



COWLEY
INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE

YEAR 9 PATHWAY J (M)
OPTIONS GUIDE
2024



THIS PAGE IS INTENTIONALLY BLANK

CONTENTS

Introduction to the Year 9 Options Booklet	4
Year 9 Choice Programme	5
Process of Choosing Options	6
Sample Student Choices Poll	7
Questions I need to ask	8
Career Connect	9
GCSE Optional Courses	11
Vocational Optional Courses	23
Checklist	35

INTRODUCTION TO THE YEAR 9 OPTIONS BOOKLET

This booklet is a guide to help you make the right decisions about the courses you choose to study over the next 2 years (please note that the Extension Opportunity subject in Geography or History that you started at the beginning of this year will link directly to the relevant KS4 course). There is a lot of useful information that you will need throughout the process of choosing your final options. The booklet is divided up into four easy to use sections:

1. This section of the booklet contains general information about the process of choosing options, careers advice and activities.
2. This section contains the GCSE subjects that are optional.
3. This section contains information on vocational subjects (e.g., BTEC) that are optional.
4. This section contains a checklist to help you make your decisions.

Remember to consider the following points when choosing your courses to study:

- You would find the subject enjoyable and interesting.
- It is a subject (or related to a subject) that you are achieving your target in
- It is a subject that you think you could do well in
- You like the method of assessment and teaching.
- It is a subject that is related to a possible future career interest that you may have.

GOOD CHOICES HELP YOU TO PROGRESS AND ACHIEVE

The courses available are matched to your ability and predicted grades. Your progress will be monitored carefully through Years 10 and 11 – the level or subject content may be changed to allow you to progress and achieve.

WARNING

IT IS IMPORTANT TO BEAR IN MIND THAT ALL COURSES LISTED IN THIS BOOKLET MAY NOT RUN.

AN OPTIONAL COURSE WILL ONLY RUN IF IT HAS SUFFICIENT STUDENT NUMBERS TO MAKE THE COURSE VIABLE.

Contact for further information

Head of Achievement – Mr P Collins

Year Co-ordinator – Mrs S Green

Assistant Headteacher (Curriculum) – Mr D Painter

Useful Link: www.unifrog.org

Please keep this booklet in a safe place - you will only be given one booklet.

YEAR 9 CHOICE PROGRAMME 2023-2024

EVENT	DATE
Assembly + taster Sessions for Work-Related vocational courses available in Year 10	Week beginning 27 th November 2023
PSHE lessons - Preparation for Year 10 course choices	November/December 2023
Distribution of Year 10 course booklet <u>Assembly</u> - Introduction to Year 10 course booklet	Week beginning 9 th January 2024
- Information to Parents re: - Parents' Evening Thursday 18 th January 2024 - Process of choosing options inc. 1:1 interview proforma - Choice Poll	To be posted Tuesday 9 th January 2024
Taster lessons for existing KS3 subjects and new KS4 subjects	Week beginning 9 th January 2024
Year 9 Parents' Evening and presentation for Year 10 courses	Thursday 18 th January 2024
Deadline for return of the Student Choices Poll for Year 10 Choices	Friday 19 th January 2024
Final Options form given out to students	Week beginning 5 th February 2024
Option interviews with students and parents	Week beginning 19 th February 2024
Final deadline for choices	Friday 23 rd Feb 2024
Feedback to students and parents	Week beginning 15 th April 2024

PROCESS OF CHOOSING OPTIONS

The process of choosing their final option for Year 10 is divided into two stages:

STAGE 1

Students will select subjects from their Pathway's Student Choices Poll and put them in order of preferred choice. An example of this questionnaire is overleaf. The questionnaire will be sent to parents/carers on week commencing 9th January 2024 and this needs to be returned to Team Tutors by Friday 19th January 2024.

After this stage, the choices will be electronically processed to design the final option block for Stage 2.

STAGE 2

Students will be given the final option block pro-forma and then will need to select a first and reserve choice. The pro-forma will be given to students during the week beginning 5th February 2024 in Team time and needs to be taken home to discuss with parents/carers ready for the one-to-one interview during the week beginning 19th February 2024.

Letters will be sent out during the week beginning 15th April 2024 informing students which course they have been allocated to.

WARNING

IT IS IMPORTANT TO BEAR IN MIND THAT ALL COURSES LISTED IN THIS BOOKLET
MAY NOT RUN.

AN OPTIONAL COURSE WILL ONLY RUN IF IT HAS SUFFICIENT STUDENT NUMBERS
TO MAKE THE COURSE VIABLE.

EXAMPLE STUDENT CHOICES POLL

Name _____ Form _____ Teaching Group _____

PATHWAY X

GCSE Art and Design

GCSE Geography

BTEC Art & Design: Graphics

GCSE History

GCSE PE/BTEC Sport

GCSE RS

BTEC Art & Design: Textiles

GCSE Business

BTEC Childcare

BTEC Construction

BTEC Engineering

BTEC Health and Social Care

BTEC Hospitality

BTEC Performing Arts

BTEC Public Services

BTEC Travel and Tourism

Please list the choices in order of preference:

Pathway X	
1	
2	
3	

QUESTIONS I NEED TO ASK

Use this page to write down any questions you now need to ask after having read through the booklet:

My Questions	How will I find this information?

