

# COPLESTON news



Issue 1: December 2023



As the end of term approaches it is fantastic to be able to reflect on our successful autumn term. In this newsletter we celebrate the many achievements of our students through their academic work, trips, visits and opportunities that have taken place this term. We are also

pleased to share with you the improvement to the school environment through the 'wall art' that was installed at the start of term.

We would like to thank you for all your support throughout this very busy term; as always, it is greatly appreciated. It has been amazing to meet with people and host a variety of events, trips and activities for the students and parents/carers including Year 7 transition fortnight, Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas dinner, parent consultation evenings for Year 11 and 13, the Year 11 information evening, the carol concert, sporting fixtures and year group parents' information events. In addition, all students have been part of the achievement assemblies that celebrate achievements of students throughout the term. They were a real celebration and a great way to finish the term.

I have been warmly welcomed to Copleston as the Head of School and I have enjoyed getting to know the staff, students and parents. I look forward to meeting more of you as the year progresses.

As Christmas approaches we wish you and your family a peaceful festive season, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

With very best wishes,  
Miss King

## TOP OF THE BENCH

In October, Year 9-11 students answered questions in the first round of their annual 'Top of the Bench' competition and progressed to the second round, which was a day of practical challenges at the University of East Anglia.



**“** The staff are so unbelievably friendly and helpful it is a genuine joy to go to school.  
Year 12 student

## MAXIMISE YOUR POTENTIAL

Year 11 and Sixth Form students had workshops in September with an external company, Maximise YP, helping them to begin the year with a positive attitude and to develop successful study habits. Year 11 students have made an excellent start to their after-school exam skills sessions, and Sixth Form attendance at revision sessions has been high.



## TEAM SIX MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

Team Six (our Year Council for Sixth Form students) organised a Macmillan Coffee Morning, raising over £480 including online donations!



**“** Helping to organise a charity event for the school was a memorable experience that allowed me to strengthen my organisation skills.

Respectful

Resilient

Aspirational

Compassionate

Resourceful

## NEW CORRIDOR WALL ART

Students, staff and visitors have reacted very positively to our new corridor wall art designed to inspire students in different subject areas and to give motivational messages about our ethos and values. Subject wall art can be found in Science, History, Geography and Art. Our new "I Aspire" programme has a large wall outside the library.



## THEATRE VISITS

To support their exam studies and to provide valuable opportunities to experience live theatre, Year 10-11 students had a very successful trip to Blood Brothers at Ipswich Regent, Years 12-13 had a great afternoon watching Twelfth Night in Ilford and we recently got into the Christmas Spirit with a visit from a theatre company who performed 'A Christmas Carol for Year 10. Sixth Form Drama and Theatre students also saw Abigail's party at the Wolsey Theatre.



## PERFORMANCE WORKSHOP

Sixth Form Drama and Theatre students had a very enjoyable and informative workshop with renowned theatre company, Frantic Assembly, learning new techniques and gaining inspiration for their own devising work.



## THE POLITICS PROJECT

Our A Level Politics students had an amazing opportunity with The Politics Project to be one of only 16 schools to interview Loretta Sanchez (California) & Greg Walden (Oregon) - two former members of the US Congress.



*"I think school trips are an essential part of anyone's school experience. Not only does it break up the regular school structure, it gives the pupil something to look forward to and makes going to school more exciting. When we went to see Blood Brothers at The Regent, it was such a great experience because I learnt a lot from the show but I also had a lot of fun with my friends eating snacks and chatting, but also talking to people from other schools who I never would have met otherwise."*  
Year 11 student

## GEOGRAPHY FIELD WORK

Our Year 13 Geography students successfully carried out field work on the Suffolk coast, studying coastal processes as part of their A level course.



## CODEBREAKER CLUB

We run many successful clubs at Copleston and one brand new club for this year has been the Codebreaker Club run by the IT dept. Students have been working on code-breaking challenges to decode secret messages in the context of a "Mission to Mars" challenge. They have also used their coding skills in Python to create a "Battle of the Knights" game.



