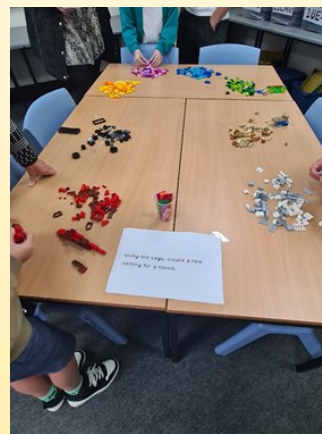
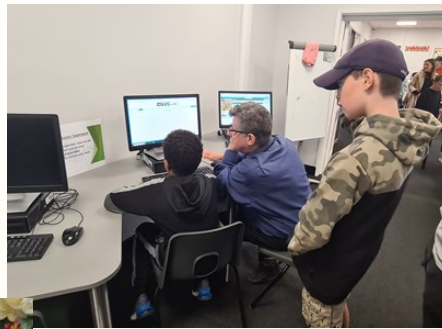
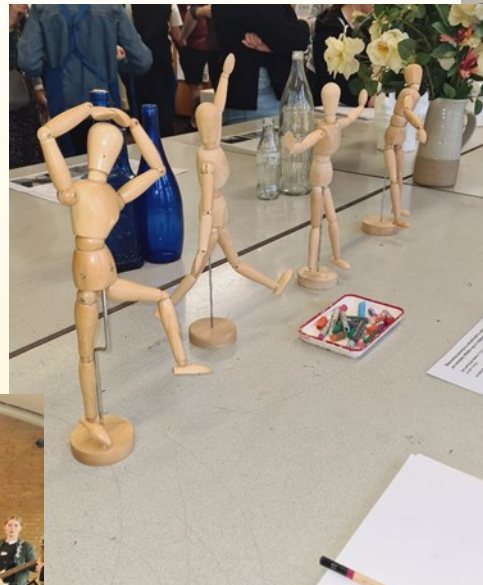


## Open Evening 2023

We held our annual Open Evening on Thursday 21st September. Students, staff, parents and academy trustees enabled parents and pupils to sample the quality and breadth of lessons children experience and the enrichment activities and events that we run each year.

Our Open Week tours ran throughout the school day in the following two weeks, and many families booked for a tour of the school with a member of our Senior Leadership Team.



**Y6 PARENTS—Don't forget that the deadline for applications for the Y7 Admissions Round is Tuesday 31st October 2023.**



## News

Dear Parents

Welcome to the first newsletter of the 2023/24 academic year.

It seems like yesterday when our then Year 6 students joined us for their taster day in the warm weather of July; now, with the weather reminding us we are in Autumn, they are firmly established in the school. They have certainly packed a lot in during their first half-term and I am pleased that they have made an excellent start to the year.

As we welcome a new Year 7, we are also mindful that our Year 11 students are already a half-term into their last year at The Cowplain School. Most are working hard and we expect great things from them. We are mindful though of rebuilding '*belonging and buy-in*' to the school, things that have perhaps taken a bit of a knock because of the pandemic. We know this is an issue with society generally; people are not so invested in jobs or institutions that they see as perhaps less important than before.

We want our oldest year group to feel they have a real stake in the school and that they go forward together as a team, with all contributing. Therefore, Mrs Clemas and myself have held meetings with a group of Year 11s to look at how we can foster this sense of belonging. It's early days, but one thing we have talked about is giving students a chance to reflect on how far they've come, despite all the challenges they have faced. So, this week has been '*Milestones*' week for Year 11 in which each of their subject teachers has paused for a part of a lesson to remind students of what they have already achieved so far this half-term. It really is important that, not only do they of course look to improve, but also that they reflect on what they have already achieved to give themselves a metaphorical '*pat on the back*' and instil self-confidence for the year ahead. We will continue to meet with our Year 11 students and work with them to plan further '*milestone*' events over the year.

Writing above about '*buy-in*,' I want to mention attendance. Firstly, I have received lots of requests to authorise holidays in term time and I need to tell you that most requests will not be authorised. We welcome the government's drive on improving attendance and thus it is very difficult for me to support holiday requests. Remember, if you submit a request and are disappointed that I have not authorised it, it is not us telling you that you *cannot* go on holiday, that is your decision, but a note to say that we cannot support you if you go and that you may be fined. It is part of a wider need for us to raise attendance levels to those that we saw before the pandemic and I would urge you to support us in ensuring your child attends school at all times that they are fit to do so.

As usual, this newsletter is packed with interesting activities that our students have enjoyed over the last seven weeks, which I know you will enjoy reading about.

