



COWLEY
INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE



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PROSPECTUS 2026

ACHIEVING THE HIGHEST STANDARDS TOGETHER



Pupils described their school as a welcoming and friendly community where 'people smile at one another'. Pupils welcome and celebrate diversity. They said that it is good 'to embrace people's differences'.

- Ofsted -



Welcome from the Principal



Cowley is a vibrant, ambitious and inclusive school at the very heart of our local community. This is a College where academic achievement and personal growth go hand in hand, and where every student is supported to be the very best version of themselves.

Whether you have a passion for sport, science, the arts, technology, or you're still discovering what inspires you, our aim is to help each young person unlock their full potential.

As Principal, I am incredibly proud of our students, staff and the wider Cowley community. We are a College built on strong relationships, and our success is rooted in close partnership with families. We know that when schools and parents and carers work together, students thrive and we are fully committed to that shared journey.

Visitors to the College, including Ofsted, regularly comment on our welcoming, aspirational and caring atmosphere. At Cowley, we focus on what really matters: safe and happy students, excellent teaching and outcomes that open doors to exciting futures.

While this prospectus offers an overview of our College, the best way to understand what makes Cowley so special is to see it in action. I warmly invite you to attend our Open Evening, where you will be able to meet some of our fantastic students and staff, ask questions, and experience the energy and ambition that runs through everything we do.

With exciting developments ahead and a clear vision for the future, this is a great time to join Cowley International College. I look forward to welcoming you soon.

Russell Cormack

Cowley news from the last year

We had a busy year in 2025! Have a read of some of our top news stories



STUDENTS ENJOY ANNUAL CHINA TRIP

Students and staff from Cowley travelled to China for an eleven-day tour of the country to improve their Mandarin-speaking skills.

Part of the Mandarin Excellence Programme (MEP), the students embarked on an 11-day immersive experience, taking part in intensive language activities and spent time with pupils in schools in Beijing.

They also enjoyed a cultural experience and saw some of the amazing sights the city has to offer, such as the Great Wall of China, Olympic Park and The Temple of Heaven.

Mr Cormack, Principal, said: "We are extremely proud to be a part of the MEP and to be able to offer our students this

incredible opportunity to visit China.

"This is a trip that will live long in the students' memories and the skills and confidence they have gained from the experience will serve them extremely well for their futures."

One of the students summed up his experience: "The trip has been nothing but extraordinary, breathtaking and unforgettable. From climbing mountains on the Great Wall to watching pandas live the high life and walking in the footsteps of emperors at the Forbidden City, this has been an experience of a lifetime and one that I would recommend to anyone and everyone."



COWLEY ECO-COMMITTEE TAKE ACTION

In a powerful display of environmental responsibility and community spirit, members of Cowley's Eco-Committee took part in the nationwide Big School Clean, an initiative designed to encourage young people to care for their local environment.

Equipped with litter pickers, gloves and a strong sense of purpose, the students spent an hour cleaning up the neighbourhood surrounding the school. Their efforts were nothing short of inspiring. In just 60 minutes, they collected ten full bags of rubbish from areas within a ten-minute walk of the college.

As well as being a productive clean-up, the initiative revealed the scale of the problem.

Students encountered a significant volume of discarded waste and even came across cases of fly-tipping, sparking urgent conversations about the long-term impact of littering on both the local environment and community wellbeing.

Galvanised by their experience, students are now working on a campaign to raise awareness about local waste issues. Plans are already in motion to share their findings via the college's media channels and to write directly to local councillors and Members of Parliament calling for improved waste management and greater community engagement.



COWLEY TAKES PART IN MILLION MEAL MIRACLE

Cowley had the privilege of hosting the Million Meal Miracle, a charitable initiative dedicated to combating global hunger.

The event saw Year 8 students roll up their sleeves and work alongside volunteers to pack over 7,000 meals.

The meals, which will be sent to trusted partners in Zimbabwe and Somaliland, aim to provide essential warm meals for children in schools and orphanages.

The Million Meal Miracle project is on a mission to engage 200 schools in meal-packing events to address the critical issue of hunger faced by children around the world.

As part of an assembly, representatives from the project educated our students about the ongoing global hunger challenges, highlighting the struggles that children their age are facing in other parts of the world.

