



COWLEY
INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE



Year 9 Options Guide

2026

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. There is a lot of useful information that you will need throughout the process of choosing your final options. The booklet contains the following:

1. Information about the process of choosing options, careers advice and activities.
2. Information on GCSE subjects that are optional.
3. Information on vocational subjects (e.g. BTEC) that are optional.
4. A timeline to show all deadlines relating to the year 9 options process.

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

- Will the subject help me in my future career?
- Do I enjoy the subject?
- Do I think I can do well in the subject?
- Does the subject suit my style of learning?
- Will the subject support my choices at 6th form college?

GOOD CHOICES HELP YOU TO PROGRESS AND ACHIEVE

During year 10 and 11, all students will study English language and literature, maths, combined science, religious education, curriculum for life (PSHE) and physical education. Students will be able to choose either 3 or 4 extra subjects for further study, known as option subjects. Information about each subject is contained in this booklet. There is also a timeline of the options process and initial information regarding pathways with advice on the English Baccalaureate.

There is an accompanying letter which will explain the options process and the initial choice poll. The letter also contain a link to the initial choice poll which is completed on Microsoft Forms.

All subjects are available to all students in some form; however, some students may receive guidance with their option choices to ensure that they are successful at KS4. Further guidance can be obtained at parents evening where you can speak to a member of staff regarding the options process. Alternatively, feel free to contact the college to ask a specific question regarding subject choices.

Please keep in mind that some courses may not run due to insufficient numbers or staffing changes and some courses are only available in specific blocks. Any changes to the final subjects offered will be shared before the final options are chosen, so all students can make an informed decision on which subjects they would like to study in year 10 and 11.

Contact for further information

Head of Achievement – Miss S Dyer

Year Co-ordinator – Mrs S Foster

Assistant Headteacher: Curriculum – Mr D Painter

YEAR 9 CHOICE PROGRAMME 2025-2026

EVENT	DATE
Assembly + taster Sessions for Work-Related vocational courses available in Year 10	November and December 2025
Preparation for Year 10 course choices – find out about courses in lessons	November/December 2025 – January 2026
Distribution of Year 10 course booklet <u>Assembly</u> - Introduction to Year 10 course booklet	Week of 5 th January 2026
Information sent to Parents re: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parents' Evening (Thursday 22nd January 2025) - Choice Poll - online - Options process information 	Wednesday 7 th January 2026
Year 9 Parents' Evening, including options information. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Members of staff will be available to speak to regarding options. 	Thursday 22 nd January 2026
Deadline for return of the <i>Student Choice Poll</i> for provisional Year 10 subject Choices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Subjects are then allocated to option blocks based upon provisional student choices 	Friday 29 th January 2026
Final options form given to students	Week beginning 9 th February 2026
Deadline for final option choices	Friday 6 th March 2026
Feedback on final option subjects to students and parents	Week beginning 13 th April 2026

PROCESS OF CHOOSING OPTIONS

The process of choosing final option subjects is divided into two stages:

STAGE 1 – INITIAL CHOICE POLL

Students will select initial subjects from their Student Choices Poll and put them in order of preference. This questionnaire will be sent out online, with a letter to parents/carers on week commencing 7th January 2026. This needs to be returned by Friday 29th January 2026. Please keep in mind that all choices at this point are unrestricted and will only be used as a guide. Final option choices will look different and placed into blocks to fit into the school timetable.

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

STAGE 2 – FINAL OPTION CHOICES

Students will be given the final option block pro-forma and then will need to select a first and reserve choice within each block. This will be provided to students in Team time during the week beginning 9th February 2026 and needs to be taken home to discuss with parents/carers.

The final deadline for options forms will be Friday 6th March 2026, at which point we will allocate students to subjects and classes to start in year 10.

Letters will be sent out during the week beginning 21st April 2026 informing students which course they have been allocated to.

PLEASE NOTE

IT IS IMPORTANT TO KEEP IN MIND THAT SOME 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.

PATHWAYS AT COWLEY INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE

At Cowley international college, we will place students into one of 3 different pathway; Scholars, Open and Life. When deciding on what Pathway is appropriate for each pupil, we consider progress, attainment and attitude to learning during Key Stage 3. The Three Pathways are listed below:

Scholars Pathway

We encourage a high proportion of our students to follow the Scholars pathway, to achieve the English Baccalaureate, by choosing to study a language (German or Mandarin), plus History or Geography and any two additional optional subjects.

