

Box House Theatre Visit

On 6th February, Amy and Lewis, the Artistic Directors of Box House Theatre, visited Cowplain to run a full day workshop for GCSE drama students in Years 10 and 11. The day was energetic and helped students develop skills for creating original Drama and how to start being creative with creating characterization.

During Q&A, one Year 11 summed the day up by saying *'I think I speak for all of us when I say that you have been amazing, we have thoroughly enjoyed the day. Please come back next year so future students can have the same experience we have had today.'*

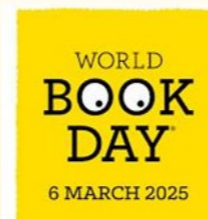
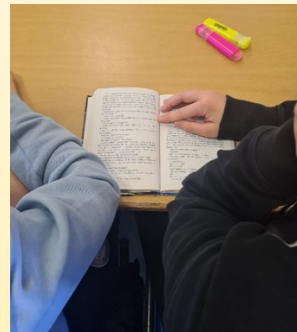
Mr N Gibbs, Head of Drama



World Book Day

We had a brilliant World Book Day with lots of activities which the students all engaged with! Firstly, classes 7E and 8E read a whole book in a day! We then had a Masked Reader Tutor competition in which the students had to guess who was reading behind the mask. We also ran another competition in which the students had to guess which book character had been made by staff from potatoes. Year 7 also completed a 'Book Bingo' in which they had to ask staff about their favourite book to complete a bingo sheet and win prizes. Mrs Bourton and I also delivered books to staff members for them to read and pass on. But best of all, we raised £500.30 doing non-uniform which was split between two charities (Bookmark and Free Books Campaign)!

Miss N Hedges, Teacher of English



UNLOC Workshop

On 13th March, Y10 students attended a workshop to explore and design a business with a social purpose. The workshop was sponsored by Verizon and delivered by UNLOC.

Students learnt about corporate social responsibility and digital and climate inclusion. By the end of the challenge, each team had to present their project plan and how it supported corporate social responsibility.



The winning group presented a solution to thousands of football shirts being thrown away every year and to turn them into bucket hats instead.

Mrs L Zambo, Assistant Headteacher



News

Dear Parents

Welcome to our Easter newsletter. As I sit writing this, the sun is shining and it feels like summer is on the way, which signals the soon to start final term of the academic year!

Looking through the four newsletters already produced this year, each of which is crammed full of reports about the activities in which our students have participated, you do realise how many opportunities and experiences we offer at The Cowplain School; this edition again features a real cross section of reports, about Duke of Edinburgh, Poetry Live, to visits from a visiting theatre company, to name a few.

Of course, the Summer Term also sees the start of exams for our Year 11 students. This, as you know, is a very important time for them and I trust you will all give them the best possible support. From what I can see, Year 11 are generally working hard and the signs are very promising that they will achieve some excellent results. We have also been encouraging them to record long 'streaks' of attendance, with 59 students currently still in the 100-day challenge, which is to attend school continuously from 4th December until the start of their exams.

You will know that attendance at school is, quite rightly, a huge priority for the current government and for schools. The statistics are startling in that the chances of children achieving good GCSE results, which ultimately affect their chances later in life, diminish rapidly in line with the number of days they miss of school. Even attendance slightly less than 90% means that it will be harder for a student to achieve in line with their peers who attend, for example, 95% of the time. A report from the Children's Commissioner showed that only 5% of students who attended less than 50% of the time achieved at least 5 GCSEs, including English and Maths, compared to 78% of those who were rarely absent. So, the message is clearly supported by the data and it is one that I share frequently with staff, students and parents; if you turn up to school most of the time and listen to the good advice given by your teachers you will do well. However, if you fail to attend well enough it is unlikely that you'll gain the required knowledge and skills to achieve highly. As always, we thank you for supporting us in getting your child to school and if that becomes difficult for you and your child, please let us know so we can help.

Finally, I want to mention a national event in which we will be participating next term, the 80th Anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) day, on Thursday 8th May. We think this is a very important date and are planning some exciting activities during the days leading up to it and on the day itself. I will be sharing those plans after the Easter break but I wanted to give you advance notice that it should be an interesting few days for your child, when we quite rightly mark this historic event.

As always, I hope you and your family have a good Easter break and I look forward to seeing your child back at school on 22nd April.

Mr I R Gates
Principal

Work hard. Enjoy learning. Achieve highly.



www.cowplainschool.co.uk

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Orren Brock, Ben Macaulay, Rebekah Patis, Noah Vince and Shane Harty (not pictured) who were



presented with their Bronze DofE Certificates at the Havant and Waterlooville DofE Award Network's Presentation of Awards held at Park Community School on 19th March.

Reminder:

Easter holiday:

Monday 7 April 2025 to Monday 21 April 2025.

School reopens at 8.15am on Tuesday 22 April 2025.

(Week 2)

Work hard. Enjoy learning. Achieve highly.



March 2025

Poetry Live

We took 38 Year 10 and Year 11 students to Brighton Dome and heard readings of poems by Carol Ann Duffy, Simon Armitage, Imtiaz Dharker, John Agard and many more. It was amazing to hear their reasons for writing them and the choices that they made.



We also heard from the Chief Examiner who gave us lots of advice about Unseen Poetry.

Miss N Hedges, Teacher of English



Roast at The Rose

The Rose students invited Mr Gates and Mrs Clemas to attend a group Roast Dinner, made by themselves, on 19th March.

The students made invitations, table decorations and planned the meal; they worked well.



The meal was very successful and both Mr Gates and Mrs Clemas thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

The students were thanked by Mr Gates with a card and sweets.

Mrs Creighton and Mrs Stainsby



OddBalls Foundation



Last term, Oddballs Foundation delivered an Assembly for our Year 11s on testicular awareness and the importance of carrying out regular self-checks.

Our students had an educational session to understand the demographic group at risk. They had the opportunity to obtain information on what testicular cancer is, breaking the stigma as well as being briefed on the treatment and diagnosis.

Mrs E Serrano-Ramos, RHSE Co-ordinator

Y7 Rewards Breakfast

On Friday 28th February, 30 Year 7s enjoyed a breakfast to celebrate their achievements over the previous few weeks. Every tutor nominated 3 students who had shown the three values of Year 7 Kindness, Respect and Resilience. The students enjoyed a selection of sweet treats, pastries and fruit.



We are very much looking forward to our next year group celebration.

Miss H Dennis, Head of Year 7



NETT Quad Championship 2024 season

Louis Murch and his team-mate Freddie, travelled to Newcastle at the beginning of February so they could receive their awards for the NETT Quad Championship 2024 season.

They also received Best Newcomers which was a great surprise to them.

Well done.

Mrs S Alayon, Tutor



Prison Me No Way!

In February, our Year 10 students participated in workshops from the charity “Prison Me No Way”. They heard from a variety of speakers, all with differing experiences and roles within the criminal justice system, from ex-prison officers to prisoners. The day facilitated lots of thought-provoking debates about how people end up on the wrong side of the law, and what prison is really like.

Mr W Holt, Teacher of History



SERT Visit

On 14th February, the SERT students went on their site visit to a new primary school being constructed on the Berewood estate. They were fantastic throughout the trip and everyone that spoke with them was very complimentary. Between the two construction companies that organised the visit, they also bought us £500 of equipment to use in the SERT training space.

Mr J Peters, Assistant Headteacher