

STEM - Primary Pupils



The Cowplain School are pleased to be able to offer a number of students from local primary schools the opportunity to take part in STEM club. STEM incorporates Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths.

Students have already made circuits using graphite drawings, looked at how to solve a crime and built structures using spaghetti and marshmallows.

Over the next few weeks we will look at the chemical compounds needed to make a bath bomb and how to make bridge structures strong enough to hold weight.

If you would like your Year 5 child to come to STEM club please contact Mr Smart via s.smart@cowplainschool.co.uk

Y8 Girls Attend Cyber Defenders Course

During the Easter Holidays, we attended a Cyber Security course at the University of Kent. This was a follow up to a cyber security competition we had participated in earlier in the year. The course aims to encourage girls to get involved in cyber security through a fun residential. Whilst we were there, we learnt a variety of things from how to secure your devices to how to hack a computer! This was to allow us to know what we were up against so as to better defend ourselves from hackers. We also learnt that hackers are really "black hat hackers" and have no permission to access networks; however some people are employed to try to find weaknesses in networks by hacking into them and these people are known as "white hat hackers", and can earn a lot of money!

Due to this course being held at a university, it gave us an insight into what the food and accommodation would be like when we get to university.

Every day we had a female guest speaker talk to us about their job in cyber security across one or two lectures in the lecture hall. In the labs we did many activities, including setting up accounts and networks and learning about secure passphrases. A secure passphrase is recommended to have more than 8 letters, spaces or hyphens and a variety of symbols. We also learnt about IP addresses and what a VPN does. We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves, learnt many things and came back safer internet users!

Evie Watson, Evie Taylor, Josie Spicer and Phoenix Lambird



News

Welcome to our latest newsletter, which sees us enter the last half term of the 2019 school year!

This half term has been very short at only 5 weeks, but we have packed a lot in. I have been very impressed with our students fund-raising efforts, particularly in raising money for 'Football for Cancer' through various fund-raising activities. In addition, I would like to mention our Year 11 student, Aimee Easton, who led a week's worth of assemblies to talk about cystic fibrosis, before raising a considerable amount of money for The Cystic Fibrosis Trust. Many adults find it terrifying to speak in front of 200 people but Aimee did this brilliantly, especially as the cause was so personal to her.

Of course, our Year 11 students are now two weeks into the exam season. So far, things have gone very well and the reports I am receiving back from our students are positive; fingers crossed! It is a very stressful time for students across the country and we are always looking at things to make the exam period as calm as possible for them. Of course, we cannot completely reduce the stress of taking exams, they need to be taken! However, this year, we started our exam timetable early, so students only come in for revision sessions prior to the exams and therefore get a balance of focussed revision and time when they are home and can revise individually or spend time with their families; as always, a balance is needed. In addition, we provide breakfast before morning exams and staff are always on hand before the papers to deal with any last minute worries or questions. Our aim is to make the exams as positive as possible and we now always talk about them as being an exciting challenge to look forward to; I am sure the majority of our students will embrace this challenge and we look forward to a successful results day in August.

This term has also seen many of our students excel in national awards. There are too many to mention but I want to pick out the students across a number of years who have performed brilliantly in the UK Maths Challenge events. We have won a number of gold, silver and bronze certificates and I am particularly impressed by our team of Jacob Racklyeft, James Millar, Evie Taylor and Jocie Dunmore who won the regional finals of the Challenge, beating 88 of the local secondary and private schools. From 1600 schools nationally they are now competing against the last 88 schools left in the competition, which takes place in London on 17th June. This is more evidence that maths at Cowplain really is going from strength to strength.

As always, thank you for your support over the last half term.

Mr IR Gates
Headteacher

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Save the date!

**YEAR 5
WELCOME EVENT**

Wednesday 26 June 2019: 5.30pm

www.cowplainschool.co.uk

023 9261 2020



Follow us on social media!



Reminder:

**School reopens at 8.15am on
Monday 3 June 2019.**

(Week 1)

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May 2019

Work Experience

Our Year 10 students took part in work experience fortnight at the start of the summer term. This very worthwhile opportunity gave students the chance to learn new skills in a different learning environment, as listed below.

Feedback from our students and employers was very positive. We would like to thank all the employers and staff who offered valuable and worthwhile placements to our students.

