



COWLEY INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE

# PROSPECTUS 2024

ACHIEVING THE HIGHEST STANDARDS TOGETHER

'Leaders, including governors, ensure that pupils and students are at the centre of each decision that is made at Cowley International College. They are determined that everybody associated with the school is given the opportunity to succeed.'

- Ofsted, November 2021



## Welcome from the Principal



Once again, we are significantly oversubscribed for the 2023 - 2024 academic year which we attribute to the high quality of teaching and the fantastic opportunities which are available to all of our students.

You cannot help but feel inspired to learn at Cowley with the resources and facilities on site, while our fantastic staff work tirelessly to enable our students to fulfil their academic aspiration and achieve the best academic success they possibly can.

I am extremely proud to be the Principal of this College and the following pages will provide an insight into the exceptional curriculum, support and extracurricular activities that our College offers, including the teaching of one of the fastest growing languages in the world, Mandarin Chinese.

Thank you for your interest in Cowley International College.

Our mission is to create independent, considerate, healthy and aspirational people who communicate well and contribute positively. Through teaching and providing an environment that is stimulating, safe and caring, we encourage all of our students to develop themselves and support each other to achieve and become a proud Cowleian. Our wonderful students are a credit to Cowley and embrace the Cowleian values.

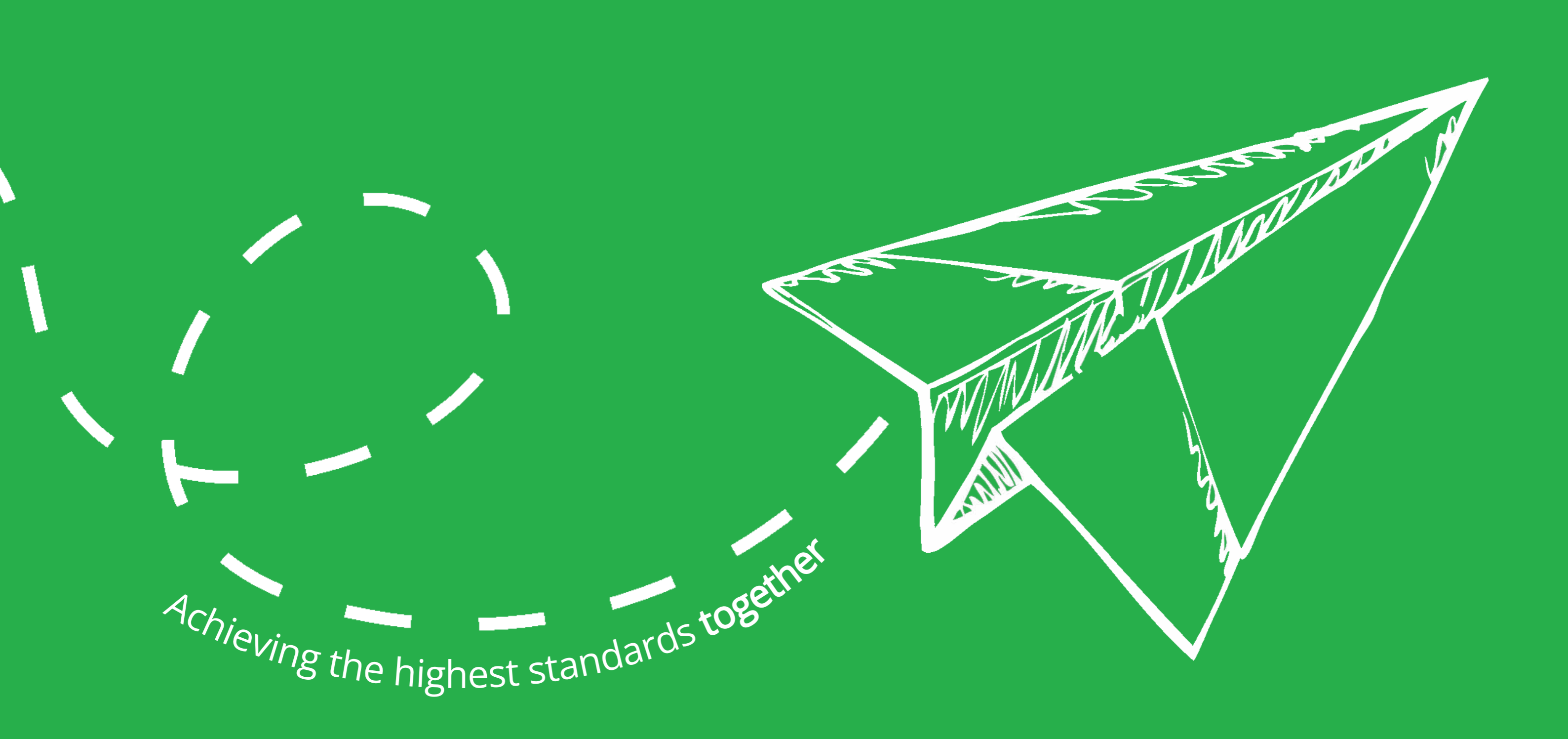
We are always looking to improve the College and the College experience for our students. Over the past academic year, we have further increased our outstanding selection of extracurricular activities. We have moved closer to becoming a Plastic Free School by removing the sale of single-use plastic bottled drinks from the canteen and providing all students with a reusable drinks bottle. The College building has recently received a refresh and we have an impressive new artwork to celebrate the amazing achievements of proud Cowleian, James Roby.

