

# News



**THE  
COWPLAIN  
SCHOOL**

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

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2017. I hope you had a great Christmas and I would like to wish a belated 'Happy New Year' to you and your family.

School life is dictated by having three terms and we think of our new year as starting in September! So it's good to reflect at the start of a calendar year, especially as we are getting towards halfway of the academic year, and think what opportunities and challenges we face as a school as we head into 2017.

As Headteacher, I am looking forward to 2017 with real optimism as the school goes from strength to strength.

We are in a good place in terms of having great teachers and co-educators who are working incredibly hard to secure fantastic outcomes for our young people, building on the best results the school has ever achieved last summer. We also are continuing to offer a huge range of opportunities for our young people in terms of curriculum, maintaining the breadth of subject choices to appeal to all our learners. Outside of everyday lessons, The Cowplain School still offers so much; for example, we fund 50% of the cost of music lessons; Mr Berrecloth has 30+ trips planned this year as part of our Able and Ambitious programme; children are going skiing; trips are running to a wide range of places both in this country and abroad; the shows and band performances continue to be superb etc...etc...etc...!

I am also very pleased with the number of Year 6 parents that have chosen us as the secondary school for their child to attend in September 2017. The provisional number of first choices, significantly increased over previous years, is testament to the improvement of the school and our excellent standing in the community. We are determined to maintain those opportunities for our young people so that everyone has the opportunity to 'Work hard. Enjoy learning. Achieve highly.'

I have written before of the challenges we face and, of course, the new year brings those challenges as well as opportunities. I have also written before about how the reduction in school funding will affect all schools and, unfortunately, The Cowplain School is no different. We are going to see big reductions in our income which will make it a challenge to maintain the things we want to do. Recruitment of skilled teachers is also a major challenge; as a parent myself, I know that you should expect, for example, a great maths teacher to teach your child and we spend a lot of our time trying to recruit those teachers from an increasingly small pool of skilled staff.

Those are problems for me and us as a school and I want to reassure you that we recognise them and are working hard to make sure that your child continues to enjoy a great education at The Cowplain School.

I wish you all well and I look forward to continuing the excellent relationship with have with you as parents and members of the community during 2017, working together to secure the best education possible for your child.

**Mr IR Gates, Headteacher**

**Work hard. Enjoy learning. Achieve highly.**

Kieran Ralph and Olivia Belcher, our Head Boy and Head Girl, represented The Cowplain School at the recent Police Commissioner Take Over Day.

This was an opportunity for students to work with the police for the day, to run Waterlooville Police Station and go out on patrol.

Kieran and Olivia really enjoyed the experience and learnt a lot about jobs and careers with the police.



**Spring 2017**



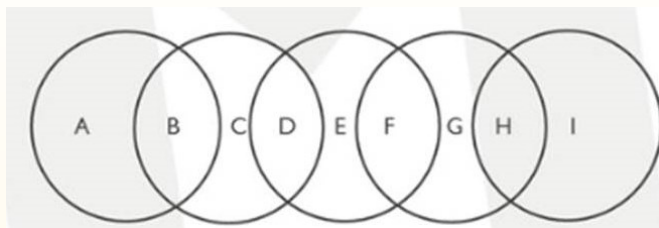
## Amazing People Awards

Congratulations to Paige Curtis in Year 11 for receiving a certificate and special mention at the recent EBP Amazing People Awards.

Paige attended the formal dinner following her participation in The Cowplain School and EBP Mentor Scheme; she received an award in recognition of her positivity and the progress made over the past year.

## Maths Puzzle

Replace the letters below with digits 1 to 9 so that no two digits repeat and the values of the areas where the circles overlap are the sums of the overlapping circles.



Can you solve this puzzle?

The solution can be found later in the newsletter.

## PiXL Edge

Well done to the first five of our students to complete the PiXL Edge Challenge. They are now PiXL Edge Apprentices and received Amazon vouchers and certificates for their hard work and achievement.

Congratulations to Alexia Mitchell, Abigail Wheatley, Stuart Oliver, Tilly Young and Lily Montgomery.