CAREER CONNECT

Career Connect offers independent and impartial careers information, advice and guidance and at present two Careers Advisors work at Cowley.

All Year 9 students will have a session with an advisor from the Career Connect team. These sessions will take place in the designated Careers Room – students will be told where the session will be taking place by their class teachers.

SOME ADVICE FROM THE CAREERS ADVISERS AT COWLEY

- The courses and subjects you decide to study in Years 10 and 11 can affect what you do in the future, so choose your options with care.
- Find out which subjects you will need. If you have a course or a job in mind, check out the **ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**. These are not always as obvious as you might think, so check carefully.
- Some A level subjects cannot be taken unless you have achieved the required GCSE grade in those subjects. Other A level subjects don't require you to have taken them at GCSE. Find out more about this by asking your teachers or looking at the Sixth Form Prospectus.
- Taking a vocational course (such as a BTEC) doesn't mean that you are committing yourself to a particular form of future employment (just as taking History doesn't mean that you are going to become a historian). It simply means that you have chosen one subject which is more about the world of work than traditional subjects.
- Don't forget how important modern foreign languages will be for jobs in the future. You are just as likely (maybe even more likely) to travel abroad in your work if you are an engineer or scientist as you are if you work in the tourism industry!

It is never too early to start finding out about jobs and courses. If you can't find the information you need, ask the Careers Advisors or use the Unifrog website www.unifrog.org.

THIS PAGE IS INTENTIONALLY BLANK

GCSE

OPTIONAL COURSES

GCSE ART

CONTACT: MISS KAY

What sort of things will I do?

Over the next 2 years, you will create a portfolio (folder) of work relating to topics which will allow you to become a better artist – this is worth 60% of your final mark. This will prepare you for sixth form courses at Cowley International College such as A Level Art or A Level Photography, and for the world of work and/or university. The last quarter of the course, the exam board (AQA) sets a topic for completion over a 12-week period or 40 hours of lessons – this is worth 40% of your final mark – and is completed over a 10-hour period (2 school days). At the end of the course, students then produce two exhibition boards – one for their portfolio and one for the externally set topic. Examples of these are displayed in the school's West Wing.

What skills will I develop?

In this subject, students will develop an understanding of how an idea flows from start to completion; seeing work progress from an initial idea into a Final Piece is satisfying and gratifying. Students will learn about the different disciplines in art, cultures, and artists from around the world. Students try traditional methods of production (painting/printmaking) and new-media technologies, such as photography and computer-aided art. It is essential to demonstrate, and improve, your drawing ability and develop photography skills, for this course.

How will I be assessed on this course?

Students are assessed throughout the course, and it is important to know that homework **is** your coursework and must be completed. Each half term, all your work based on the topic will be given a grade which ties into the grades available at the end of GCSE – so you will begin to understand the marking process and the four different Assessment Objectives which are worth 25% each.

If I wanted to continue studying this subject after Year 11, which course could I study?

At KS5, you could study Art, Craft & Design, Fine Art, or Photography at A Level in Cowley Sixth Form College. The A Levels are fabulous courses and some of our students choose these as balance from their Science/Maths choices or others as a complimentary course for subjects such as English or History, Digital Media, or Religion.

Which careers could this subject lead to?

Film making, Animation, Theatre Design, Interior Design, Fashion Design, Events Management, Mural Painter, Art Therapy, Graphic Designer, Textiles Design, Photography, Web Designer, Graphic Novelist, Illustrator, Games Designer, Concept Artist, and many others – our course is a springboard for exciting times.

GCSE BUSINESS

CONTACT: MISS SMART

What sort of things will I do?

The Business course will provide you with the opportunity to understand the business world. Real life businesses are studied looking at areas such as their purposes, ownership structures, aims and objectives, stakeholders, location and planning decisions. External influences on businesses are also considered. Building a business, taking into account entrepreneurship, will be examined looking at how to grow a business and make marketing, operational, financial and human resource decisions. The course provides a solid foundation in business which you can use as a springboard to further study in the subject area or as preparation for employment.

Some examples of the work you will complete are...

- Reviewing current business news stories.
- Investigation of local/national/international businesses.
- Ratio analysis for a variety of businesses.

What skills will I develop?

In this subject, you will develop a positive work ethic alongside vital transferable employability skills such as analysis and evaluation skills and quantitative skills – the calculation and interpretation of data. Through investigation and analysis of real business opportunities, you will develop as enterprising individuals with the ability to think commercially and creatively to demonstrate business expertise.

How will I be assessed on this course?

GCSE Business is 100% examination with two examinations being taken at the end of Y11.

If I wanted to continue studying this subject after Year 11, which course could I study?

At KS5, you could study A Level Business which is available to study as a two-year course at Cowley Sixth Form College. This course will build upon the business knowledge gained at GCSE level. It is assessed through three examinations at the end of the course.

Which careers could this subject lead to?

Possible careers that this subject can lead to include: buyer, digital marketer, entrepreneur, forensic accountant, human resources officer, insurance broker, logistics coordinator, loss adjuster, project manager, sales representative, retail manager.

