

COWLEY

SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

COURSE INFORMATION GUIDE

2027/2028



Apply now!



DEVELOPING LIFE READY LEARNERS

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Discover more online:
www.cowleysixthform.org.uk

Connect with us on social media:

-  @CowleySixthForm
-  @cowleysixthform
-  @cowleysixthform
-  @CowleySixthForm
-  01744 678 030



YOUR JOURNEY AT A GLANCE

2026

SEPTEMBER

Think about the courses you would like to study.

OCTOBER

Attend our first Open Evening on 8th October.

Applications open for September 2027 entry.

NOVEMBER - MARCH

Attend an Admissions Interview and receive an offer of a place at Cowley Sixth Form.

MAY

Start your GCSE exams.

JUNE

Complete your GCSE exams and attend New Student Welcome Day on 25th June.

AUGUST

Collect your GCSE results and enrol at Cowley Sixth Form!

2027

HOW TO APPLY



You can complete your application to join Cowley Sixth Form College online, go to: cowleysixthform.org.uk or simply scan the QR code above.

WELCOME FROM HEAD OF SIXTH FORM



Welcome and thank you for your interest in Cowley Sixth Form College.

Choosing your next steps after Year 11 is an exciting milestone, and we

are delighted that you are considering joining our Sixth Form community.

At Cowley Sixth Form, our mission is simple: to develop life ready learners. We believe that education is about much more than qualifications alone. It is about helping young people grow into confident, resilient, and ambitious individuals who are prepared for the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead. Whether your future plans include university, an apprenticeship, or employment, we are committed to helping you achieve your goals.

Every year, we welcome students from schools across St Helens and beyond, creating a vibrant and diverse community where every student is known, valued, and supported. We recognise that each learner's journey is unique, and we pride ourselves on providing the guidance, encouragement, and challenge needed for every individual to thrive.

The transition to Sixth Form is an important step towards greater independence and responsibility. Our experienced team of teachers,

Personal Progress Tutors and support staff work closely with students to ensure they feel confident, supported and successful throughout their time with us. We treat our students as young professionals, encouraging them to develop the skills, attitudes, and behaviours that will enable them to succeed both during their studies and beyond.

We offer an extensive range of A-Levels, vocational qualifications and career-focused courses. Alongside academic success, students benefit from a wide range of enrichment opportunities, leadership experiences, work placements, careers education, and personal development programmes designed to help them become well-rounded, life ready young adults.

This course information guide offers an insight into the many opportunities available at Cowley Sixth Form, but the best way to discover what makes our community so special is to visit us for yourself. I encourage you to attend one of our Open Evenings, meet our students and staff, and experience first-hand the welcoming and ambitious environment that defines Cowley.

We look forward to supporting you on the next stage of your journey and helping you build a successful future.

Danny Watkins
Head of Cowley Sixth Form

MEET THE SIXTH FORM TEAM



Head of Achievement - Nicky Smart
The Head of Achievement plays a key role in ensuring every student is supported to achieve their full potential, both academically and personally. Working closely with students, families and staff, they monitor progress, attendance and wellbeing, providing guidance and early intervention where needed to help students overcome challenges and succeed throughout their time at Cowley Sixth Form.



Personal Progress Tutors (PPTs)
Y12 - Karen Garner
Y13 - Jo Wilde

PPTs are the first point of contact for students, providing guidance, encouragement and personalised support throughout their time at Cowley Sixth Form College.

They monitor academic progress, attendance and wellbeing, helping students to overcome challenges, set ambitious goals and make informed decisions about their next steps.

Working closely with parents/carers, subject teachers and the wider support team, PPTs play a key role in ensuring every student is supported to achieve their full potential.



SUPPORTING YOU ON YOUR SIXTH FORM JOURNEY

SUPPORTING YOU IN YOUR STUDIES



Personal Progress Tutors (PPTs)

- Year 12: Karen Garner
- Year 13: Jo Wilde
- They are your first point of contact for any questions about Sixth Form life
- Help with transition, independent study, enrichment and general support

Achieve

- Dedicated timetabled sessions in our Achievement Centre
- Staff are on hand to guide and support studies outside the classroom

Guidance Tutor (GTs)

- You will receive weekly group sessions and one-to-one support from your GT
- GTs deliver our Curriculum for Life programme and Life Ready
- They are on hand to help you: set goals and track your progress; build confidence and independence; develop skills for life beyond Sixth Form
- They are there to support your personal development (e.g. wellbeing, mental health awareness) and future planning

TAP (Teacher Access Point)

- Dedicated staff time extra to lesson to support student on a 1-1, small group and/or class
- Staff go above and beyond to make students life ready
- The purpose of TAP is to: increase student progress levels; boost feelings of competence; boost feelings of relatedness and support with wellbeing

SUPPORTING YOU FINANCIALLY

If you are worried that you may struggle with the associated costs of attending college, you may be eligible to receive financial support through the 16-19 bursary:

- Up to £1,200 per year for students most in need
- Discretionary Bursary is available for other facing financial difficulties

Bursary support can be used to help with:

- Bus Pass
- Daily meal allowance
- Course equipment and resources

We'll guide you through what's available and help with applications.

