

LEGO Competition

We entered two teams for the First Lego League Robot Challenge at the University of Portsmouth. Both teams did exceptionally well, despite a range of technical issues and competing against far more experienced teams. As a result, both teams were awarded the Breakthrough Award. The judges were so impressed with their innovation, team work and presentation skills they couldn't decide between them.



Prison Me No Way!

The charity, Prison Me No Way, visited the school on Tuesday 8th February 2022 to present workshops to Year 10 students. The workshops covered areas that educated students and raised awareness about drugs, violence, making the right choices, prison and domestic violence, and the consequences of crime.

Students also had the opportunity to see what a prison cell looks and feels like in a mock up version. Students really enjoyed the day and found the sessions hard-hitting, informative and very well presented. Feedback from the presenters was also extremely positive about how our Year 10 students engaged with the day and responded maturely to the issues discussed.



Beauty and the Beast

A magical piece of theatre performed by Cowplain School Students

Before Christmas, Cowplain School students performed Disney's 'Beauty and the Beast' for friends and family. The two nights were a massive success. The show and performances were excellent and all of the students (including backstage and band) made their teachers very proud. The evening was magical, the performing was well rehearsed and great to watch. It was an excellent way to finish school before a well-deserved break at Christmas.



Parent's comment: I went to see the school show last night and I was blown away by the whole performance. The acting, singing, music, props lighting were all fantastic. So much hard work had gone into it and so glad it managed to go ahead. The whole team from students to staff should be so proud of what they achieved in such a short amount of time. Looking forward to next year's already.



News

Dear Parents

Welcome to our February half-term newsletter.

Firstly, I want to thank the efforts of students, staff and parents over this last half-term. Once the euphoria of Christmas and new year subsides, it really is a challenging few weeks for everyone in terms of the cold and wet, not to mention the pandemic! This half-term is also an unusually long one, at 7 weeks, and I know that everybody is looking forward to a very well-earned break.

As I have commented before, schools are not now just places where students go to learn! This term has seen us continue to test students on their return for Covid-19 and we have provided a base for vaccines and other health services, not just for Covid. In addition, you'll know that we employ our own psychologist, Alice Morgan-Clare, and also provide mental health support through our Mental Health Lead, Charmaine Graham, as well as signposting children and families to other services. Schools really do now provide all round care for young people and I believe should be commended for this, especially when finances are extremely tight.

As always, this term has seen our children 'work hard, enjoy learning and achieve highly.' We have already had some excellent VCERT results back for our Year 11 students in PE and Engineering and I know those groups of students are currently undertaking project work and other activities in order to boost what are already shaping up to be superb results. After half-term, Year 11 will embark on mock exams, preparing them fully for their GCSEs which start shortly after Easter. I know you will join me in wishing them well and giving them our full support after what has been a difficult and disrupted two years. I can assure you that teachers and other staff are working flat out to ensure they are as well prepared as possible.

As well as working hard in their lessons, many of our students have participated in the many extra-curricular activities we offer. In this edition of the newsletter you will read about the fantastic school show, *Beauty and the Beast*, the debating competition, Lego challenge and others. We also had visits from the *Prison Me No Way* team, which is always hard-hitting, and trips to the Mayflower Theatre and, what is an inspiring annual event for students at Cowplain, the Holocaust Memorial Day event in Havant.

So, as always, it has been a packed half-term during which many students at Cowplain have excelled.

I wish you and your family a good half-term break and, as always, thank you very much for your support.

Mr IR Gates, Headteacher

Work hard. Enjoy learning. Achieve highly.



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Intermezzo

A group of Y9/Y10/Y11 Dance students went to the Alexandra Theatre in Bognor Regis in February with Mrs Leng to watch a performance by Chichester College students called 'Intermezzo'.

Students really enjoyed the performance and were inspired to use some of it for their choreography.



Others found it insightful as they have auditioned for the course for next year!

Reminder:

Inset Day:

Friday 18 February 2022

February half term:

Monday 21 February to Friday 25 February 2022.

School reopens at 8.15am on Monday 28 February 2022.

(Week 1)

Work hard. Enjoy learning. Achieve highly.



February 2022

Debate Competition



At the end of January, three Y9 students; Millie-Grace, Molly and Grace took part in a Debate Competition at Park Community School. The debate was about School Uniform and they each took one role in the debate. Milly-Grace was 'for', Grace was 'against' and Molly was the moderator.

The girls did really well and had some excellent feedback from the judges. The competition was very tight but unfortunately they did not progress to the next round of the competition. The judges commented on the girls' unique and passionate style of delivering their debate and very much enjoyed watching their debate.

Mayflower Theatre

On 26th January, the GCSE drama cohort of Years 9 and 10 went to see the award-winning National Theatre production of 'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time', performed at The Mayflower Theatre, Southampton.

During their time in GCSE drama, the students will be writing about the play and performing segments. The story focuses on 15 year old Christopher Boon from Swindon, who at the very beginning stumbles upon his neighbour's dog that has sadly been killed. Christopher decides to make it his mission to find out who killed the dog; he does this by recording the facts of the incident in the book that he is writing and shares with his therapist, Siobhan. The story also focuses on themes such as grief, parental relationships, self-belief and autism awareness. Christopher is an autistic character, and we were lucky enough to see Connor Curren take on the role who is himself autistic. This performance also featured a trans actress in the role of Siobhan, a deaf actress in the role of Judy, as well as multiple cast members of different ethnicities and backgrounds. This richly diverse cast was very inspiring for our students and something we champion at The Cowplain School.

The students loved the show and, in their words, said "it was very emotional!", "I absolutely loved it" and "that was a thousand out of 10".



Holocaust Memorial Day

On Thursday 27th January, Mr Brockhurst and Miss Maule took a group of students to the Holocaust Memorial Service at Havant Cemetery. The theme this year was 'One Day' and the students had written a piece of the same name which was read by Scarlett Roberts. It was a very moving service and a reminder that the crimes against humanity committed during the Holocaust must never be forgotten and that its' relevance for each new generation is understood.

The following quote was read and felt to be particularly inspiring:

'It's really a wonder that I haven't dropped all my ideals because they seem so absurd and impossible to carry out. Yet I keep them, because in spite of everything, I still believe that people are really good at heart.' Anne Frank

The students felt very emotional during the minute's silence and said they were thinking of all the families affected. They found the readings about the concentration camps really interesting and it made them reflect upon how things have changed since the holocaust took place.



Motocross - Sienna Farmer (Y7)

Sienna has been riding her Motocross bike since she was 7 years old starting on a ktm 50cc auto and had a very successful couple of years almost winning the Girls Nationals! She then came of age to move to a ktm 65cc which she mastered using gears very quickly and is very competitive against the boys but especially the other girls!



During the 2020 lockdown Sienna was lucky enough to be able to move up to a ktm 85cc which she is doing very well in. Sienna was close to winning the Girls Nationals in 2021 but unfortunately had a massive crash and ended up in hospital with a suspected broken back. Luckily, she had the all clear and is back to it! Sienna is looking forward to competing in the Nationals again this year and winning!

Sienna travels most weekends all over the country to Cornwall and Wales and also locally. When Sienna is competing, she is achieving top 5 from a line up of 40 bikes.

Well done to Sienna and good luck for future success.