GCSE COMPUTER SCIENCE

CONTACT: MR D RAINES

What sort of things will I do?

Over the next 2 years, if you choose GCSE Computer Science, you will study practical computer programming and relevant theory. Some examples of the work you will complete are: problem analysis; the designing, writing, testing and evaluation of computer programs.

What skills will I develop?

In this subject, you will develop:

- an understanding of the fundamental principles and concepts of Computer Science, including breaking down a problem into smaller parts, designing a computer program, writing a computer program, and data representation using binary and hexadecimal.
- analysis of problems in computational terms through practical problem solving, including designing, writing and debugging programs.
- the ability to think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically.
- an understanding of the components that make up a computer system, and how they communicate with one another via networks.
- an understanding of the impacts of digital technology to the individual and to wider society

How will I be assessed on this course?

Two written examinations worth 100%. The written examinations test knowledge and understanding and the ability to apply programming and problem-solving skills.

If I wanted to continue studying this subject after Year 11, which course could I study?

At KS5, you could study BTEC National in Computing or BTEC Creative Digital Media – both of these courses are available at Cowley Sixth Form College.

Which careers could this subject lead to?

Possible careers that this subject can lead to include: Software engineering, computer games development, engineering and manufacturing, website development, robotics and artificial intelligence, law, network and database management, data analyst.

GCSE DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

CONTACT: MISS
HARVEY/MISS DAVIES/MR
BATE

What sort of things will I do?

Over the next 2 years, if you choose the **Design Technology** course, you will gain awareness and learn from wider influences on Design and Technology including historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors. You will get the opportunity to work creatively when designing and making and apply technical and practical expertise. You will study core technical and designing and making principles, including a broad range of design processes, materials techniques and equipment. You will also have the opportunity to study specialist technical principles. You will use your creativity and imagination to design and make prototypes that solve real and relevant problems, considering their own and others' needs, wants and values.

What skills will I develop?

In this subject, students will develop: skills in written communication, oral communication, designing, researching, understanding technical principles, designing and making a project.

How will I be assessed on this course?

2 hour written examination. 50% of total marks for examination.

Section A – Core technical principles (20 marks) - A mixture of multiple choice and short answer questions assessing a breadth of technical knowledge and understanding.

Section B – Specialist technical principles (30 marks) - Several short answer questions (2–5 marks) and one extended response to assess a more in-depth knowledge of technical principles.

Section C – Designing and making principles (50 marks) - A mixture of short answer and extended response questions.

Coursework task of 30-35 hours. 50% of total marks assessing a substantial design & make task.

If I wanted to continue studying this subject after Year 11, which course could I study?

At KS5, you could study L3 Engineering, L2 Construction, L3 Art and Design – Graphics/Fashion & Textiles at Cowley Sixth Form College.

Which careers could this subject lead to?

Possible careers that this subject can lead to include:

Careers in Engineering, Construction, Graphics & Fashion, Product design.

DIGITAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

CONTACT: MR RAINES

What sort of things will I do?

Over the next 2 years, if you choose the Digital Information Technology course, you will:

- plan, design and create a digital user interface for a business.
- understand how data and information can help organisations in decision making.
- explore how organisations use digital information systems and devices.

What skills will I develop?

In this subject, students will develop:

- digital project planning techniques that can be used to plan and deliver a project.
- digital skills which you can use to create a working computer interface.
- data manipulation techniques that can be used to change the way that data is presented.

How will I be assessed on this course?

You will be assessed through:

- two internally assessed coursework components (each worth 30% of the final grade)
- a synoptic examination at the end of the course (worth 40% of the final grade)

If I wanted to continue studying this subject after Year 11, which course could I study?

At KS5, you could study Computing or Creative Digital Media Production, both of which are available in Cowley Sixth Form College.

Which careers could this subject lead to?

Possible careers that this subject can lead to include:

- IT Technician
- Web Developer
- IT Security
- Computer Programmer
- Systems Analyst
- Network Engineer
- Software Engineer
- Data Scientist

ETHICS AND PHILOSOPHY

CONTACT: MRS CLARK

What sort of things will I do?

Over the next 2 years, if you choose **Ethics and Philosophy**, you will enjoy taking part in discussion and debate about world views and moral decisions. You will study a variety of different topics including ethics, philosophy and how religions impact worldviews. Some examples of the work you will complete are crime and punishment, the value of life (abortion and euthanasia), evil and suffering, equality between men and women, death penalty and the existence of God. You will also study the beliefs, teachings and practices in Christianity and Islam.

What skills will I develop?

In this subject, students will develop:

- Critical thinking
- Evaluation
- Formulation of a structured argument
- Interpretation of sacred texts

How will I be assessed on this course?

Ethics and Philosophy is 100% examination. There are three examinations at the end of Year 11.

If I wanted to continue studying this subject after Year 11, which course could I study?

At KS5, you could study A Level Ethics, Philosophy and Religion at Cowley Sixth Form College.

Which careers could this subject lead to?

Possible careers that this subject can lead to include:

- Medicine
- Law
- Social work
- Community work
- Police
- Teaching

GCSE GEOGRAPHY

CONTACT: MS FRANCIS

What sort of things will I do?