## Technology

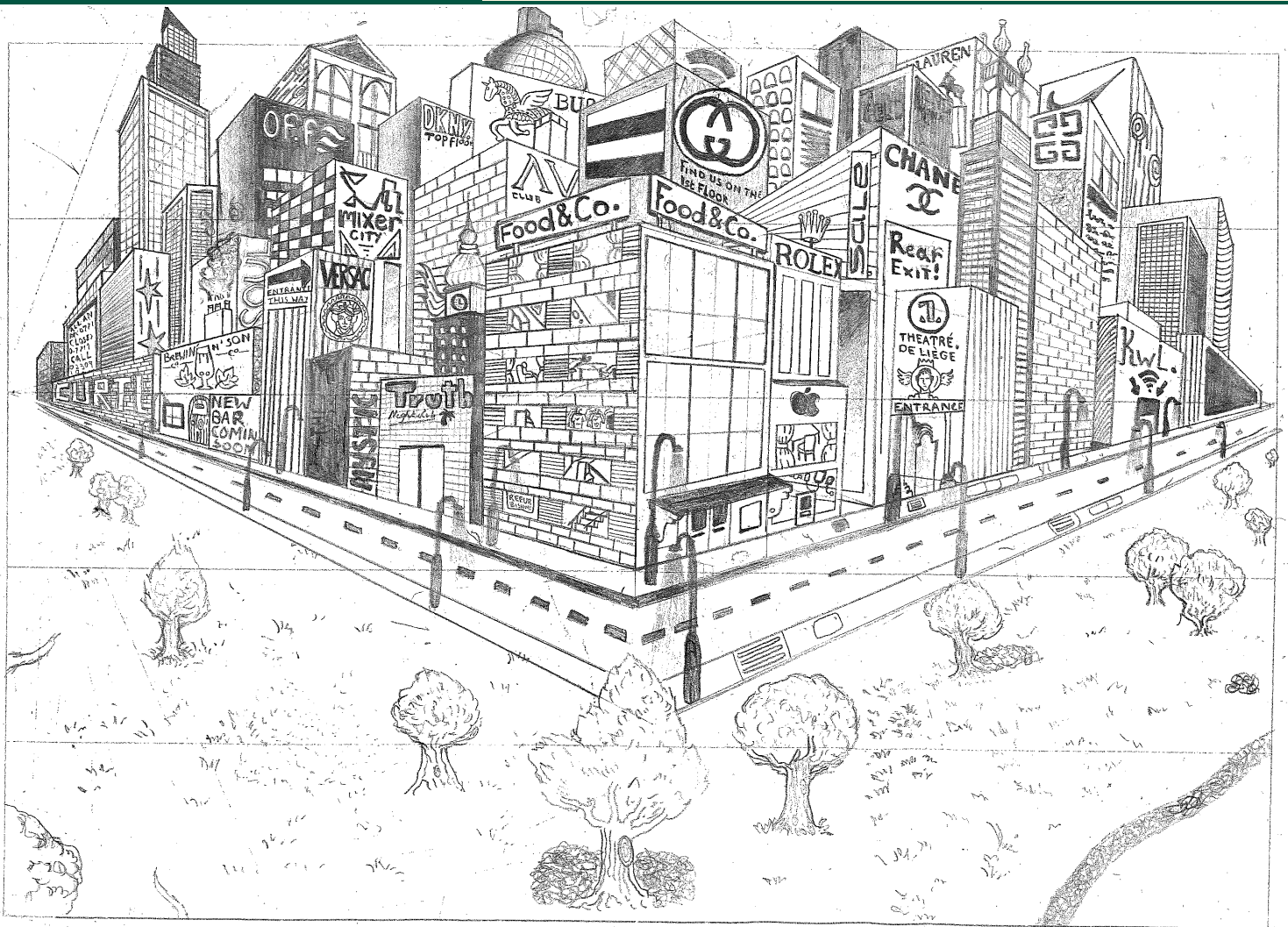
Some amazing food produced in Year 11 GCSE Catering.



Two course French inspired menu created by Ella Shaw.

Excellent work

Year 9 Design and Technology:  
Sketch by Panos Ioannou.







## Communications

Our new website is live!

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

Follow us on social media...



@Cowplain\_School



The Cowplain School

Parents will continue to receive communications via email.

Please ensure you have provided an up to date email address and mobile number, or advise us of any updates on 023 9261 2020.

If you require assistance with logging into the Insight system, which gives details of student data, attendance, reports and much more, 24 hours a day, please contact Mrs Killeen at [jackik@cowplainschool.co.uk](mailto:jackik@cowplainschool.co.uk).

## Sport, Health and Wellbeing: SHAW

### Year 7 Football

Year 7 Football took place at Petersfield before Christmas and, after coming second in their group, the Year 7 Football Team qualified for the Finals. One win, draw and defeat in the Finals meant the team finished in 3rd place overall, missing out on 2nd on goal difference only. Well done to the team for an excellent effort.