Open Pathway

Pupils on the Open Pathway will choose from either history or geography, alongside three further optional subjects. This includes the option to study a language and so students can still be eligible to achieve the English Baccalaureate.

Life Pathway

This pathway offers a bespoke curriculum suitable for a very small number of pupils. Pupils will follow the Core Curriculum and an Options Curriculum tailored to meet their specific needs. Students will study three option subjects as well as a preparation for adulthood course which supports students with their core subjects and life skills.

Please note that the pathway you are on does not determine sets or class groups. It is a guide to help you decide which subjects would be best suited to your ability, will give you the best outcomes and support progression to further or higher education.

Students and parents/carers will be informed of their pathway when the final options form is sent out. If at this time you have any questions or concerns about the chosen pathway, please contact the college.

CAREER CONNECT

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.

GCSE

OPTIONAL COURSES

GCSE ART

CONTACT:

MISS KAY

MRS MACDONALD

MISS SWIDERSKA

What sort of things will I do?

Over the first 18 months of the course, you will create a portfolio of coursework (folder) relating to topics which challenge you to become a better artist – your coursework 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 **your 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. The A Levels are fabulous courses and some of our students choose these as balance from their Science/Math's 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, Promotional Materials Co-ordinator, 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.

Illustrator, Games Designer, Concept Artist, and many others – our course is a springboard for exciting times.

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 6th Form. 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.

COWLEY INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE

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. You will complete units of work which will include 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?

In Year 12 and 13 at Cowley Sixth Form, you could study the Level 3 BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate in:

- Computing (equivalent to 1 A-Level)
- Creative Digital Media: Digital Production (equivalent to 1 A-Level)
- eSports (equivalent to 1 A-Level)

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 ETHICS AND PHILOSOPHY

CONTACT: MISS EIFFE

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 alongside non-religious views on issues.

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 International College Sixth Form.

Which careers could this subject lead to?

Possible careers that this subject can lead to include:

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

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 International College sixth form.

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.

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, you will develop the ability to recall, select and organise relevant knowledge to support an argument. You will also use historical sources and learn how to test reliability and utility. You will also learn to evaluate and analyse a range of interpretations, using your 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 20 minutes

Paper 2 – 1 hour and 50 minutes

Paper 3 – 1 hour and 30 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 6th 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.

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.

G.C.S.E. PHOTOGRAPHY

CONTACT: MRS MACDONALD

Welcome to the AQA GCSE Photography course! Throughout this two-year program, students will explore the fascinating world of photography, developing both technical skills and a creative eye. Below is an overview of what you can expect from the course.

What sort of things will I do?

- **Practical Projects:** Engage in a variety of projects that cover different aspects of photography, from portrait and landscape photography to still life and abstract photography.
- **Workshops and Demonstrations:** Participate in workshops to learn about camera operation, lighting techniques, and editing software like Adobe Photoshop.
- **Portfolio Development:** Create a comprehensive portfolio of your work, showcasing your progress and creativity over the two years.

What skills will I develop?

- **Technical Skills:** Master the use of different cameras, lenses, and other photography equipment.
- **Creative Skills:** Cultivate an artistic vision and learn how to communicate ideas and emotions through images.
- **Analytical Skills:** Develop the ability to critically analyse and evaluate photographic works, both your own and others'.
- **Editing Proficiency:** Gain competence in photo editing software to enhance and manipulate images effectively.
- **Research and Planning:** Learn how to research photographic themes and plan shoots effectively.

How will I be assessed on this course?

- **Component 1: Portfolio (60%):** Assessment will be based on a portfolio of work produced during the course. This includes research, development of ideas, and the final pieces.
- **Component 2: Externally Set Assignment (40%):** You will respond to a theme set by AQA, culminating in a final piece created during a supervised period.

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

- **A-Level Photography:** Continue exploring photography in greater depth by pursuing an A-Level in Photography. We currently offer an A Level Photography course at the sixth form.
- **A Level Art & Design** - also on the sixth form (you can take both courses at the same time!)
- **University Degrees:** Explore undergraduate degrees in photography, visual arts, or multimedia design.

Which careers could this subject lead to?