Over the next 2 years, if you choose the Geography course, you will study a variety of different topics, covering both human and physical Geography. Some examples of the work you will complete are a study of Typhoon Haiyan, looking at the causes, effects and responses of this tropical storm. You will study in detail why Nigeria's economy is rapidly growing, and you will study Svalbard, a cold environment. You will take part in two compulsory fieldtrips to collect data to analyse. In Year 11 you will study a real-life issue and make a decision about it.

What skills will I develop?

In this subject, students will develop skills in:

- Collecting accurate data and data analysis
- Decision making
- Writing extended answers

How will I be assessed on this course?

Geography is 100% examination. There are three examinations at the end of Year 11.

If I wanted to continue studying this subject after Year 11, which course could I study?

At KS 5, you could study A Level Geography at Cowley Sixth Form College.

Which careers could this subject lead to?

Possible careers that Geography can lead to include: Town planner; cartographer; advertising; leisure and tourism; international aid/development worker; environmental consultant and climate scientist.

GERMAN

CONTACT: MRS LAVELLE / MISS MITCHELL

What sort of things will I do?

Over the next 2 years, you will learn how to communicate effectively in a modern foreign language. This will be through listening, speaking, reading and writing on a regular basis with opportunities to take trips abroad to practise and experience the language in a target language country.

What skills will I develop?

Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking. It will also support a student's understanding of their own language for the better and the culture of their own and many other countries as a comparison. Themes covered include **my personal world, lifestyle and wellbeing, my neighbourhood, media and technology, studying and my future, travel and tourism.**

How will I be assessed on this course?

GCSE FINAL ASSESSMENT:

Listening (25%) – terminal exam (listening and dictation).

Speaking (25%) – terminal exam (one read aloud task, one role play, one picture task)

Reading (25%) – terminal exam (reading and understanding, translation into English)

Writing (25%) – terminal exam (short/extended writing tasks, translation into French/German)

If I wanted to continue studying this subject after Year 11, which course could I study?

At KS5, A level in French/German/Spanish are on offer at Cowley Sixth Form College. During the course you will look at the history, the culture and the lives of those who live in the countries where the language is spoken. An opportunity to study a film and a book is also on offer as well as completing your own research project on any approved aspect of the country/language that you are studying. Some former students have chosen artists, authors, historical aspects, fashion designers, choreographers, cities ...

Which careers could this subject lead to?

Languages work alongside many other subjects as well as being central to some careers such as translating and interpreting. Possible careers: accountant, engineer, journalist, media posts, translator, teacher, computer games designer, marketing and advertising, law, travel and tourism industry, secretarial work. The course is suitable for people who: are keen to broaden their career prospects, who enjoy communicating with others, who are quite academic and who may be keen on travelling or using their language(s) to open doors to a variety of new careers. Salaries can increase between 8% - 20% depending on how central languages are to the role, as language skills can be used alongside a wide range of jobs.

What sort of things will I do?

Over the next 2 years, if you choose the **History** course, you will study how migration has shaped and sculpted what we today call Britain. This involves learning about the birth of English identity under the Saxons, to the development of the British Empire, right through to the creation of the modern Britain we live in today. This involves a case study of the Notting Hill area of London. Some examples of the work you will complete are case studies on the development of the Cold War, which we are still being impacted by today with events in Ukraine. You will also study Weimar and Nazi Germany, where we look at how Hitler came to be elected and the impact he had on the people of Germany. You will also complete enquiries on Elizabeth I, assessing her success as a Tudor Monarch.

What skills will I develop?

In this subject, students will develop the ability to recall, select and organize relevant knowledge to support an argument. They will also use historical sources and learn how to test reliability and utility. Students will also evaluate and analyse a range of interpretations, using their knowledge to assess the accuracy of these.

How will I be assessed on this course?

100% examination in Year 11. Students will sit three papers.

Paper 1 – 1 hour and 15 minutes

Paper 2 – 1 hour and 45 minutes

Paper 3 – 1 hour and 20 minutes

If I wanted to continue studying this subject after Year 11, which course could I study?

At KS5, you could study A Level History at Cowley Sixth Form College.

Which careers could this subject lead to?

Possible careers that this subject can lead to include: Teaching, journalism, publishing, law, archaeology, anthropology, genealogy, restoration work, work in the diplomatic service, tourism, archive work, work within the civil service, and museum work.

GCSE PE / BTEC SPORT

CONTACT: MR GORDON,
MR LLEWELLYN

Students will be allocated onto most appropriate course by PE/Vocational staff based on prior data and sporting ability to ensure they are on most appropriate course for them to achieve best possible outcome.

What sort of things will I do?

Over the next 2 years, if you choose the **GCSE PE / BTEC Sport** course, you will:

GCSE PE – study in a classroom a number of different units including anatomy and physiology, sport psychology, fitness testing and training, socio-economical factors, sport and media and diet and nutrition. You will receive one homework per week. Some of the theory work will be taught practically and so you must take part in every lesson.