Visitors to the College, including Ofsted, constantly tell us about our special, caring and aspirational atmosphere and we would like you to see for yourself that we are a College that focuses on what really matters: safe, happy students and great results.

Though this prospectus covers a great deal, we would encourage you to visit our [Open Evening that takes place on Thursday, 14th September](#) so that you can speak with our current students and meet our dedicated team, as well as take a look around to get a feel for the College and all that we have to offer.

I look forward to seeing you soon and welcoming you to Cowley International College.

*Mr Cormack*



## Our mission

Our mission is to create independent, considerate, healthy and aspirational people who communicate well and positively contribute.

Through teaching and providing an environment that is stimulating, safe and caring, we encourage all to develop themselves and to support each other to achieve their full potential.

Our mission statement is shaped by our vision for all Cowleians to achieve the highest standards together. This is articulated by our College motto: Non sibi sed omnibus, which translates as

“Not for oneself, but for all”

# Cowleian values

"The Cowleian". The characteristics of the Cowleian underpin everything the College stands for:

## Aspirational

Having the ability to set targets, with the desire and ambition to achieve something with their lives, for themselves and for others.

## Considerate

Being ready to take into account the beliefs, feelings and viewpoints of others at all times.

## Good Communicators

Developing the ability to listen to other people and to appreciate the value of effective communication in their own and in other languages in all areas of their lives.

## Healthy

Showing physical, social and mental well-being through a variety of activities and an awareness of the effects of their lifestyle choices.

## Independent

Thinking and acting for themselves and by taking responsibility for their own learning and progress. Making an individual contribution to improve the world in which we live.

## Positive Contributors

Positively contributing both in college and in the community. Being a positive role model to other students.

# Proud to be an award winning College

Cowley has achieved numerous awards and accreditations; some of which you can read about here:



## St Helens RFC Official Club Partner

Cowley International College and St Helens RFC share the objectives of pursuing excellence, serving the community and offering the best facilities for sport, education and career development.



## Young Carers in Schools Award

Cowley International College has been accredited a Young Carers in Schools Silver Award.

This is a nationally recognised award given by the Young Carers Trust and the Children's Society. The award recognises the commitment our staff and governors have in ensuring that Young Carers within our College are identified and supported.



SCHOOL MEMBER

## Music Mark School Member

Cowley has been appointed as a Music Mark School Member in recognition of the value we place on music within our College.

This membership is given to schools that are dedicated to delivering a broad and balanced music curriculum.



