

Holocaust Memorial Service

On Friday 25 January, a group of students represented The Cowplain School at the annual Holocaust Memorial Day service at New Lane Cemetery, Havant. The service is an important reminder of the heinous crimes committed against humanity during the Holocaust and subsequent genocides, and a chance for our next generation to pay their respects and learn why discrimination must not be tolerated in our communities.



"The Holocaust Memorial Service was incredibly moving and it showed me just how devastating the holocaust was. It helped me to understand how the holocaust affected so many innocent people and how it completely ruined whole families. It was very sad and taught me a lot." Ruby Roberts Y8

"The holocaust was a horrible event where lots of innocent people lost their lives. Therefore this should be something for us all to remember. We should remember the victims and all those affected. It will be something I always think of." Owen Lane Y8

Art of Brilliance and Jukebox

On Monday 21 January, traditionally known as Blue Monday (and the most miserable day of the year), Denmead Junior School pupils raised awareness of mental health, and set out to make people happy, by giving out spring flowers in Denmead Village Centre.

The Cowplain School's Jukebox Band was also involved in the effort to spread joy by joining with them and performing music. Other partner primary schools were also involved within their community. This was part of the Art of Brilliance project which specialises in positivity.



News

Welcome to our latest newsletter, which sees us over halfway through the school year!

As usual, it has been a very busy half term at The Cowplain School. Children have been working hard and we have seen many of them go from success-to-success. Our GCSE students are entering their final few months and I am pleased to say there is a strong work ethic within most of them.

The exciting news this week was that we have completed our new All Weather Pitch (AWP), which brings to an end a three-year project. During that time, we needed to secure the funding, design the plans and, ultimately, complete the work. With all building projects, there is always something unexpected and, when the builders removed the old pitch carpet, they found that the stone base was not up to standard. Therefore, a brand new base had to be constructed, which delayed the project by three months. As well as a state of the art pitch surface, we now have new goals and goal recesses, a spectator area, and revamped floodlights. It is true to say that we now have the best 3G pitch in the area!

PE lessons on the pitch will resume after half-term and so I would ask that you make sure you have read the letter sent this week from the PE department regarding appropriate footwear.

The construction of the pitch also means that we can further develop our after school provision and can host competitive Football Association sanctioned games. I am sure that students will enjoy playing on the pitch and I look forward to hearing about their successes.

As always, I would like to thank you for your support this half-term and look forward to welcoming students back after the break.

Mr IR Gates
Headteacher

Work hard. Enjoy learning. Achieve highly.



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Reminder:
School reopens at 8.15am on Monday 25 February 2019.

Cowplain does Shakespeare

The Year 9 GCSE Drama and Dance Students along with Miss Leng, Miss Williams and Ms Zambo went to The New Theatre Royal in Portsmouth to perform 'Macbeth' at the Shakespeare Schools Festival.

The director of the show described the performance as 'visually stunning, using all of the space to create an eerie performance of Macbeth. The show had some of the best choreography and dance we have seen at the festival.'

The students were amazing throughout the day and performed a show that the school were very proud of. They were an asset to the school and all of the theatre staff commented on how well behaved and polite they were.

Well done to our Y9 GCSE Drama and Dance Students.

Miss Williams and Miss Leng.



Ben Vardy—Shakespeare Schools Festival, appraised the show and commented:

"Congratulations on a highly disciplined, haunting and powerful production of Macbeth; it was beautiful, well done!"

"Your choreography was highly original and exciting, and you executed the movements with accuracy, style and flair. It really was some of the best choreography I've ever seen at an SSF performance!"

"Performing Shakespeare's words on a professional stage takes courage, resilience, and imagination. You and your teachers should all be incredibly proud of what you have achieved."



Computing Department Competition Success

We've been very busy in the Computing Department of late. In November, all Y7 and Y8 students plus the GCSE Computer Science students in Y9 and Y10 participated in the Bebras Computational Thinking Competition, a national competition organised by Oxford University. This is our second year in the competition and our students were even more successful than last year.

Special congratulations to the 22 students who achieved scores in the top 10% nationally and have been invited to participate in another competition in March; *Elouise Bookham, Jamie Reid, Liam Stephens, Evie Taylor, William Hadley, Ethan Fry, Emma-Louise Pinhorne, Josephine Spicer, Olivia Reed, Jocie Dunmore, Madeline Dadd, Lydia-Mae Locke, Ryan Bennett, Leah Franks, Jake Rapson, James Millar, Joshua Amott, Jacob Racklyeft, Michael Rendle, Harvey Stratford, Callum Murfin and Alfie Moth.*



Legally Blonde

Congratulations to everyone involved in Legally Blonde the musical. All three nights were a success with some outstanding performances from all involved. The show was described by parents and staff as fun, upbeat, hilarious and professional, with most shocked and pleased at how high the standard was amongst the performers. The students worked tirelessly from September to December to put this together and should be very proud of themselves.

"An outstanding performance by all involved, especially the lead characters."
Lee Berrecloth, Teacher Governor

Wednesday evening was topped off with a party after the show. Students enjoyed a beautiful and delicious cake baked by Michelle Houghton (Joel Houghton's mother), and danced to musical theatre songs.



HM Government's Cyber Discovery

We have had several teams of students participating in HM Government's Cyber Discovery program. Oliver Merrywest in Y10 completed all of the challenges in the CyberStart Assess and is now working on the next level of challenges in this national project. We also had two teams of Year 8 girls who participate in the CyberFirst Girl's competition. As a result, they have been invited to attend free residential courses to further expand their Cyber Security and problem-solving skills. Congratulations to *Becky Oakley, Raizel Nunez, Phoenix Lambird, Josie Spicer, Evie Watson and Evie Taylor* for their great commitment to and enthusiasm for these extremely demanding challenges.

Cyber Discovery, HM Government's Cyber Schools Programme, is an extra-curricular learning programme for students aged 14-18 across the UK. Its goal is to ensure that many more people enter the cyber security profession in the coming years. They run a number of free events for young people and their parents.

If you would like to know more, please email r.connell@cowplainschool.co.uk.

