



# COWLEY

INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE

ACHIEVING THE HIGHEST STANDARDS TOGETHER

## PROSPECTUS

2021 - 2022





*'Staff work hard for the  
benefit of pupils.'*

Ofsted



## A message from the Principal & Headteacher



Mr Sheeran  
**Executive Principal**



Mr Cormack  
**Headteacher**

We are delighted to welcome you to Cowley International College and this prospectus will give you an idea of just how wonderful Cowley is. We would encourage you to pay us a visit on one of our Open Evenings to experience that first-hand.

Cowley has a rich heritage, with the school founded in 1715. In recent years, we have heavily invested in providing the very best learning resources to allow our students to thrive and succeed. We have Apple Mac computer suites, a state-of-the-art performance space, a large library and excellent sporting facilities including a 3G pitch. You cannot help but feel inspired to learn at Cowley with the resources and facilities on site.

COVID has caused significant problems in all schools and we are proud of how the staff have responded. The fundamental care and support for our students have shone through during the pandemic to ensure our students are safe, happy and continue to make progress to reach their potential. To put this in context, along with the remote learning taking place in the first lockdown, college staff made 10,000 phone calls to keep in touch with our students. This level of care and determination will continue to address any gaps in learning.

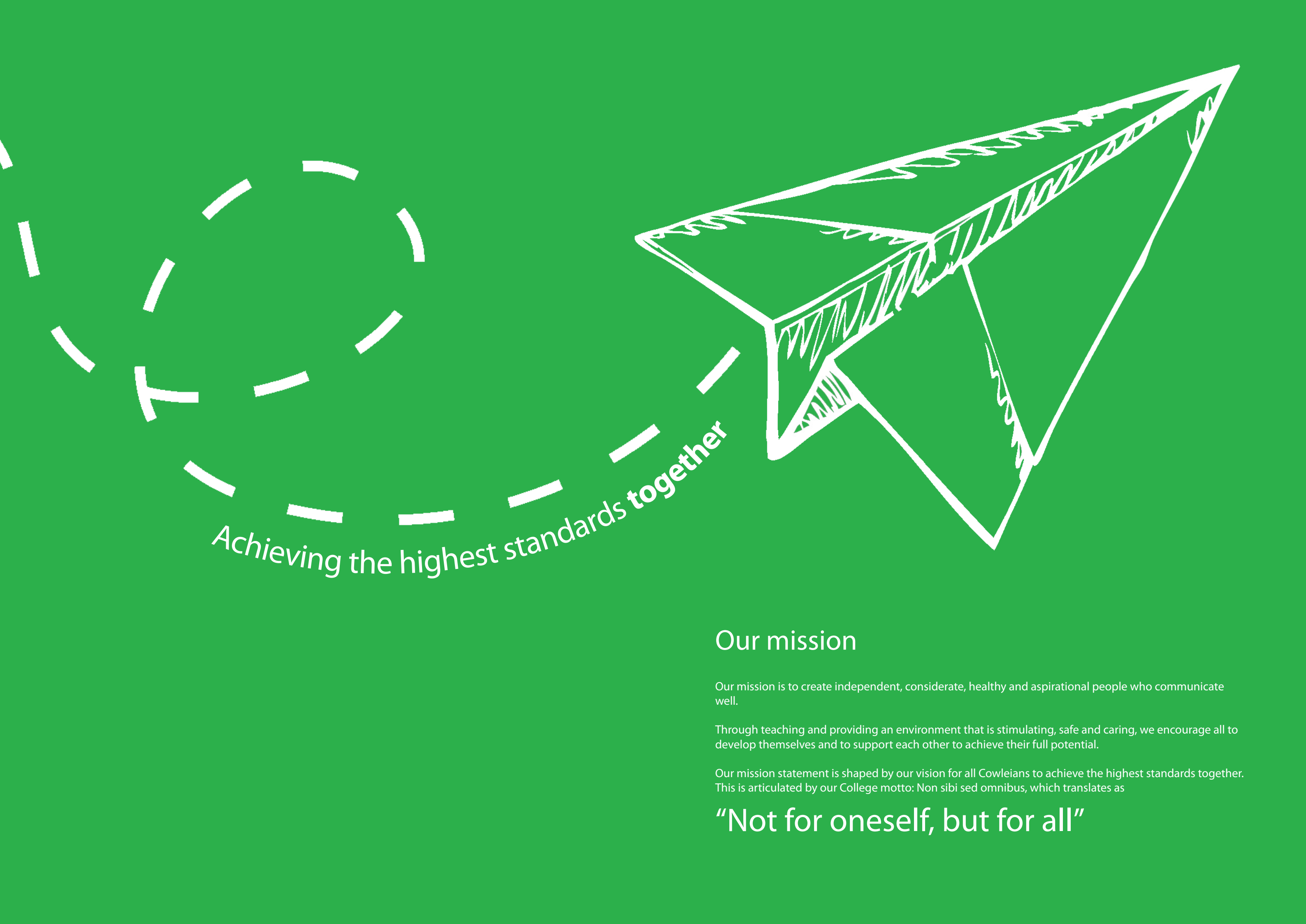
Our mission is to create independent, considerate, healthy & aspirational people who communicate well and contribute positively.

