

Advanced Learning Day

On Tuesday 6 February we held our Advanced Learning Day. All students were taken off timetable to take part in a variety of different activities. The Year 7 students focused on health and well being through sport sessions, an extension of the inter-tutor competition, whilst the Year 8s took part in taster sessions to help them decide which subjects to study at Key Stage 4, such as Photography, Business, Food Prep and Nutrition, Media, Psychology and Engineering.

Year 9 students visited a Careers Fair in the morning, followed by PHSCE sessions on consent, contraception, abuse and first aid training. Meanwhile our Year 10s worked with the team from Prison Me! No Way! with the aim of raising awareness about the causes, consequences and penalties of crime. This educational charity was originally set up by three prison officers with a desire for beneficial change and a positive belief in an optimistic future for the youth of today. **For further information please see www.pmnw.co.uk**

Year 11 students had a workshop with Positively MAD to further develop exam techniques and revision strategies prior to the exam period. **For further information please see www.positivelyMAD.com**



Numeracy Workshop

We have a growth mindset approach to numeracy in all subject areas. At the workshop in February, parents worked alongside their children to see how we teach numeracy skills so they are better placed to support their children at home. Around twenty Year 7 students and their parents took part in the Problem Solving and Reasoning session to help understand these topics which are part of the new mathematics curriculum. **Thank you to all the students and parents for attending this informal session.**



News

Welcome to our latest, dare I say 'Spring', newsletter!

Being headteacher of a school is a huge privilege because you see young people engaging in activities that make you extremely proud. This month is no exception as a number of our children again participated in the Holocaust memorial ceremony in Havant. As usual, our students behaved impeccably and were a real credit to The Cowplain School. Every year, the ceremony features a survivor of the Holocaust as well as readings and presentations from students from Cowplain and other schools. All the comments from members of the public about students from Cowplain were extremely positive, commenting on the respect and interest shown by children from our school. I would like to thank Gerald Shimbart for his organisation of the event, something he has done for a number of years. At the event he indicated this may be the last time he does so and I would like to publicly record the school's thanks to Gerald for including us in what is a very important ceremony.

The newsletter features many other activities in which students from Cowplain have participated over the last five weeks; I am sure you will enjoy reading about the many opportunities enjoyed by our students.

As usual, I would like to thank you for your ongoing support.

Mr IR Gates, Headteacher

Defibrillator

We are very pleased to announce that we now have a defibrillator for use by the school and the local community. This device can be used to treat people in cardiac arrest and is a vital piece of lifesaving equipment. Further information will follow in the next newsletter.

Work hard. Enjoy learning. Achieve highly.



www.cowplainschool.co.uk

Holocaust Memorial

A group of students from The Cowplain School attended the Holocaust Memorial Service at Havant Cemetery followed by a reception at the Plaza. Our students listened with great respect to Holocaust survivor William Bergman, who spoke for over an hour about his recollections of Kristallnacht.

Jacob Racklyeft from Year 8 gave an excellent reading of Martin Niemoller's famous poem. It was a very emotional day, and our students represented the school extremely well.



Reminder:

School reopens at 8.15am on Monday 19 February 2018. (Week 1)

HOT 100

Congratulations to the top 100 students from each year group who were invited to take part in our HOT 100 inflatable fun event.

Our HOT 100 events are held to celebrate students' hard work and achievements each term. The scheme is based around good attendance and a positive attitude to learning in all subjects and also takes into account any negative choices gained by students. All of these factors are taken into consideration and logged on a leader board on which all students are ranked in their year group; the top 100 students are then formally invited to take part in the celebrations by the Head of Lower School and the Head of Upper School.

The HOT 100 event varies each term and both rewards and motivates students to work hard in school.