## Religious Education Quality Mark (REQM): Gold Award

The REQM recognises high quality RE, particularly those schools which are providing their learners with authentic experiences and contributing to whole school outcomes.

## Further accreditations



# Meet Cowley's Therapy Dog Gatsby

Gatsby is our therapy dog and is a much loved staff member and an integral part of the Cowley family.

He absolutely loves College life and the students. One of Gatsby's favourite activities is taking part in Wellbeing Wednesdays, in which students can take turns to walk him around the beautiful grounds of the College.

Gatsby helps students in lessons and as part of wellbeing enrichment, working in both the College's 11-16 and Sixth Form sites.

Parents and carers will get the chance to meet Gatsby at key events, such as Open Evening and parents' evenings.



## The transition from primary to secondary school

We take particular care to help new students settle quickly into the larger community of a secondary school and we work closely with primary schools throughout the school year to ensure a smooth transition.

All good partnerships need to invest time to develop long-term relationships and we therefore invite all the parents/carers of our new Year 7 students to a special parents' evening at the College during the summer term as well as to a Year 7 Forum that takes place shortly after students start College in September.

To ensure that our new Year 7 students are given an opportunity to familiarise themselves and prepare for secondary school, they are invited to spend three full days at Cowley in the summer term before they join in September.

All new students are also invited into Cowley during August for a brilliant, fun-packed week-long summer school that involves fun

activities, crafts and team building (as well as meeting their new classmates and some of their teachers). Year 5 students from our feeder primary schools are also invited to Cowley for specially arranged events and taster lessons during the summer term.

Our College Open Evening, early in the autumn term, gives students and parents/carers alike the opportunity to visit the College and ask any questions they might have.

Once September arrives, we offer a comprehensive induction programme for our Year 7 students to help them to settle into their new College life and to get to know their peers through a variety of activities. We involve older students, who will act as guides and mentors to the new arrivals, making sure that they feel supported and well informed about their new College. The Year 7 pastoral team are always available to support both students and parents/carers throughout what is a significant change in their lives.



Our Year 7 team is purposely designed to help with the transition from primary to secondary school.

Head of Year 7 is Mrs Cunliffe who is a highly experienced former primary school teacher, 15 years with Year 6, who has also been a primary school Executive Deputy Head and Head of School.

Mrs Cunliffe says: "We know just how big the transition is when moving from primary to secondary school, so we have a host of processes in place to help ensure the students are prepared for the change.

