

Primary Liaison and Transition

This last half term has been very busy for transition. We have held two transition days, new Y7 Parents Welcome Evening, visited 16 different Junior/Primary schools and met most of the children starting here in September, and held a number of transition lessons off site at our main partner primary schools.

TRANSITION LESSONS AT OUR PRIMARY PARTNER SCHOOLS:

English – Mrs Bourton

Students really enjoyed reading the story 'Click-Clack Rattlebag' by Neil Gaiman. We read it together stopping to question the storyline, plot and characters, delving into the reason why we enjoyed being scared by stories. Students asked really brilliant questions that helped everyone understand the story on a deeper level. We split into groups to decide what we thought would happen next and students had the opportunity to write the opening for the next chapter. I was really impressed by the students' curiosity and creativity and we are looking forward to developing these skills in English lessons next year.

Physical Education – Mrs Brooks

I went to Padnell and did rounders with the whole of Y6. They worked in small teams to see who scored the most runs! There was an incredible atmosphere all morning and the students took responsibility for organising and scoring their own games, demonstrating great maturity and sportsmanship!

Science – Miss Miller and Mr Goddard

When we visited, staff were welcoming and were also asking questions about transition into secondary. It was pleasant to see how enthusiastic the students were about coming to Cowplain. We were impressed by their engagement. During each of the lessons we taught, such as graphite circuits, where the students learnt about electrons and paper helicopters, teaching students how to test for air resistance, they were eager to learn. We were impressed by the effort and engagement shown by the students. The students were curious and asked many questions about Cowplain and Science as a topic.

Maths – Mrs Morrish

In the Maths sessions, we started with Mrs Morrish reading the minds of the children and then looked at probability. We compared theoretical probability (what should happen) of rolling a dice 60 times, to experimental probability (what actually happens) and how we can represent this using fractions, decimals and percentages. The Y6 children were excellent at being able to simplify fractions and convert between fractions, decimals and percentages.

Y5 Welcome Event

We welcomed over 200 parents and pupils to our Y5 Welcome Event on 25th 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 Weeks 2024

Our Open Weeks, are planned for week beginning Monday 30th September and Monday 7th October 2024. 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.

Open Evening 2024

We are pleased to confirm that our Open Evening will be on **Wednesday 25th September 2024** from 6pm to 8.30pm.

TRANSITION DAYS:

Our first transition day was a smaller day for those who will be coming to The Cowplain School from out of catchment. This day runs similarly to the main day but is held over a slightly shorter period of time. The main aim of the day is to give an opportunity to those either coming on their own or only a small group of them coming from their Junior/Primary School to Cowplain, a chance to meet people in a smaller group setting and make new connections. Students experienced Maths, English, Performing Arts and Food Preparation, where they even got to take their cookies home! Feedback has been very positive with parents commenting that this was a great idea and that their child has made new friends already, and the apprehension of joining a new school, whereby they do not know anyone, has been reduced.

Main transition day

This year we saw over 200 Yr6s arrive for their transition day! Upon arrival students signed in and were allocated their tutor group and made their way to the Hall where they had a short presentation by Miss Dennis (Head of Yr7) and Mr Gates (Principal). Students then had a taste of lessons; they experienced Maths, English, Spanish, Science, History and RSHE. The final session of the day was called 'Getting to know each other'. Students had fun activities to complete and had the opportunity to meet everyone in their tutor group. This day was then followed up by the new Yr7 Parents Welcome Evening. We had a full hall and Mr Gates and Mrs van den Braak spoke to parents about The Cowplain School, followed by an opportunity to go and speak with members of staff. The feedback from parents has been so positive, many commenting that their child was worried about the transition to secondary school, but after their transition day they felt more at ease.

Y6 MASTER CLASSES - AUTUMN TERM 2024:

Info to follow in September. Will start week beginning Monday 16th October 2024.

FAME! - DECEMBER 2024:

Partner Primary schools will be invited to come and watch our school show 'Fame!'.



News

Dear Parents

Welcome to our final newsletter of the 2023/24 academic year!

As always, the end of the academic year provides us with an opportunity to take stock of what we have achieved during what has been positive and significant year for the school.

Of course, during the latter half of the year we received our OFSTED inspection, for which we had waited almost 6 years! The longer things go on, generally the more stressful they become, and I'd like once again to thank staff, parents and of course our students for their efforts in ensuring our report was an extremely positive one. The report provides a summary of the great things we do at Cowplain as well as giving us a steer to improve further.

Another big milestone for the school was the completion of the sale of a small piece of land, which will generate significant funds for the school to be spent on sport and the performing arts. We have already invested a significant amount of money into the drainage of the field which means, finally, we have transformed a muddy, water-soaked field into brand new sports pitches. It means, we can play sports we haven't traditionally been able to do, such as rugby, and therefore offer more opportunities for our students. We have exciting plans to invest the rest of the proceeds and I look forward to presenting them to you over the next few months.

Finally, I am pleased to say that our new music building will be in use when we return in September. This again provides a purpose-built space for our students to perform and we are very much looking forward to moving into it.

