

Animal Care Departmental Curriculum Statement

Curriculum Intent Statement

In Animal Care at Cowley International College you will take part in a range of practically guided tutorial sessions to ensure you fully understand the concepts and techniques involved in meeting the welfare needs of the animals. We also utilise our own in-house video tutorials to enable students to work at their own pace and work independently in their study time. You will have the opportunity to work with animals in our bespoke area as well as to work with livestock at local farms and liaise with local pet stores and veterinary practices to seek advice on animal welfare. This course includes visits to local farms, veterinary practices, pet stores, breeders and local zoos.

The aim of Animal Care is to provide a coherent introduction to the Animal Care sector. By studying Animal Care, students will broaden their experience and understanding of the varied progression opportunities available to them.

The Animal Care courses require applied learning that brings together knowledge and understanding with practical and technical skills. With our own Animal Care room on site, students have access to a wide range of mammals, reptiles, birds and fish. Course delivery is through a combination of theory and hands-on practical work combined with links to outside agencies such as the RSPCA and Acorn Farm Educational Centre. This approach ensures that the course is accessible to all Cowley students irrespective of ability or SEND status.

Students are able to progress to a wide range of higher education courses and ultimately to employment in the Animal Care sector. The mandatory and optional content of both Level 1/2 and Level 3 courses provides a balance of breadth and depth, while retaining a degree of choice for individual students to tailor content relevant to their own interests and progression choices. As the Animal Care sector and employment is dynamic, content will remain current.

The staff's commitment and enthusiasm for the subject ensures that high standards are set which fuel students' aspirations through their own conduct, support of the Cowleian values and the expectations of all students. Ultimately students will enter the employment market and therefore the final role of the department and the available courses is to provide students with a real understanding of the employment options available to them both in the present and the future and the importance of developing employability skills.

Curriculum Implementation Statement

Students are able to access the subject at Level 1/2 and Level 3. As an option subject available in Y10 students compete the new Pearson BTEC Tech Award in Animal Care. As a two year course students will develop a foundation understanding of key topics essential to the second and third year of the course. The formally assessed aspects will take place as the course proceeds. Internally assessed coursework contributes 75% of the grade; the remainder is through a 1 hour formally assessed examination. This assessment method allows students of all abilities to access the course. At Level 2 students have the opportunity to achieve at four different levels: Pass, Merit, Distinction and Distinction* equivalent to grade 4-9.

As a Level 3 option students complete Pearson BTEC National Subsidiary Diploma in Animal Management (Year 13) and the BTEC National Extended Certificate (Year 12). This course comprises a range of units with a combination of internally and externally assessed units. L3 courses are accessible to all students with five good L2 Passes. Courses are graded Pass, Merit, Distinction and Distinction*. The BTEC National courses attract UCAS points.

A variety of teaching and learning strategies/activities are used in order to provide pace and challenge within the subject to engage students to achieve their potential whilst enjoying the subject and their experiences. There are clear teaching and assessment phases during the Level 1/2 and Level 3 courses. Both courses provide students with the opportunity to develop high level literacy skills as research, analysis and evaluation tasks will be completed. Students will cultivate report writing and planning skills alongside a strong level of computer literacy. Creativity will be encouraged through the chance to students gain to develop their own feeding and cleaning plans and Pet Store design. Communication skills will be fostered as students are involved in activities such as presenting and practical activities. Time management will also be essential as students will have regular deadlines to meet as well controlled timed assessments. These transferable skills are ones which are highly valued both in higher education and the workplace. Students will also be encouraged to keep up-to-date with the latest developments within Animal Care and share their knowledge in lesson.

Throughout both courses students will be expected to complete work outside of lesson, through designated homework tasks in order to meet stringent deadlines. Using the remote log on system will allow this to take place.

Curriculum Beyond the Classroom

Students are always welcome to use the specialist rooms and resources for independent study.

Local experts are used at Level 1/2 and these relationships are in the early stages of being fostered. This is also the case with the new BTEC National course at Level 3 as it lends itself to experts in dog grooming and animal training and behaviour, speakers, trips, work experience and further support from local businesses.

Currently links have been established with Acorn Farm, Jollyes, Splendid Pets and Exotics and with experts in dog grooming and animal training and behaviour

Subject Expertise

The department comprises highly experienced, Animal Care specialists. The members of the team have experience of teaching the subject across several different types of courses such as GCSE, Applied BTEC, BTEC First, BTEC National and A Level. We maintain and monitor a range of animals on site within our dedicated Animal Care room.

Destinations

Students are made aware of the progression routes available including working with animals in animal welfare centres, catteries and kennels, police, veterinary nursing, animal grooming, retail. As the department are also experienced or key members of the Sixth Form pastoral team, the subject, as a higher education choice, is regularly flagged up with students. Also staff regularly receive the latest information about new courses and work experience and employment opportunities which are passed on to students as potential progression routes. Help will be offered to students with the inquiry/application process as required.