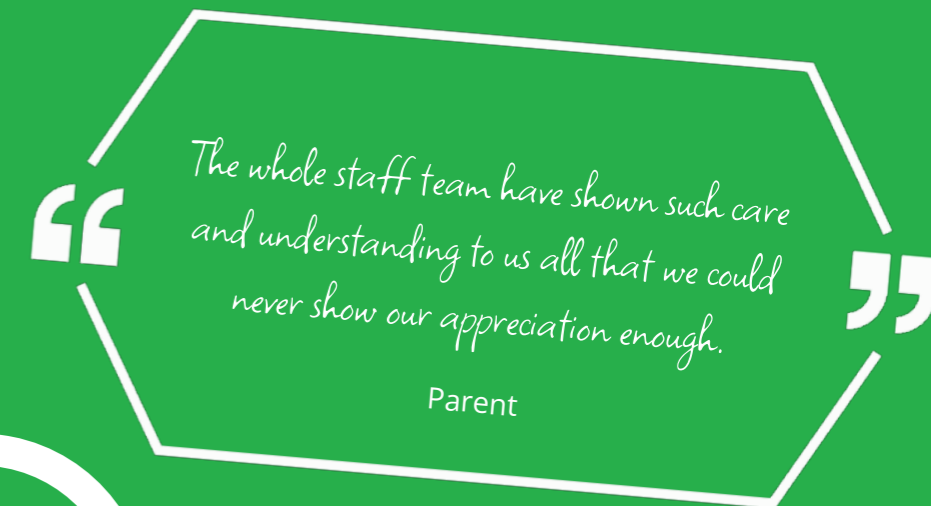
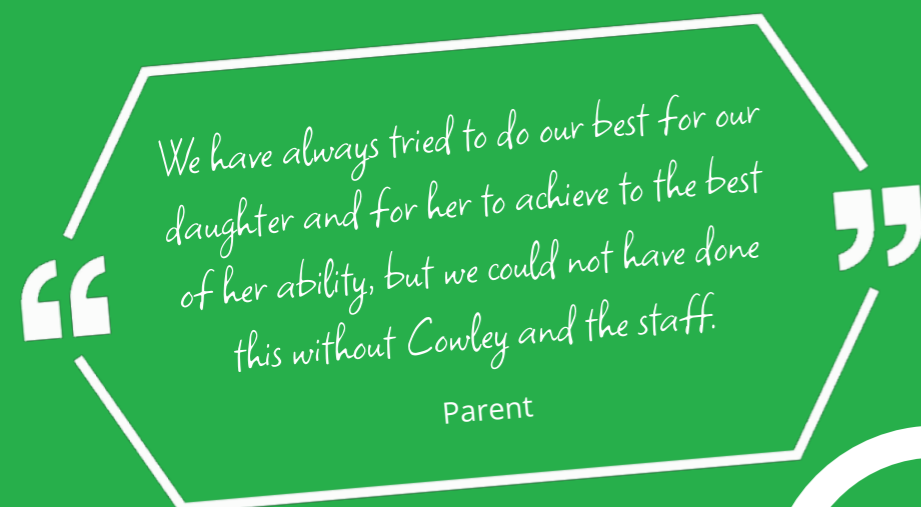
"I meet with all the Year 6 class teachers to do background checks and know as much as possible about the students who will be joining us.

"We have an excellent transition period for

the children before they officially become Cowleians in September, with three days in College during the summer term where they will meet their Team Tutor as well as the children they'll be sharing classes with to have the opportunity to make new friends. We also run a week-long summer school which is a further opportunity to meet staff and students.

"My message to new students is always to make the most of the opportunities available here at Cowley. There is an unrivalled extracurricular programme that students can get involved in, with opportunities to do new things and visit new places.

"I look forward to meeting you all at our Open Evening."



## Guidance and Support

The main school is organised into a pastoral system for each year group. Each pastoral team is made up of a Head of School (either upper or lower), a Head of Achievement, a Year Co-ordinator and a Team Tutor. In addition to this, we also have two Family Liaison Officers that can work closely with students and families should it be required.

A major strength of the College is the pastoral teams' ability to build positive relationships between the school, the student and their parents/carers. We attribute the quality of the care that we provide to taking the time to get to know

each student and their family.

This partnership helps to raise students' expectations and standards of achievement in a caring, secure and supportive environment. The pastoral teams have a very important role in helping students to settle into Cowley.

Students will typically remain with the same Team Tutor until the end of Year 11. This means that throughout their time at College, they will have a regular member of staff to whom they can turn for help and support.

In addition to the pastoral teams, Cowley has a Student Support Manager who is on hand daily to assist students and their parents/carers.

