



**THE
COWPLAIN
SCHOOL**

www.cowplainschool.co.uk

News

As always, the school months seems to be flying by and we are now two-thirds of the way through the academic year. When we return for the Summer term we will be firmly into the crunch time of the year for our Year 11 students and we wish them well for their summer GCSE exams. I know you will support them in what is a stressful and very important time for them.

As you know, I like to tell you about the school's successes, of which there are too many to list here. One of the most important is our continued success in driving the improvement of attendance in the school. Of course, many successive governments have sought to improve school attendance by threatening parents with a 'big stick' ie fines, court appearances etc... Don't get me wrong, we aren't afraid to use all the legal routes we need to if a parent won't send their child to school. However, I know that these parents are in the minority and threatening people can only take you so far. In my opinion, it is much better to focus on making school a positive environment so children want to attend and parents are confident to send them. I think that is what we are seeing now as our attendance this term, at the time of writing, has risen to over 95%; in fact it is 95.03%, that 0.3% is a lot of extra attendance marks and learning days!

Particularly pleasing is the attendance of the Year 11 students I mentioned above, which stands at 97%. This is a huge figure for Year 11 as, in most schools, you do see a tailing off of attendance as 16 year olds reach the end of their compulsory education at school. However, ours are bucking that trend, something that gives me huge confidence leading up to their exams.

The pleasing attendance figures lead me to believe that students are coming in because they want to; they are enjoying their learning, getting on with their teachers and each other and looking forward to most lessons. Please continue to encourage your child to attend regularly, it is so vital, and let us know if there are any reasons why this is not possible so we can help you. We want our attendance percentage to be even higher and so will be working tirelessly, with your support, to edge closer and closer to 100%!

I wish your family a fantastic Easter break and I look forward to continuing our success in the Summer term.

Mr IR Gates, Headteacher

Work hard. Enjoy learning. Achieve highly.



Rock Challenge p2



Art Gallery p12



World Book Day p4



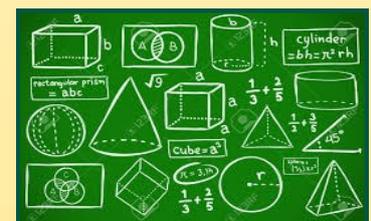
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Able and Ambitious p5



Arts Award p10



Maths Workshops



March 2017



Communications

Our website can be found at
www.cowplainschool.co.uk

Follow us on social media for regular updates, photos and videos of events.

 @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.

2017 Rock Challenge



After months of rehearsals, hard work, costume and set design, plenty of sweat and grit, we finally performed our Rock Challenge piece *Water for Elephants* at the Guildhall in Portsmouth. The piece was based around a young boy called Jacob, played by Sam Predeth, who was on the run from the law and ended up stumbling onto a travelling circus train. This is where he found love and a passion for the circus.

The students showed such resilience throughout the whole day and were an asset to our school. They performed like superstars with dedication and ease. We were awarded 3 excellence awards in Costuming Character, Entertainment and Video Enhancement.

Thank you to all the students, staff and parents who helped make this day happen. It was a thoroughly enjoyable experience where memories were made to last a lifetime! Now to think of next year's theme...



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“A wonderful show of talent and such a vibrant performance!”



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University of Chichester

The University of Chichester ran a workshop with our students about social media and E-safety.

The University will be returning in April to deliver a second session and a production using our students' work.

We have a strong relationship with the University and look forward to welcoming the team from Chichester back to Cowplain.

World Book Day

World Book Day was celebrated throughout the school with many staff and students choosing to dress up as their favourite fictional character. We saw some really brilliant costumes on display!



In the Library, Mrs Milford ran a variety of competitions for students to test their writing abilities and had some excellent entries. Student engagement with the ethos of the day really demonstrated the importance of, and their shared love of, reading. It was great to see our students and staff sharing their enthusiasm for reading together!



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Congratulations

Congratulations to Year 7 student Roofus Taylor-Bartlett who competed in the Southern Region Trampolining competition and came first in his age group. A fantastic achievement reflecting Roofus' hard work and dedication to pursuing excellence.

You can see a video clip of Roofus' performance on our Facebook page.

 The Cowplain School

Student Voice

Four of our Senior Prefects, Olivia Belcher, Dorothy Mavurah, Mozghan Hosseini-Ashrafi and Kezia Richardson, worked hard to put together and present a revision technique assembly for the Year 11 students. The girls delivered an excellent presentation, showing total confidence in front of a large audience; the assembly received great feedback from students which enabled the girls to develop their own presentation skills together with revision skills for the whole year group. The remaining Senior Prefects, Ranzel Nunez, Kieran Ralph, Mat Cox, Megan Sanderson and Maddy Crews, are working with Mrs Booth to create a series of Reflection Time activities for Years 9, 10 and 11 with the focus on financial management.

