

Primary Liaison: Year 6 Fire Prevention Day

On Tuesday 9 October 2018 we were pleased to welcome Year 6 students from some of our neighbouring Primary Schools to our first Fire Prevention Day.

During the day students took part in a Science lesson looking at how chemicals can affect fire and a History lesson that was presented as a courtroom – was Mrs O'Leary really to blame? In a Technology lesson students got the chance to use software, that they would not have access to in their Primary schools, to design a key ring which was then etched onto acrylic.

While having the students here we were able to discuss what they should do in the event of a fire at home. Thank you to Cosham 23 crew who came along for the day with their engines and demonstrated the effects of not dealing with house fires in the correct way. Students were able to explore the engines and the equipment that they carry while trying on uniform, helmets and masks.



Macmillan Cancer Support

Mrs Booth and Mrs Salsbury raised awareness of the Macmillan Cancer Support charity by presenting assemblies to all year groups outlining the valuable services and support offered to patients and families suffering the effects of cancer. Mrs Booth and Mrs Salsbury hosted a Macmillan Coffee Morning cake sale in the dining room on the 28th September, as did thousands of people across the UK, selling delicious cakes to both students and staff in honour of this worthy cause. The kindness of Cowplain students once again shone through, with students making charitable donations over and above the price of cakes to a charity, which was close to their hearts. The coffee morning raised £216, which was a fantastic result!



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News

Welcome to our first newsletter of the new academic year, which I am writing at the end of the Autumn half-term; as usual, the last seven weeks have flown by!

The new term started positively on the back of very good exam results obtained by our recent Year 11 students, which matched last year's record results. I was especially pleased that we recorded a positive Progress 8 score, which means that our students made more progress as a year group than students did nationally. Some of our departments also achieved great results and there were many fantastic individual performances from our students. I have said for a few years now that, at Cowplain, we do focus on the individual and get to know their strengths as well as areas for improvement and this is paying off in both academic and other outcomes.

The results also vindicated the findings of our OFSTED report, which we received 5 days into the new term, even though it was conducted in the previous term! I would like to thank those parents who have congratulated us on what is a very positive report. Both the report and the exam results confirm what the inspectors said to me, which was that '*students get a very good deal at The Cowplain School*'.

We also welcomed a new Year 7 group and I'd like to officially welcome parents of those children to the school. Almost all our new students attended Year 7 camp and had a great time. I visited them myself on one of the days and saw lots of very happy young people working as a team and really getting to know each other and making new friends, which is the point of the camp. From observing our new students over the last few weeks, and hearing about them from their teachers, it seems they have made a very good start to life at The Cowplain School.

As always, thank you very much for your continued support.
Mr IR Gates, Headteacher



Work hard. Enjoy learning. Achieve highly.



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Year 11: Brecon Beacons

At the start of May half term 23 students went to the Hampshire Mountain Centre at Heol Senni in the Brecon Beacons for a stress busting weekend prior to the start of their exams. The students ascended Pen Y Fan on the Saturday and in the evening there was a climbing and abseiling session at the Llangorse Multi Activity Centre. On the Sunday the students went for a very leisurely walk amongst the gorges and waterfalls, the highlight being going behind the Sgwd yr Eira waterfall. They then returned to the Centre for lunch and then home, leaving the students the rest of half term to revise.



Year 7: Camp

At the start of the Autumn term, our new Year 7 students travelled to the Tile Barn Outdoor Centre in the New Forest to experience Year 7 Camp. The Camp focused on ice breaking and teambuilding challenges, and 'getting to know you' games to help our young students forge new friendships and create lifelong memories, as well as the Cowplain tradition of the campfire and BBQ.

Huge thanks to all the parents who joined us for the BBQ and songs around the campfire, and to our army of amazing volunteers who help run our camps and outdoor education programme.



Year 8: Camp

In July, 60 Year 8 students travelled to the New Forest for a week of activities. The weather was amazing. Highlights included the river walk, crate stack, climbing and abseiling.



Year 9: Camp

With the hot weather continuing throughout July our Year 9 students had an amazing week. The activities were more challenging than those at Year 8 Camp and the students had to plan, budget, buy and cook their own food. No-one went hungry!



Hampshire Book Award Presentation

Our student judges for Hampshire Book Award 2018 went to Winchester on Tuesday 9 October to see Tamsyn Murray receive the award for '*Instructions for a Second-hand Heart*'.

Students from across Hampshire listened to Tamsyn's inspiring talk about her journey to becoming a writer. Tamsyn told the audience that this is the book she is most proud of, explaining how she has invested four years in getting it just right. She talked about the research into the medical background, and the re-writes that have made this an award winning story.

The morning finished with a book signing and our students met the author and had a group photograph taken.