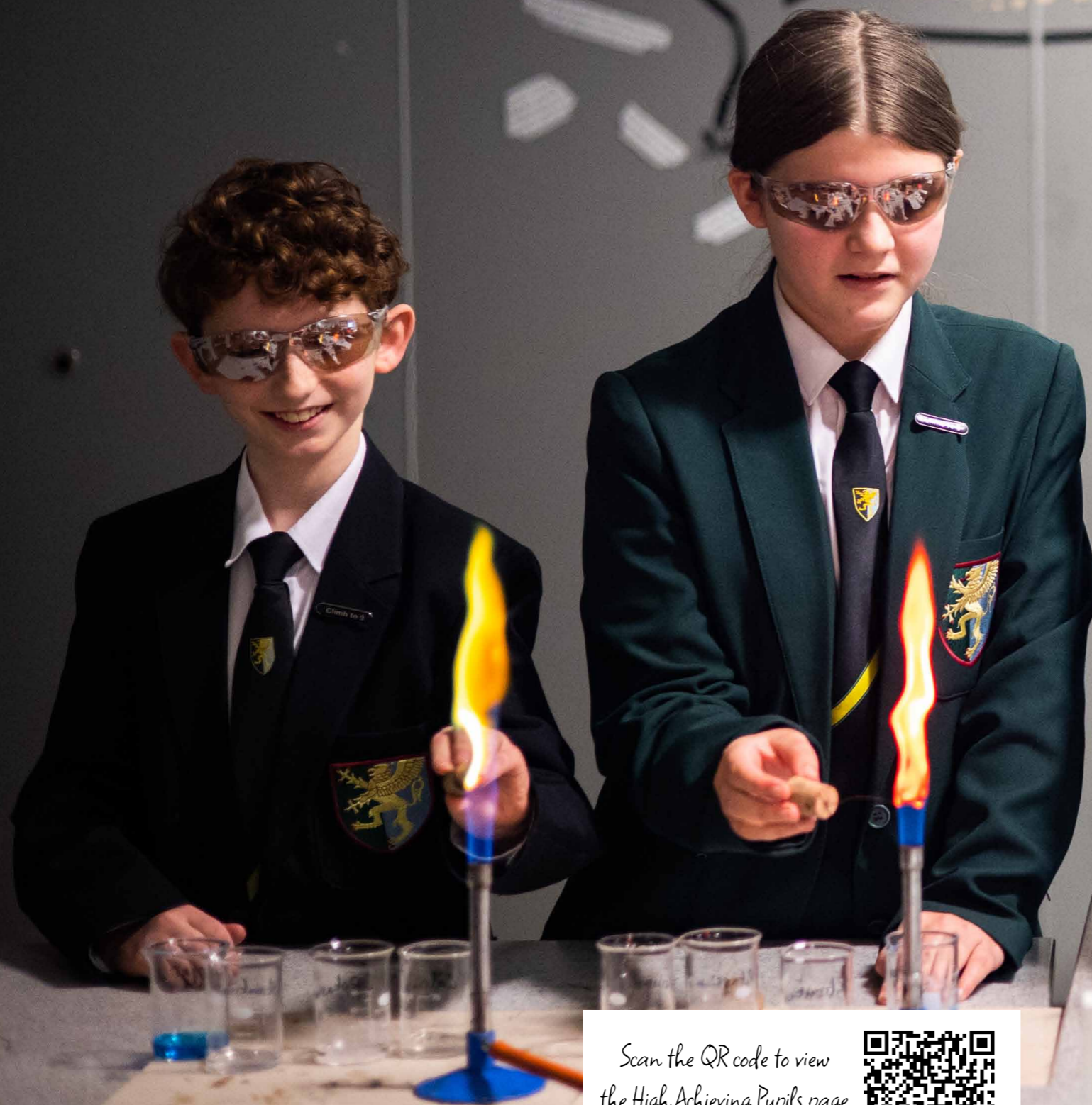
Cowley offers a range of support for students to enable them to access the curriculum. Support includes: a range of daily Team Tutor activities, peer, small group, 1-to-1, mentoring, student reports, behaviour support packages and reading.

Our students' wellbeing and happiness is of paramount importance.

Cowley, in collaboration with Merseyside Safer Schools, operate a 24/7 confidential online reporting system that can be used by students to communicate with key members of staff within the College.

In addition to the daily opportunity to discuss any issues with Team Tutors, students also have the opportunity to talk with any of our trained Mental Health Champions. We also have access to a number of external agency support from the Mental Health Support Team, Teenage Advice Zone and the Barnado's Resilience Team.

# High-achieving pupils



Scan the QR code to view  
the High Achieving Pupils page  
on our website



# SEND



Cowley International College's core values and ethos is to raise attainment of every young person. Our central belief is that every young person has the opportunity to reach their full potential and have their individual needs catered for, including those pupils with SEND.

