

Year 7

Year 7 students have risen to the challenge set before them as they joined us here at The Cowplain School. With the restrictions that are in place, Year 7 joined the school entering their learning community rather than being able to move around the whole school site.

Instead of moving from class to class their teachers come to them, they have their own playground area for breaktimes and their own canteen servery to buy their lunch and snacks.

With all the restrictions that have been in place they have continued to take an active part in a full curriculum, the same that has always been offered to our students.

We are extremely proud of the way that students have managed this year and look forward to watching them grow as restrictions are lifted and they begin to take part in a more 'normal' Cowplain School life.

Mr S Smart, Y7 Pastoral Leader



Transition and Summer School 2021

As restrictions slowly begin to ease, we are really pleased that all students that will be joining us in September will have the opportunity to join us during June and July for a visit. During this visit, students will have the opportunity to explore the school and take part in a couple of lessons in this new environment.

As well as welcoming the students we would like to welcome parents to join us virtually on Thursday 8th July at 5pm. There will be short talks from Mr Gates, Headteacher, and other key members of staff with an opportunity to ask any questions.

If you have any queries, please get in touch with Mr Smart, Y7 Pastoral Leader, via email s.smart@cowplainschool.co.uk or phone 023 9261 2020.

Our **Summer School** is running from 2nd to 13th August, for new Y7 students.

For further details, to book and for any queries, please contact via email SummerSchool@cowplainschool.co.uk



Open Evening 2021

We are pleased to confirm that our Open Evening will be on **Thursday 23rd September 2021**, from 6pm to 8.30pm.



News

Dear Parents

Welcome to our summer half-term newsletter.

Considering everything that has been happening with the pandemic over the last few months, we have enjoyed a successful time since students returned to us full-time, working through the half-term with all students in school and without any positive cases, which is very welcome. Of course, we hope this continues into the summer and beyond and that we will, in September, finally be able to lift all restrictions and return to some form of normality. The change back to our normal start and finish times after half-term is one small step back to this, although I am afraid I don't envisage too many changes to the other systems of control that have been in place this year before September; I will, of course, keep you updated.

In the meantime, I hope you enjoy reading about the activities and achievements of many of our students, including bake offs, maths challenge and experiments on Mars!

I would like at this stage to mention our Year 11 students. They have faced perhaps the most difficult year of anyone, with huge uncertainties about how their GCSEs grades would be awarded. However, almost universally, they have turned up every day and tried their hardest to produce the best work they could, right up to this final week. As a parent of a Year 11 child I know exactly how difficult this has been for them and for their parents! I would like to thank you and them for helping to create a really positive feeling in Year 11.

Although Year 11 will not be attending their normal lessons after half-term, we have created three weeks of interesting and useful activities for them to take part in; these range from input from a driving instructor, to A level taster sessions, to a 5-a-side football tournament! I would ask that you encourage your son or daughter to take part in as many of these activities as possible.

I would like to wish all students leaving us in the summer term well for the next stage of their lives away from The Cowplain School and I am sure you will continue to support them. We all look forward to their results day in August and seeing their efforts rewarded with excellent GCSE grades.

For everyone else, we look forward to a successful last half-term of the year. As always, I greatly value the support of our parents and, on behalf of the staff at The Cowplain School, would like to thank you for that. We all look forward to continuing to work in partnership with you as we approach the end of the school year.

Best wishes.

Mr IR Gates, Headteacher

Work hard. Enjoy learning. Achieve highly.



THE COWPLAIN SCHOOL

www.cowplainschool.co.uk

UKMT Maths Challenge



During the Spring Term some of our Mathematicians competed in the UKMT Maths Challenge. These challenges are the UK's most popular school mathematics competitions. The questions encourage mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency in using basic mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems.

Well done to the 40 students from Year 9 and 10 who were entered into the Intermediate Maths Challenge. A special mention to Evie Taylor who successfully made it through to a follow-on round and was awarded a merit.

40 of our Year 7 and 8 students sat the Junior Maths Challenge and we are eagerly awaiting the results to see if any of our students have made it through to the follow-on rounds.