Year 11 Prefects, Mat Cox, Paige Curtis, Amber Houghton, Holly Perkins, Hayley Riches and Abi Lambert, have been undertaking specialist training in peer mentoring. They will be supporting Year 7 mentees with their studies and social development together with evidence for the PiXL Edge award and providing a general friendly ear!

Creative Geography Revision



Joe Roberts created a fantastic board game as part of his Year 8 studies in Geography. This game builds on the knowledge and understanding of third-world country economy and problems as well as natural disasters and celebrations across the world.

An amazing effort Joe!

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Reading Groups

Some of our excellent Student Ambassadors have been visiting local primary schools to help younger pupils grow more confident with their reading. The pupils, some as young as 5 years old, have been beaming with pride and confidence. It is lovely to see this partnership develop - the children have said how much the Ambassadors have helped them.

Well done Alexia Mitchell, Mia Ambrose, Theo Alderslade, Sam Ellis, Stuart Oliver, Anna Lunn, Lily Montgomery, Maddie Langrish and Caitlyn Waterman.



Mathematics: Parents' Workshop

In February we held a Maths workshop for parents aimed at increasing awareness of the issues surrounding numeracy both for parents and their children, and encouraging discussions about Maths and problem solving.

The session was attended by 25 students with their parents and generated exciting discussion regarding the selection and application of methodology and practice of problem solving.

"This was a really great idea and a rare chance to work with my son in school."

"This was a great opportunity to share in what my child is learning in school. The Maths team is obviously passionate about supporting and encouraging the children together; well done."

"Really enjoyed the Maths workshop. It made me realise that Maths can be fun and also challenging. It helped that we were being led by our children. It has helped us understand the challenges that they meet and how to support them with this."

"Really good idea! Great to get involved with my son and learn more Maths with him. Very good interaction from the teacher too."

"I enjoyed the workshop. It was helpful for me to see what my daughter is learning, it showed how much I have stopped using Maths in my everyday life and has opened my eyes a little - thank you."

Due to the success of this session we will be planning to run a series of sessions aimed at helping parents support their child with GCSE Maths.



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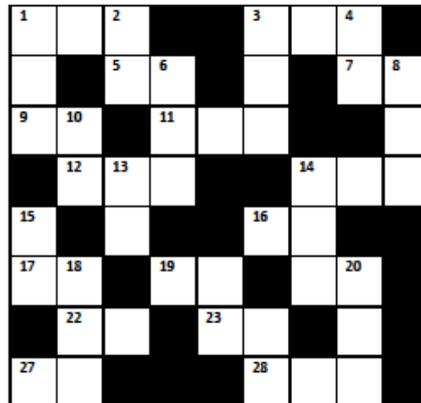


Lego Mindstorms

Year 4 pupils from Hambledon Primary came to join us for a wonderful workshop in our ICT Department. They programmed our Lego Mindstorm robots to perform simple manoeuvres and then complex procedures as a solution to problems set by our Head of ICT and Computing. *“The children were superb! They really grasped the programming language quickly and were able to develop successful programs quickly as a team. It was a pleasure to teach them all and we look forward to welcoming them back soon.” Mrs R Connell.*



Mathematics: Crossword



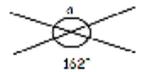
Across

- The missing angle i .
- Find the value of 32×6
- The next number in the sequence, 14, 24, 34,
- The ratio 8:26 simplifies to 4:n. Find the value for n.
- The 6th prime number.
- The probability of picking a red ball is 0.12. Calculate the probability of not picking a red ball.
- The value of 20×25 .
- Angles in a triangle add up to.....?
- The lowest common multiple of 11 and 6.
- The next number in the sequence 13, 15, 17, 19,.....
- Calculate the 5th term of $3n + 3$
- Value of 5^2
- Find the missing angle a .
- Katie has 40 pens, she shares them with Frank and James in the ratio of 5:3. How many pens does James receive?
- Geoff uses 101g of chocolate in his mousse, he needs to use 4 times as much how much chocolate does he use?



Down

- Calculate the 50th term of $2n + 1$.
- The Lowest Common Multiple of 12 and 8.
- Jack shares £180 with his sister Jane and Judy in the ratio 3:2. How much does Jane get?
- Find the value of $210 \div 10$.
- 200g of flour are needed to make 6 cakes. How much is needed to make 12 cakes?
- Number of degrees around a point.
- If 4 pens cost 20p, how much do 7 pens cost?
- The probability of josh being late is 0.4, what is the probability of Josh not being late?
- The missing angle a .
- The highest common factor of 24 and 36.
- James uses 50g of butter to make 12 biscuits, how much butter does he need for 30 biscuits.
- The prime factors of a number are $2^3 \times 23$, what number is it



The solution to this puzzle can be found on our Facebook page.

