

Holocaust Memorial Day Service

Cowplain students attended the Holocaust Memorial Service, held at the Havant Civic Offices, on Tuesday 27th January. After a beautiful reading from Freya Ross, wreaths were laid by the Lord Mayor and other dignitaries to remember the six million Jewish deaths during World War Two.

Bryan Huberman then gave a presentation about his father Alfred Huberman, who was a survivor of the Holocaust. Aged 14, he was hidden on various farms in Lubin, Poland, before he was confined to a Jewish Ghetto. The Nazis then separated him from his family, and while they were sent to death camps, he survived three slave labour camps. On little food, clothing, and very poor living conditions, he had to work 14 hours a day with poisonous chemicals used on explosive shells. The kindness of an anonymous Polish cook kept him alive, for 18 months, by giving him the burnt scrapings at the bottom of the cooking pots, while others died in just days. As the allies got close to winning the war, he was taken on a death march to a concentration camp and survived only by eating edible plants at the roadside while the guards weren't looking. At the concentration camp he was again worked until he resembled a skeleton, before the Russian army arrived to liberate the camp. At the end of the war he, along with 700 child survivors, were brought to Britain by the British Government, where he set up a successful business and had a long and happy family life. Out of over 70 relatives before the war, he found only one had survived, his sister.

Alfred and his son Bryan continued to give talks and presentations to make future generations understand that only through remembering the past can we stop this inhumanity from ever happening again.

Mr J Beacon, Head of History

Hampshire Youth Parliament

Over the penultimate week of term, The Cowplain School held its election to nominate our Member for the Hampshire Youth Parliament. Hampshire Youth Parliament consists of young people aged 11-18 who meet regularly throughout the year to discuss the priorities of their peers and have their say in decisions that are made county-wide which affect them.

Students were lucky to have the choice of three very strong candidates; Katie Emery, Layla Kendrick and Imogen McLeod (all Year 9). The three candidates were recorded giving their election statements and these were shown to all students during Reflection Time, with students then voting for their preferred candidate via Google Form. Turnout was very high, with students keen to participate in their first taste of democracy. I am delighted to announce that the winner was Layla and she will represent all Cowplain students at the Hampshire Youth Parliament during her two-year term in office.

Mr W Holt
Teacher of History



Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

Thanks to the students and staff at The Cowplain School, we raised £113.25 for last 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.



Work hard. Enjoy learning. Achieve highly.



News

Dear Parents

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2026.

Even though January is always the 'longest' month, the time seems to have flown since we returned from the Christmas Holidays.

Before I comment on the content of the newsletter, I would like to start the conversation about an issue that is in the news at the moment. You have probably seen that the Department for Education have issued guidance to schools around the use of mobile phones. The intention is to make every school a 'phone free school,' with phones never used during the school day. At Cowplain we have, for a number of years, had the rule that phones must be switched off and out of sight; if we see or hear a phone used inappropriately, we apply our behaviour policy. We have, though, under the direction of the classroom teacher, allowed phone use where and when it is useful, for example, when photographing coursework, or completing online quizzes. These options will no longer be available and so we are currently discussing how we provide technology to compensate. We are also taking the 'phone policy' out of our behaviour policy and producing a more robust self-contained policy. Finally, we are looking at ideas where students can safely store their phones during the school day. There is a lot of work to do here, and we will roll all of this out before the summer, whilst keeping parents consulted about our ideas and plans.

So, on to the newsletter! There are some fascinating stories which detail the really interesting events in which our students have been involved. Firstly, I was extremely proud of our students who attended Holocaust Memorial Day. Our school has been a long-term attendee at this important event, which is so important in continuing to remember the Holocaust, and this year our young people again paid their respects on behalf of the school, remembering the 6 million people who died.

The newsletter also contains stories about our trips to Paris and Tate Britain, and our drama workshop run by Box House Theatre. We also held our annual 'Prison Me No Way' day for Year 10, which was as hard-hitting and emotional as ever, and which is always remembered by our students.

Finally, I would like to thank students and staff for their patience whilst we have carried out extensive repairs to both our flat roofs and our heating system. In a 1930s building, these repairs are always complicated, especially given the extremely wet weather we have had, but I am pleased to say are coming to an end. Students should see a noticeable difference to, for example, the sports hall changing rooms, as well as cosmetic improvements to ceilings and other areas of the school.

