

Rock Challenge 2018

Our Rock Challenge entry this year was based on the life of Elvis Presley. Our students were amazing, both in the rehearsals and the live performance, and received awards for Concept, Soundtrack, Video Performance and Lighting.

Well done and huge congratulations to all who took part!



Jukebox

The Cowplain School band, *Jukebox*, was invited to take part in the Southsea Skiffle Orchestra event at Portsmouth Guildhall. Skiffle is a 'home made' English music style from the 1950s based on American blues and folk music. The members are mostly Pompey pensioners and play a variety of instruments including guitars, ukuleles, banjos, harmonicas, washboards, mandolins and simple percussion. The band received excellent feedback following the gig and the Southsea Skiffle Orchestra kindly donated the funds raised from the event to the Music department at the school!

"I loved Jukebox - they played really well. You've got some lovely kids in the band, and talented too. Your drummer was as cool as a cucumber considering he had less than a week to learn it all. Well done and thank you. To tackle such big numbers is a sign of their capability and confidence. As well as the drummer, I loved the lead singer - and the youngest girl has a lovely voice. Also very much enjoyed the bass guitarist - what a performer!"

Sue Ryder-Morgan, Southsea Skiffle Orchestra member



**THE
COWPLAIN
SCHOOL**

News

Welcome to the last newsletter of the spring term. As we go into Easter, I sincerely hope we have seen the last of winter and can look forward to returning in the summer term to much better weather!

Of course, next term sees exam season for our Year 11 students and I would like to wish them all the best for these important exams. After English and Maths last year, 2018 sees the introduction of much more difficult exams for most other subjects. The majority of our students have been working hard in preparation for them and should be ready by the middle of May when the exams officially start. Throughout this period, the students continue to be supported by excellent teaching and I know you will do your bit as parents to make sure your son or daughter is ready.

As usual, this term was packed with lots of activities. Last week, for example, we took part in Sport Relief and raised over £1000; I was especially proud of our Year 8 and 9 students who visited Land Rover BAR in Portsmouth, the HQ of Ben Ainslie Racing, and took part in a 'spinathon', which you may have seen on BBC1 South! They alone raised over £330. In the last few weeks we also held a weekend at PGL, had Rock Challenge, an author visit, the list goes on and on!

Cowplain really is a school where we focus on the learning and ensure good progress in lessons, whilst providing a huge number of opportunities for our students beyond the curriculum.

Over Easter, work will start on our all-weather pitch (AWP). This will see the base re-laid and a new 3G carpet added. Our pitch was one of the first to be built and has shown signs of age after 8 years; the improvements mean we will now have the most modern and best pitch in the area, which will be fantastic for PE lessons and our sporting teams.

As usual, I would like to thank you for your continued support and wish you and your family a happy Easter.

Mr IR Gates, Headteacher

Work hard. Enjoy learning. Achieve highly.

www.cowplainschool.co.uk

Defibrillator

We would like to thank WeBigLocal for their generous donation; this enabled us to provide an external defibrillator which is situated on our Sports Hall wall.

It is reassuring to know that this is now in place and can be used, not only by the school but also by our community users and the general public.



Reminder:

**School reopens at 8.15am
on Monday 16 April 2018.
(Week 1)**



Mathematics

A group of Year 11 students took part in a Maths revision day at Havant and South Downs College to focus on revision skills.

The students worked on key areas of Maths identified from the recent mock exams in school and also looked at questions which combine multiple areas of the GCSE course and how these may be presented in exam questions.

Thank you to HSDC for offering our students this learning opportunity!



Charity: Sport Relief



The Cowplain School students raised £790 in school for Sport Relief through non-uniform day, a bake sale, a cross-bar challenge and a badminton tournament.

A small group of students from Years 8 and 9 also took part in the Land Rover BAR disco spinathon event at the HQ of Ben Ainslie Racing in Portsmouth and raised a further £330 in sponsorship!



University Trips

Able and Ambitious students from Year 10 visited Keble College at the University of Oxford to learn about life at university. They were given an introduction to higher education and student finance before taking part in interactive sessions with current undergraduates and a guided tour of New College. The students also took part in three very interesting masterclasses on Neuroscience, Medieval English Literature and Archaeological Science.

Students from Years 8 and 9 attended the Sparks Conference at the University of Chichester. They took part in a coding workshop with the Stemettes and looked at CSS, HTML and javascript before creating their own website to celebrate International Women's Day. The girls also met female industry ambassadors with STEM roles such as Cyber Technology Solution Manager, Head of eCommerce and Retail Technology Consultant from a range of companies including Debenhams and McLaren.



Computing

Our Year 7 and 8 students visited The National Museum of Computing at Bletchley Park. They learned about the history of computing and saw the oldest working digital computer and large mainframes from the 1950s. Students were particularly fascinated by Colossus, the world's first electronic computer, which helped to decipher the Lorenz-encrypted messages from Hitler and his generals in World War II.



Portsmouth Music Festival

The Cowplain School band, *Jukebox*, has had a very busy half term. Well done to *Jukebox* for being awarded a Merit, and to Raizel, Project M and Eleanor who were all Highly Commended!

Congratulations to Todd Jones for winning Best Drummer at Portsmouth Music Festival and to Jakob Smith for Best Instrumentalist. Eleanor Weeks also won Best Original Song with a piece she composed as part of her GCSE portfolio. **Huge congratulations and very well done!**

Able and Ambitious

Our Prefects, Ambassadors and Student Council members took part in a residential to PGL Marchants Hill as a reward for their hard work and support so far this year. They took part in sub-zero outdoor activities including zip wire, archery, aeroball, giant swing and team games.



Construction

Our Construction students were invited to visit David Wilson Homes at the Berewood Heath site in Waterlooville. They learned about various roles in the construction industry including groundworks, brickworks, carpentry, plumbing, electrics and sales together with apprenticeships and various pathways to a career in construction.



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