BTEC Sport – your teachers will aim to prepare you for employment in the sports industry. Therefore, the course incorporates key aspects of the industry, such as fitness testing and training for sport and exercise, practical sports performance and physiology. There is a focus on sports performance and participation in practical sport, as well as leading sessions. A love and enjoyment of playing sport, as well a proven history of taking part in extracurricular sport is essential.

What skills will I develop?

In this subject, students will develop:

GCSE PE – You will be given an opportunity to develop skills and understanding in a range of different sports. In theory you will develop understanding of how the body and mind responds to exercise, how sport is organized and how to improve your fitness. You will also develop your research, independence and analytical skills.

BTEC Sport – Skills, techniques and tactics in a range of sports, measure how your body responds to exercise and develop appropriate training programmes.

How will I be assessed on this course?

GCSE PE: this course is based on 30% practical controlled assessments, 10% coursework and 60 % theory (2 x one-hour examinations). The examinations will consist of multiple-choice questions, short answer questions and extended writing questions.

BTEC Sport: You will be assessed over 4 units of work. One of which is a 1-hour exam that makes up 25% of your mark. The others are assessed via course work units which require you to produce a mix of practical and written evidence.

If I wanted to continue studying this subject after Year 11, which course could I study?

At KS5, you could study A Level Physical Education, BTEC Sport Coaching and Sport Development at Cowley Sixth Form College.

Which careers could this subject lead to?

Possible careers that this subject can lead to include: Sports media, sports agent, sports development officer, physiotherapist, medicine, teacher, sports coach, sportswear designer, personal trainer.

SEPARATE SCIENCE

CONTACT: MR J BROOKS

What sort of things will I do?

Over the next 2 years, if you choose the **Separate Science** course, you will study areas of Science which have become part of our everyday life in the last 18 months – 2 years, such as how viruses reproduce and what our bodies do to protect them, how vaccines work and how they are developed. You will study the rise of renewable energy in the plight to reduce global warming and the effects of climate change, link new technology to materials such as superconductors to improve communication in society.

What skills will I develop?

In this subject, students will develop:

- Practical skills enabling you to competently use a range of scientific equipment.
- You will learn how to critically analyse and interpret results and data from other sources.
- Evaluate and discuss opinions on real life scientific issues such as cloning, IVF and the use of Fossil fuels.

How will I be assessed on this course?

Each GCSE has:

- 2 terminal examinations (1-hour 45min)
- Required practical work to be completed throughout the course

If I wanted to continue studying this subject after Year 11, which course could I study?

At KS5, you could study **Biology, Chemistry or Physics** at Cowley Sixth Form College. All 3 of these subjects lead to thousands of Further Education courses and potential apprenticeships.

Which careers could this subject lead to?

Possible careers that this subject can lead to include:

- Engineering e.g., chemical, electrical, mechanical, civil.
- Medicine e.g., doctor, optician, biomedical scientist, nurse, paramedic, dentist, orthodontist, dental hygienist, dental technician.
- Pharmacy e.g., pharmacist, dispenser, research scientist.
- Veterinary sciences e.g., zoologist, vet, surgeon, veterinary nurse.

VOCATIONAL OPTIONAL COURSES

ANIMAL CARE

CONTACT: MR RUDDY/MRS MORAN

What sort of things will I do?

Over the next 2 years, if you choose Animal Care, you will work with a range of small species for example, Rabbits, Guinea Pigs, Snakes, Geckos, Bearded Dragons, Chinchillas, Giant African Land Snails, Rats, Birds and Hamsters etc. You will also be given the opportunity to, work with larger non-domestic species such as Sheep and Goats.

You will study three components:

- Animal Handling
- Animal Housing and Accommodation
- Animal Health and Welfare

What skills will I develop?

In this subject, students will develop an understanding of:

- animal behaviour and the factors that affect the behaviour in animals, and how this relates to handling and restraint.
- the practical application of safe handling and restraining techniques for different animals, and the safe use of equipment.
- features that need to be taken into account when selecting accommodation for animals to ensure their needs are met.
- the use of appropriate equipment to prepare, check and clean out animal accommodation.

How will I be assessed on this course?

- Animal Handling (Internally assessed coursework, 30%)
- Animal Housing and Accommodation (Internally assessed coursework, 30%)
- Animal Health and Welfare (externally assessed examination, 40%)

If I wanted to continue studying this subject after Year 11, which course could I study?

At KS5, you would study BTEC National in Animal Management, available at Cowley Sixth Form College.

Which careers could this subject lead to?

Possible careers that this subject can lead to include: Veterinary Nurse, RSPCA, Dog Handler, Grooming Services, Animal Care Assistant (kennels, catteries, rescue centres, animal shelters), Zookeeper, Wildlife Park Attendants and Conservation.

CHILDREN'S PLAY, LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

CONTACT: MISS
WILLIAMS/MRS ROBINSON

What sort of things will I do?

Over the next 2 years, if you choose the BTEC L2 First Award in Children's Play, Learning and Development. You will be investigating the development of babies and children. You will look at many childcare setting scenarios, and gain hands on experience by taking part in practical activities in college to develop those basic skills that will put you on the path to being a childcare practitioner. Guest speakers are arranged to visit the college throughout the course to give you insight and contemporary knowledge of what it is like to work in the Childcare industry.