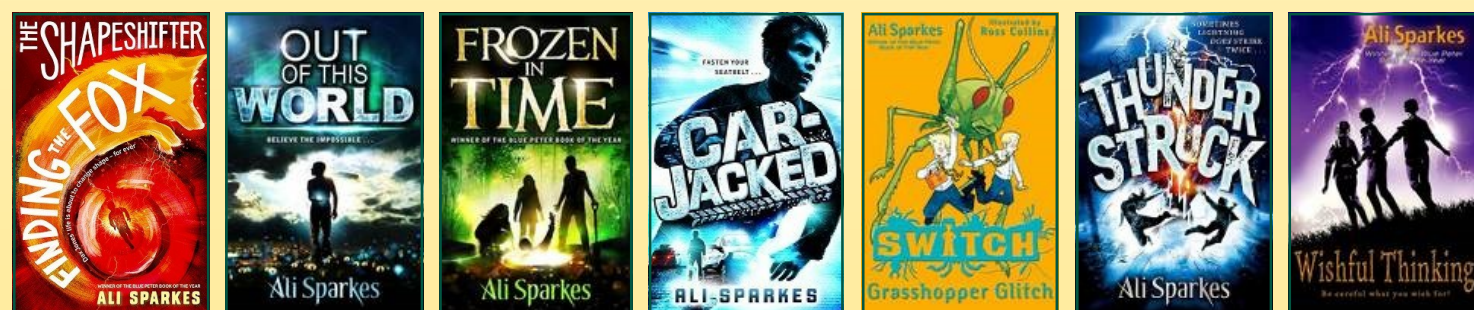


Author Visit: Ali Sparkes

We were very pleased to welcome best-selling author Ali Sparkes back to The Cowplain School in February to speak to students about her books and characters.

Ali is the author of the *Shapeshifter* and *Unleashed* series as well as numerous other titles including *Frozen in Time*, *Wishful Thinking*, *Destination Earth* and *Car-Jacked* which was nominated for the Children's Book Award 2017.

After giving a presentation to the whole of Year 7, Ali spent time answering questions and signing books. She was then interviewed by a group of students before running some writing workshops in our Library. A wonderful learning opportunity for our students!

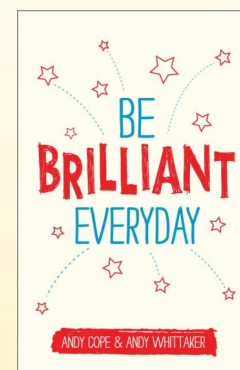


The Art of Being Brilliant

Over 340 pupils from our local primary schools met at The Cowplain School for *The Art of Being Brilliant* workshop led by Andy Cope and Paul Field. The session marked the start of an exciting and collaborative project to inspire our young people to be the best version of themselves they can be. Our aim is for all the participating schools to become Brilliantly Happy Schools and we are already looking forward to the next workshop in March.

Staff from Berewood Primary, Denmead Junior, Hart Plain Junior, Padnell Junior, Queen's Inclosure Primary, Woodcroft Primary and The Waterloo School also joined us for a twilight session.

Congratulations to Sophie from Berewood who was given a Happy T shirt for being so brilliant!



University of Portsmouth: Why HE?

Year 9 students visited the University of Portsmouth to take part in a Why HE? event aimed at raising aspirations to study at university and to increase awareness of the range of courses available.

After a welcome to the university, students took part in a workshop with a Senior Lecturer in Academic Skills. This session encouraged the students to think about the number of brain cells people have, how they think and the importance of analysis and questioning.

Our Year 9s also looked at the costs involved in higher education and considered how to budget for accommodation, food, household bills, travel and other costs such as mobile phones and going out. During the day students were shown many of the university buildings around the city centre including the Business School, the sports facilities, the gym and various halls of residence; they also had the opportunity to question current undergraduates about life at university.

"I found the day at the University of Portsmouth an eye-opening and inspiring experience. I feel like it has informed me of new opportunities that I could take. I really enjoyed the last presentation about what we had discovered throughout the day."

Zak Truscott, Year 9 student

"The best bit for me was the finance presentation. I definitely would like to go to uni after this trip."

Emily Bell, Year 9 student

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