

News Update

Another year is drawing to a close and it is at this time that I want to thank all our teachers, members of the support staff, who we call our 'co-educators', parents and students for your support this year. I think we have all worked well as a team, with a common interest to improve standards for our young people. I would certainly say the school has again improved and we are in a much stronger position than last year.

Whilst we celebrate this year's achievements, of which there are many, we also know that from next year schools will face a series of brand new challenges; for example, children will face new GCSE specifications which are much harder than in previous years. These new exams will mean that we will need to ensure teaching is consistently excellent and innovative strategies are employed to get the best results from our young people. This is, of course, set against a background of a teacher recruitment crisis and decreased funding for schools. However, we are ahead of the game in these respects, and have already planned for them, so we can ensure our young people continue to thrive.

I am sure we will meet the challenges ahead and look forward to next year. Of course, when we return in September we will be called something slightly different, *The Cowplain School*. I am also looking forward to seeing our students return in their brand new uniforms; I am going to say now, I believe they are the smartest uniforms of schools in the local area by a long way!

It only leaves me to wish you all a very happy summer and I look forward to working with you and your child in September.

Mr IR Gates
Headteacher

Key Dates:

Monday 5 September

- *INSET Day*

Tuesday 6 September

- *Year 7 to arrive at 8.30am*
- *Years 8-11 at 9.50am*

Wednesday 7 to Friday 9 September

- *Year 7 Camp*

Friday 16 September

- *Year 7 and 10 Photos*

Wednesday 21 September

- *Open Evening*

Year 11 Prom: Old Thorns Manor Hotel and Country Club hosted our annual Year 11 Prom in July and a fantastic evening was had by students and staff!





Olivia Belcher and Kieran Ralph have been appointed as Head Girl and Head Boy - they will be supported by a team of Prefects.

From September 2016 we will have a new uniform and be known as The Cowplain School. The new grey blazer, black sleeved or sleeveless jumper and tie are available from Skoolkit, together with the PE kit. There is a 10% discount running at Skoolkit Havant from 16-23 July.

New Logo:

The new logo is the result of creative workshops with a group of students. We feel the logo has a strong image which retains elements of the existing colour scheme, represents the tradition of the local area and will be easily recognisable to members of the public .



Microsoft Office 365 and Coretek:

Earlier this year a group of students visited Microsoft HQ. In July, a team from Coretek ran a workshop at Cowplain and introduced our Year 7 students to Office 365, Sway and OneNote. The Year 7s then created presentations to be shown at our Open Evening in September.

Students will be able to download Office 365 and access this software across multiple devices at home.

Year 10 Work Related Learning:

This term our Year 10 students took part in work experience. Many students found this a really valuable learning opportunity and we had some outstanding feedback from the employers about our students' attitude and commitment.

The Year 10s also visited local colleges to give them an insight into potential course options and career pathways open to them post-16.

BAE Systems Challenge: A group of young STEM Ambassadors took part in a recent BAE Systems STEM Challenge to design and create a model boat.

Congratulations to Callum Winning and Ethan Wilson who were presented with the award for the Most Innovative Design at Portsmouth Historic Dockyard. Their boat, *Saving Private Harnes*, named after their mentor from BAE Systems, was judged for speed, the weight of cargo it carried, accuracy and endurance.



Able and Ambitious: This has been an exciting year for Able and Ambitious students at Cowplain. Students have had the opportunity to take part in over 25 different events inspiring them to develop their resilience and initiative, learn new skills and aim high. Activities have included the Able and Ambitious Residential, visits to the University of Oxford, the Maths Roadshow and the Astrodome.

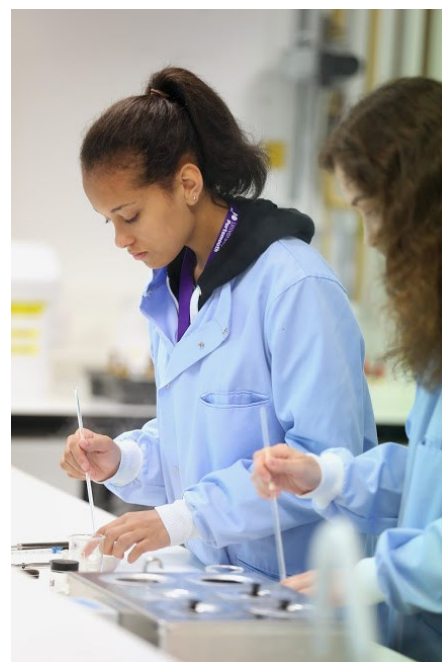


Residential Summer School at the University of Portsmouth:

A group of nine students took part in Summer School.

"My son had an amazing time and got to experience so much in just 3 days, going to the graduation was a great experience for me to see the reaction from the other students when he walked up to get his scroll. He has always had aspirations to attend college and university and this has given him more determination to do that."

Year 10 Parent, June 2016



Geography Residential: Year 9 students visited Lulworth Cove and Durdle Door to carry out fieldwork during the Geography Residential. *"It's been my favourite trip this year. I've learnt so much more than I ever could in a classroom."* Year 9 Student, July 2016

Krypton Challenge at Havant College:

Year 9 students took part in the Krypton Challenge at Havant College along with students from six local secondary schools. The Cowplain team won medals for Best Tower, Best Teamwork, Best Problem Solving and Best Team overall. Congratulations to all who took part!



The Cowplain School Jukebox: Our school band, Jukebox, had amazing feedback following the performance at Maurepas in France at the Europe Day celebrations and recently held a Charity Band Night at Cowplain to raise funds for The Rowans Hospice and Jessie's Fund.



Camps: Year 8 and 9 Camps took place at Tile Barn in the New Forest this term with students taking part in lots of different activities.

We are already looking forward to the Year 7 Camp when our new students join us in September.



Partner Primary Days: We arranged for a number of younger pupils to visit Cowplain for our Partner Primary Days and workshops

Activities included Lego Mindstorms, Yummy Yoghurts, How The Body Works and Spanish Café. Thank you to pupils from Denmead Juniors, QI Primary, Berewood Primary, Hart Plain Juniors, Padnell Juniors and Woodcroft Primary for making these days so much fun.

Congratulations: Year 10 student Mozghan Hosseini was awarded the Schools Physicist of the Year Award during a ceremony held at the University of Portsmouth.

Year 8 student Bluebell Lane represented England at the World Dance Championships.