What skills will I develop?

In this subject, students will develop: Research, communication (both written and spoken), ICT, knowledge of child development, jobs in the care sector, placement experience working with children.

How will I be assessed on this course?

Most of the assessment is based on controlled assessment for Components 1 & 2, where you will be given a scenario and asked to complete answers under exam conditions using your class notes. One unit will be externally tested in the form of an exam.

If I wanted to continue studying this subject after Year 11, which course could I study?

At KS5, you could study the Level 3 BTEC Level 3 EXTENDED CERTIFICATE in Child Play Learning & Development (equivalent to 1 A-Level), BTEC Level 3 Awards in Health and Social Care (equivalent of 1 A Level) and BTEC L3 Nursing Cadetship at Cowley Sixth Form College.

Which careers could this subject lead to?

Possible careers that this subject can lead to include: Paediatric nurse, Nursery nurse, play worker, play specialist, Early Years teacher.

EDUQAS CONSTRUCTION AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

CONTACT: MR BATE/ MR MIDDLETON

What sort of things will I do?

Over the next 2 years, if you choose the **Construction** course, you will study a range of construction trades such as a carpentry, electrical installations and decorating as well as learning about a wider range of trades. You will also cover topics on materials and processes including managing construction projects. During the course you will work on a range of classroom-based construction practical tasks as well as carrying out full-scale practical works in the construction rooms.

What skills will I develop?

In this subject, students will develop:

- Health and Safety knowledge and understanding relating specifically to the Construction industry.
- Knowledge of tools and uses including the ability to use them to carry out construction tasks and repairs.
- Explore a range of different structures and buildings of the built environment as well as professional and trade roles.
- Use of mathematical equations to calculate materials for practical activities.
- Set success criteria for a job's success and evaluation work against a specification.

How will I be assessed on this course?

Unit 1 - Introduction to the Built Environment (40% worth of the qualification, externally assessed examination)

Unit 3 – Constructing the Built Environment (60% worth of the qualification, internally assessed)

If I wanted to continue studying this subject after Year 11, which course could I study?

At KS5, you could study BTEC Engineering Level 3 National Certificate or BTEC Level 2 or Level 3 Construction and the Built Environment, for more information please see the courses available in the Cowley Sixth Form College prospectus.

Which careers could this subject lead to?

Possible careers that this subject can lead to include: Architect, Bricklayer, Building Control Officer, Site Inspector, Site manager, Carpenter, Electrician, Painter and Decorator, Plumber and a wide range of other Careers in the Construction sector.

What sort of things will I do?

Over the next 2 years, if you choose the **Engineering** course, you will use a variety of engineering tools, equipment and machinery to produce a functioning product; learn to interpret and manufacture from engineering drawings; solve problems and learn to analyse engineered products in order to propose design solutions and understand the Engineering world.

What skills will I develop?

In this subject, students will learn to use a wide range of tools, machinery and equipment. This is done through high quality practical projects and written assignments. Understand the Engineering world, engineering drawings and materials, problem solving, researching, analysing, designing and making new products.

How will I be assessed on this course?

Unit 1 – Manufacturing engineering products (worth 40% of the qualification, internally assessed)

Unit 2 – Designing engineering products (worth 20% of the qualification, internally assessed)

Unit 3 – Solving engineering problems (worth 40% of the qualification, externally assessed examination)

If I wanted to continue studying this subject after Year 11, which course could I study?

BTEC Level 3 Engineering – see Cowley Sixth Form College prospectus.

Which careers could this subject lead to?

Possible careers that this subject can lead to include: Aerospace, biomedical, civil/structural, computer, electrical/electronic, environmental, marine, mechanical or product engineer.

BTEC FASHION DESIGN - TEXTILES

CONTACT: MRS CHAPMAN

What sort of things will I do?

Over the next 2 years, if you choose the **Textiles** course, you will be introduced to elements of fashion and textiles. This course provides opportunities to produce fashion/textile products which are unique and creative. It gives you the chance to develop practical skills and the confidence to complete design and make tasks relevant to today's environment. You will investigate art and design practice to inform the generation and communication of ideas and will develop practical skills through exploration of specialist materials, techniques and processes. You will develop and produce art and design work in response to creative briefs.

What skills will I develop?

In this subject, students will develop creative ideas, skills and techniques, teamwork, creative and decorative textile techniques and products in response to project briefs. Gain transferable skills and confidence that will help you in the world today and prepare you for your future. Build applied knowledge and skills that show an aptitude for further learning, both in the sector and more widely.

How will I be assessed on this course?

Component 1 – Creative Practice in Art and Design (Internal)

Component 2 – Responding to a Brief (External synoptic)

If I wanted to continue studying this subject after Year 11, which course could I study?

At KS5, you could study BTEC Art and Design Fashion/Textiles Level 3 - see Cowley Sixth Form College prospectus.

Which Careers could this subject lead to?

Possible careers that this subject can lead to include: Fashion designer, textile designer, costume designer, fashion buyer, quality control – fashion industry.

BTEC GRAPHICS

CONTACT: MISS
HARVEY/MISS DAVIES

What sort of things will I do?

