

## Primary Liaison and Transition

This term has seen the return of our famous Year 6 Master Classes. Subjects on offer were: Science, Maths, English, Art, Physical Education, History and Special Education Needs.

**Y6 SCIENCE Master Class** - Throughout the Autumn Term the Science department have been welcoming Year 6 pupils from our partner primary schools to participate in innovative and exciting Science Master Class Sessions. The pupils have had the opportunity to carry out experiments and practical work that would not be possible in their usual Year 6 classrooms. The projects have included building electric circuits, making boats to investigate buoyancy, constructing electromagnets and calculating the exact force needed to let off a party popper! The sessions have proved extremely popular and very well received by the students (and their parents!).



**Y6 MATHS Master Class** Our Y6s took part in a mathematical mystery, we discovered ciphers across history from the ancient Roman Caesar Cipher to the more modern-day Enigma machine. We then used our knowledge of different ciphers to solve clues leading us to the identity of the killer and to solve the crime.

**Y6 PE Master Class** For Year 6 Master Class PE lessons we focused on collaboration and cooperation using sports such as Tchoukball, Football, Handball and multi-sport relays. The Year 6s experienced sports that were founded in different countries (some of which they had never heard of) and worked incredibly hard together to understand the rules and play small-sided games. It was amazing to see pupils willing and able to undertake new activities and work effectively to ensure all pupils had equal opportunities for success.



**Y6 ENGLISH Master Class** The English department invited pupils from our partner schools to use new skills to work out the murderer of the 'Great British SpaG Off'. The Year 6 pupils had an opportunity to work together and make new friends, whilst applying those skills to our mystery. Everyone was enthusiastic about becoming detectives and used their new knowledge to figure it out. All the classes were very popular and seem to have been thoroughly enjoyed by the students!



**Y6 ART Master Class** We ran a series of Art Master Classes where we explored a range of mediums and themes. We were really impressed with the creativity of the Year 6 pupils and are looking forward to teaching them in Y7 next year!

## Non-Uniform Day

We raised £557.97 from our non-uniform day on 17th November 2023.

The money raised was donated equally to Children in Need and JDRF (Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation).

Thank you!



Thanks to the generosity of the students and staff at The Cowplain School, we raised £64.84 for this year's Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. Thank you to the students who took the poppies and collecting tin to all the tutor groups and to everyone who donated and wore their poppy with pride.

## Congratulations!

Grace McElhinney, Y8, has been awarded a silver Blue Peter Badge for her charity work.

Well done Grace!



## News

Dear Parents

Welcome to our Christmas newsletter and the last one of 2023!

As always, it's been a very busy term, culminating in this week when our students will participate in a wide range of different activities.

I started the week by attending the matinee performance of the school show, *The Little Mermaid Jr.* It really was a fantastic show with brilliant performances by a large number of our young people. The acting was great, the singing amazing and the band faultless! In addition to those on stage, so many students were involved backstage. A huge thank you to our, now very tired, Performing Arts team who put the show together, and thanks also to the many parents who ensured the seats in the hall were pretty much sold out.

Moving through the week, we will see hundreds of students receive recognition through our end of term reward assemblies and through participating in the 'Top 50', enjoying some time with their friends and tackling those formidable inflatables!

Last week we held a Christmas Jumper Day and the proceeds have helped us with our annual Cowplain Christmas Appeal. We will be sending around 150 hampers to our families, as well as supporting many with vouchers. We know that, for many of you, Christmas is very expensive and this year we have an even greater squeeze on family finances due to the cost of living crisis. We hope that the hamper or voucher we provide helps some of you a little. My thanks to Mrs Davies and her team for organising the appeal.

All the activities above take a great deal of organisation, which our fantastic staff take on in addition to their normal teaching role. On your behalf, I would like to thank them. There is a lot of pressure on leaders and staff in schools, at a time of falling budgets, difficulties in recruitment and the unnecessary stress and pressure from OFSTED and the DfE. I know that at Cowplain, we enjoy the support of most of our parents, which we don't take for granted. I would ask that you please continue to contact us if things aren't going as well as you like, but also that you continue to support the staff as they strive for the best outcomes for your child; I know is something that you will continue to do in 2024.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you and your family.

Mr I R Gates, Principal

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



**THE  
COWPLAIN  
SCHOOL**

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

## Long Service Award



Congratulations to Mrs Sandham who was recently presented with a long service award for 25 years' service.

An amazing achievement!