You'll never be on your own at Cowley Sixth Form College.



TO VIEW BURSARY INFORMATION

HOW TO GET TO COWLEY SIXTH FORM

Cowley Sixth Form is located in Windle, around a mile from St. Helens Town centre and is quite easy to get to.

Walking/cycling to college

Cowley Sixth Form is within walking/cycling distance of Windlehurst, Windle, Eccleston, Newtown and Dentons Green.

Driving to college

We currently have a number of students who drive to college. For students who can drive, the Sixth Form has parking available, but please note that a permit must be acquired from reception and spaces are limited.

Transport links

For those travelling to St. Helens Town Centre from areas such as Liverpool, Wigan, Warrington, there are a number of buses that travel from the main bus depot in St. Helens towards City Road/Dentons Green regularly throughout the day.

Arriva offer money-saving student tickets. Please view their website to find out more.



Cowley Sixth Form bus

We have a dedicated bus just for Sixth Form students that travels from Ashton-in-Makerfield, heading through Newton-le-Willows, Haydock, Laffak and Haresfinch, before arriving at the college every morning and then back again after college in the afternoon.

- Warrington Road (opposite Byrchall High)
- Ashton Road (Hope Academy)
- Vista Road
- Penny Lane
- Ship Inn, Blackbrook Road
- Chain Lane
- Laffak Road
- Carr Mill Road
- Woodlands Road
- Washway Lane
- Hard Lane
- Cowley Sixth Form College



SCAN ME
TO VIEW
THE BUS
TIMETABLE

WHY STUDY AT COWLEY SIXTH FORM COLLEGE?



Course choice

We offer A-Level, Vocational, Mixed and Gateway pathways. In addition, we have our popular work-related learning courses.

Want to mix and match A-levels with BTECs? No problem! We offer students the flexibility to mix their studies so they can pick and choose the courses they want.

Quality learning

Every class is the ideal scale to ensure that students receive feedback more quickly, receive more attention and assistance from the teacher. We find that students gain confidence more rapidly in small groups, rather than in a busy one.

High achievers are supported on our tailored programmes, including our new Excel Programme.

Developing Life Ready Learners

At Cowley Sixth Form, we believe that every person can reach their full potential, both inside and outside of the classroom. The strong enrichment programs outside lessons will nurture your development academically, culturally and professionally - there is something for everyone.

Learning in a small, friendly and supportive environment

All students have a dedicated tutor to offer regular one-to-one support, as well as an experienced pastoral team.

We pride ourselves on supporting students academically and pastorally to help them achieve their full potential.

CLASS OF 2026



*I enjoyed the calm environment at
Cowley Sixth Form College.*

*I didn't feel any overbearing pressure
and the teachers are all great.*

JACOB

GRADES: A A A

DESTINATION: POLITICS AT UNIVERSITY OF
LIVERPOOL



DEVELOPING LIFE READY LEARNERS

Our students are at the **heart** of Cowley Sixth Form College



Teacher Access Points (TAP) allow students to access subject support in groups or 1-to-1 outside of lessons

Chance to become a Student Ambassador or part of the Student Union

Rewards trips, as well as subject trips, both in the UK and abroad

Students can become Content Creators to help create content for our social media!

Cowley Sixth Form is a standalone site with its own canteen, Achievement Centre, break out space and parking for Sixth Form students

The flexibility to choose the courses and pathway that works best for you!

Dedicated 1-to-1 support

Address staff by their first name

Support with Careers including an extensive Progression Week with universities, apprenticeship providers and employers

HIGH ACHIEVERS AT COWLEY SIXTH FORM

Excel Programme

The Excel Programme supports students who are looking to apply for Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary and degrees linked to the healthcare profession. The programme prepares students for Medical school applications, interviews and UCAT.

The programme also supports students wishing to apply for Oxbridge, Russell Group or Sutton Trust universities.