Reminder:

May half-term:

Monday 31 May 2021 to Friday 4 June 2021

School reopens on Monday 7 June 2021

(Week 2)



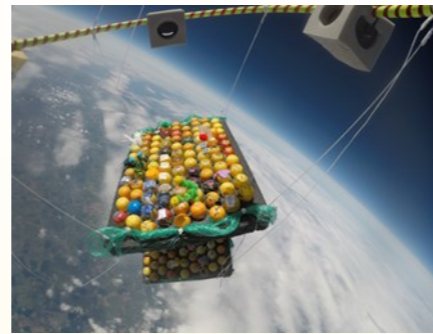
Mars Balloon 2021

Mars Balloon is a project which aims to give students practical experience of designing things to go into space, and to get students to consider careers in the UK Space and other high-tech industries. Our school has been selected to participate in this amazing project.

In June 2021, they plan to launch over 150 experiment capsules on high altitude balloons 30km up into the Earth's atmosphere, a place where conditions of gas pressure, temperature and radiation are very similar to the surface of Mars. All the students in Year 8 are working hard designing experiments that will benefit humans and robots to survive on a future Mars base.

Our school will be sending their experiments to Bristol on 28th May ready to be launched on the week commencing 14th June. The whole journey will take four hours and will be broadcast live on Twitter. Once the balloon reaches its highest altitude it will explode, and a parachute will slowly bring our students' experiments safely back to Earth. Students will receive their experiments back before the summer holiday so they can test their ideas and see if space has affected their samples.

Mr Dacin and Mrs Moore (Science Dept)



Food Discoveries

Mr Cole's Y11 tutor group had fun sampling unusual fruit and meat foodstuffs from around the world. Students tasted Wild Boar, Kangaroo, Zebra, and Crocodile. Whilst there was some nervousness about the Crocodile, it was agreed the Kangaroo was delicious - especially with tomato sauce!

Mr Cole pointed out that kangaroo is widely eaten in Australia and is a meat high in protein and low in fat. The wild boar, from Africa, was cooked as meatballs and was very popular - as, just like pork, it was delicious with sweet chilli sauce.

The fruits were great fun, as they were all sorts of ugly shapes and textures and all turned out to be surprisingly tasty – each of the fruits originated from different countries around the world. It was no surprise that Mr Cole's favourite fruit was Feijoa, which tastes like fruit salad, which he grew at his Australian Farm! The fruits sampled came from different countries from around the world.



Papaya - Brazil
Pomegranate - Peru
Custard Apple – India
Cactus Fruit – Mexico
Snake Fruit – Indonesia
Dragon Fruit – Vietnam
Rambutan – Malaysia
Physalis - Columbia
Lychee – China
Feijoa - Australia



Some wonderful photos accompanied the project, taken by Ryley Arnold, and are the quality of a food cookery book.

Y11 Bake Off

The Year 11 Food Preparation and Nutrition students took part in a 'Bake Off' style technical challenge. They have completed their GCSE course and have gained many skills that they showcased in the challenge. Just as in The Great British Bake Off, students were told the ingredients that they would be using but had not been told what they would be making until the lesson. When the lesson began they were told they had to make a Chocolate Fudge cake.

Their teacher Mrs Moore took on the role of Paul Hollywood and only gave them the basic recipe and no picture of the finished article, the rest was up to them. At the end of their allotted time 14 Chocolate Fudge cakes were presented and Mr Simmons, Y11 Pastoral Leader, took on the role of judge.

The winners were 1st Allan Lucie, 2nd Grace Baete and 3rd Noni Prasongsuk.

Well done to those that took part producing some amazing cakes.



Y11 Spanish

If we can't go to Spain, we bring Spain to us!!

Our Y11 Spanish GCSE classes had a great way to finish their last lesson at The Cowplain School with the opportunity to take part in a Spanish Omelette competition. They all cooked a very tasty chorizo omelette and the judges had the very difficult job of choosing the two best omelettes. The winning chefs were Thea Carpenter and Charlie Reade in 11B and Serenity Heap and Addie Corrigan in 11D. Congratulations, chicos!!!

"I loved my Spanish cooking experience, it was so good and the omelette was so delicious. I can't wait to cook it again for my family!" Thea Carpenter

"My son has always been a fussy eater, unwilling to even try new things. But after the Spanish cookery lesson he actually wants to not only have a Spanish omelette, but is looking forward to cooking it for us. Thank you so much for adding something to his menu, hopefully this will open the door to trying other things." Parent

We would also like to take this opportunity to wish both groups very well in their future endeavours. It has been an unforgettable journey full of incredible memories and you will be truly missed.

Hasta pronto amigos!

The Spanish Department

