

Working with Hampshire Police

Our Head Boy and Head Girl, **Ben Ambrose** and **Beth Jones**, took part in the Hampshire Police Commissioner's Takeover Day. Ben and Beth worked alongside Police Officers and Police Community Support Officers to share their ideas about policing in Waterlooville and to learn about particular areas of concern in the area.



"We went to Waterlooville Police Station. It was a very enjoyable experience and was extremely informative. You would not understand the amount the police do!"

Ben Ambrose, Head Boy

"We went out on patrol with a Police Community Support Officer and heard a meeting between the Police Officers in Waterlooville and in other parts of Hampshire. It was interesting and it showed me how perceptive and caring Police Community Support Officers are."

Beth Jones, Head Girl

Proudly Showing Our Support

Our Master brass player **Jack Vinton** from Year 10 performed *The Last Post* at Compton and Up Marden CE School to support its Remembrance Service for students, staff and veterans. A fantastic achievement!

Our students and staff raised £809.32 for BBC Children in Need. Thank you to all involved!



News

I was one of the 50 Headteachers who met in London on 14 November to deliver a letter to Phillip Hammond in advance of the budget, calling for the widely accepted cuts to school funding to be addressed in the Autumn statement. We represented 5000 colleagues from 25 counties across the country.

There was widespread media focus on this event and representation from MPs both at the event as well as associated meetings; I am very pleased to say that our MP, George Hollingbery, met us at Downing Street and I would like to thank him for attending. I noted, amongst the hubbub in Parliament Square, ITV, Channel 4, BBC and Sky television coverage as well as Radio 4 and national newspaper attention ranging from The Guardian to The Financial Times; media outlets do not give this much focus and attention to stories that do not have resonance or relevance.

This campaign has gathered momentum with parents and politicians from all parties. As Headteachers we have been clear throughout to be politically neutral and always 'relentlessly reasonable'. The profession knows that we have burdened real terms cuts to funding since 2010; governors have been party to the difficult decisions made every year on staffing and resourcing and increasingly our parents and students understand the constraints caused by financial pressures that all schools are facing.

Fundamentally, the postcode lottery still exists. Put simply, we receive far less money per pupil in Hampshire compared to pretty much all other counties, even those with similar socio-economic communities to ours. It is extraordinary that some English secondary schools will receive 60% less funding than others of the same size.

At Cowplain, we have always managed our budgets well and have managed to improve the school whilst cutting costs where we could. We are not one of the third of schools with a deficit budget. However, operating within these strict financial constraints is becoming more and more difficult. Therefore, I will continue to support the campaign to ensure better funding for our children and trust that I can count on your support to help secure the best outcomes possible for Cowplain and other schools.

For more information on this campaign, please see my blog on the school website under Keep Up To Date.

Mr IR Gates, Headteacher

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Certificate Evening

It was lovely to welcome our Year 11 leavers back to The Cowplain School to receive their GCSE certificates.

Special thanks to Cllr Elaine Shimbart, the Mayor of Havant, for attending and presenting the certificates and Special Awards.

Congratulations to all our students on their achievements. We wish them the very best for the future and look forward to hearing about their next steps and future career paths!



Author Visit

Mark Robson, the author of fantasy fiction for young adults including the Darkweaver, Devil's Triangle, Dragon Orb and Imperial series, visited The Cowplain School to speak about his career as a pilot in the RAF and his hugely successful books.

After a presentation to the whole of Year 8, Mark spoke to smaller groups of students and was happy to chat and sign their books before running a writing workshop specifically aimed at Year 8 boys.



Mock Interview Day

Year 11 students each had a 1:1 interview with staff from IBM or BioPure Technology Limited during our Big Interview Day. This important annual event gives our students the opportunity to experience the full interview process from completing an application form, to having a formal interview in business dress and receiving written feedback.

We would like to thank the staff from IBM for supporting this event for many years now and extend our sincere thanks to BioPure Technology for taking part this year. We very much value the support offered to the school which greatly benefits our students.

"I'm glad I did it. It was really useful and worthwhile. They gave really helpful feedback and I won't be so nervous now when I go for an interview."

Travis Hibbert, Year 11 student



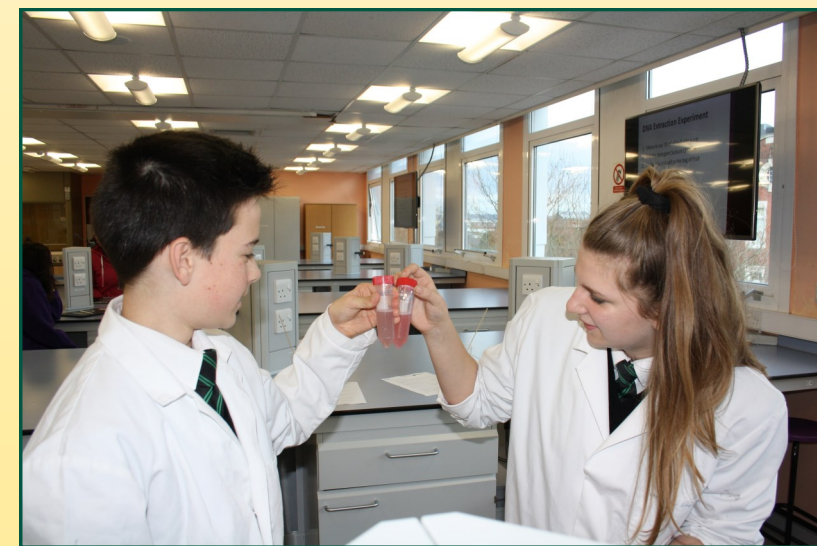
Enterprising Women Conference

A group of students visited the University of Chichester to take part in the 10th annual Enterprising Women conference. This event takes place in November each year to support Global Enterprise Week and aims to inspire and motivate young women to consider a wide range of career possibilities to ensure they reach their full potential. Speakers included a female doctor, attorney, author and scientist, key staff members from the Home Office and Lloyds, alongside small business owners and entrepreneurs. This was a fantastic opportunity for our students to speak to successful women about their careers and possible pathways and the girls left feeling very inspired!



University of Portsmouth Visit

Year 8 students visited the University of Portsmouth to learn about Science related courses. After an introduction by the Clinical Director of the Dental Academy, workshops included Health and Human Geography where our students considered how place and space influences our health and wellbeing. In the Biology session, students extracted DNA from a strawberry and looked at electrophoresis. In the Pharmacy session, students were taught about the different roles played by Biomedical Scientists, Pharmacologists and Pharmacists and in the Nursing workshop students were shown the structure of the human body by peeling away different layers. A really informative and interesting day!



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