Excel offers students:





All the teacher at Cowley Sixth Form College are incredibly helpful.

I really enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere at college.

SCARLETT

GRADES: A A A

DESTINATION: CLIMATE STUDIES AT
VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY (USA)



A COLLEGE WITH OUTSTANDING FACILITIES



LABS AND WORKSHOPS
ENGINEERING SPACE
TEXTILE/GRAPHICS ROOM
CONSTRUCTION ROOM
DEDICATED LABS



PERFORMING ARTS
SPRUNG DANCE FLOOR
DANCE STUDIO
PRACTICE ROOMS



STAND-ALONE SITE
COWLEY SIXTH FORM
IS A STAND-ALONE BUILDING
WITH ITS OWN
DEDICATED GROUNDS



LINKS WITH SAINTS RFC
SAINTS TEAM TRAIN ON
SITE, SPORTS STUDENTS
HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY
TO WORK WITH
PROFESSIONAL
ATHLETES



STUDY SPACE
WELL-EQUIPPED
ACHIEVEMENT CENTRE
DEDICATED, QUIET
STUDY AREA



ANIMAL CENTRE
HEATED AQUARIUMS
AVIARY
OUTDOOR PENS



SPORTS
ALL YEAR 3G PITCH
SPORTS HALL
WEIGHTS ROOM
GYM



Official Club Partner



STUDY RESOURCES
COMPUTER SUITES
24-HOUR NETWORK
ACCESS

COURSE PATHWAYS



View courses
from page 20



View courses
from page 28



View courses
pages 20-31



View course
pages 38-39

A-LEVELS

Want to follow the traditional academic route to university? We offer a wide choice of A-Levels which are delivered by specialist teachers in a modern campus.

VOCATIONAL COURSES

Designed to meet the needs of employers, Vocational courses are work-related qualifications for learners taking their first steps into employment or planning to enter university.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

The curriculum at Cowley offers students the flexibility to choose the pathway that works best for them.

For Level 3 study, a typical combination would be between three or four subjects. Students are able to choose A-Levels, Vocational courses, or a combination of both.

There are four pathways that students can choose from and these are detailed here.

MIXED PATHWAY

Want to study a combination of A-Levels and Vocational courses? We've got you covered.

Many of our students choose this route to mix and match the courses that work to their strengths and future pathways.

With more than 40 courses to choose from, this is a popular option for many.

GATEWAY

This programme is a three-year pathway to prepare you for Level 3 study after the first year.

This specially designed one-year course allows you to resit GCSE Maths and English Language, alongside the study of four small functional courses, enabling you to then move onto a two-year Level 3 study programme.

****Please note that all courses, including their entry requirements, are subject to change and are delivered depending on demand and other factors****

A-LEVEL

Want to follow the traditional academic route to university?

We offer a wide choice of A-Levels which are delivered by specialist teachers in a modern campus.

An A-Level is a two-year programme that culminates in exams. Some courses have a component of coursework and/or controlled assessment.

HOW MANY SUBJECTS YOU CAN CHOOSE?

A typical combination would be between three and five subjects. Students are able to choose A-Levels, vocational courses, or a combination of both.

Please note that all courses, including their entry requirements, are subject to change and are delivered depending on demand and other factors

ENTRY CRITERIA

To study at Cowley Sixth Form College, you must have achieved a minimum of five GCSEs or equivalent, graded 9 - 4, across four separate subjects, including GCSE Mathematics and English Language.

In addition, a positive college interview is required.