## ESSEX BUSINESS SCHOOL

On Tuesday 28th November Year 11 and Year 10 Business students visited The Essex Business School at Essex University. They took part in Marketing and Finance activities which included making their own promotional video and costing a Lego tower. They also had the opportunity to visit the carbon-neutral Bloomberg Building where they viewed the Stock trading room in action.



## CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Our Resilience students planned and ran a successful Christmas Fayre for Year 7 students on 8th December. They have also had a talk from the Job Centre and are working with Rose Hill and Britannia Schools on a sleepover for students who are anxious about residential. They are also looking forward to improving our Conservation Area.



## SIXTH FORM TASTER SESSIONS

Following a successful Open Evening, our Sixth Form application process is now underway. Our Year 11 students have been enjoying taster sessions on Friday mornings in our Sixth Form Centre, to gain experience of Sixth Form study and to learn more about the courses they are considering.



## DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

Our D of E Scheme is growing in popularity, with 20 Bronze Certificates and 10 Bronze Awards completed by our Resilience students and 34 students in total completing their Bronze Award. More Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards are in progress.

60 Resilience students are now enrolled on either Bronze or Silver Awards, with 67 students in total on Bronze, 42 on Silver and 10 on Gold. 12 staff members are now trained as leaders.

Our Silver qualifying expedition was held during the September heatwave, from Woodbridge to Walberswick.



## I ASPIRE

This term, we launched the new 'I Aspire' award. There are 10 challenges and students are enjoying working towards these. We have already seen students setting up charity events, helping senior staff with assemblies and volunteering to help with or run clubs or after-school activities. The award is designed to be challenging and to encourage students to be aspirational.



## PRINCIPAL'S AWARDS & SACHEL BADGES

This term saw the introduction of our new Principal's Awards. Two students from each year group are chosen by Leaders of Learning each week, who have shown academic excellence or demonstrated one or more of our core values in an exemplary way during the week. Awards are presented by senior staff and part of their award is a token for our new book vending machine. Names of winners are posted on social media each week.

Students can also earn Satchel badges directly from their teachers for excellent work or effort within their subjects, or Golden Tickets if their work or effort is exceptional.



## SHAKESPEARE SCHOOLS FESTIVAL

The Drama Department once again prepared students for a very successful performance in the Coram Shakespeare Schools Festival. This year's performance was Richard III and feedback from the organisers and the audience was excellent.

“

*The unity of movement was astounding and it was an incredibly effective piece of total theatre.*



## CAMPUS IMPROVEMENTS

Our dedicated site staff have continued to make improvements to our campus following the opening of our new building. Students enjoy the new seating and social spaces, and the new planting creates a stunning environment enjoyed by both students and staff.



## A ROUND-UP OF OTHER EVENTS

- In A Level Psychology, speakers from the University of Suffolk shared an insight into studying Psychology after 6<sup>th</sup> form. This is being followed up in February by a visit to the University of Suffolk Psychology labs to use equipment for studying human behaviour.
- A Level Film Studies students saw a Ridley Scott double bill of Bladerunner and Alien at King Street Cinema. Students enjoyed the experience of watching their studied films on the silver screen.
- A Level RE students ran a “Philosophon” – a Philosophy competition for Year 6 students from Britannia and Rose Hill Schools. Rose Hill were the champions!
- Year 13 students had a virtual tour of CERN.
- Year 9 X-half Science students had a 30-minute live chat with scientists working to mitigate climate change. The Y-half had theirs with scientists working on the marine environment, conservation and aquaculture.
- Alongside preparation for the Carol Concert and Carol Service, some of our musicians recently had a day of ABRSM practical exams with some very pleasing results!
- Our Basketball Academy continues to go from strength to strength, with success in matches and students progressing to scholarships at the highest level in the USA.
- Rehearsals and preparations are in progress for our upcoming school production of Beauty and the Beast.

For our most up to date news, please follow us on Facebook, Instagram or X (formerly Twitter):

@coplestonschool

