

## Primary Liaison and Transition

This year our main transition day is Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July with an additional 'mini' transition day being held on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June (this day is for a specific group of students).

The aim of the transition days is to give students a 'taster' of a typical day at The Cowplain School. The students will have a timetable to follow in what will be their tutor group in September. They will experience a range of lessons from Science to Physical Education. We hope that students enjoy themselves, make new friends and feel confident, ready to start in September.

To help students through the day we have an amazing team of Transition Leaders. These students have been carefully handpicked to support the day. They had to write an application to their tutor, be asked questions by staff and show our school values of gratitude, curiosity, self-control, mindfulness, grit, optimism, self-assurance and kindness. Each tutor group will be allocated 2 transition leaders.

More details will be sent out nearer to the time.

We are really looking forward to meeting everyone! Mrs L van den Braak, Transition Leader



Miss Dennis  
Head of Year 7



Mrs Dobson  
Assistant Head of Year 7



Having said goodbye to the Year 11s, to whom she has been Head of Year for the past year, Miss Dennis will now be Head of Year 7. She started her career in education as a primary school teacher so is looking forward to the transition of the Year 6s to Year 7 at The Cowplain School.

Mrs Dobson will be supporting Miss Dennis as Assistant Head of Year 7. She has recently joined The Cowplain School from the Hayling College and is enjoying getting to know the routines of the school so she will be able to help you all in September.

Both Miss Dennis and Mrs Dobson are looking forward to meeting you all and hope that you will enjoy your transition from primary school to 'Big' school. They are here to help you, please remember that!

## Y5 Welcome Event

We are holding our **Year 5 Welcome Event** on **Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2024** from **5pm to 6.30pm** at The Cowplain School (Main Hall).

There will be a short presentation from Mr Gates, Principal, and then a chance to ask questions in an informal setting with refreshments. This will be followed by a guided tour of the school with senior members of staff and student ambassadors.

Due to the large number of families that attend this event we do need to limit attendance to 1 parent/1 child per family.

We do hope that you will be able to join us on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June. If you plan to attend, it would be helpful, if possible, if you could please advise us of your attendance and if it will be 1 or 2 people (in total) attending by contacting Amanda Simmons at [welcome@cowplainschool.co.uk](mailto:welcome@cowplainschool.co.uk) or by telephone on 023 9261 2020.



## News

Dear Parents

Welcome to our penultimate newsletter of the academic year!

As always, it's packed with information about the many activities and experiences in which our students have engaged.

I wanted to particularly draw your attention to the article about Jukebox, the school band. They are asked to perform at many events and always receive great reviews. They also represent the school at events such as Open Evenings and presentations and can always be relied upon to impress the audience! Music, under the direction of Mrs Dobbyn, is a real strength of the school and we have so many children studying it, taking peripatetic music lessons after school, or performing in bands. You may know that we want to invest further in the performing arts and thus your child might have told you about the new building taking shape at the back of the school. That will be our new Music Centre, which will comprise of a purpose-built music classroom, two practice rooms, an office and storeroom. It will really give music the presence and prominence it needs in the school and we are looking forward to it being in operation ready for the new Autumn Term in September.

It was with great pleasure that I received our OFSTED report a couple of weeks after the Easter holiday. It contained many highlights of which we as a school are very proud. Amongst them was the opening line, which describes the 'warm and welcoming atmosphere' in the school. It also describes the school's 'high expectations' and that staff show a 'genuine care for pupils, who feel safe and happy.' I know these are areas of which parents are rightly very interested and I hope this information is useful for both existing parents and those of children joining the school in September. In addition, the report highlights the impressive curriculum we have at the school, the focus on reading, for which we increased the school day a couple of years ago, and the 'strong subject knowledge' that staff possess. In addition, it highlights our expectations for behaviour and also notes that we consider 'pupils' personal development carefully'; I know that inspectors were very impressed with the range of activities we offer children over and above the daily curriculum.

Of course, every OFSTED report for any school states what we can do further to improve the school and we have already started working on these areas, around checking for learning and quality assurance, which will continue over the next year.

I hope you enjoy reading the Newsletter and wish you and your family a great half-term break; we look forward to welcoming your child back for the final 7 weeks of the 2024 year.

Mr I R Gates  
Principal

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



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

## Chichester Festival Theatre

We took 40 Y7 students to the Chichester Festival Theatre to watch a production of *The Boy at the Back of the Class* which all of the students had read in our reading sessions.

It was really enjoyable to see the book brought to life!

Miss Hedges, Teacher of English



**Reminder:**

**May Half Term:**

**Monday 27 May 2024 to Friday 31 May 2024.**

**School reopens at 8.15am on Monday 3 June 2024**

*(Week 1)*





## Globe Theatre Trip

Romeo and Juliet is often thought to be a play about love, but our students discovered it was more about conflict in a brand new production of the play.

