

Hamilton

On Tuesday 1st April, 47 students from Years 8-11 attended the smash hit musical 'Hamilton' at the Mayflower Theatre in Southampton. This musical, about the American revolution, blew the audience away with its intricate vocal melodies, acting and dance movement. At the end of the show we were lucky enough to have the cast and crew come onto stage to talk about the variety of roles and job opportunities the Performing Arts pathway offers. Mia, one of our Year 9 Drama students said "What an amazing show, 5 stars! Would definitely see it again!". This performance was just for schools within the area and our students presented themselves impeccably! Well done guys.

Mrs M Leng, Head of Performing Arts



Esports Rocket League

Our Year 8 students kicked off the first-ever Esports Rocket League event at The Cowplain School, and it was an incredible success! With 60 students competing in teams of four, the atmosphere was filled with excitement and friendly competition. The event showcased not only the students' gaming skills but also their teamwork and sportsmanship. Students competed on eight gaming PCs and the main projector was showcasing the game for others to watch and cheer along. We even had some students commentating the game through the microphones. We can't wait to see more thrilling matches in the future!

Mr L Burns, Teacher of PE



Tag Rugby

On Wednesday 26th March, The Cowplain School hosted a Tag Rugby tournament for our local Primary schools. This was a 'Social/Sporty Me' tournament for the Primary schools with an emphasis on teamwork, co-operation and leadership through competitive Tag Rugby. Our Year 10 Sport Studies students hosted the event showing off their leadership skills to officiate and support in the running of the tournament.

Miss N Tofte
Teacher of PE



News

Dear Parents

Welcome to our first summer newsletter; with such a short half-term behind us it seems like only yesterday that I was writing the previous one!

You'll see some pictures to the right and below which relate to the project that we have been working on for some time, specifically to improve our facilities for Performing Arts and Sport. As you know, we disposed of some unused land with the intention of reinvesting the proceeds into both drainage for the school field, to create football and rugby pitches, and for the building of a theatre and changing room complex.

The pitch drainage is now completed and we are using the field for summer sports, whilst looking forward to using it in the winter for football and rugby, sports we have never been able to play on grass due to the waterlogging of the field. Now, we are looking to progress the construction of a building which will give us both a great facility for showcasing the talents of our Performing Arts students and provide new changing rooms for PE and for community users. In fact, all our children will benefit from it in terms of the school having access to a very flexible space which we can use for assemblies, film shows, lectures, and other activities for which our existing spaces aren't suitable.

It is an ambitious scheme and I want to manage everyone's expectations by stating we are some way away from the first performers appearing on the stage! We need to satisfy our local planners and develop the scheme further so it is affordable. In doing so, we will look to engage your support in helping us create something very special for The Cowplain School. I will update you periodically with our progress but, at this stage, hope you are excited with the school's ambitions in undertaking this project.

On a different matter, I would like to say what a fantastic few days we had during the VE Day commemorations a couple of weeks ago. I hope your child enjoyed the activities and learnt a bit more about the events of 1945 and the years leading up to it. A special thanks to our Performing Arts teachers and students who performed their play five times during the day, finally finishing around 7pm – they really were superb!

Thank you as always for your support and I look forward to welcoming your child back to Cowplain after the half-term break.

Mr I R Gates, Principal



www.cowplainschool.co.uk



Reminder:

May Half-term:

Monday 26 May 2025 to Friday 30 May 2025.

School reopens at 8.15am on Monday 2 June 2025.

(Week 1)

Maths Department

The Maths Department have been working on some very exciting projects in recent weeks.