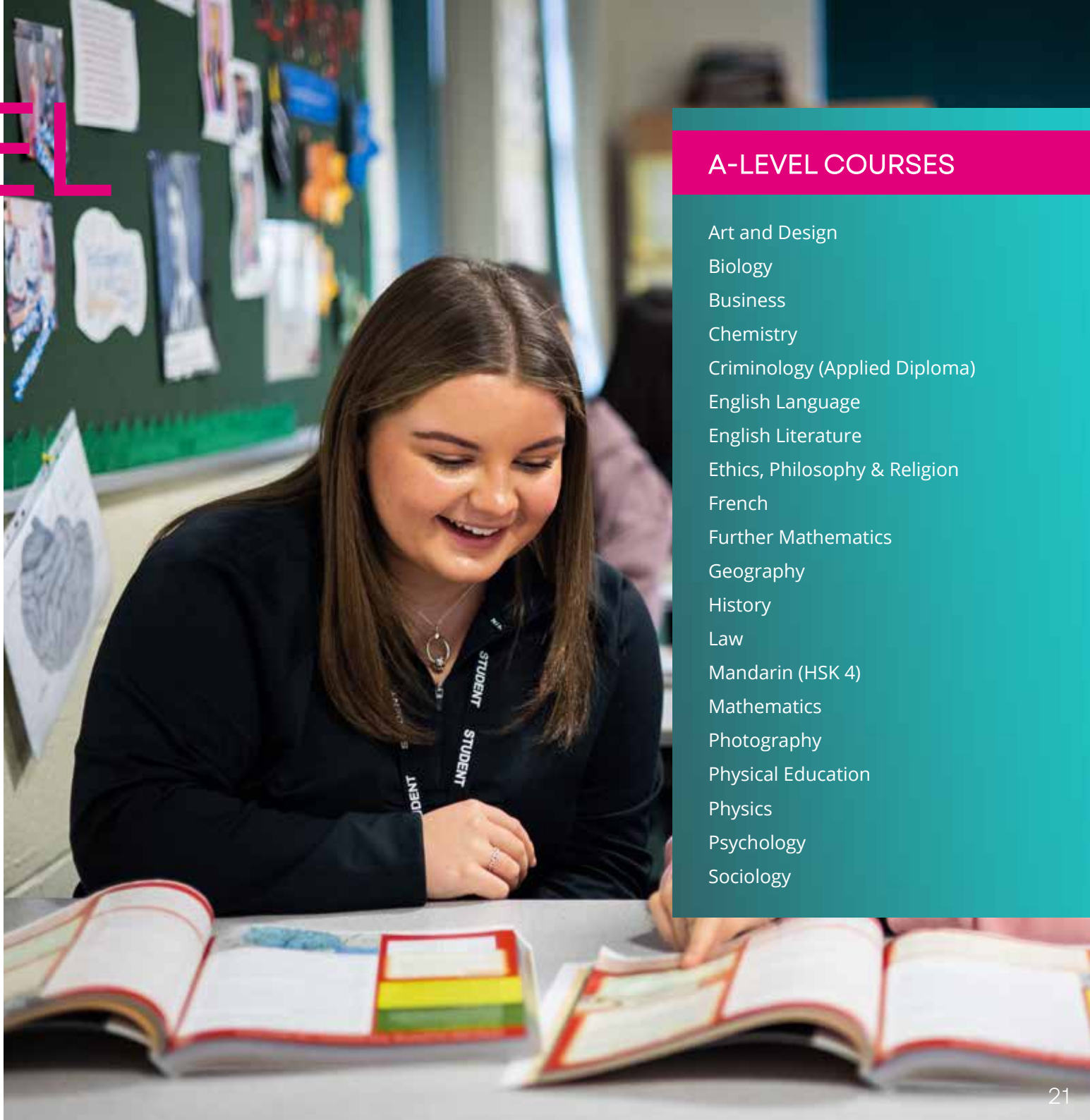
A few courses have specific entry requirements. Relevant details can be found in the individual subject descriptions.

A-LEVEL COURSES

Art and Design
Biology
Business
Chemistry
Criminology (Applied Diploma)
English Language
English Literature
Ethics, Philosophy & Religion
French
Further Mathematics
Geography
History
Law
Mandarin (HSK 4)
Mathematics
Photography
Physical Education
Physics
Psychology
Sociology



Need more details? Scan QR for more



- Art And Design** This exciting course covers all the core elements of Art and Design and is designed to allow you to develop your artistic skills and gain confidence. The course is flexible and offers students the freedom to explore and work across the broad spectrum of art disciplines.
- Biology** The origins of living things and how they work is fundamental to the world we live in and, whether your interest is in the animal world, marine life, humans or plant life, the study of Biology is the core of further knowledge and discovery.
- In addition to the College entry requirements, a grade 6 - 6 or above in GCSE Combined Science, or a grade 6 in GCSE Biology is required.
- Business** Business is one of the most dynamic subjects you can choose! You will be immersed in the business world, exploring and critically reviewing topics from a national and global perspective.
- Chemistry** Chemistry is at the forefront of advances in designing new materials, energy use, drug development and technology. Chemistry explores the building blocks of all living and nonliving substances.
- In addition to the College entry requirements, a grade 6 - 6 or above in GCSE Combined Science, or a grade 6 in GCSE Chemistry is required.
- Students are also required to achieve a minimum grade 6 in GCSE Maths. We recommend students study either A-Level Maths or Core Maths alongside Chemistry.
- Criminology Level 3 Applied Diploma** Ever wondered... What makes someone a serial killer? How do we decide what behaviour is against the law? This two-year course will hopefully help you answer these questions and more...
- English Language** Both dynamic and relevant, this course explores how our language has evolved over time. Students will explore a variety of contexts, genres and audiences and will produce original creative writing pieces.
- In addition to the College entry requirements, a grade 5 or above in GCSE English Language is required.

