

Holocaust Memorial Day Service

On Monday 27th January, Cowplain students joined the Lord Mayor and other local dignitaries at a memorial service to remember the Holocaust. Holocaust Memorial Day is recognised internationally to remember the six million Jews that were murdered during the Holocaust, as well as the millions of other people killed from 1933-1945 under the Nazi persecution and in genocides around the world since.

After the service, a guest speaker, Mr Peter Kammerling - a Second Generation Holocaust survivor - told the story of his late mother and father, both of whom came to this country at different times on the Kindertransport. He described vividly the life in occupied Austria for the rest of the family and how they ultimately had their lives ended at Auschwitz death camp.

Ellie Davies of Year 9 gave a beautiful reading to all assembled, before wreaths were laid, and a minute of silence gave all the opportunity to reflect upon a lesson that mankind cannot allow to be repeated.

Mr J Beacon, Head of History



Antartica Flag Competition



In the Autumn term, the Geography department ran a competition for Year 8 students to design a flag for Antarctica.

Finley Stelling was our winner and his flag design was sent on to the UK Polar Network.

These photos show Finley's impressive flag being held up at East Beach, Rothera Research Station, Antarctica by Dr Floortje Van Den Heuvel, a cloud physicist and Dr Freya Squires an atmospheric chemist. Well done Finley.

Miss C Rackett
Teacher of Geography



News

Dear Parents

Welcome to our Spring half-term newsletter. It doesn't seem like five minutes ago I was writing to you to wish you a happy Christmas and now we are well into February and more than half way through the academic year!

I was struck when reading this newsletter about the many opportunities that our students have at Cowplain. For example, there is a report into last term's trip to Normandy, which seems to have been enjoyed by all that participated. We have more foreign trips lined up in the year ahead and also this summer will see students from Years 7-9 participate in camps and our first trip for Year 8 to PGL. We do realise that we are still in a cost of living crisis and affording trips away is difficult for many families; however, we always try to make them as cost-effective as possible and staff spend many hours negotiating with different providers to get the best deals they can.

This newsletter also includes two stories which show Cowplain students participating in events that are of real importance to our local community. Firstly, Dance Live saw us not only performing individually but also in partnership with students at Rachel Madocks school. We have worked with Rachel Madocks for a number of years now and have a great relationship with them and their students; we are looking to continue this partnership in the years ahead.

In addition, Cowplain students again, as they do every year, joined the Lord Mayor at the Holocaust Memorial Service in Havant. We have participated in this very important event for well over 10 years now and it is one that we feel it is important that we contribute to. It appears especially relevant at this time when the world faces a rise in extremism and it is vital that the lessons of the Holocaust are learnt.

Finally, a word for our Year 11 students who have completed their mock exams. This year, we aimed to replicate the 'Results Day' held in August with a mock-results event for students and parents, mirroring that feeling of opening the brown envelope containing the results and experiencing some of the feelings of elation that come with that! Of course, this is always a stressful time for Year 11 students, and their parents and teachers, as they approach that final run-in to the GCSEs. Their teachers and the pastoral team are giving them lots of support in school and I know you will continue to do the same.

I hope you and your family have a good half-term break and I look forward to seeing your child back at school on 24th February.

Mr I R Gates, Principal

Work hard. Enjoy learning. Achieve highly.



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Normandy Trip

In October, we took Year 8 students to Normandy, where they took part in cultural activities such as the D-Day Museum, the Basilica in Lisieux, and even a cheese factory – with tasting of course! To top it off, students also had the chance to experience lessons in a French school and make new friendships as well.

One student said *"The food was good; the bakeries were amazing and I loved meeting the French students"* and another reported that *"The history was very cool and I loved the school because I made new friends there"*.

Students had lots of opportunities to use their language skills in real life situations, which helped them grow in confidence with their French. Well done to all students who went to Normandy, you represented the school and yourselves really well!

Mr C Judd
MFL Department



Reminder:

February half term:

Monday 17 February to Friday 21 February 2025.

School reopens at 8.15am on Monday 24 February 2025

(Week 2)

Work hard. Enjoy learning. Achieve highly.



February 2025

Winchester Science Trip

Our students had an incredible day at the Winchester Science Centre, engaging in hands-on activities and deepening their understanding of science.

They conducted themselves exceptionally well, actively participating in workshops and demonstrating impressive knowledge by answering technical questions on Newton's Laws and forces.



Their enthusiasm and curiosity were truly inspiring! We encourage them to continue exploring STEM-related activities and nurturing their passion for science.

Well done!

Ms D Perry
Lead Teacher of Science



Mitre Career Workshop

On Thursday 30th January, Year 9 Sport students experienced a careers workshop delivered by Mitre, the manufacturers of the FA Cup football. The event explored the history and science of football design. Students gained a unique insight into the football industry, learning about career opportunities beyond playing, coaching, and officiating. Highlights included a workshop of the design process of footballs and a photo taken with the FA Cup that Portsmouth famously won in 2008.

Ms N Tofte, Teacher of PE



Music, Dance and Drama

The Music, Dance and Drama departments came together in what has become a Christmas traditional show here at Cowplain School. This year the show was 'Fame' and with over 75 students auditioning back in July the show was destined to be massive. With three sold out shows we were proud to combine the incredibly talented music students and Mr Jackson, led by Mrs Dobbyn's dynamic conducting, Miss Leng's singing tuition and exciting choreography all gave the show a professional edge, whilst directing duties from Mr Gibbs and Mr West, saw the new look Drama department bring to life 50+ students in various roles.

2025 is going to be equally exciting; we will be producing a summer play, not to mention more trips to see live shows and workshops across the department, all part of the enrichment programme, we offer here at Cowplain.

Mr N Gibbs, Head of Drama



Dance Live!



On the 27th January, 36 students from across all year groups participated in this year's Dance Live performance 'Creativity in Crisis'. The students worked incredibly hard both in rehearsals and on the day. Our piece was very well received, moving one of the judges to tears with our emotional journey. We took away an award of excellence for Concept! Well done guys, I am so proud of your professionalism and dedication to the arts!

On the following day, after a few months of rehearsals, 15 students from the Year 10 GCSE Dance class were ready for their Dance Live performance 'Let's See A Show' with Rachel Madocks school. The rapport and kindness our students showed was truly wonderful. They worked hard to support and engage them on and off stage, making friendships that will last a lifetime!

Our students displayed all school values and were amazing attributes to our school. Many happy tears were shed over this sensational performance, especially taking away the Fellowship Award and 3rd Place!!! Fantastic work.

Miss M Leng
Head of Performing Arts



Dear Mr Gates,

I wanted to write to you to in regards to your pupils who supported us at the Dance Live event on the 28th January where the award for Fellowship and Concept were awarded to us as well as 3rd place.

Once more I wanted to thank you for the continued support from your staff and students in supporting our children at the Dance Live event. I am always touched by the way they genuinely connect to our young people, modelling behaviours, showing encouragement and allowing them to join their social groups. It was a joy to see them reading together, practicing their dances and allowing our children to join in with their ones; based on what they have been learning at Cowplain, and sharing hair and makeup experiences.

It is of great benefit for our students to have this interaction and words cannot express how truly grateful I am. They are a credit to your school and to their families, please pass on my thanks to your students as well as to your team who not only love what they do, but truly connect to the children through their shared love of the arts.

Regards, Niki Wilson, Headteacher, Rachel Madocks School



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