The Football Clubs are still running and will continue to Easter. Cup competitions take place in March so it is important for students to keep attending so we can win these competitions!

### Year 7 Netball

Congratulations to the Year 7 Netball Team. The team recently started playing in the league and won their first game 6-1. Well done girls! Keep up the good work!





## Work Related Learning

Year 10 students are currently looking at placements for Work Experience in June. This enables our young people to experience the world of work in a placement of their choice and provides an excellent opportunity to learn new skills in an adult environment. Students will continue to receive independent, impartial advice and guidance and in the summer term will visit local further education providers in preparation for their college applications.

In February, Year 9 students will attend a Careers Fair to give them an insight to the courses available at local colleges and universities, as well as meeting apprenticeship and training providers and local employers.

## Gymnastics



Many congratulations to Year 7 student Roofus Taylor-Bartlett who represented The Cowplain School at the British Schools Gymnastics Association Trampoline Competition in Abingdon.

Roofus performed extremely well and took first place in his group; he will now progress to the next round and compete against students from across the South of England, London and Wales.

Well done Roofus, you are a real credit to the school!

## Havant District Schools FA

Great to see Lawson Bright from Year 9 and Lewis Luff, Year 8, representing The Cowplain School in the Havant District.

Both boys play football for the U13 and U14 teams which train on our floodlit 3G All Weather Pitch. The teams play against Aldershot, Poole, Gosport, Eastleigh and Southampton. Playing for Havant District develops self-discipline, loyalty and resilience and encourages a love and understanding of the game through enjoyment and achievement. Thanks to SG:FG for the new team kit and photo.







## Parental Consent for Trips

Please ensure you have completed and returned the Trip Consent Form which was recently issued to all parents.

If you would like to check you have returned this form, or require a further copy, please contact the Admin Hub on 023 9261 2020.

## Sports Captains

### Henry Whittaker 7ML

Henry is a keen footballer who plays locally for a club outside of school. He has represented the school in Year 7 football tournaments and has a really good influence on the team.

Henry wanted to be a Sports Captain because he loves a range of different sports and just likes to keep busy. He is really enjoying his PE lessons at the moment and said *"In PE we have learnt a variety of skills in hockey. My favourite was learning to shield the ball. The skills in hockey are a lot harder to the skills in football because the ball is a lot smaller."*

### Imola Rance 7SP

Imi is one of our key players in the Year 7 Netball Team, which has just won the league. Imi is a committed young lady who we are excited to have on our team.

*"This year the SHAW department has worked hard to make sure that the sports lessons are both entertaining and informative, which in my opinion it has achieved. I have joined the netball club - it is so friendly and fun. We won our first match so the amount of training must have paid off."*

### Sophie Hammond 8RC

Sophie is a dedicated young lady who always works hard in lessons. She thrives in PE and is a popular member of the school. Sophie takes part in athletics outside of school and tries her best in different events.

*"I have been to many thrilling sports clubs in school including the netball, badminton and running clubs. I also play in netball competitions and I get to play against different sorts of opponents and we do our best to win. Even if we lose, we all know it's the taking part that counts! I look forward to spreading the word about the amazing sports facilities and clubs at Cowplain and also engaging new people into new sports."*

### Kyle Ashman 8AM

Kyle is hard working pupil who really enjoys PE. He thrives in the subject and had a big influence in the class. Kyle has received the position of Sports Captain as we believe he has the potential to support the department and his peers. Kyle loves playing football and has represented Bournemouth which he was scouted for.

*"I am really looking forward to getting involved with the sports in school and I'm ready to make an impact".*

### Josh Richards 9AR

Josh is the Captain of our Year 9 Football Team. He is well respected and dedicated to sport and works well in PE. Josh feels he could help the department and make it more fun and enjoyable for the pupils at Cowplain.

*"I want people to visit the school and say the SHAW department is helping the kids learn and achieve their potential. I promise to make the biggest commitment and effort to help the kids see why they should choose this subject and I will give as many suggestions as I can to support and help the lesson to be enjoyable."*



## HOT 100

During the last week of the Autumn term, the Top 100 students from each year group were rewarded with a ticket to the HOT 100 event.

This fantastic event is a way of celebrating student achievement in specific areas that we deem highly important to students' success, at school and in their future life.

The scheme is based around good attendance, a positive attitude to learning in all subjects and ePraise recognition. Students are awarded a place in the HOT 100 based on their hard work, perseverance and superb attitude.

