Padnell Junior**) – 3rd place
Erin Bull (**Woodcroft**) – 4th place
Erin Lister (**Purbrook Junior**) – 5th place

Boys competition

Charlie Cole (QI) – 1st place
Dominic Ware (**Denmead**) – 2nd place
Oscar Collins (QI) – 3rd place
Cody Howard (**Purbrook Junior**) – 4th place
Stanley Pharoah (**Woodcroft**) – 5th place
Aiden Barnsley (**Padnell Junior**) – 6th place
Charlie Restall (**Hart Plain Junior**) – 7th place

Well done!

Lego Mindstorms

During the Spring term we welcomed pupils from Woodcroft Primary School to work with our Year 9 Computing Champions and the Lego Mindstorms.

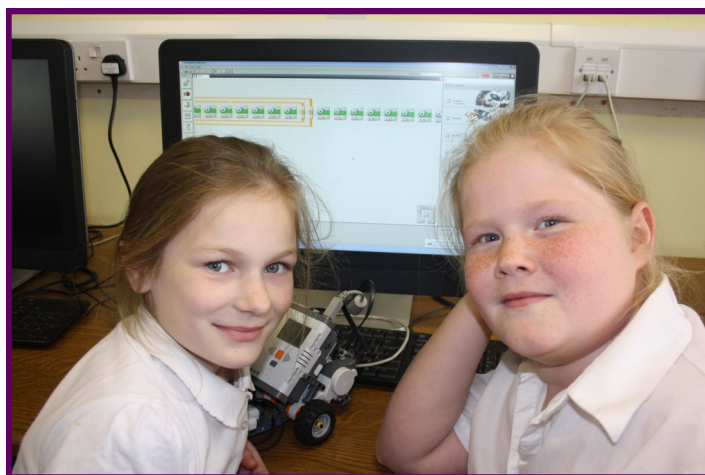
Each week the youngsters worked in small teams and were tasked with programming their Lego Mindstorm robots to carry out different challenges. As well as improving their programming knowledge, the children developed key skills including teamwork, resilience and communication. We are looking forward to working on further projects with the staff and pupils at our local primary schools and have an exciting programme of events on offer.

**Thank you to our Year 9 Computing Champions:
Istvan Franczuz, Lewis James and Matt Lander.**

Well done to all the Year 5 pupils at Woodcroft Primary School for taking part in these sessions - we hope you enjoyed learning new skills!



Many congratulations to Isabel Dyke and Daisy Banks for winning the final challenge with their robot *Caramel*. Well done - we hope you enjoy your Easter eggs!



Important dates!

School will reopen
after the
Easter break on
Monday, 11 April 2016
(Week 1: Yellow)

13-24 June
Year 10 Work
Experience
Fortnight

16 April
D of E
Practice Walk

Thursday, 28 April Paris Trip Parents'
Meeting - 5pm, Library

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19-22 May Paris Trip

INSET DAY
Fri 29 April
School closed

28 April 2016
Year 7 and Year 11
Photos

Half Term
30 May-3 June
2016

13 - 17 June
Year 8 Camp

21-24 June
Year 9 Camp

Thursday, 19 May
Year 7 Parents'
Evening
3.30-7.00pm