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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 attended a Careers Fair to give them an insight to the courses available at local colleges and universities, and met training and apprenticeship providers together with local employers.

Able and Ambitious

It has been a busy term for the Able and Ambitious programme with a wide range of events that has reached all of our students. The University of Portsmouth and the University of Chichester have delivered assemblies inspiring students to think about the opportunities university can offer. Over 200 students have taken part in workshops in school to think about future career paths and 70 students have visited the University of Portsmouth to take part in Humanities, Science, Technology and Business taster days.



Year 10 students attended the Inspiring Women Conference and met female business leaders; students from Years 8 to 11 visited PGL for the Able and Ambitious Residential. A highlight has been taking some of our highest achieving students to the University of Oxford where they attended lectures, met current students, enjoyed the university dining rooms and discovered the skills needed to study at the most prestigious universities.

Future events:

The Labels Tour, which was first performed at the Edinburgh Festival, will be brought to Cowplain in association with The Spring, Havant. This is a hard hitting but entertaining show about racism and the words, or labels, that people use.

Why Higher Education - Visit to University of Portsmouth for selected Year 10 students in June.

Geography Residential - Year 9 GCSE students in June.

Krypton Challenge at Havant College - Year 9 students in July.

The Cowplain School has an exciting and enviable breadth and wealth of provision for Able and Ambitious students. With over 35 different events in total for 2015-2016, and even more planned for this year, we will maintain our strong reputation and relationships with all of our partner FE providers in our support to encourage students to aim higher.

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PIXL Edge

Congratulations to Isabel Fry, Megan Watkinson and Sophie Hammond who have completed the PiXL Edge Apprentice Level Award.

Every activity must be accompanied by evidence and counter signed by a member of staff. To be accredited with an Apprentice Level Award students must gain 10 credits in total - 2 credits from each category of leadership, organisation, initiative, resilience and communication.

Well done girls!

Able and Ambitious PGL Residential



A great weekend of teambuilding and fun was had at PGL Marchants Hill on the Able and Ambitious Residential 2017.

Student Ambassadors and Prefects enjoyed a wide range of challenging activities such as climbing, archery and ping pong against their teachers.

PGL staff were very impressed with the students' team spirit, motivation and manners. Well done!



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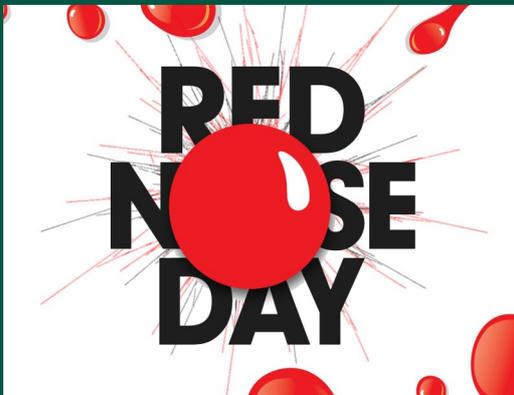


Comic Relief

On Red Nose Day we held a non-uniform day to raise funds for Comic Relief.

Thanks to the support of our staff, parents and students we raised £904.92!

This was made up from donations in the Dining Room, a Bake Sale run by our Business students and the proceeds from the non-uniform day.



Primary Partner Work



We are running a very exciting project with our Partner Primary schools enabling them to take the Discover (Key Stage 1) and Explore (Key Stage 2) Arts Award. Over 200 primary pupils attended the launch of this project at The Cowplain School and come to work with us every fortnight.

Pupils from Padnell, Hart Plain, Denmead, Berewood and Hambledon schools have all been working hard in their Art, Dance and Drama workshops to develop a showcase piece to perform in front of their family and friends at the Kings Theatre, Southsea on 13 July. The show is sure to be a sell out - please book your tickets early. With Cowplain students performing alongside the younger pupils the show will be a fantastic event.

Tickets will be available soon from:

- Reception at each of the infant, junior and primary schools.
- Reception at The Cowplain School.
- The Kings Theatre Box Office.
- **£9 adults, £4.50 concessions, babies on laps free!**



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Design and Technology Gallery



Cinema display stand and promotional materials by Beth Wilson

Technology

Our Year 10 and 11 Design and Technology students have been busy working on their practical project outcomes and developing their portfolios.

