

Y7 and Transition

Year 7 have settled in well at The Cowplain School and into their Learning Community. They have overcome the challenges that we have faced and continue to show great resilience in adjusting to the new way of working.

Transition was very different this year and I am extremely grateful for the support from Primary schools to enable us to carry out a virtual transition programme. Zooming into a classroom was a new experience for all but it enabled us to continue conversation and help with any anxieties about the next step that children were about to make.

We are aware that events are still limited but we have planned and continue to plan lots of exciting activities with the local Primary schools. We want to ensure that your child has every opportunity to get to know us before he/she arrives in September 2021.

Mr S Smart
Y7 Pastoral Leader

Thoughts from three Y7 students; Stefan, Alice and Oliver



Before you started at The Cowplain School, which school did you attend and was there anything you were nervous about?

Stefan: *Queen's Inclosure. Getting lost.*

Alice: *Denmead Junior. Going to a new place with new people. It's a big change.*

Oliver: *Queen's Inclosure. Jabs!! I don't like jabs!*

Now that you're here, what are the best things about being here?

Stefan: *The teachers are really nice.*

Alice: *Everyone respects each other and people are kind.*

Oliver: *Chips!! All the food is nice but the chips are the best.*

If you were able to talk to future students, what would you say to them?

Stefan: *Stay calm. Listen to the information your teachers give you and just ask if you don't understand anything.*

Alice: *It's nothing to worry about. Lots of opportunities to do something different.*

Oliver: *The teachers are nice. You'll settle in well and make new friends.*

Tours of the school for Y6 parents and pupils

Following the cancellation of our annual Open Evening due to Covid-19 we were able to run individual booked tours, for Y6 parents and pupils compliant with the latest Government guidance, on Saturday 3rd October and Friday 23rd October (Inset Day). The tours were over-subscribed and parents and pupils alike were very positive about what our school has to offer and grateful that we were able to adapt our plans to showcase our school.

Y6 PARENTS—Don't forget that the deadline for applications for the Y7 Admissions Round is Saturday 31st October 2020.



News

Dear Parents

Welcome to the first newsletter of the 2020/21 academic year. I would like to extend a special welcome to parents of Year 7 students who have just finished their first half-term and who have enjoyed an excellent start to life at The Cowplain School.

I am sure we would all agree that this has been the strangest and most challenging start to a school year, certainly in my 25 years of teaching. With the summer spent designing plans to ensure the school could open safely, I think everybody approached the first day back with some trepidation, as well as the normal excitement that comes with starting a new academic year. I am pleased to report that children, parents and staff have made the changes we have needed to implement work extremely well. Of course, this is new for everyone and we have made, and will continue to make, changes as we go along but I think we have settled in to a system that is working effectively.

I would like to thank students for doing their bit; behaviour has generally been excellent and children have respected the 'learning communities' we have in place, clearly well supported by your instructions and advice.

I am sure you would also like to join me in thanking our brilliant staff at Cowplain, both teachers and support staff, or 'co-educators' as we like to describe them. It's fair to say that they deserve their half-term break having adapted to a brand new way of working. For many, this has meant giving up their normal rooms and working across the school whilst coping with social distancing measures. I am sure both you and your child are grateful for their efforts over these past seven weeks, as I am.

With all that is going on, the school remains a happy and positive place. Children are working hard and achieving highly, whilst enjoying their learning. Although we have been limited in what we can do, we have still maintained things such as our non-uniform day (this year raising £704.90 for Hannah's Holiday Homes), handing out certificates, and promoting our school values. Year 11 have just finished their first set of 'mock' style exams and I am pleased to report that they have responded to that challenge admirably. After half-term we will hopefully start running some sports clubs and also start to get groups organised for the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

As always, we are maintaining high standards and continue to believe that every child deserves disruption free learning, meaning we won't accept poor behaviour. We also expect every child to continue to try as hard as he/she can and to be successful.

I have greatly valued your feedback and support over the last few weeks and look forward to continuing to work successfully with you and your child next half-term.

Best wishes.

Mr IR Gates, Headteacher

Work hard. Enjoy learning. Achieve highly.



**THE
COWPLAIN
SCHOOL**

www.cowplainschool.co.uk

Think Pink Week!

Well done to all our students who raised £704.90 through our non-uniform day, on Friday 18 September, for the Mayor of Havant's Think Pink Week!

The Mayor's chosen local charity was Hannah's Holiday Homes.



