



# The Cowbridge Times

## RETURN TO THE FORBIDDEN PLANET HITS COWBRIDGE.

### Cast

**Captain Tempest – Osian Bowen**

**Doctor Prospero – James Miles**

**Ariel – Emmie Harris**

**Cookie – Rufus Huckfield**

**Science Officer/Gloria – Ettie Kempson**

**Miranda – Felicity Clewer**

**Bosun – Lily Mansouri**

Performances took place on:

Monday 15th December

Tuesday 16th December

Wednesday 17th December

We had a wonderful time welcoming everyone to the theatre on show nights and sharing this fantastic production with our community.



### Story

The story follows the crew of the starship Albatross, led by Captain Tempest, as they are unexpectedly pulled off course by a mysterious force in space.

They end up crash-landing on the strange planet D'Illyria, where they meet the brilliant but reclusive scientist Doctor Prospero, his daughter Miranda, and their robot, Ariel. What seems like a routine rescue mission quickly becomes a thrilling adventure filled with hidden experiments, emotional twists, and big musical moments.

### About

Last year, our school production was the exciting, sci-fi rock 'n' roll musical 'Return to the Forbidden Planet' directed by Mr. Green. Inspired by Shakespeare's 'The Tempest' and the 1950s science-fiction film 'Forbidden Planet', the show contained classic rock, adventure, and Shakespearean dialogue to create a fun, energetic experience.

Thanks to all parents, carers, friends and family who supported this production and came to see the spacetaacular rock and roll Shakespearean extravaganza! It was a really fun performance to put together, and very complex too, with a live band on stage, hundreds of sound effects, live and pre-recorded video on screens, space-themed costumes, lots of singing and dancing, and some very complicated Shakespearean monologues! The cast was exceptional, and we enjoyed four excellent performances — da iawn and diolch pawb! - Mr Green





# Disability awareness at Cowbridge



In recent weeks, the school has been doing a lot to help raise awareness for people with disabilities. Almost a quarter of people in the UK have a disability and it is estimated 70% of those are hidden, so as a school it is important to support and be able to embrace these differences.

Sixth form students Lewis, Alina, Leo, Teifion and Rhys have been teaching sign language to the children in the lower school. This involved activities such as showing them how to sign their name and basic phrases. They have also been giving assemblies in the past week to years 7 to 11, informing them of the importance of disability awareness.



In other news, On Friday 12 December, Christmas jumper day was held to promote disability awareness. There was no cost involved, with the day raising awareness of disabilities rather than money.





# Championing chess in Cowbridge School

Chess club is back up and running this year thanks to Archie Edwards in year 12 whose newfound enthusiasm has led to a record number of people attending chess club this year. According to Youth Parliament member and frequent chess club attendee Daniel Vlad, "It is always deeply encouraging to see a new year of students enjoying chess."



The revitalisation of the chess club is both promising to see but also a necessary as next year when Archie Edwards moves into year 13 one of the current year 11 will have to take over and promote the club however whoever this is will have their work cut out for them. Archie, who attended chess club every week last year and assisted in the daily running of chess club last year, has provided a new direction for chess club with biscuits being on offer and tournaments being run this year in order to appeal to the more competitive chess players among those who attend.

The chess club in the first lunch period is currently run by Osian Bowen, who very successfully ran chess club last year growing its popularity, and is now attempting to get the Year 7-8 chess club off the ground. This chess club, which takes place during lunch on a Friday, is growing exponentially thanks to his leadership creating a fun and welcoming environment for all. This was compounded upon by Archie who said, "Chess club is great fun; you get to learn from or challenge your friends while playing chess."

If you like taking on a challenge and sharpening your mind, then chess club is where you need to be. Whether you're an amateur or an expert, you're going to find a group of people who want to help you get better at it. You will even get the chance to compete, learn new strategies, and maybe even make some friends along the way. Plus, chess is a great way to relax and test your problem-solving skills in a fun, low-pressure setting. No matter your skill level, there's always room to grow. Come join us during Friday lunch times in the LRC.





# Student Council

The student Council has started up this year at Cowbridge with fresh enthusiasm, new ideas, and renewed commitment to representing the voice of every pupil. Made up of elected representatives from each year, the council meets regularly to discuss ways to improve school life and create a greater sense of belonging and community for all.



Although the meetings have been short and sweet, a brief outline of the plans to improve the sense of community has been formed. A few key initiatives have been discussed:

**Events and Community:** The council have eagerly been coming up with ideas to fundraise and raise awareness for a few charities. Ideas like sports day and interform competitions have already been in the talks! However, there are so many charities that we want to represent - it is going to be a tough decision only picking a few!

**Environmental:** We've discussed a few areas of improvement that we want to focus on such as the school toilets and the overcrowding in the corridors. To deal with this, we would ideally like to involve the eco committee and work together to make a cleaner and safer community.

As of recently, there have been two school council meetings, with one being the introductory to the commitments that the students will have to keep up with. Students who have participated in the meetings have felt that it's a great way to push new ideas out and gain personal confidence. Lewis from Year 12 has said, "The student council is a great way for your suggestions to be heard, implemented, and to improve the school. We push your ideas forward as well as organising events to raise money for great causes. The council is a great way to represent your fellow pupils. As well as this, you gain confidence to express your ideas and manage projects that are valuable for life outside of school."