Food technologists have been planning and preparing their own international 2 course meals. The standard has been high and the students have shown great promise in their creative culinary skills.

Graphic product technologists have been exploring promotional products for the music and film industries. Through this creative process the students have had the opportunity to develop their own creative solutions to commercial problems.



Italian starter and main meal by Zack Carter



Board game with packaging by Bayley Hill

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Art and Design Gallery

Diary Dates 2017:

See the website for the full listing.

Monday 10 to Friday 21 April:

Easter break. School reopens

8.30am Monday 24 April, Week 2

Thursday 11 May:

Year 7 Parents' Evening

Monday 15 May:

Year 11 GCSE Exam Period starts

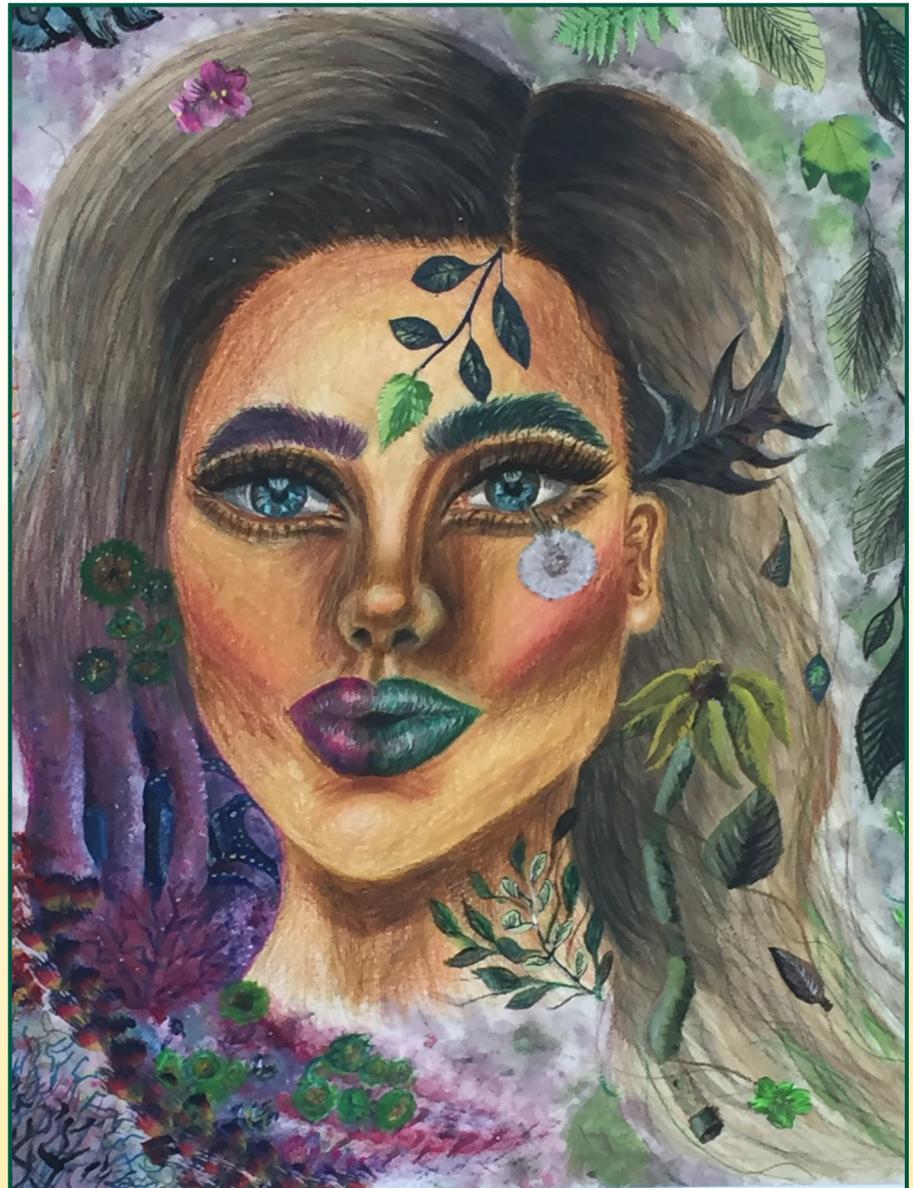
Monday 29 May to Friday 2 June:

Half term break. School reopens

8.30am Monday 5 June, Week 1

Monday 12 to Thursday 22 June:

Year 9 Exams



Outstanding GCSE Art Natural Form coursework by Year 11 student Jessica Nicholls - coloured pencil with parts painted

By Olivia Lodge, Year 11

By Sadie MacNeill, Year 11



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