In addition to the hands-on experience, the event provided our students with an important lesson on the significance of charitable work and the global issues that affect millions.



SARAH COWLEY BLUE PLAQUE PRESENTATION

On 5th March, Cowley celebrated a historic moment with the unveiling of a blue plaque dedicated to Sarah Cowley.

The ceremony, attended by the Mayor, former staff, students, and the current Head Boy and Head Girl, paid tribute to Sarah Cowley's legacy.

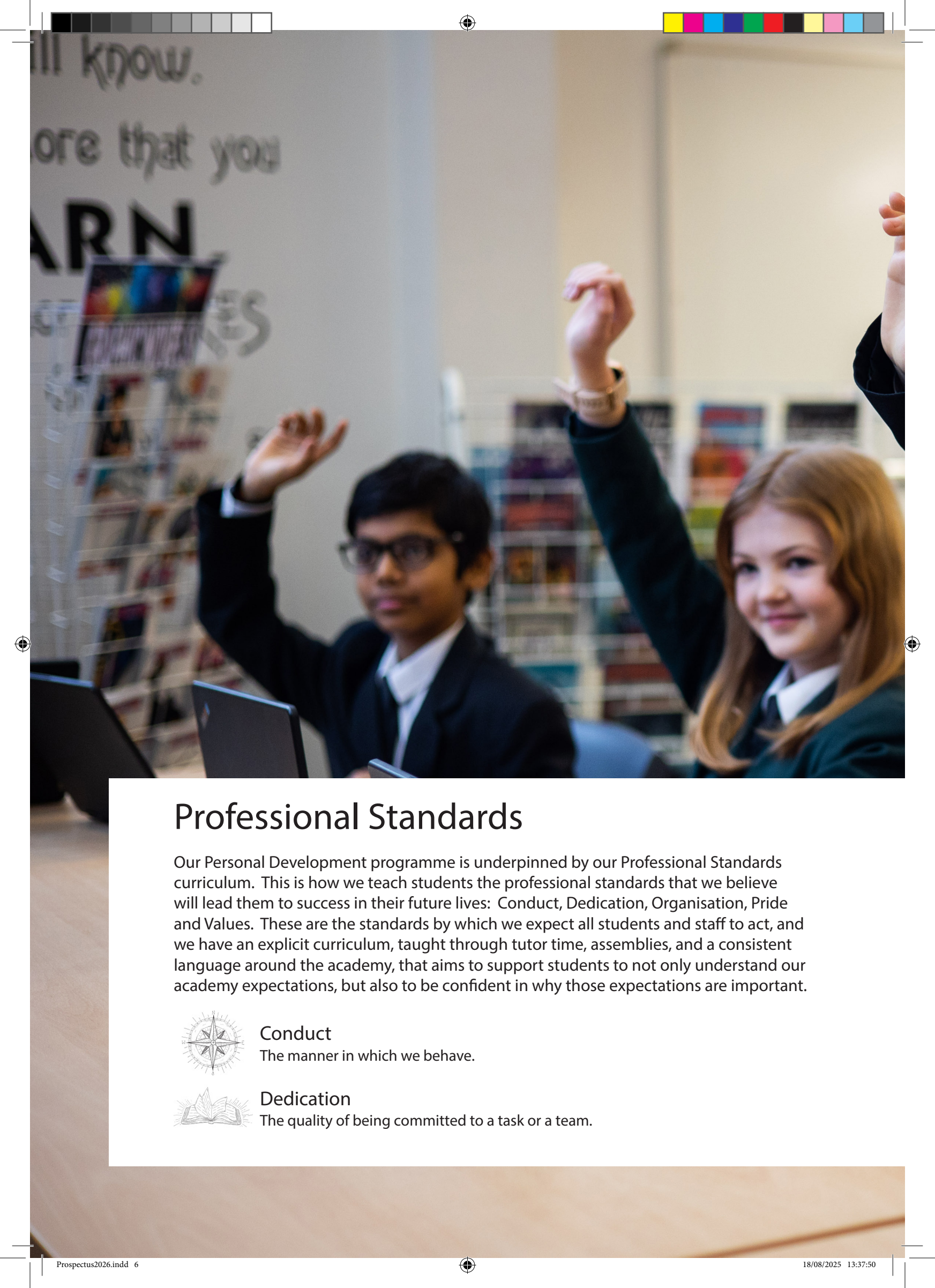
Former staff member, Rita Allcock, spoke passionately about Sarah Cowley's lasting impact on both the school and its students.