Again, this final newsletter of the year showcases some of the fascinating things that our students have been involved in. There are articles about our students participating in activities related to science, dance, music and even getting involved in learning how to manage their finances. There is also an article about Year 9 being involved in a careers event, which was very successful. All our students receive careers advice throughout their time in school and, as I write this article, we are holding a careers day which is open to students, staff and parents. This all forms part of our wider 'Personal Development' offer at Cowplain which I know OFSTED considered to be excellent.

As always, I want to thank you for your support and wish you and your family a great summer.

Mr IR Gates, Principal



www.cowplainschool.co.uk

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra

GCSE Music students attended a concert performed by the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra at the Portsmouth Guildhall. They saw pieces such as Gershwin's 'An American In Paris', Debussy's 'Claire De Lune' and Grieg's Piano Concerto. The students were amazed at the virtuosity of the pianist, Alexandra Dariescu, and a very enjoyable evening was had by all.



Reminder:

Summer Holiday:

Monday 22nd July 2024 to Monday 2nd September 2024

School reopens, from Tuesday 3rd September 2024: 8.30am for Y7s, and 9.30am for all other year groups.

(Week 1)

BOC Visit



We are thrilled to commend our students for their outstanding participation and enthusiasm during the recent BOC (British Oxygen Company) visit. Their curiosity, engagement and eagerness to learn were evident throughout the event, showcasing their commitment to exploring future career paths. The insightful questions and active involvement made the visit not only informative but also incredibly inspiring for all involved.

Kudos to our students for making this experience a resounding success! Keep up the fantastic work!

Ms D Perry, Lead Teacher of Science



Careers—UNLOC

On 26th April, as part of their careers development, all of Year 9 experienced an Interview Skills for Success Day, delivered by Unloc. As part of this day students took part in public speaking and mock interviews with 12 local businesses, including BAE Systems, The University of Portsmouth, Ferry Speed and Grainger PLC.

It was a truly inspirational day with all students rising to the challenge and developing their skills. Comments from some of our students: *"I really enjoyed it and especially loved the interview."* *"I feel this will make me lots more confident in the future."* *"The activities were amazing and the people were amazing and lovely"*.

Well done Year 9s.

Mrs S Cobbold,
Head of Business and
Computing and
Careers Leader



Pride of Britain

Grace McElhinney (Y8) has been nominated for a Pride of Britain award in the GMB Young Fundraiser category. Over the past few years Grace has made such a difference helping out various charities along the south coast. We wish her the best of luck. Miss Leng, Head of Performing Arts

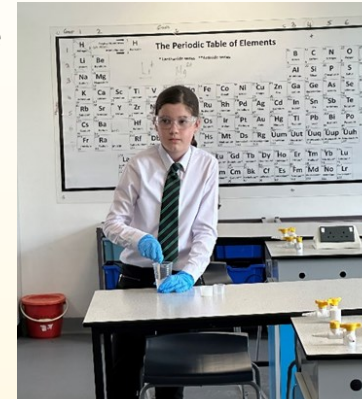


STEM Club

Congratulations to all the brilliant students in our STEM Club! Your dedication, curiosity, and innovative spirit have truly shone through in your projects and experiments. Whether you're building a robotic arm, conducting scientific experiments, or solving complex mathematical problems, your hard work and enthusiasm are inspiring. Keep pushing the boundaries of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics – the future is yours to shape!

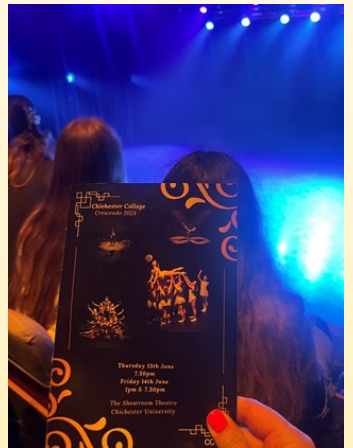
Great job, everyone!

Ms D Perry
Lead Teacher of
Science



Chichester College Dance Performance

On Friday 14th June, a group of Year 9 and 10 students were invited to watch Chichester College's Level 3 dance students perform in their showcase 'Crescendo'. The showcase gave students some insight into dance as a college option as well as some ideas for their choreography pieces next year. Students said they really enjoyed the performance, with the hip hop and jazz numbers being their favourite. It was a great opportunity for students to see such a range of dance styles and how *'thinking hard'* can enable them to complete any goal! Mrs M Leng, Head of Performing Arts



MYBNK

On Wednesday 12th June, we were very honoured to have four volunteers join us from the charity My Bnk. My Bnk work with children and adults across the country educating them about the importance of being financially responsible. All Year 7 and 8 classes had a workshop and were able to talk about finances and money in an age-appropriate way. Year 7 looked at budgeting and deciding how much quality has an impact on their decisions and looking at the differences between branded items and shops' own products. Year 8 discussed their rights as workers and employment laws around under 16s working as well as the meaning of essential and necessary in a financial context. Mrs L Morrish, Head of Maths