As always, thank you for your continued support and best wishes.

Mr I R Gates, Principal

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Christmas Hamper

In the Autumn Term we relaunched our highly successful 'twelve days of Christmas' challenge.

Those students who attended all twelve days of the challenge had their names put into a draw to win a Marks and Spencer's Christmas Hamper.

Congratulations to Dolly, in Year 7, for winning the Christmas Hamper 2025.



Reminder:

February half term:

Monday 16 February to Friday 20 February 2026.

School reopens at 8.15am on Monday 23 February 2026 (Week 2)

February 2026

Year 9 Trip to Paris

We had the pleasure of taking a group of Year 9 and Year 10 students for a week's trip to Paris. The itinerary was full, giving students a broad introduction to the city's landmarks, history, and atmosphere.

We started with a day at Disneyland Paris, where the Christmas lights and decorations made the park especially impressive. Students had plenty of time to enjoy the rides and Christmas parade before heading back to the hotel.

A visit to Le Louvre allowed everyone to see major works of art, including the Mona Lisa, and get a sense of the scale of one of the world's largest museums. Other highlights included seeing the Eiffel Tower both during the day and at night, when it was fully lit.



We also took a cruise along the River Seine, offering a clear view of many well-known sites such as the newly renovated Notre-Dame. On our last day we visited Montmartre and had a tour of the Stade de France. Between activities, there were plenty of opportunities to try local food—crêpes being the clear favourite!

The students were brilliant and we all had a fantastic time!

Mrs A Clemas, Assistant Headteacher

Tate Britain Art Trip

The Year 10 and Year 11 trip to Tate Britain on Thursday 29th January was an outstanding success, with students demonstrating exemplary behaviour and enthusiasm throughout the day. They engaged thoughtfully with the collection, showing maturity, curiosity and genuine interest in the artworks on display. Several students commented that the gallery was "*better than I thought it would be*", and others were particularly excited to see specific pieces they had been studying in class, such as Francis Bacon's triptych paintings, which really brought their learning to life.

Many students thoroughly enjoyed photographing and sketching the artworks, taking time to carefully observe details, composition and technique. Their focus and creativity were impressive, and it was clear they valued the opportunity to work directly from original works and experience a London Gallery. Overall, the trip was both inspiring and rewarding, and the students represented the school brilliantly.

Mrs B Hoskin, Head of Art and Photography



Year 10 Prison Me No Way Day

The Prison Me No Way Day was an eye-opening and highly impactful experience for all students involved. Throughout the day, students took part in a range of informative and thought-provoking workshops, including sessions on One Punch, County Lines, Prison Life, Rail Safety, Domestic Abuse, and Life Sentences. Each workshop offered real-world insight into the consequences of crime and risky behaviour, helping students to better understand the realities faced by those within the criminal justice system. A particularly powerful moment was the talk delivered by a former prisoner, who shared their personal journey and the life-changing consequences of their past decisions.



The students were a real credit to themselves and to the school. Their behaviour throughout the day was exemplary and they engaged positively and respectfully with all sessions and speakers. They asked thoughtful questions, listened attentively, and showed maturity when discussing challenging and sensitive topics. Their attitude and level of engagement ensured the day was a success and reflected extremely well on the school.

Ben - Prison Me No Way

Drama Workshop

On Thursday 29th January, Box House Theatre Company visited for a full day workshop on Devising Theatre. We are lucky to have had Box House in for a second year as they have recently returned from a tour of Malaysia and Asia. Students explored the creative techniques of Box House's very own 'Platform' theatre concept and ended the day with a Q&A session on routes into performing as a career pathway.

Mr N Gibbs, Head of Drama



Academy Trust

We have a vacancy for a parent Trustee to join our school board.

A school Trustee's role is to ensure:

- Clarity of vision, ethos, and strategic direction of the school.
- Educational performance of the school and its students.
- The school's financial resources are used efficiently.

No special qualifications, skills, experience or understanding of the education system is required. This is a voluntary role and the term of office is four years.

If you would like more information or an application form then please contact Steve Head, Chair of the Academy Trust, via s.head@cowplainschool.co.uk.