Through teaching and providing an environment that is stimulating, safe and caring, we encourage all to develop themselves and support each other to achieve and become a proud Cowleian.

Over the course of the past academic year, we have added to our list of awards and memberships, achieving the Eco Schools Green Flag Award and maintaining our memberships with the Music Mark and the Anti-Bullying Alliance, all of which we have worked hard to attain and are incredibly proud of.

The following pages provide an insight into the exceptional curriculum, support and extracurricular activities that our College offers, including the teaching of one of the fastest growing languages in the world, Mandarin Chinese. We want the very best for all our students and have high expectations for them. In addition, we have our ground-breaking partnership with St Helens RLFC who are based on our site.

We are, once again, significantly oversubscribed for the 2021 - 2022 academic year which we attribute to the high quality of teaching and the fantastic opportunities which are available to all of our students. The atmosphere at Cowley is very special and we would like you to see for yourself that we are a College that focuses on what really matters: safe, happy students and great results.



Achieving the highest standards **together**

## Our mission

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

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

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

“Not for oneself, but for all”



# Cowleian values

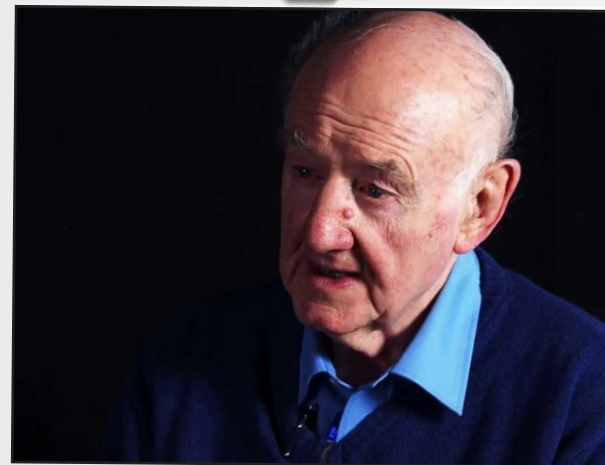
*"The Cowleian". The characteristics of the Cowleian underpin everything the College stands for:*



*Aspirational*



*Considerate*



*Good communicator*



*Healthy*



*Independent*

## Aspirational

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

*David Moorst: Winner of the Emerging Talent Award at the London Evening Standard Theatre Awards 2015 and The Jack Tinker Award for Most Promising Newcomer at the Critics' Circle Awards 2016.  
(Cowley 2003 - 2010)*

## Considerate

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

*Michelle Lewis: Raised £1m for charity. 'Pride of Britain' Award.  
(Cowley 1995 - 1999)*

## Good communicators

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

*Raymond French MBE: Head of English and BBC Commentator.  
(Cowley 1950 - 1957)*

## Healthy

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

*James Roby: Saints Rugby League Player, Super League Winner.  
(Cowley 1997 - 2004)*

## Independent

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

*Maja Petersburska: Achieved ten grade 9s in her GCSE examinations.  
(Cowley 2016 - Present)*



# Proud to be an award winning College

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



ST HELENS WELLBEING
SMOKEFREE ST HELENS

## Smokefree School Accreditation

This is to certify that  
**Cowley International College**  
 has achieved the  
**Gold Smokefree School Accreditation**,  
 for demonstrating their outstanding work  
 towards a smokefree school community.

Signed:   
 Michelle Loughlin, Assistant Director of Public Health

Date: .....

In December 2020, Cowley International College achieved the Gold Smokefree School Accreditation from St Helens Council.

Both staff and students worked very hard to achieve this award with a number of smokefree initiatives being carried out in Team Time.

Gold Accreditation is awarded for demonstrating outstanding work towards a smokefree school community.

A spokesperson for St Helens Wellbeing Team said: "It has been a great pleasure to work with all at Cowley International College and see the varied activities developed to support the pupils, staff and families to never smoke, quit smoking and protect others from Smokefree environments."