## Reminder:

### Term finishes:

**Thursday 14 December 2023 at 12.20pm**

### INSET Day:

**Friday 15 December 2023**

### Christmas Holiday:

**Monday 18 December 2023 to Monday 1 January 2024.**

**School reopens on Tuesday 2 January 2024**

*(Week 1)*

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



**December 2023**

## Sensory Room

At The Cowplain School we were pleased to open our new sensory room in the Learning Support Department. This dedicated sensory space is available throughout the day for our students to support with visual, auditory and tactile processing as well as fine and gross motor skills. Within this devoted sensory space our multi-sensory equipment includes; a bubble tube, starlight projector, ocean themed wall, soft seating and mirrored ceiling sculptured lighting panels.

We are hoping this room will provide a sense of calm and comfort to help students with additional needs, supporting their emotional regulation throughout the day and enabling them to reach their potential.

Mrs H Davies, SENCo



## Apex Centre

We have been fortunate to be able to offer some of our Y10 and Y11 students the opportunity to attend The Apex Centre this term.

The students attend weekly and are working towards a Laser Level 1 in Multi Skills. The students have been learning bricklaying skills and will continue to learn, painting, decorating, plastering and wallpapering. The students have really enjoyed the first term and are excited to learn more new skills next term.



## Forest School

We have been extremely excited to have secured our own Forest School, which takes place weekly on our school field. Students from Y7 have had the opportunity to take part in a variety of activities such as: wood carving, constructing a swing and hammock, digging a small fire pit, lighting a little fire and cooking "Smores", and making some wooden jewellery. The students have thoroughly enjoyed these activities and we will continue to offer this activity through the Spring Term.

## Albert Hall - Music for Youth Prom



The Cowplain School's **Contemporary Vocal Group** and school band, **Jukebox**, performed at the Royal Albert Hall in the Music for Youth Prom on Wednesday 15th November.

Tayte (Y11) said *'The people on stage really inspired me on how I want to be. They had so much energy that you could tell they really enjoyed being there.'*

We cannot wait to go back next year!

Mrs S Dobbyn, Head of Music



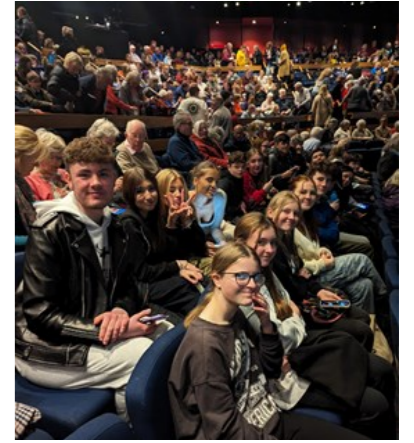
## Y11 Drama Trip

On 30<sup>th</sup> November, the Year 11 Drama cohort went to go see 'Life of Pi' at Chichester Festival Theatre. The students are going to be writing about this show in their final Year 11 Drama exam. The story centres around Pi, a boy from India, who is the last survivor of the shipwreck. Pi claims that for the last 227 days he has been a part of an incredible journey on a lifeboat across the Pacific Ocean with the only other sole survivor, a Bengal Tiger.



The students were very well behaved and loved the show.

Miss E Devonshire, Drama Teacher



## The Guardian Visit



30 students across Years 9-11 who have taken the option subject Media, travelled up to The Guardian News to experience editing roles. They looked at how newspaper companies fact find before a story is put out into the general public. Working in teams they were given fake news headlines and real news headlines and put to task to decipher between what was real or fake. The students were fantastic and showed off their research skills to The Guardian.



The Guardian emailed us to tell us that *"..... they were a brilliant group. We were so impressed by what they achieved in two hours and the presentations they did were great - really brilliant research."*

Mrs K Pink, Second in English

## Careers

**CAREERS INTERVIEWS** - Our Year 11 students are very focussed on their Post-16 Choices and in December HSDC held their college interviews at school with 80 students successfully being offered places for next year. Many more students have been offered places at a variety of colleges, including City of Portsmouth, Barton Peveril and Oaklands 6<sup>th</sup> Form. If you would like more guidance on Post-16 Choices and Careers please visit our website at [www.cowplainschool.co.uk/learning/careers-education-and-guidance](http://www.cowplainschool.co.uk/learning/careers-education-and-guidance)

**GROWTH MINDSET**—Year 7 students enjoyed a visit to the University of Portsmouth.

They learnt about Growth Mindset, helping their transition to secondary school, had a tour of the University and built their own model universities.

Mr L Berrecloth, Careers Leader