Over the next 2 years, if you choose the **Graphics** course, you will be introduced to the techniques graphic designers use to create dynamic and innovative work. This course provides opportunities to be unique and creative and will give you the chance to develop your design and practical skills. You will investigate art and design practice to inform the generation and communication of ideas and will develop practical skills through exploration of specialist materials, techniques and processes. You will develop and produce art and design work in response to creative briefs.

What skills will I develop?

Students will develop creative ideas and skills in response to project briefs. Communicating ideas using 2D and 3D techniques and model making. Using specialist materials, techniques, equipment and processes. Recording and researching within specialist pathways. Gain transferable skills and confidence that will help you in the world today and prepare you for your future. Build applied knowledge and skills that show an aptitude for further learning, both in the sector and more widely.

How will I be assessed on this course?

Component 1 – Creative Practice in Art and Design (Internal)

Component 2 – Responding to a Brief (External synoptic)

If I wanted to continue studying this subject after Year 11, which course could I study?

At KS5, you could study BTEC Art and Design Graphics Level 3 - see Cowley Sixth Form College prospectus.

Which careers could this subject lead to?

Possible careers that this subject can lead to include: Graphic designer, product designer, production manager, interior/exhibition designer.

BTEC HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

CONTACT: MISS
WILLIAMS/MRS ROBINSON

What sort of things will I do?

Over the next 2 years, if you choose the Health and Social Care course, you will be doing practical and academic work related to realistic Health Care situations and activities. You will study three units, which include units such as developing human lifespan development, H&SC values and Promoting health & wellbeing. Some examples of the work you will complete would include developing communication skills in role play situations, assessing clients' needs and understanding how a healthy life is so important for all in society.

What skills will I develop?

In this subject, students will develop research techniques, communication (both written and spoken), Essay writing, ICT, knowledge of health and jobs in the care sector.

How will I be assessed on this course?

The majority of the assessment is based on controlled assessment for Components 1 & 2, where you will be given a scenario and asked to complete answers under exam conditions using your class notes. One unit will be externally tested in the form of an exam.

If I wanted to continue studying this subject after Year 11, which course could I study?

At KS5, you could study BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate in Health and Social Care (equivalent of 1 A Level) and BTEC L3 Nursing Cadetship (equivalent to 3 A levels), both available at Cowley Sixth Form College.

Which careers could this subject lead to?

Possible careers that this subject can lead to include Nursing, Radiographer, Occupational therapist, Practitioner nurse, Paramedic, Social worker, Dietician, Operating theatre technician, play specialist, Play worker.

What sort of things will I do?

Over the next 2 years, if you choose the **Hospitality and Catering** course, you will safely produce a wide range of high skilled starters, main courses and desserts. You will develop your creativity and flair when designing menus and improve transferable skills such as independence and teamwork within the kitchen. Some examples of the work you will complete are risk assessments, menu design for specific dietary requirements, producing time plans, preparing, cooking and presenting dishes.

What skills will I develop?

- Hygiene, health and safety knowledge relating to Hospitality.
- Culinary skills incorporating a wide range of different food groups and equipment.
- Finishing skills in order to present and serve food in a range of different scenarios.

How will I be assessed on this course?

Unit 1: The Hospitality and Catering Industry exam, completed at the end of Year 11- Externally assessed exam 40%.

Unit 2: The coursework project and practical assessment is conducted in Year 11. You will have the opportunity to cook and prepare dishes in response to a brief whilst producing evidence of your practical accomplishments- Internally assessed 60%.

If I wanted to continue studying this subject after Year 11, which course could I study?

At KS5, you could continue to a catering, patisserie or Hospitality course at St Helens College.

Which careers could this subject lead to?

Possible careers that this subject can lead to include: Catering, hospitality, retail, food science, environmental health, nutrition and dietetics.

EDUQAS – MUSIC

CONTACT: MR
GERRARD/MR WESTHEAD

What sort of things will I do?

Over the next 2 years, if you choose the EDUQAS music course, you will:

- ✓ Master your chosen instrument/s.
- ✓ Perform live at various gigs and concerts.
- ✓ Practically explore a range of roles in the music industry.
- ✓ Create original work.
- ✓ Plan, prepare, promote, and develop an event.
- ✓ Explore key employment pathways within the performing arts industry.
- ✓ Work hard but have lots of fun.

What skills will I develop?

In this subject, students will develop:

- ✓ Technical and stylistic skills on your chosen instrument.
- ✓ Knowledge and understanding to set clear targets and construct a personal practice plan to explore and develop your skills.
- ✓ A wider contextual and theoretical knowledge of music styles and practitioners.
- ✓ Key transferrable employment skills such as time management, communication, and teamwork.
- ✓ Composing and song writing techniques to create new material.
- ✓ Analyse and reflect on your own practice.

How will I be assessed on this course?

There is no final written examination (in the sports hall) or online test. The Course is 100% course work.

- ✓ Unit 1 – Performing (Internally assessed) (30%)
- ✓ Unit 2 - Creating (Internally assessed) (30%)
- ✓ Unit 3 – Performing Arts in practice (externally assessed) (40%)

If I wanted to continue studying this subject after Year 11, which course could I study?