With motivated and eager students at the helm, the Cowbridge Council is set for a productive year ahead! Their energy, teamwork and passion really shows the devotion they have to the school and community.





# Music at Cowbridge

## Good luck Mr Hutchinson!



The recent Christmas concert was Mr Hutchinson's last concert in this school. He has run the school concert band and been the brass teacher for 4+ years and unfortunately, his time at Cowbridge has come to an end.



## Young Musician competition



The Rotary Young Musician competition took place over two evenings in November, with sixteen talented students from Years 9–13 at Cowbridge School taking part. Their performances were inspiring, full of promise, and made the adjudicators' job a challenging one.

The instrumental category was won by pianist Gethin Budden, with fellow pianist Osian Bowen as a close runner-up. In the vocal category, Gwenan Jones claimed first place, while Tilly Dobson earned the runner-up position.



## New beginnings

A new music group has sprung up this term!

A Year 12 acapella group has been started by Poppy Lewis, Anna Lycett and Grace Clarke. If you're interested in checking out this group, please email [20PoppyLewis@Cowbridgecs.co.uk](mailto:20PoppyLewis@Cowbridgecs.co.uk) for more information!

If you have any interest in music, be it vocally or instrumentally, feel free to come down to music and ask Mr Green or Mr Williams for clubs suited to your interests





# Sport At Cowbridge

## Year 10 football vs Plasmawr

1-5



While the scoreline makes the game look like a rout, the team played well as a unit and it is often said that football is a game of inches and this was no more apparent than today. Had a chance or two fallen differently today, the boys would have won. The opposition were high quality and well coached with multiple well worked goals occurring during the game.

During the first half Plasmawr came out of the blocks raring and racing to go, however Cowbridge didn't quite meet their intensity leading to us being on the back foot quite quickly. Due to this Plasmawr were on top for a large portion of the first half leading to two quick goals being scored. Towards the end of the first half Cowbridge started to work their way back into the game with some well worked chances including a pass across the face of goal that was left unanswered being a stride too far in front of Dawson Gill. Going into the break both teams were at equal footing leading to a sense of optimism in the second half.

Due to some tactical alterations made at half time in order to exploit the Plasmawr back three a goal was scored by Harry Matthews after a great through ball placed in between the lines left him in behind and with a deft finish he wrapped the ball into the bottom left corner of the goal. After this Plasmawr switched to a back four allowing the game to open up more in the midfield giving our midfield three more freedom to play. This meant that for large portions of the second half Cowbridge were on top however they were unable to capitalise on this. A late goal by Plasmawr sealed the fate of a Cowbridge team that worked hard and deserved more from the game despite the absence of Iestyn Philips than they had come away with.





## Year 8 Hockey vs Plasmawr

### A team 6-1



The A team performed exceptionally well against Plasmawr showcasing hugely skilful performance whilst also displaying excellent tactical discipline in defence, which frustrated the opposition to no end making Plasmawr easy pickings in transition. This being said, some members of A team said, "while we did play well we should have scored more,"

further showcasing the dominance of this victory. Many good passes were played throughout the game. The goals came from Emily, who scored three, Ellie, who scored two and Annie who scored one. Overall the A team played incredibly and achieved a well deserved win.

### B team 2-5

The B team despite, the loss took on good feedback through the game making the game closer by marking the opposition more effectively and playing better as a team throughout the game. The members of B team also stuck to their positions well and performed skillfully throughout the match. One thing that could not be faulted from this team was their work ethic with every single team member working hard for each other. Overall the B team played well despite the loss and deserved more from the game than they got out of it.





## Revision Tips from some departments in Cowbridge

As the first term comes to an end, many people are starting their revision for mocks and exams, or even just for in-class tests. However, revision is a difficult thing to get right. To help with these concerns, teachers from across the school in each department have given their tips on how you can revise more effectively.

The Welsh Department advises that “If you need to remember something, record it and listen to it in your own voice.” This adds another dimension to your learning, both listening and speaking to reinforce the memory.

The IT department says : “Place your flashcards around the house, so you can revise anywhere in the house.” Constantly reminding yourself of details in your daily life will make the information stick in your head much more easily.

From the science department, “Always do past papers in test conditions to see what you need to revise, make sure you mark as strictly as possible.” If you practice in exam conditions, then stress from the time and the questions will be much less impeding.

The maths department says: “Even if you don't have the motivation to do a huge amount, doing a small amount is better than nothing, if you only do 1 question in a past paper then it's better than nothing at all.” Just starting out doing something will make you far more likely to finish it. Even just doing a page of a past paper is better than nothing, and you'll likely end up finishing it off.

Finally, the art department advises “Reformat the information, Need to memorise a list? Make a diagram. Need to remember themes of a text? Make a mindmap. The best way to revise however is to teach it to someone who has no idea what you are talking about.” Teaching someone else about your subject gives you a new perspective on it and makes it significantly easier to remember as it gives a deeper understanding