Reminder:

Inset Day:

Friday 23 October 2020

October half-term:

**Monday 26 October 2020 to
Friday 30 October 2020.**

**School reopens on
Monday 2 November 2020**

(Week 1)

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October 2020

Library Update

READING CLOUD RESERVATIONS AND RETURNS

Using Reading Cloud, students are able to browse the library stock online, place reservations, and write reviews. If you are stuck for ideas of what to read, try the **Reading Lists** section, accessed from the home page.

Reservations will be delivered to students during Reflection Time.

Click here <https://www.readingcloud.net/> to access Reading Cloud. Login, top right hand side of the page,

Username: Forename.Surname e.g. Peter.Parker

Password: DOB DDMMYYYY e.g 15082007 You will be able to set your own password once you have signed in for the first time. Click on Change Password, which can be found under the cloud on the right hand side of the screen.

School: The Cowplain School

If you have trouble using the site, go to Help, above search window, top right of the screen. Alternatively you may email the librarian, Mrs Milford K.Milford@cowplainschool.co.uk

RETURNING LOANS TO THE LIBRARY Year 7 have access to the Library, as it is situated within their learning community. All other year groups have drop boxes where returns can be deposited. Returns are quarantined for 72 hours before re-entering circulation.

DROP BOX LOCATIONS:

Year 7 - have access to the Library

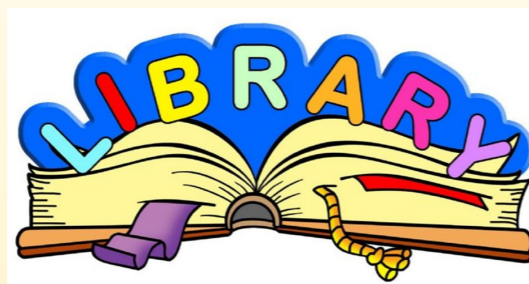
Year 8 - drop box in Maths 3

Year 9 - drop box in Staffroom

Year 10 - drop box in MFL 2

Year 11 - drop box in Geography 3

Mrs K Milford, Library Manager



PE - After School Clubs

We are pleased to offer these clubs to our students for them to enjoy and to support their physical and mental wellbeing. Due to the current restrictions, we are only able to offer a limited number of clubs at present:



Week 1	Monday	Y10	Football and Netball	Finishing at 3.45pm
	Tuesday	Y9	Football and Netball	Finishing at 3.45pm
	Wednesday	Y8	Football and Netball	Finishing at 3.45pm
Week 2	Monday	Y11	Football and Netball	Finishing at 4.30pm
	Wednesday	Y7	Football and Netball	Finishing at 3.45pm

- Students must bring their own drink and kit
- Students taking part in football must wear studded boots and not trainers
- Once they have finished their session, students will be asked to go straight to the Sports Hall changing rooms and ensure that they do not go to any other areas of the school that is outside of their Learning Community
- When entering the Sports Hall area, the students must use the hand sanitiser at top of the stairs before getting changed
- If parents are collecting children from the club, they must meet their child in the car park located on the old tennis courts.
- If students are getting public transport home, they must follow the rules that apply including wearing a face mask and sitting in their year group area of the bus.

Mr Moger, Head of PE

Careers



The Cowplain School believes all students should have access to the best advice and are well informed when making important choices about their future.

- All students will have at least one interview with fully qualified careers advisors from Hampshire Futures.
- All students will regularly experience careers lessons from Year 7 through to Year 11.
- We engage with a wide variety of external providers to ensure our students experience the wide range of opportunities available to them.

Applying to College/Training Courses:

This year most local Further Education providers are holding virtual open events and you may need to register to take part. Visit the college websites to find out more.

Please join the newly created 'Your Future' Google Classroom which has lots of information about a variety of careers and links to college and careers websites (*students will need to use their school email address to log in to Google Classroom and the following class code: x6f5vxm*)

We are also currently creating a series of video interviews with local employers to showcase the wide range of local employment and career opportunities available. If you/your employer would like to take part please email Mr Berrecloth on lee.berrecloth@cowplainschool.co.uk

Intervention Tutors

Since the beginning of this academic year, we have been fortunate to employ three recently graduated Maths and Science Intervention Tutors; Mr Clements, Mr Elson and Mr Zambo. Their work is part of our strategy to ensure that students meet their full potential despite the lockdown caused by Covid-19 and the resulting disruption to teaching and learning that some students experienced. Taking small groups of students out of lessons, and directed by the teaching staff, the work is student focussed. Starting with Year 11 and Year 10 students the interventions now also include Key stage 3 students.

Students have said:

"I have more attention in a quiet environment". Year 11 student

"It was really helpful to learn topics that I was struggling with". Year 11 student

The tutors have said:

"The work is rewarding as we see students make progress and grow in confidence every day."



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