## Sports Captains

### Jessie Walker 9ER

Jessie is a key member of the school Netball Team and is a well-respected member of the school. Jessie always works hard to achieve her potential and brings a calm influence into her lessons.

*"I have a wide knowledge and experience of various sports. I have attended clubs and have been a valuable member of the team. I have chosen GCSE Sport and I feel I am getting a greater knowledge of not just the physical attributes but also the theory involved. I understand I have much more to learn but I am looking forward to the challenge."*

### Evie-Ann West 10W

Evie is a valuable member of our Year 10 and 11 Netball Team. She thrives in school and has a passion for sports.

Evie believes she will make a good Sports Captain: *"A good Sports Captain should be someone who favours other people's enjoyment in PE, rather than their own, and who only finds themselves enjoying sport if the people around them are also. I don't only participate to the best of my ability in PE but involve myself in extra-curricular sports. I find self-fulfilment in helping others find their passion in sport and develop their confidence. I believe everybody has a sport they excel at, it's just a matter of finding it."*

We look forward to working with these students and congratulate them for being appointed as Sports Captains at The Cowplain School.

## Science in Action

In December a group of Year 9 and 10 students went on a trip to the Institute of Education in London to find out more about Science. From chemical bonds, to the origins of life and to exam techniques, we learnt about all types of science.

The lectures given at the Institute of Education were very interesting and informative. One of the most exciting lectures was from a member of the Bloodhound Team (the group responsible for creating cars that break the land speed record!) who talked about the history of cars and wanting to go faster.

There were not only science professors and record breakers talking, the celebrity Greg Foot was also doing a lecture. He is a famous scientist who features on shows like Sunday Brunch and Blue Peter. He has climbed Mount Everest and talked about the effects on the body of high altitude. The trip was a unique experience that we all engaged with and everyone would like to do it again.

*By Oakley Anderson and Johnny Winter, Year 9 students*



## Drama

A message from Miss Williams,  
our new Head of Drama:

In Drama we are passionate about confident, engaged and independent students. Drama is an area of the curriculum that allows children to explore and develop these skills, becoming better communicators, with a passion for social interaction and sharing. As the new Head of Drama I am very excited to be starting at Cowplain this year, and want the department to thrive and become renowned for quality, exciting and engaging productions. I want to support children's development into well-rounded individuals. Drama should be fun and stimulating and you should expect to see us dipping our toe into Shakespeare and more this coming academic year. I look forward to seeing everyone supporting the performances.

## Geography

In Year 7 Geography our students have been learning to read Ordnance Survey maps. This develops essential skills to help understand modern GIS systems and improves numeracy.



## Performing Arts: Dance

Our Year 9 Dance class looking smart in their new Dance kit with Miss Leng.







## Annual Show

This year's performance is called *A Night at the Musicals* and will feature scenes, songs and dances from a variety of shows such as *Wicked*, *Matilda*, *Les Miserables* and *Stomp*.

Rehearsals are well underway and we are looking forward to performing from Wednesday 29 March to Friday 31 March 2017.

Tickets will be on sale later this term.

## Arts Award

The Cowplain Arts team, kindly supported by the PTA, undertook training to be able to offer the nationally accredited Arts Award scheme. This is like a Duke of Edinburgh award for the Arts, where young people undertake a series of activities to explore the Arts.

All Year 9 Arts students will be taking the Bronze level in their curriculum lessons. We are also running a very exciting project with our Partner Primary schools to allow them to take the Discover (Key Stage 1) and Explore (Key Stage 2) levels. In December, two hundred primary pupils attended the launch of this project at The Cowplain School; the younger pupils will visit Cowplain regularly during the Spring and Summer terms to have specialist Arts lessons with us.

In July the project will culminate in a huge show at the Kings Theatre, Southsea, with Cowplain students performing alongside our primary pupils.

## Jukebox

The Cowplain School band *Jukebox* was invited to play at Morrisons in Horndean and performed two sets of songs. The band drew quite an audience and students also collected for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, presenting the money raised at the end of the gig. Sara Potten, Community Champion for Morrisons, kindly took the time to write in and said:

*"I think they were amazing; really polite and well behaved, a real credit to the school. All our customers were really thrilled at how well they played."*

We have been invited back to play again, so watch this space for details.