At KS5, you could study level 3 Extended Certificate in the Creative Music Industry (Performance) at Cowley Sixth Form College.

Which careers could this subject lead to?

Possible careers that this subject can lead to include: Performer, session musician, composer/songwriter, music journalist, A&R Manager, Producer, conductor, events manager, audio engineer, DJ, music arranger, agent and promoter.

BTEC MUSICAL THEATRE

CONTACT: MISS RADFORD/
MR WESTHEAD

What sort of things will I do?

Over the next 2 years, if you choose the BTEC Tech Award Musical Theatre course, you will:

- ✓ Visit the theatre to watch a range of hit West End and Broadway musicals.
- ✓ Develop your interest and skills as a singer, dancer, and actor.
- ✓ Explore a range of musical theatre styles and genres.
- ✓ Plan, prepare, devise, and develop a live event which will result in a final performance.
- ✓ Explore key employment pathways within the performing arts industry.
- ✓ Present performances that are entertaining and highly creative.
- ✓ Take part in a range of workshops, masterclasses and shows.
- ✓ Work hard but have lots of fun.

What skills will I develop?

In this subject, students will develop:

- ✓ Develop a range of core technical and stylistic musical theatre performance skills for stage and screen.
- ✓ A wide contextual and theoretical knowledge of a range of singing, dancing, and acting styles and practitioners.
- ✓ Skills to evaluate and reflect both your own and peers' work.
- ✓ A strong understanding of the health and safety implications of being a performer.
- ✓ Key transferrable employment skills such as time management, communication and teamwork whilst working in groups or as a soloist.
- ✓ Presentational skills in different styles and genres.

How will I be assessed on this course?

There is no final written examination (in sports hall) or online test. The Course is 100% course work.

- ✓ Component 1 – Developing skills and techniques (internal assessment) (30%)
- ✓ Component 2- Exploring the Performing Arts (internal assessment) (30%)
- ✓ Component 3 - Performing to a brief (external assessment) (40%)

If I wanted to continue studying this subject after Year 11, which course could I study?

At KS5, you could study BTEC Level 3 Foundation Diploma in Musical Theatre/Acting/Dance at Cowley Sixth Form College.

Which careers could this subject lead to?

Possible careers that this subject can lead to include: Dancing, teaching, theatre, leisure industry and dance therapy, Media, T.V, Film and journalism. The skills developed in dance also benefit members of other professions such as teachers, lawyers and managers who regularly have to demonstrate confidence and creativity when speaking in front of others, giving presentations or solving problems.

TRAVEL AND TOURISM

CONTACT: MR POTTER
MISS CHADWICK

What sort of things will I do?

Over the next 2 years, if you choose Travel and Tourism, you will be investigating the main types of tourism in the UK, the contribution that travel and tourism makes to the UK economy, and the different component industries that make up the UK travel and tourism sector. You will also cover what the different types of UK destinations have to offer, as well as locating tourist UK destinations and routes. It isn't just UK tourism that we look at, there is also a unit that helps you to understand factors that are influential on worldwide tourism and why events such as natural disasters can have a significant impact on the sector. We will also look at the needs and expectations of different types of customers in the travel and tourism sector and how organisations address these.

What skills will I develop?

In this subject, students will develop: Customer service, regional and local geographical knowledge, development of promotional materials, empathy, exploring current issues, planning and carrying out research, and presentation skills. As well as employability skills that include self-management, teamworking, business and customer awareness, problem solving, communication, basic literacy and numeracy, a positive attitude to work, and the use of IT.

How will I be assessed on this course?

The majority of the assessment is based on controlled assessment for Components 1 & 2, where you will be given a scenario and asked to complete answers under exam conditions using your class notes. One unit will be externally tested in the form of an exam.

If I wanted to continue studying this subject after Year 11, which course could I study?

At KS5, you could study **BTEC National in Travel and Tourism** which you can study at Cowley Sixth Form College.

Which careers could this subject lead to?

Possible careers that this subject can lead to include: Cabin crew, holiday representatives, travel agents, human resources manager, pilot, tour operator, events manager.

CHECKLIST

MAKING YOUR DECISIONS

Use this 8-point checklist - tick the box when you have done each of the following:

☐

I have read this course booklet carefully.

☐

I have asked my subject teachers/course contact* to fully explain what I will do in Year 10 and 11.

☐

I have discussed, with my subject teacher/course contact*, how much coursework and how many examinations I must complete.

☐

I have talked to my Head of Achievement and/or Team Tutor for advice and suggestions.

☐

I have discussed my interests and choices with parents / carers.

☐

I have talked to the Careers Advisers/researched some careers online using www.Unifrog.org or www.careerconnect.org.uk (or other careers websites)

☐

I have researched information about my progression route.

☐

I have chosen subjects that I feel that I would enjoy and am likely to be successful in.

* The course contact can be found on each course page in the options booklet.



COWLEY
INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE

COWLEY INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE

Hard Lane, St Helens, WA10 6PN | Tel 01744 678 030 | enquiries@cowleysthelens.org.uk
www.cowley.st-helens.sch.uk