"They are providing an excellent example for the school community."



Official Club Partner

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



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

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



**SCHOOL MEMBER**

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

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



**Religious Education Quality Mark (REQM): Gold Award**  
 The REQM recognises high quality RE, particularly those schools which are providing their learners with authentic experiences and contributing to whole school outcomes.





## The transition from primary to secondary school

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

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

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

All new students are also invited into Cowley during August for a brilliant, fun-packed week long summer school that involves fun activities, crafts and team building (as well as meeting their new classmates and some of their teachers).

Year 5 students from our feeder primary schools are also invited to Cowley for specially arranged events and taster lessons during the summer term.

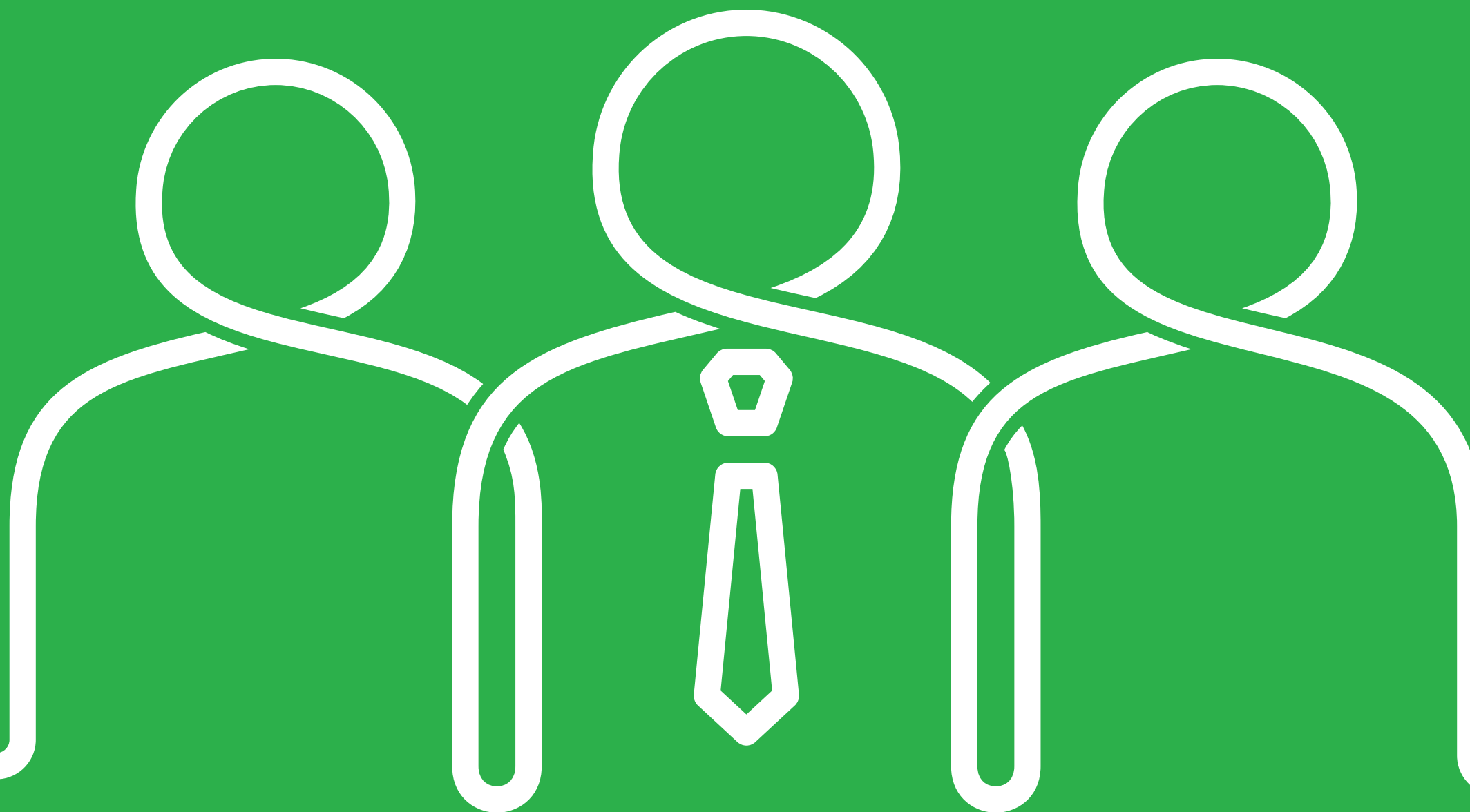
Our College Open Evening, early in the autumn term, gives students and parents/carers alike the opportunity to visit the College and ask any questions they might have.