## Hardwick Hall

Bess of Hardwick first created Hardwick in the 1500s. In the centuries since then her descendants, farmers, gardeners, builders, decorators, embroiderers and craftsmen of all kinds have contributed and made Hardwick their creation. Duchess Evelyn, the Last Lady of Hardwick, pioneered conservation work and made dramatic changes in the East Court Rose Garden. Arbella Stuart, the granddaughter of Bess of Hardwick and niece to Mary Queen of Scots, had a strong royal lineage and a realistic claim to the throne after Elizabeth I died. She was raised as a princess, but was later imprisoned in the Tower of London.

## History

### Treading in Tudor Footsteps

Year 10 students have been studying Elizabethan England and visited an Elizabethan gentry house, Hardwick Hall, to help them with their GCSE studies. They braved a 6.30am start to travel for four hours on the coach, all the way to Derbyshire.

However the sight that greeted them on arrival showed it was all worth it. Hardwick Hall lived up to the reputation as the most impressive Tudor house still in existence.



Cowplain students discovered that Bess of Hardwick was the richest woman in England after Elizabeth I. She spent her wealth on impressive paintings and tapestries and even had a hall long enough to fit a football pitch. This was not the only impressive aspect of the day, our guides told us that The Cowplain School students had been the hardest working, best prepared and most well behaved students they had ever had to visit Hardwick Hall!







## Business

### Investor Challenge

Year 9, 10 and 11 Business students have been taking part in an international competition hosted by The London Institute of Banking and Finance. For the Investor Challenge, students have been investing £100,000 worth of fake money in the real stock exchange to discover how shares work. The aim of the challenge is for students to invest in companies that they feel will make the most money and then sell their shares for a profit. Four groups of four students are hoping to have made enough profit to get them through to the next round of the competition which starts at the end of January.

## Computing

### Students experience trips to virtually anywhere!

In January, students from Years 7, 8 and 10 took part in the Expeditions Pioneer Program, the virtual reality teaching tool from Google.

Google Expeditions is a new product which allows teachers to take their classes on virtual field trips to enable a deeper understanding of the world outside the classroom.

By using Google Cardboard, a virtual reality viewer made almost entirely of cardboard, students can explore everywhere from the planet Mars, to the Great Barrier Reef and inside Buckingham Palace.

Many thanks to Glen from Google Expeditions for leading the event and spending the day at The Cowplain School.

***"It was fantastic to have the opportunity to enhance our students' learning in a new and exciting way. We had students looking at Maths, Media, Languages and Computing and all experienced things they had never seen before."*** Mrs Connell, Head of Computing

***"It was really cool and got us thinking about the possibilities of VR and pushes the limits of what we know."*** Istvan Franczuz, Year 10 student

***"I love how real it looks."*** Sky Selway, Year 7 student





## Diary Dates 2017:

**See the website for a full listing.**

**Thursday 2 February:**

*Year 11 Parents' Evening*

*Year 9 Careers Fair*

**Friday 3 to Sunday 11 February:**

*Ski Trip*

**Thursday 16 February:**

*Year 9 Parents' Evening*

**Friday 17 February:**

*INSET Day*

**Monday 20 to Friday 24 February:**

*Half term break. School reopens*

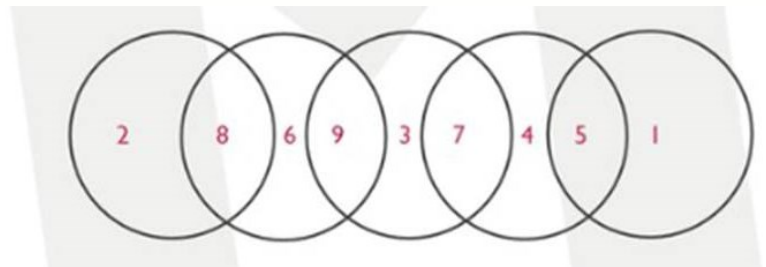
*8.30am Monday 27 February, Week 2*

**Monday 10 to Friday 21 April:**

*Easter break. School reopens*

*8.30am Monday 24 April, Week 2*

## Maths Puzzle: Solution



Did you manage to solve the puzzle? We are running a Maths session for Year 7 parents in February; please see the letter from Mr Pearce or contact Mrs Rogers for further details.

The Rowans Hospice is looking for volunteers for all areas of the organisation, particularly those with any skills in photography, fashion, computer literacy, hair and beauty and many more. For more details telephone The Rowans Hospice on 023 9223 8545 or email [peopleservices@rowanshospice.co.uk](mailto:peopleservices@rowanshospice.co.uk).

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

