

Primary Liaison



Write, Camera, Action!

On Friday 13th June, we invited 14 Year 4 and Year 5 pupils from local schools to our 'Write, Camera, Action!' Arts day. The pupils really enjoyed writing their own space story; painting backdrops; creating play-doh characters and bringing their stories to life using stop-motion animation.

Miss N Hedges, Teacher of English

Horrible Humanities

On 23rd June, The Cowplain School's Humanities Department invited Year 4 and 5 pupils to a cross-curricular experience day entitled: Horrible Humanities *Marvelous Middle East*. It was a fabulous day in which pupils had the opportunity to study the Middle East from



historical, geographical and religious perspectives, with activities including shield-making with Mrs Bye, a tour of the holy city of Jerusalem with Mr Holt as well as a desert survival game with Mr Venters. The pupils worked very hard and enjoyed the challenging and diverse range of activities.

Mr Holt, Teacher of History



Y5 Welcome Event

We welcomed over 240 parents and pupils to our Y5 Welcome Event on 24th June. It was a lovely opportunity to show them our school and provide them with a valuable insight into the wonderful, friendly atmosphere at Cowplain. We are immensely proud of our students and always enjoy the opportunity to build relationships with parents and students of future cohorts and the wider community.

Open Evening 2025

We are pleased to confirm that our Open Evening will be on **Wednesday 24th September 2025** from 6pm to 8.30pm.

Open Weeks 2025

Our Open Weeks, are planned for week beginning Monday 29th September and Monday 6th October 2025. During these weeks, Y6 parents and their children, are invited to have a booked tour of the school during the school day. Invitation letters, explaining the booking process, will be sent to Y6 parents in the Autumn Term.



News

Dear Parents

Welcome to our final newsletter of the 24/25 academic year!

As always, the end of year gives us the opportunity to look back at the successes of the year, of which there have been so many. I think of the hard work that our students have completed in their lessons, the 100+ trips to various locations in this country and Europe, the visiting speakers, RSHE day, VE Day, school shows, the list just goes on and on!

This edition of the newsletter continues that theme; it's packed with details of the opportunities in which students at Cowplain have participated. There is news of the Hampshire Book Awards, SERT, the Geography Field trip, and visits to Twickenham and, further afield, to Madrid. There is also information about the UNLOC workshops, which formed part of our offer to students to help them focus on future careers. We were visited by around 17 people from different professions and industries, who interviewed a number of students and gave them an insight into their own working life and their industry, as well as giving them advice for the future. I spoke to a number of those who visited us and they were very impressed with the maturity and ambition of our students and commented that they were amongst the most impressive young people they had encountered during their visits to a number of schools. As I said, this day forms part of a wide range of career related activities that we offer our students, from years 7 to 11, which I think is highly impressive.

On to next year and we're determined to continue ensuring the whole experience of a young person's life at Cowplain is a good one, enhancing ever further the offer that we make to your child. We will continue to ask that you support us in maintaining high standards, and I want to let you know that we will come back in September with a focus on 'hitting the ground running.' Please support us with things like uniform and equipment, which sometimes take up too much of pastoral and teaching staff time; we will be focussed on these area as we want children to be smart and well equipped and will challenge those who aren't setting those high standards for themselves.

As usual at this time, we say goodbye to some staff; in Science, Miss Perry is leaving us, as is Mr West in Drama. Mr Payne and Mr Sturt, two of our cover supervisors, are also leaving for pastures new. We have recruited to replace those colleagues and I am pleased to say that, again, we are fully staffed with specialist teachers for all areas of the school.

It just leaves me to wish you all a great summer holiday and to look forward to seeing your child again at the start of the 25/26 academic year in September.

Mr I R Gates
Principal

Work hard. Enjoy learning. Achieve highly.