Once September arrives, we offer a comprehensive induction programme for our Year 7 students to help them to settle into their new College life and to get to know their peers through a variety of activities. We involve older students, who will act as guides and mentors to the new arrivals, making sure that they feel supported and well informed about their new College.

The Year 7 pastoral team are always available to support both students and parents/carers throughout what is a significant change in their lives.



*'Care, guidance and support continue to be  
a significant strength of the College.'*  
Ofsted



## Guidance and Support

The main school is organised into a pastoral system for each year group. Each pastoral team is made up of a Head of School (either upper or lower), a Head of Achievement, a Year Co-ordinator and a Team Tutor.

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

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

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

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

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

Our students' wellbeing and happiness is of paramount importance.

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

In addition to the daily opportunity to discuss any issues with Team Tutors, students also have the opportunity to talk to any of our trained Mental Health Champions.

# Personalised learning

## **Higher Achieving Pupils (HAP)**

These learners are identified on a yearly basis by the Head of Achievement and Assistant Headteacher on a permanent basis by various forms of data.

If your daughter/son is identified as 'High Achieving Pupil', this means they are either already achieving a high level of success or demonstrating potential. We hope they will make good use of the opportunities for challenge in lessons and widen their experience by taking part in the extra-curricular activities.

Although it may be assumed that all Most Able students will achieve success in the education system easily, this is not always the case. Appropriate support of teachers, parents/carers and peers together is needed.

At Cowley International College, our aim is to ensure the provision of opportunities to boost the attainment, motivation and self-confidence of all students. We provide this in a number of ways:

- Differentiated lessons
- Extra-curricular activities
- Educational opportunities, visits and trips

We are dedicated to ensuring that all students achieve their challenging targets. However, we recognise that some students have exceptional potential and benefit from additional input to ensure they aware of their potential and the opportunities that potential offers. At Cowley International College, HAP students are offered a wealth of extra-curricular opportunities. Students are surveyed to find their needs and interests and, in recent years, this has resulted in visits to The Universities of Oxford and Cambridge; debates run by sixth form students; specialist sessions delivered by college lecturers on "How to get into Medical School"; "Forensic Psychology" and "Medical Mavericks".

## **The 'Climb to 9' programme**

Additionally, HAP students have the opportunity to partake in the 'Climb to 9' enrichment programme.

Students are exposed to a range of core and none core subjects. This is a bespoke programme specifically designed to enrich and extend the educational experience and outcomes of our more able learners, ensuring they make outstanding progress and broaden their cultural capital.

## **Climb to 9 at KS3**

Beginning in Year 6, the brightest students in each of our feeder primaries partake in enrichment activities designed to stretch and challenge them. They also have the opportunity to complete a summer project that includes challenging but enjoyable English, Mathematics, History and Geography activities.

In Year 7, the Most Able cohort are identified in September using end of Key Stage 2 SATs and CAT data. From this point, they are offered intellectual extra-curricular and enrichment activities, alongside tailored and accelerated learning to ensure their education is suited to their needs and abilities, allowing them to fulfil their true potential. They will partake in 6x6 week projects for one hour per week after college hours. Projects are something new and different with an outcome linked to mastering a skill(s) linked to KS4. Each none core department will deliver a project, one cycle per 2 academic years.

## **Climb to 9 at KS4**

At the end of Year 9, our Most Able cohort is reviewed in order to establish our KS4 'Climb to 9' cohort. Those are the students who are predicted the highest grades at GCSE/Vocational learning. The purpose of the 'Climb to 9' cohort at this point is to raise pupils' aspirations and to fuel their determination to succeed to the best of their ability. It shows students their teachers have the confidence in them to attain the highest GCSE grades.

In Year 10, students partake in three 12-week projects for 1 hour per week after school. The focus will be CORE subjects (English, Maths and Science). Project outcomes link to mastering grade 9 skills linked to KS4 exams. At least one lesson per cycle will be a KS5 taster, workshop with links to industry or demonstrating career pathways. In Year 11, weekly mentor meetings allow these like-minded students to share revision tips, exchange ideas and dispel worries.

As teachers, we want to ensure our higher achieving pupils fulfil their academic potential and that they are afforded the very best opportunities; we strive to provide this through a robust curriculum and an extensive enrichment programme.