They had a fantastic day at the Globe Theatre watching a modernised version of their GCSE play which included BMX stunts!

Mrs H Bourton, Head of English and Media



## Wisley Trip

I would like to extend a massive congratulations to all the Year 10 students who participated in the RHS Wisley trip. Your dedication and enthusiasm were evident, and you represented The Cowplain School exceptionally well. The staff at Wisley were highly impressed and specifically remarked on your exemplary behaviour and positive attitude. It's a testament to your character and the values we uphold at The Cowplain School. Your respectful and engaged demeanour did not go unnoticed and has made us all very proud. You have set a high standard for future trips and have shown what it means to be a true ambassador for our school.

Well done to each and every one of you!

Ms D Perry, Lead Teacher of Science



## Disney

37 students auditioned to perform at Disneyland Paris and were accepted! The Disney panel, which consisted of industry professionals, gave the following feedback:

*'A really good audition. We enjoyed your originality, staging and choreography. Your dancers are of a good level and well-rehearsed, we appreciated the execution and cohesion of the ensemble: it's always great to see performances that are well-rehearsed and synchronized.'*

Also, a big congratulations to our solo singers Lia and Dani who received some wonderful comments. Well done to everyone involved, now the hard work begins, can't wait to watch you perform in the magic!

Mrs Leng, Head of Performing Arts



## Apex Centre

A group of students are just finishing their first year at The Apex Centre where they have been learning skills such as plastering, bricklaying, painting and decorating and woodwork. This has been extremely successful and students are now able to relate to work after school. The students will all gain a Laser Level 1 Certificate. Some of the students will be going on to complete City and Guilds next year. Ms L Alden, Alternative Provision Leader

## Breakfast Club

We are in our fourth year of running our successful Breakfast Club in the Dining Room from 7.55am until 8.25am every morning. All students are welcome and it's free!!!

Students can enjoy toast, crumpets, cereals, fruit, yogurts and juice, whilst socialising, before starting the school day with a full stomach ready to learn.

## Y10 Bake Off

'I challenged one of my Year 10 classes to bake a cake for an Easter bake off. The final bakes were all fantastic and Mr Colebrook, Head of School, had the difficult decision of judging the competition.

I would like to say well done to all the students as the cakes were all amazing!

Mrs L Ashley



## Weather Watcher (Jake Hadfield)

Jake loves photography and he also loves thunder and lightning, so it was no surprise that he was up late recently taking pictures of the storm. Jake belongs to the BBC Weather Watchers group and submitted his picture which was selected as Editor's Pick.

Jake's photo was broadcast on BBC South Today and used within the online news pages. Jake is thrilled that three different news presenters talked about his photo and that it was broadcast live on air.

Keep up the weather watching Jake!

In pictures: Dramatic lightning strikes captured over south's skies



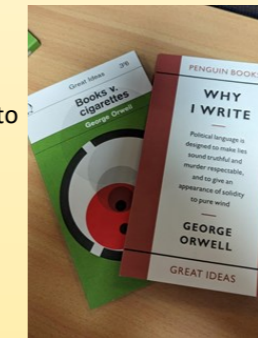
## Orwell Youth Prize Trip

On 7th March, we took 11 Y10 students to Portsmouth University to attend some creative writing sessions run by Portsmouth University. All the students had a great time learning how to improve their creative writing in a variety of forms, including short stories, podcasting and screenwriting. The day was run by the Orwell Youth Prize which is a creative writing competition for all secondary school students.

We were able to have a Q&A with George Orwell's son, Richard Blair, and the son of Orwell's good friend Quentin Kopp, and we received free books which Richard Blair signed for us!

An inspiring day for all involved and hopefully we will have some students entering the Orwell Youth Prize competition!

Miss N Hedges, Teacher of English



## Fishing Trip

On Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May, six students were given the opportunity to take part in a charity fishing event run by Masonic Fisheries which took place at East Meon. The sun shone and all the students had a very successful day at this idyllic location.

All students caught rainbow trout and learnt the art of fly fishing.

An amazing day that I'm sure will hold wonderful memories for all students involved.

Ms L Alden, Alternative Provision Leader

## Jukebox

On 30th April, Jukebox were invited to perform at the Southsea Skiffle Orchestra's gig at the Lens Studio in the Portsmouth Guildhall. The students performed with confidence and were very well received by the audience. They joined in with the Skiffle songs and performed a variety of their own songs from the 1960s through to the present day.

We are very grateful to the SSO for their extremely generous donation of £155 from their door takings and this has gone into the Jukebox account to help fund future events.

Well done everyone! Mrs S Dobbyn, Head of Music