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Hampshire Book Award

On 25 June our Y8 judges took part in the Hampshire Book Award voting morning with more than 40 Hampshire schools. The group have been busy since March, reading the six shortlisted titles for the HBA, and taking into consideration the three Es for each title: *Enjoyment, Enrichment and Engagement*. Our weekly discussions were extremely lively as the judges had wildly different views on their favourite book. Their enthusiasm and engagement throughout the whole process has been a credit to the school.

Mrs Milford, Library Manager



Reminder:

Summer Holiday:
Monday 21st July 2025 to
Wednesday 3rd September 2025.

School reopens from
Thursday 4th September 2025:
8.30am for Y7s, and 9.30am for all
other year groups.
(Week 1)

UNLOC Workshops

Y9 students took part in several workshops facilitated by UNLOC which is a multi-award-winning not-for-profit organisation, created by young people for young people, and motivated by the desire to enable others to become changemakers. There were three 30 minute workshops delivered by UNLOC, and 17 volunteers with careers ranging from therapists, motivational speakers, project managers and maritime structural engineers. The workshops covered interview skills, interactive public speaking activities and speed interview exercises: encouraging students to present the best version of themselves, focusing on body language, active listening and questioning.

Some feedback we have received from students: *"This really helped as no-one has talked to me about my future before", "It gave us a chance to express ourselves and develop our confidence", "This event allowed me to thoroughly understand interview skills further, along with understanding how others succeeded and using their advice to help me", "I learnt that there are so many job opportunities in the world and I can do anything as long as you put your mind to it and push yourself"*

Mrs Zambo, Assistant Headteacher



SERT Presentation

A group of Yr11 students were offered an opportunity to access a SERT course this year. The students have been taught about greener energy, solar energy, solar heat pumps and the electrical circuit of a meter. The boys visited Whiteley where the SERT team are based and had a trip to a local construction site to see a new school build which was a great opportunity to see how all these trades come together.

All students have gained knowledge and experience in this field and were presented with an end of course certificate.

Ms Alden, Resilience Centre Leader



Twickenham Stadium

Our visit to Twickenham Stadium was an unforgettable experience for students from The Cowplain School. From the moment we arrived, there was a real sense of excitement as we explored the home of English Rugby. The *Rugby in Motion* workshop was a particular highlight, giving our students the chance to learn about the different fitness demands and playing styles for each rugby position through engaging activities.

The stadium tour was equally memorable —standing in the impressive Presidential Suite, sitting in the players' changing rooms, walking through the tunnel, and standing pitch-side where legends have played truly brought the sport to life. The interactive World Rugby Museum added even more excitement, especially when students (and staff!) battled it out on the scrum machine to see who was the strongest—an unforgettable moment of fun and friendly competition. It was a fantastic day of learning, laughter, and inspiration for everyone involved.

Mr Humphrey, Teacher of PE



MFL Madrid Trip

A group of Y9 and Y10 students visited Madrid in May for five days. During their visit they were able to experience the school life in Spain for a day, where some of our Y9 students were also able to meet their pen pal friends. They visited key monuments, such as The Temple of Debod, the Royal Palace or Madrid Main square (Plaza Mayor) and have a masterclass and tasting paella session. They also spent an afternoon at Madrid's biggest park, the Retiro, and the museum Reina Sofia of Modern Art, where they saw works of art of Picasso and Dali.

Both students and teachers alike had a fantastic time. The MFL team are looking forward to our next visits to Spain and France.

Mrs Serrano-Ramos, Teacher of MFL and RSHE Co-ordinator



Geography Field Trip

On a wonderfully sunny day, a few Year 8 geographers recently visited Southsea seafront to evaluate the new coastal management scheme implemented since 2020. Walking along the shoreline, the students observed the various engineering solutions, from new sea walls to rock armour, and discussed how these structures aim to protect our coastline from erosion and rising sea levels. This practical trip offered a brilliant opportunity for students to see classroom theories come alive and better understand the vital importance of coastal defence in our local area.

Mrs M Knowles, Head of Geography