STORIES

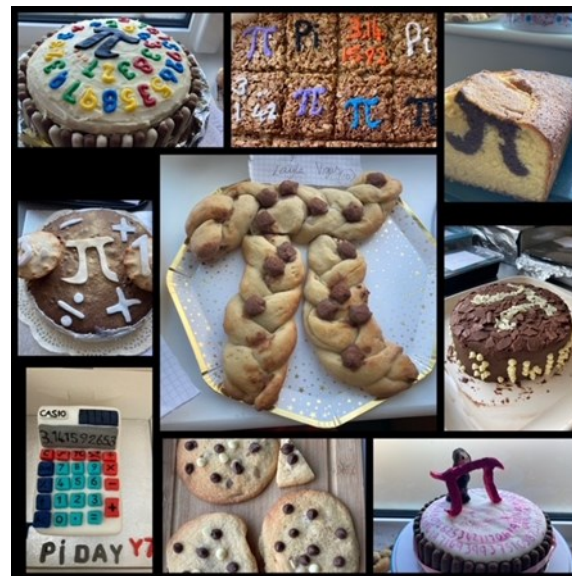
Some Year 7 and Year 8 students have written stories with a mathematical theme to them to enter into the international *Maths Through Stories* competition to win a £100 gift voucher. The students have worked hard on them and have provided us with several hours of reading and we have entered all of the entries received. Well done to everyone involved. Our school winners were Bella, Finley and Lily, who all won an Easter Egg and we look forward to hearing if anyone is successful in the main event.

UNIVERSITY MATHS CHALLENGE

We had a selection of students entering the University of Southampton's Maths Challenge where students were set a selection of challenges to have a go at and submit their answers to the University. Students took on these challenges in their own time and all were submitted. Congratulations to Charlie Cullen who was awarded a Distinction and received an invitation to attend a Prize Evening at the University in June.

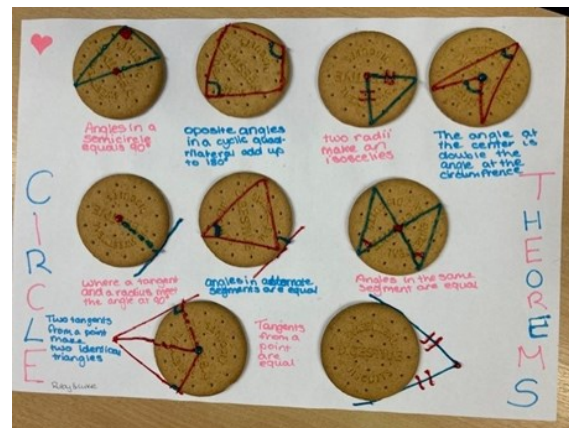
Pi DAY

Pi Day was a blast this year (3.14 – 14th March). We had scavenger hunts, pP themed lessons across the school, including the Pi Song to warm up in Dance and rapping Pi in Spanish and making skylines out of Pi in Maths. We also launched the Cowplain Pi Day Bake Off which saw Kit win our 1st prize, Rebekah 2nd and Gwynli, Tayla and Layla sharing 3rd place. Thank you to all students and parents who got involved with the baking – we were absolutely delighted to see so many creative designs and we struggled to pick our three winners.



CIRCLE THEOREMS

Year 10 have been decorating biscuits to make edible posters to learn the nine different circle theorems. The dedication to their posters was amazing.



REVISION

Year 11 students have been coming into school at 7.45am on Wednesdays or staying late on Fridays to have extra maths revision lessons. They have also been completing additional practice papers in order to get valuable autographs on their Maths Loyalty Cards to get an Easter Egg at the end of the term if they can go above and beyond 12 times. The effort has been fantastic to see and the extra work will pay off.

Mrs L Morrish, Head of Maths, Business Studies and Computing

Faraday STEM Challenge

On Tuesday 11th March, myself and Mr Elliott took 12 Year 8 students on a trip to Faraday STEM Challenge at Portsmouth University. The students really did our school proud, showing all of the school values in the way they conducted themselves. The day was full of tasks which required the students to *think hard, develop character and understand diversity*. They were required to make a prototype for either of the three options of a children's toy, sports-based tool, or a tool for someone with a disability.

And.... WE WON!!! Group 1 won the challenge which meant we came home with a trophy!!!! Congratulations on their amazing achievement. We were very proud of all students who took part, as both of our groups came up with amazing ideas for their prototypes.

Group 1 – came up with a device which allows blind or partially blind people to know when their cup is almost full, using their electrical circuits skills to allow them to create a device that beeps when it meets liquid and completes the circuit. Well done to Esme, Isla, Freya, Charlie, Connor and Charlie.