The College believes that all young persons should be valued equally. We strive to eliminate prejudice and discrimination. We work to develop an environment where all can flourish and feel safe and all young persons can experience success.

The College is committed to inclusion. We aim to engender a sense of community and belonging, and to offer new opportunities to learners who may have experienced previous difficulties and support, and to those who may experience barriers in their learning in their future.

Staff at Cowley International College are committed to providing an inclusive education for all and are dedicated to reviewing and pursuing new provisions.

The SEND department plays an integral role across the whole College and works tirelessly to keep our young people at the centre of what we do.

The department is committed to regular CPD and uses the College website SEND page and Twitter page (@**sendcic**) to keep students and parents involved and updated with new resources and support from external agencies as well as celebrating what our students achieve in and out of College.

Scan the QR code to view  
the Cowley SEND Twitter  
and website pages



## A College with state-of-the-art facilities



The College is equipped with the latest technology that promotes active engagement to encourage personalised teaching and learning.

Students have access to state-of-the-art facilities, including well-resourced libraries, music studios and Apple Mac suites and five 3D printers. In addition, students have access to mobile technologies such as iPads and tablets and these are used during lessons to help to stimulate and inspire our students.

The College also has a floodlit 3G pitch that ensures lessons and club matches can take place regardless of the weather conditions.



## The Mandarin Excellence Programme



In 2017, Cowley became one of the first schools in the country to be part of the British Council's flagship Mandarin Excellence Programme and now offers Mandarin to students in Years 7 - 9 (KS3), to Years 10 and 11 (GCSE) and in the Sixth Form (HSK 1 - 5).

The Mandarin Excellence Programme aims to increase the number of UK students studying Mandarin Chinese and to deliver a minimum of 5,000 new UK speakers of Mandarin with a high level of fluency.

Mandarin is a widely spoken and important language of the world, especially in the business world, and is seen as an important language for young people to master to give them more opportunities when seeking jobs in the future.

Year 7 students at Cowley will once again be offered the chance to study Mandarin. This is an exciting opportunity for all those involved. In 2022, we celebrated the students who

were our first cohort to sit the subject at GCSE, achieving some of the best language results in our recent history.

Cowley has become a local hub for the language, with staff helping to deliver Mandarin lessons in two local primary schools, Rivington and Queens Park, once a week to Year 5 and Year 6 pupils.

In July 2019, our Year 8 Mandarin students, after studying Mandarin Chinese for two years, went to Shanghai on a trip of a lifetime. They developed their Mandarin Chinese language skills at the Shanghai Foreign Language School, as well as getting to explore top attractions and embrace the culture.

There will be an annual two-week trip to China on similar study visits for our students to experience first-hand the language and culture of China.

# Sporting opportunities



Cowley has a strong reputation and tradition for international sporting tours including visits to Africa, America, Asia, Australasia and Europe.

As well as providing a sports-rich timetable Monday to Friday, the College playing fields on a Saturday morning are a hive of activity with sporting fixtures. We strongly encourage family and friends of team members to come along and support our teams.

Cowley regularly competes against other schools in the following: football, volleyball, badminton, hockey, rugby union, rugby league, girls' football, table tennis, boccia, girls' rugby, netball, athletics,

rounders, cricket and baseball. Although we strongly believe in competition, we have a range of activities aimed at improving students' participation in sport and physical activity.

We provide opportunities for students to participate in non-competitive activities including: dance, gymnastics, aerobics, trampolining, running, kayaking, weight training, wall climbing and golf.

At Cowley, we believe in providing a broad range of sport and physical activities that are accessible to every student.

Last year, three of our five

rugby league teams won the St Helens Town Cup and went on to represent the borough in county wide competitions.

Our Year 8 hockey team finished first and second in the Merseyside Schools competition, won the National State School Hockey Championships and reached the finals of the National In2Hockey Schools Cup.

For those with a sporting talent who attend Cowley Sixth Form College, we offer a unique opportunity for students to complete studies and to train and play with St Helens RLFC as part of the Saints Academy Development Programme.