- **Professional Photographer:** Work in fields such as portrait, fashion, wildlife, or sports photography.
- **Photojournalist:** Capture and convey stories through images for newspapers, magazines, or online publications.
- **Graphic Designer:** Use your skills in photography and editing to create visual content for businesses or media.
- **Art Director:** Oversee the visual aspects of projects, such as advertising campaigns or film productions.
- **Curator:** Manage and organize photography exhibitions in galleries or museums.

By the end of this course, you will not only have developed a comprehensive set of art and design skills but also gained valuable insights into potential future opportunities. Whether you aspire to pursue art academically or professionally, this GCSE course is an excellent steppingstone.

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 virus's 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**. 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.

GCSE MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES: GERMAN

CONTACT: MRS LAVELLE OR
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 practice 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. 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.

COWLEY INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE



What sort of things will I do?

Over the next 2 years, you will learn how to communicate effectively in Mandarin. 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 **identity and culture; local, national, international and global areas of interest; current and future study and employment.**

How will I be assessed on this course?

GCSE FINAL ASSESSMENT:

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

Speaking (25%) – terminal exam (one role play, one photo card and general conversation)

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

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

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

At KS5, IB standard level (SL) Language B Chinese and standardised Mandarin proficiency test (HSK4) on offer. During the IB course, you will have opportunities to study authentic materials. This enables you to further improve your spoken and written Chinese, and to understand Chinese culture better. In the HSK 4 course, you can expect to learn up to 1,200 words and understand the function and usage of some important Chinese Language points. The HSK 4 level is considered an intermediate level of Chinese fluency.

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.

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 animal species including rabbits, guinea pigs, snakes, geckos and bearded dragons, chinchillas, giant African land snails, birds and hamsters. You will also be given the opportunity to, work with larger non- domestic species such as sheep and goats.

You will study three components, including:

- Component 1 - Animal Handling (Controlled Assessment)
- Component 2 - Animal Housing and Accommodation (Controlled Assessment)
- Component 3 - Animal Health and Welfare (External Assessed Examination)

What skills will I develop?

In this subject, students will develop a practical understanding of animal behaviour related to handling and restraint and the safe use of equipment. Also, the features that need to be considered when selecting accommodation for animals and the use of appropriate equipment to prepare, check and clean out animal accommodation.

In addition to subject specific knowledge, you will develop research, planning and presentation skills alongside further employability skills including self-management, teamworking and problem solving, communication, literacy, numeracy and the use of information technology.

How will I be assessed on this course?

60% of the assessment is based on controlled assessment for Components 1 and 2, where you will be given a scenario and asked to complete answers under exam conditions using your class notes. 40% of the assessment comes from Component 3, an externally tested examination at the end of year 11.

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

In Year 12 and 13, you could study the Level 3 BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate in

- Animal Management (equivalent to 1 A Level)

Which careers could this subject lead to?

Possible careers that this subject can lead to include: Veterinary Nurse, RSPCA, Animal Care Assistant or Groomer, Animal Day Care Assistant, Zookeeper, Wildlife Park keeper, Conservationist, Park Ranger, Farm worker

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 jobs 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 6th form 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.

DANCE

CONTACT: MISS RADFORD

What sort of things will I do?

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

- ✓ Develop your interest and skills as a dancer.
- ✓ Explore a range of dance styles, choreographers 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, shows and trips.
- ✓ 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 dance and choreography skills for stage and screen dancing.
- ✓ A wide contextual and theoretical knowledge of a range of dance styles and practitioners associated with them.
- ✓ Skills to evaluate and reflect both your own and peers' work.
- ✓ A strong understanding of the health and safety implications of being a dancer.
- ✓ 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 the 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

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.

DIGITAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

CONTACT: MR D RAINES

What sort of things will I do?

Over the next 2 years, if you choose Digital Information Technology, you will plan, design and create a digital user interface for a business. You will learn how data and information can be represented in a spreadsheet. You will also learn how organisations use digital information systems and devices.

You will study three components, including:

- Component 1 - Exploring User Interface Design (Controlled Assessment)
- Component 2 - Collecting, Presenting and Interpreting Data (Controlled Assessment)
- Component 3 - Effective Digital Working Practices (External Assessed Examination)

What skills will I develop?

In this subject, students will develop:

- Digital design 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.
- Understanding of how businesses use Information Technology

You will also develop research, planning and presentation skills alongside further employability skills including self-management, teamworking and problem solving, communication, literacy and numeracy.