## **The Most Able at KS5**

For high achievers progressing from GCSE to post-16 study, we offer the Cowley Honours programme, specifically designed to stretch and challenge those who flourish and exceed expectations. In addition, our Cowley Scholars Programme provides a bespoke academic programme for the Most Able of our intake, preparing them for the most competitive of universities and courses.

## **Raising achievement**

Meeting the needs of our students is a top priority for the College and we have a dedicated Student Support team who work closely with Learning Support Assistants and Year Co-ordinators to provide support for students with physical, learning or behavioural needs.

## **Homework club**

A homework club is available to all students after College, Monday - Thursday, and transport is available to take students home afterwards. The club provides a safe learning environment with access to resources and staff on hand to assist.

## **Curriculum pathways**

At Key Stage 3, all students study English, Mathematics, Science, Design and Technology, Computing, History, Geography, Religious Education, a Modern Foreign Language, Art, Music, Physical Education, Personal and Social Education and Citizenship.

In Years 7 and 8, some students will have the opportunity to study Mandarin as part of the Mandarin Excellence Programme. In Year 9, students are able to choose to focus their curriculum to some extent, as part of their broader Key Stage 3 programme. In practice, this means that students at the end of Year 8 nominate certain subject areas in which they would like to extend their studies. For instance, in addition to KS3 Geography and History, students in Year 9 are able to choose to study either Geography or History in greater depth. Likewise, students are able to study a second Modern Foreign Language in Year 9.

Students opt formally for their KS4 courses at the end of Year 9. Students have the opportunity to choose from a range of academic and vocational courses to study alongside the core curriculum.

Each student is assigned to a 'Pathway' so that the combination of courses that they study will be appropriate for them. Additionally, students in all pathways have almost identical subject choices during the options process to ensure fairness to all involved.

## **SEND**

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

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

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

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

The SEND department plays an integral role across the whole College and works tirelessly to keep our young people at the centre of what we do. The department is committed to regular CPD and uses the College website SEND page and Twitter page (@sendcic) to keep students and parents involved and updated with new resources and support from external agencies as well as celebrating what our students achieve in and out of College.





## Mandarin Excellence Programme



## Mandarin Excellence Programme School



In 2017, Cowley became one of the first schools in the country to be part of the British Council's flagship Mandarin Excellence Programme and now offers Mandarin to students in Years 7 - 9 (KS3), to Years 10 and 11 (GCSE) and in the Sixth Form (HSK 1 and 2).

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

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

Around 40 Year 7 students at Cowley will once again this year be offered the chance to study Mandarin. This is an exciting opportunity for all those involved.

In July 2019, our Year 8 Mandarin students, after studying Mandarin Chinese for two years, went to Shanghai on a trip of a lifetime.

They developed their Mandarin Chinese language skills at the Shanghai Foreign Language School, as well as getting to explore top attractions and embrace the culture.

'As Cowleians, students lead healthy lifestyles,  
engaging in a wide range of physical activities and  
making responsible choices.'

Ofsted

## Sporting opportunities

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

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

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

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

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







## Our partnership with St Helens RFC



The Cowley Saints Rugby Team

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

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

Saints are also involved in College initiatives to encourage positive student behaviour and learning. Players have worked alongside teaching staff to create fun, educational projects that are designed to enhance learning.

### **About the Saints Academy Development Programme**

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

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

*Train. Play. Study.*



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



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

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



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





# Extracurricular

Cowley offers a tremendous range of outstanding cultural, sporting and other challenging extracurricular activities.

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

Here are just some of the activities and clubs that current students have enjoyed: science club, running club, couch to 5K, darts, rugby, football, trampolining, gymnastics, dance, drama, choir, enterprise club, puzzle and logic club, debate club and eco club.







## Sixth Form

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

This ranges from traditional A-Levels to Vocational qualifications and career-based courses.

The most recent additions to our curriculum include: Creative Digital Media, Politics and of course, our Nursing Cadetship Programme, which is now into its fourth year.

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 vary, based on individual abilities and interests, most students will study three courses.

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 high achievers progressing from GCSE to post-16 study, we offer the Cowley Honours programme, specifically designed to stretch and challenge those who flourish and exceed expectations. In addition, our Cowley Scholars Programme provides a bespoke academic programme for the most able of our intake, preparing them for the most competitive of universities and courses.

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.



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 on one of our Open Evenings, or get in touch via email or telephone if you require any further information.

MAIN OFFICE TELEPHONE: **01744 678 030**

EMAIL: **[enquiries@cowleysthelens.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@cowleysthelens.org.uk)**



## COWLEY INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE

**Executive Principal:** Mr C Sheeran

**Headteacher:** Mr Cormack

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