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

Mr I R Gates, Principal

**Work hard. Enjoy learning. Achieve highly.**



[www.cowplainschool.co.uk](http://www.cowplainschool.co.uk)

## Restart a Heart Day

Restart a Heart Day was on 16th October 2023. The campaign intends to generate awareness and understanding about cardiac arrest and encourage as many people as possible to learn how to perform the potentially life-saving act of CPR, to increase the likelihood of lives being saved as the early moments are critical and a trained person on the scene can make a lifesaving difference.

Two members of the ambulance service came in to school on Tuesday 17th October to teach all our Year 8 students how to perform CPR.



**Reminder:**

**INSET Day: Friday 20 October 2023**

**October half-term:**

**Monday 23 October 2023 to Friday 27 October 2023.**

**School reopens on Monday 30 October 2023**

*(Week 2)*

**Work hard. Enjoy learning. Achieve highly.**



**October 2023**



## BBC Bitesize Roadshow

On Friday 29th September we were very lucky to host the BBC Bitesize Roadshow.

Over 800 students enjoyed an interactive careers presentation from local entrepreneurs and business people hoping to inspire students to achieve their dreams.

Mr L Berrecloth, Careers Leader



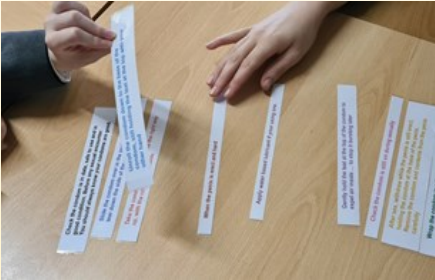
## Y11 Dropdown Day

To support the delivery of our RSHE curriculum we ran a Focus Day on Thursday 12th October for our Year 11 students. They had sessions on consent, safe sex, exam stress and social justice to complement their RSHE lessons. Our visitors, delivering the content, spoke highly of our students and their engagement in the sessions. Well done Year 11!

Miss Z Carter-Brown  
Assistant Headteacher

Coppafeel Boobette:

Year 11 students had a Coppafeel talk delivered to them on Thursday 12th October as part of the Y11 Dropdown Day.



October is breast cancer awareness month and the talk helped students to understand signs and symptoms and encouraged them to 'get checking'.

Oddballs:

Students also received a talk about testicular cancer delivered by Emily from the University of Portsmouth. Emily also went through the signs and symptoms and encourage our students to look after their health by checking.



## PE News

Year 6 students from our local Primary Schools have been attending our Masterclasses in Physical Education, where students are developing their fundamental movement skills and resilience by learning new sports such as Endball and Tchoukball. It has been a privilege to teach them, even if just for a short time. We hope they have enjoyed their first taste of secondary school education.

Our Year 10 Boys football team progressed in the Hampshire Cup with a fantastic 3-2 win over Sherfield School. The match was a tight affair with Cowplain being clinical when the chances came. Sherfield built a fightback when 3 goals down with just minutes remaining to make the score 3-2, but a resolute Cowplain side kept their composure to book their place in the next round!

Mr L Burns, Teacher of PE

## The Duke of Edinburgh's Award

DofE is open to all abilities and skill levels, so if you are an avid hiker, scout or just want to add a brilliant qualification to your CV, join our DofE scheme here at The Cowplain School.

It is open to Years 9 and 10 and we will be completing our expedition in Spring. There will be weekly meetings on a variety of topics including First Aid, Countryside Code, meal planning and hiking equipment.

Miss R Monkcom



## Breakfast Club



We have been extremely lucky to have regular breakfast donations from ASDA Waterlooville this year. Jacqui Benham, Community Champion, has kindly donated bread, cereals, croissants and pancakes for our Breakfast Club which offers daily support to many of our students and families.

We believe students hugely benefit from breakfast to start their day and support their learning. Students are served with toast and crumpets, and can help themselves to cereal, fruit, drinks and yoghurts.

If you wish to donate to the Breakfast Club, then please do so via the drop off box in Reception. Our current needs are; Marmite, Coco Pops, Shreddies, Biscoff spread, bottles of squash, breakfast bars.

## Congratulations!

Congratulations to Noah Penticost-Jones (Y7) who competed in the Tumbling Regional Challenge Cup Final in September.

Noah won a Bronze medal in the Boys Stage 10-12yrs representing the South of England.

Well done Noah.





Cowplain after school club



**September 2023 – July 2024**  
Free football sessions with Pompey in the Community  
3:10pm – 4:10pm  
Contact Mrs Turner in school reception for more details