How will I be assessed on this course?

60% of the assessment is based on controlled assessment for Components 1 and 2, where you will be given a scenario and asked to complete answers under exam conditions using your class notes. 40% of the assessment comes from Component 3, an externally tested examination at the end of year 11.

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

In Year 12 and 13 at Cowley Sixth Form, you could study the Level 3 BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate in:

- Computing (equivalent to 1 A-Level)
- Creative Digital Media: Digital Production (equivalent to 1 A-Level)
- eSports (equivalent to 1 A-Level)

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

COWLEY INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE



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 6th form 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.

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 6th form 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.

COWLEY INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE

GRAPHICS



COWLEY
INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE

**CONTACT: MISS HARVEY /
MRS WESTHEAD**

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 6th form 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.

COWLEY INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE



MR R JONES

What sort of things will I do?

Over the next 2 years, if you choose the Tech Award in Health and Social Care course, you will be investigating health life stages and the how different factors can affect an individual's health and wellbeing, along with

recommendations for improvement. Also, how individuals can be supported through changes caused by life events.

You will study three components, including:

- Component 1 - Human Lifespan Development (Controlled Assessment)
- Component 2 - Health and Social Care Services and Values (Controlled Assessment)
- Component 3 - Health and Wellbeing (External Assessed Examination)

What skills will I develop?

In this subject, in addition to subject specific knowledge, you will develop research, planning and presentation skills alongside further employability skills including self-management, teamworking and problem solving, communication, literacy, numeracy and the use of information technology.

How will I be assessed on this course?

60% of the assessment is based on controlled assessment for Components 1 and 2, where you will be given a scenario and asked to complete answers under exam conditions using your class notes. 40% of the assessment comes from Component 3, an externally tested examination at the end of year 11.

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

In Year 12 and 13 at Cowley Sixth Form, you could study the Level 3 BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate in either:

- Child Play Learning and Development (equivalent to 1 A-Level)
- Health and Social Care (equivalent of 1 A Level)
- Nursing Cadetship (Extended Diploma - equivalent of 3 A Levels)

Which careers could this subject lead to?

Possible careers that this subject can lead to include: Nursing, Radiographer, Operating theatre technician, Occupational therapist, Paramedic, Social worker, Dietician

COWLEY INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE

HOSPITALITY AND CATERING

CONTACT: MISS HARVEY



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.

COWLEY INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE



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.

COWLEY INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE

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 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?

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, presentations or solving problems.

COWLEY INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE



PRODUCT DESIGN (3D)

CONTACT: MISS
HARVEY/MISS DAVIES

What sort of things will I do?

Over the next 2 years, if you choose the **Product design** course, you will be introduced to the technique's product 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 (60% coursework) – Creative Practice in Art and Design (Internal)

Component 2 (40% coursework) – 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 6th form prospectus

Which careers could this subject lead to?

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

COWLEY INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE



TRAVEL AND TOURISM

CONTACT: MR R JONES OR
MR A POTTER

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. You will also study factors that are influential on worldwide tourism and why events such as natural disasters can have a significant impact on the sector. You will also look at the needs and expectations of different types of customers in the sector and how travel organisations address these.

You will study three components, including:

- Component 1 - Travel and Tourism Organisations and Destinations (Controlled Assessment)
- Component 2 - Customer Needs in Travel and Tourism (Controlled Assessment)
- Component 3 - Influences on Global Travel and Tourism (External Assessed Examination)

What skills will I develop?

In this subject, students will develop an understanding of customer service and the development of promotional materials. In addition to subject specific knowledge, you will develop research, planning and presentation skills alongside further employability skills including self-management, teamworking and problem solving, communication, literacy, numeracy and the use of information technology.

How will I be assessed on this course?

60% of the assessment is based on controlled assessment for Components 1 and 2, where you will be given a scenario and asked to complete answers under exam conditions using your class notes. 40% of the assessment comes from Component 3, an externally tested examination at the end of year 11.

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

In Year 12 and 13 at Cowley Sixth Form, you could study the Level 3 BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate in:

- Travel and Tourism (equivalent to 1 A Level)

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.

COWLEY INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE

Hard Lane, St Helens, WA10 6PN | Tel 01744 678 030 | enquiries@cowleysthelens.org.uk

www.cowley.st-helens.sch.uk