# Our partnership with St Helens RLFC



Saints relocated their training ground to Cowley over a decade ago as part of a ground-breaking partnership between two widely recognised educational and sporting establishments.

The partnership works in a reciprocal manner to support each other's needs – educational initiatives and strategies involve Saints personnel who in turn help to increase the success and achievement of Cowley students.

Saints are also involved in College initiatives to encourage positive student behaviour and learning.

Players have worked

alongside teaching staff to create fun, educational projects that are designed to enhance learning.

The partnership also allows us to offer match tickets as student rewards, while the access to the Saints players and staff is a great source of inspiration for the students.

## About the Saints Academy Development Programme

The Saints Academy Development Programme provides an exciting opportunity for talented sporting school leavers who wish to continue their education at Cowley Sixth Form.

The programme provides the

perfect mix of qualifications combined with professional training and the chance to play in competitive games at one of the most famous Rugby League clubs in the world.

Train. Play. Study.

# Enrichment

Cowley offers a tremendous range of academic, cultural, sporting and other challenging enrichment activities.

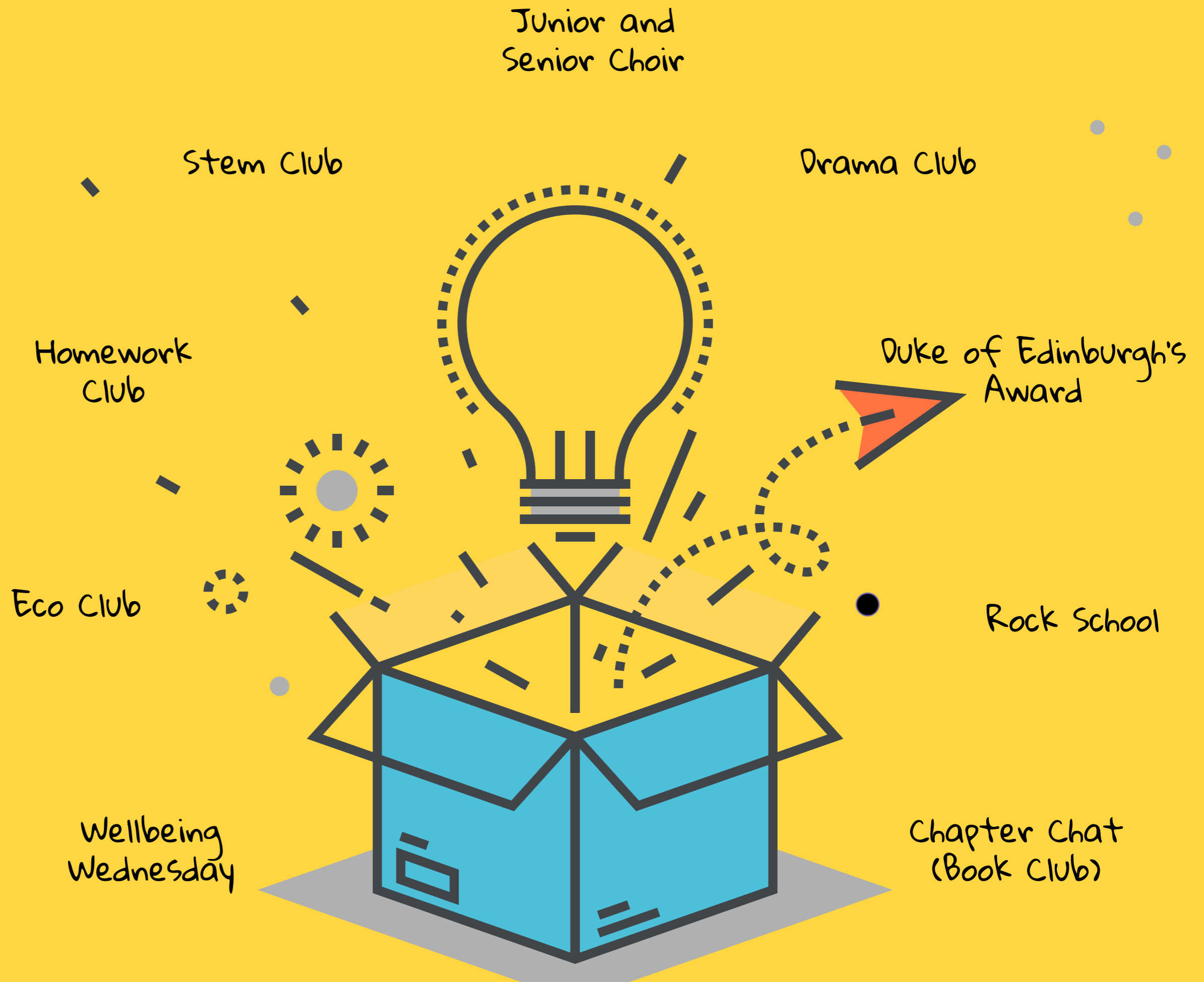
Whether sporting, amateur dramatics, adrenaline pumping or mind boggling, Cowley has something on offer for all interests and levels.

