

Charity Week

Our Year 11 Prefects organised a Charity Week to raise money for Piam Brown Ward, the regional children's cancer unit at Southampton General Hospital where one of our students is being treated. The Prefects arranged a number of activities including bush tucker trials, bake sales and a raffle. The total amount of money raised by the students was £633.73. We would like to thank everybody who took part in making these events so successful and for helping raise funds for the hospital.



School Production

This year, the school production was Andrew Lloyd Webber's *The School of Rock*, a fun, fast paced look into the world of Dewey Finn, a struggling musician. Dewey masquerades as his friend in a bid to gain money as a substitute teacher. However, when he realises how musically talented the students at the school are, his plans change.



Pupils from our local primary schools were invited to watch the matinee performances, ahead of the evening shows during the last week of term. As always our students rose to the challenge.

The Cowplain School Productions team and the backstage crew worked tirelessly to ensure the stage was set; music was provided by the school band and the cast put on an incredible performance. Congratulations to everyone involved for creating such a brilliant show.



News

As Christmas approaches, I would like to wish you and your families a very happy Christmas and a prosperous new year.

I hope that parents, students and staff can relax after what has been a hectic but successful term for us at Cowplain. You will know from speaking to your children, and our regular newsletters, that we have crammed a great deal in over the last 15 weeks! We started the term as summer was ending with the Year 7 Camp and have ended it with a very successful Christmas show *The School of Rock*.

Apart from experiencing over 350 lessons, children have also taken part in many sporting and arts related activities including visits to the theatre, to Ben Ainslie Racing, performing in Waterloooville Town Centre, the list of things in which our children have participated just goes on and on! There is even more information in this newsletter.

I am also pleased to say that we continue to enhance our facilities at Cowplain and I have just received confirmation that we have received a grant from the FA and Football Foundation to completely redevelop our All Weather Pitch (AWP). This means the base will be dug up and re-laid and a new 3G carpet placed on top. It means we will have the newest and best AWP in the area which will benefit our students during the day and community users after school and at weekends.

I am sure the Spring 2018 term will be equally as successful for us at The Cowplain School.

Best wishes and I wish you a very happy Christmas.

Mr IR Gates, Headteacher

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www.cowplainschool.co.uk

Save The Children UK

On 15 December our staff and students wore their wonderful woollies to support Save The Children UK's Christmas Jumper Day.

The money raised will help make a difference to children in desperate need and give them a chance to be children again. Thank you to everyone who supported this event.



Reminder:

School reopens at 8.15am on Monday 8 January 2018. (Week 2)



Success at the World Championships

Congratulations to Year 7 student **Lydia-Mae Locke** who took part in the International Dance Organization's World Tap Dance Championships 2017 in Riesa, Germany. Lydia-Mae represented Team GB at the SACHSENarena and came 5th in the solo category, beating competitors from the USA, Australia, South Africa and Europe. Well done Lydia-Mae - an incredible achievement!



"I started dancing when I was three or four years old. Tap is my favourite but I also dance Ballet, Modern, Jazz and Contemporary. I auditioned with Tap Attack before the summer and heard that I had been selected to go to Germany for the World Championships."

"Team GB came 1st in formation so I danced in the re-dance too. Next year I will dance in the Junior age category if I get selected."

Lydia-Mae Locke, Year 7

Presentation Assemblies

Presentation assemblies took place at the end of the Autumn term to congratulate students for their Outstanding Academic Progress, Outstanding Achievement and for demonstrating our School Values: Grit, Mindfulness, Gratitude, Self-Control, Curiosity, Optimism and Self-Assurance. Congratulations to all our students who received certificates in recognition of their hard work and continued effort.



Institution of Engineering and Technology

A team of Year 8 students took part in the IET Faraday Challenge. Teams from across the south of England competed against each other to design, create and promote the best solution to a real life engineering problem. The team from Cowplain won the event and currently sit at the top of the UK league tables for 2017-18. The challenge runs until June 2018 and the top five teams will take part in the National Final. Congratulations to all involved!



"It was a really great experience. I have been thinking for a while about doing engineering and taking part in this challenge showed us how many opportunities there are in engineering."

"It helped me make up my mind that I really want to do engineering in the future."

Makayla Chaplin-Abbs, Year 8

University of Portsmouth Technology Day

Year 8 students visited the University of Portsmouth to take part in a Technology event aimed at raising aspirations to study STEM subjects - Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths - and to increase awareness of the range of courses and careers available.

David Hill, Technology Outreach Coordinator, described the different departments in the Faculty of Technology including the Institute of Cosmology and Gravitation, Computing, Maths, Engineering and Civil Engineering before explaining about Big Data. Students were tasked with creating a remote control DrumBot and then used Raspberry Pi mini computers to hack into different IP addresses.

"I enjoyed the trip because there are all sorts of different technology courses to do at university."

Owen Ruddock, Year 8



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