Group 2 – came up with a device for those who do not have fully functioning hands, the prototype was able to pick up an object and also let it go, using their engineering knowledge to work out how to get certain parts to move the correct direction. Well done to Lily, Layla, Clemmie, Ollie, Teddy and Leon

I am looking forward to hopefully taking more students in the future.

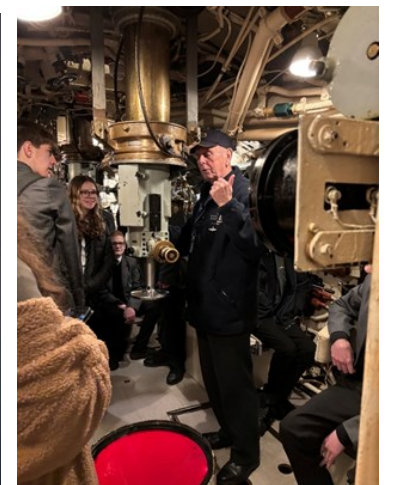
Miss E Miller, Teacher of Science



Media Visit to Gosport Submarine Museum

Y10 and Y11 Media GCSE students were invited on a trip to the Submarine Museum to experience one of the settings for their 'set products' in real life. They learnt about life on HMS Alliance and they were shocked to find out that they only had one set of clothing for 6 months under the water and there were no showers! The students loved the submarine and enjoyed squeezing into the tiny bunks in the main museum to experience life at sea. The museum told us that the students were curious, asked great questions and that they were a credit to our school.

Mrs Bourton
Head of English and Media Studies



Hampshire Book Awards 2025

On 21st March, Suzanne Mitchell, from the School Library Service, met with our Year 8 judges in the Library to launch Hampshire Book Awards 2025.

The judges were introduced to the six titles that they will need to have read before the end of June. Suzanne was impressed by their enthusiasm and is looking forward to seeing them all again on voting day.

Mrs K Milford, Library Manager



Work hard. Enjoy learning. Achieve highly.

Work hard. Enjoy learning. Achieve highly.

A group of eight women are posing on the brick steps leading up to the entrance of The Cowplain School. The school's name is written in white capital letters on a dark blue sign above the entrance. The entrance is decorated with a string of bunting featuring Union Jack flags and smaller pennants. The women are dressed in a variety of styles, including patterned dresses, overalls, and a red jacket. They are all smiling and making peace signs with their hands. The scene is set outdoors on a paved area next to the school building.



A photograph of two young men standing outdoors under a glass-roofed walkway. The man on the left is wearing a white short-sleeved polo shirt with a small Nike logo, a green and black striped tie, and grey shorts. He is holding a small cardboard box with the letters 'AM' on it. The man on the right is wearing a dark blue short-sleeved polo shirt with a gold laurel wreath crest, a green and black striped tie, and khaki shorts. He is wearing a grey flat cap and holding a similar cardboard box with 'AM' on it. Both are smiling at the camera. In the background, there are brick buildings and trees.



On Thursday 8th May we celebrated the 80th Anniversary of the end of WWII in Europe, 'Victory in Europe Day' (VE Day).



The curriculum was suspended for Years 7-10 between Tuesday 6th and Thursday 8th May and instead students were taught lessons focussing on the period; for example, Maths taught codebreaking, maps and bearings, English completed creative writing based on the celebrations 80 years ago, and Art created a very ambitious mural to which all those who had Art lessons that week contributed. Our History department produced tutor sessions which informed students of the events leading up to VE Day and what happened on the day itself, as well as instructions on how to make bunting which the students made!

On 8th May, all students watched a play in the Hall which had been devised by the Drama, Dance and Music departments and which featured many of our students. The play was performed again at 6pm for parents to watch. In addition, Year 7 and 8 had a Street Party with a variety of food, and Years 9-11 had a VE Day Quiz in their tutor groups, along with sausage rolls and cake.

On 8th May all students and staff were encouraged to wear red, white and/or blue clothes or, dress from the period, or wear their normal uniform. We raised £500 which has been donated to the Royal British Legion.



Work hard. Enjoy learning. Achieve highly.



VE DAY 80 CELEBRATIONS AT THE COWPLAIN SCHOOL



Work hard. Enjoy learning. Achieve highly.

Work hard. Enjoy learning. Achieve highly.