Enrichment activities allow students to gain experience and skills in areas not typically part of their everyday curriculum. By taking part in these new experiences, students can enhance personal attributes, as well as to make new friends who have similar interests.

Each half term the enrichment timetable is updated and published via the website to ensure everyone is fully aware of the diverse and inclusive enrichment offer.

Here are just some of the activities and clubs that current students have enjoyed: STEM Club, Running Club, Film Club, Philosophy Debate Club, Games Club, Rugby, Table Tennis, Football, Trampolining, Gymnastics, Dance, Drama, Choir, Rock School, Enterprise Club, Art, Debate Club and Eco Club.

Whatever your needs or interests, there is something for everybody!





## Sixth Form

Cowley is a seven-year journey, as students move from Lower School to Upper School and then to our excellent sixth form college.

With over 35 A-Level, BTEC and Applied Diploma subjects to choose from, Cowley Sixth Form College offers a wide range of progression opportunities to post-16 students of all abilities.

The diverse curriculum at Cowley Sixth Form College allows students to build a portfolio of excellence, demonstrating to university admissions tutors and employers a depth and breadth of understanding in a wide range of disciplines.

Although precise programmes of study will vary, based on individual abilities and interests, all students will study a minimum of three courses or the equivalent.

For the most academically inquisitive students, there is the option to complete the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), Further Maths, Core Maths or Mandarin Chinese in addition to their core subjects.

Regardless of their programme of study, all students at Cowley Sixth Form College benefit from individualised support, teaching from experts in their field and a team that will be with them every step of the way through their Sixth Form journey.

For the most academically able progressing from GCSE to post-16 study, we offer the

Cowley Scholars Programme, a bespoke academic programme for the most able of our intake, preparing them for the most competitive of universities and courses.

In addition, our Cowley Honours Programme is specifically designed to stretch and challenge those who flourish and exceed expectations.

We place great emphasis on the opportunities available to our students outside of their chosen subjects. We are proud to provide an enviable academic enrichment programme, giving students the chance to gain additional qualifications. Alongside this, we also have a wide range of non-qualification activities to broaden minds and experience.

With so many courses and enrichment opportunities for students, it is easy to see why applications to Cowley Sixth Form College continue to increase every year.



Scan QR code to view the  
Cowley Sixth Form College website

ACHIEVING THE HIGHEST STANDARDS TOGETHER

Choosing the right secondary school is one of the most important decisions that you will make together with your daughter/son.

We hope that Cowley International College will be your first choice.

We understand that a brochure cannot answer all the questions that you might have about the College, so we encourage you to pay us a visit at our Open Evenings, or get in touch via email or telephone if you require any further information.

Main office telephone: 01744 678 030  
Email: [enquiries@cowleysthelens.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@cowleysthelens.org.uk)



## COWLEY INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE

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