Acorn Community Centre	Growing Places	Padnell Infant School	SMR Automotive Mirrors UK Ltd
Age Concern	GWS Window Systems	Park Community Enterprises Ltd	Snows Toyota Waterlooville
Amba Dockside Technology Ltd	Hair Ott Ltd	Peacocks	Southern Monitoring Services
Andicars	Hart Plain Infant School	Petersgate Infant School	Southern Swim Schools
Asda	Hart Plain Junior School	Phil Armitage Equine Dentist	Speedy Spanners
A-Team Flooring	Hart Plain Pre-School	Places Leisure	St Peter's Catholic Primary School
AZC Services Ltd	Havant & South Downs College	Poppins Pre-School and Nursery	Stansted Park Farm Shop
Bentley's Dog Grooming Ltd	HB Plumbing & Heating	Portsmouth Group Practice	Staunton Country Park
Boots	Heelan Associates Ltd	Portsmouth Aviation	STS Defence Ltd
Calshot Activities Centre	Hermitage Maintenance	Portsmouth Press and Publishing	Superdrug
Carbmax Ltd	Highbury College	Premier Inn	Surefix Home Improvements
Catherington Equestrian	Hillcrest Engineering Ltd	Purbrook Veterinary Practice	The Doggy Centre
Closewood LTD	Horizon Leisure Centres	R. Wilkes	The Hair Studio
Construction & Landscape Ltd	Hordean Infant School	Rachel Madocks School	The Rowans Hospice
D. Kelleher Flooring Ltd	JDW Plastering Services	Review Hairdressing	The Southern Co-operative
DDC Nursery and Pre-School	Jonathan C. Hobbs Opticians Ltd	Richard Oliver Mobile Vehicle Tech	Versasec Ltd
Denmead Pre-School	Kingswood Farm	Riders Junior School	Vivaldi Hair Salon
Denmead Tennis Club	Les Knight & Sons	Robinson Sports	Waitrose
Dysart Nursery	Lillywhite Bros Ltd	S.W Decorating & Property Maintenance	Waterlooville Crash Repair Centre Ltd
Envisage Dental	Mayfield Records Ltd	Salon One	West Sussex Carpentry and Building Ltd
FCC Paragon	MOT and Service World	Sarah James Photography	Westbrook Little People
Felthams Hairdressing (Barbers)	Muirburn Kennels and Cattery	Schneider Form UK	Whitman Laboratories Ltd
G B Carpentry	Nationwide	Sii Bello Beauty	
Groundlings Theatre Company	Old Thorns	Smart Home Electrical and Plumbing	

English Trips

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

The man who really invented Christmas:

On 3rd of April, 45 Y11 students visited the University of Portsmouth to attend a lecture on the topic of Dickens and his novella, 'A Christmas Carol'. Whilst the lecture was a fantastic opportunity to experience university itself, it was also incredibly insightful with regard to how Dickens helped shape Christmas for us today.

Our students learnt that Dickens had a mission to educate society about charity and family. The students were able to take detailed notes and complete a close analysis of the opening. Students enjoyed the lecture, learning about the most famous use of punctuation in the literary canon: Dickens' use of the semi-colon!

Mrs Waterfall, Head of English and Media Studies



BLOOD BROTHERS

We took 22 Y8 students to watch a production of the musical 'Blood Brothers' at The Kings Theatre in Portsmouth. The students had previously studied it in English, but seeing it on stage brought the play into a whole new light. The production was fantastic and really displayed the development of the boys over time. It also was able to shine a light on the class structure which still divides us today. The students really enjoyed the production and were singing the songs all the way home (with some accompaniment from the staff!).

Miss Hedges, Teacher of English

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Fundraising

FOOTBALL FOR CANCER

Our non-uniform day on Friday 3rd May, and a cake sale for staff organised by Miss Williams, raised £750 for Football for Cancer in memory of Beth Tiller, our student who sadly died a year ago.

Football for Cancer is a local charity which supports families in the Portsmouth and Southampton areas who are coping with a cancer diagnosis. Support can include things such as household costs, a memorable time with the family (family meal, day trip or a visit to family), clothing or household items such as white goods, essential house maintenance or small adjustments.



Dates For your Diary

Friday 24 May

Monday 27 May to Friday 31 May
Friday 7 June to Sunday 9 June
Monday 10 June
Monday 17 June
Tuesday 18 June
Wednesday 19 June
Thursday 20 June
Friday 21 June to Sunday 23 June
Monday 24 June
Monday 24 June to Friday 28 June
Wednesday 26 June
Monday 1 July to Friday 5 July
Wednesday 3 July
Thursday 4 July

Wednesday 10 July
Wednesday 17 July
Friday 19 July

Y11 Leavers Assembly (1.30pm)
Y11 Brecon Beacons Trip (departs 3pm, returns 7pm Sunday 26 May)
HALF TERM HOLIDAY
Europe Day, Hamburg (departs 3am)
Y9 Exams start
Y9 Exams continue, Y10 Exams start
Y10 College Taster Day (HSDC)
Partner Primary Day
Partner Primary Day
Geography Residential
Y10 Exams continue
Y8 Camp
Y5 Welcome Event (5.30pm to 7pm)
Y9 Camp
New Y7 Parents Evening (5.30pm)
Y10 College Taster Day (Highbury)
Y11 Prom, Old Thorns
Explore Project, Kings Theatre
Awards Ceremony
Term finishes at 12.10pm

CYSTIC FIBROSIS

Well done to Aimee Easton who raised £355.40 for Cystic Fibrosis from the cake sale that she organised!

Thank you to all the students and staff who bought the cakes. Aimee, along with Mrs Grimwood, LSA, were able to present a cheque to Dannii Hutchins from The Cystic Fibrosis Trust charity.

Mrs Grimwood will be hiking 58km (36 miles) along the Jurassic Coast on Saturday 8th June to raise further funds for the charity. Here is the link to her JustGiving page <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/theresa-grimwood1>



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