Rita's words painted a vivid picture of Sarah's dedication and unwavering support for all children in St Helens.

The plaque was unveiled by the Mayor. This significant moment in Cowley's history is particularly timely, occurring just days before International Women's Day.

The unveiling serves as a powerful reminder of the contributions women like Sarah Cowley have made in shaping our community and inspiring those who follow.

This blue plaque will now stand as a lasting tribute to Sarah Cowley, ensuring that her legacy remains an integral part of Cowley for years to come.



Professional Standards

Our Personal Development programme is underpinned by our Professional Standards curriculum. This is how we teach students the professional standards that we believe will lead them to success in their future lives: Conduct, Dedication, Organisation, Pride and Values. These are the standards by which we expect all students and staff to act, and we have an explicit curriculum, taught through tutor time, assemblies, and a consistent language around the academy, that aims to support students to not only understand our academy expectations, but also to be confident in why those expectations are important.



Conduct

The manner in which we behave.



Dedication

The quality of being committed to a task or a team.



Organisation

To be able to manage and prioritise responsibilities.



Pride

Feeling proud of yourself, your achievements and the communities you are in.



Values

The moral (right) rules and qualities that support you in making good decisions.



Enrichment





We understand that school is more than just formal lessons, homework and examinations. It is about developing a rounded citizen and gaining friends and leadership and charity opportunities.

At Cowley, enrichment opportunities are truly incredible with students being involved in clubs, teams and activities to enhance their time and personal development.

We encourage all students to be involved in as many activities each week. All clubs and school-based activities are run free of charge and residential are heavily subsidised.

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

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

Cowley has a strong sporting reputation and there are plenty of opportunities for students to represent the college in a wide range of sports.

Our rugby teams regularly reach the Town Cup Finals while also competing in regional and national competitions and we're fortunate enough to have a great connection with Saints, who train on our site and offer support with coaching to allow our students to develop their skills.

There is a sports-rich timetable throughout the week, with cricket, football, basketball, hockey, netball, athletics and badminton to name but a few of the sports on offer.

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 and on the screens across the college to ensure everyone is fully aware of the diverse and inclusive enrichment offer.

Our enrichment offering is open to all students. Whatever your needs or interests, there is something for everybody!

RESIDENTIALS & INTERNATIONAL TRIPS

Below are some of the amazing trips we organised last year:

- New York
- China
- Cambodia
- Loire Valley
- Quinta
- Plus lots of great trips within the UK!





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. 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.



Mr Rowland



Mr Westhead

Our Year 7 team is purposely designed to help with the transition from primary to secondary school. The team consists of Assistant Principal, Mr Rowland and Head of Achievement, Mr Westhead.

Mr Rowland 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.

"We meet with all the Year 6 class teachers to help us find out as much as possible about the students who will be joining us. We also visit each of the feeder primary schools for a full day spending time with the students looking at life at Cowley.

"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 the Year 7 Team of staff as well as the children they'll be sharing classes with to have the opportunity to make new friends.

"The extended induction time in the summer term provides new Cowleians to make new friends, learn the school and become excited about September.

"Lots of the current Year 7 students are involved in this process to share their experiences and help the younger ones find their way around and settle in the new surroundings.

"In addition, during the summer holidays, we have a week where parents and students can pop in if they have any concerns or questions to be answered.

"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."



Wellbeing and Support



Mr Bennett



Miss Amadio



Miss Hill



Gatsby

Cowley has its own dedicated student wellbeing support team, consisting of a Wellbeing Team Manager, Wellbeing Officer and Child Protection Officers. We also have Gatsby, our therapy dog, who is an important member of the team who helps students in a number of ways, developing cognitive and social skills, teaching compassion and respect and helping to relieve anxiety.

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.



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 Barnardo's Resilience Team.

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.

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.

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.



SEND



Mrs Mackay

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 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 website page

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.

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