- English Literature** If you're passionate about reading, then English Literature is the qualification for you. By encountering a range of views and emotions in modern and classic texts, students can explore important issues while voicing their own opinions.
- In addition to the College entry requirements, a grade 5 or above in GCSE English Language or English Literature is required.
- Ethics, Philosophy & Religion** This subject considers complex issues and investigates the nature of religious experience and whether these can be explained by science, psychology or supernatural means.
- French** Students will study highlights of the target language country's artistic culture, including music and cinema, and learn about political engagement. Learning a language is a long term investment – an asset to adult life.
- In addition to the College entry requirements, a grade 5 or above at GCSE in the language to be studied is required.
- Further Mathematics** A-Level Further Mathematics provides a great opportunity for enthusiastic and capable mathematicians to broaden their subject knowledge.
- In addition to the College entry requirements, a grade 7 or above in GCSE Mathematics is required.
- Geography** Geography is concerned with many key issues of the 21st century: biodiversity, sustainability, population change and climate change. Students will study current issues that shape the world they live in as well as developing a variety of employable skills, such as GIS skills and data analysis.
- History** Everything we do, everything that happens every day is part of and defined by history. So why wouldn't you want to know more? Studying history provides opportunities to engage with ideas, societies and people that existed centuries ago and sometimes merely decades ago.
- Law** Through studying A-Level Law, you will learn about how laws are made, how the criminal justice system works in England and how to work out whether someone is criminally liable for a particular offence.
- Mandarin (HSK 4)** Building on what students have learnt so far in their GCSE Mandarin studies, students will learn more deeply about Chinese film and literature and will cover topics such as family, work culture and traditions.



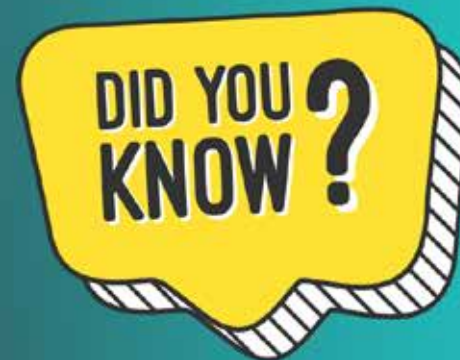
Need more details? Scan QR for more

- Mathematics** A-Level Mathematics covers a wide range of topics that will extend your knowledge of algebra and trigonometry and introduce you to exciting new concepts such as differentiation and integration.
- In addition to the College entry requirements, a grade 6 or above in GCSE Mathematics is required to study this subject.
- Photography** Photography is about using the camera as a creative tool to record the world around you. Developing an excellent understanding of composition is the foundation for all photography; you will develop your own great sense of style and self expression that will engage any audience.
- Physical Education** This course covers a wide range of theoretical areas such as: anatomy & physiology, biomechanics and sports psychology. A-Level PE students work closely with Saints' physiotherapists as part of their anatomy and physiology lessons and during the sports injury unit.
- Physics** The first year begins with the weird and wonderful world of particles and quantum physics. Your second year will develop your understanding further, so you'll actually understand what $e=mc^2$ is about. We look at astrophysics to find out how to estimate the age of the universe.
- In addition to the college entry requirements, a grade 6 - 6 or above in GCSE Combined Science, or a grade 6 in GCSE Physics is required. A GCSE Mathematics grade 6 or above is also required. It is recommended that students who study Physics should also study A-level Maths.
- Psychology** Psychology is a subject that focuses on human behaviour and mental processes. A big part of the course is looking at theories to explain certain aspects of human behaviour and assessing the differences across cultures, genders and approaches.
- Sociology** Ever wondered how we developed into the society we are today? How the way you see yourself determines the way people identify you? A-Level Sociology will help you to make sense of the society we live in and to understand the cultural and identity issues which affect us all.

****Please note that all courses, including their entry requirements, are subject to change and are delivered depending on demand and other factors****



Take a look at all the courses we offer at
cowleysixthform.org.uk/our-courses



- In 2026, more than a third of students joined us from external schools across St Helens, Wigan, Prescot, Ormskirk, Manchester, Liverpool and the Wirral
- At Cowley Sixth Form College, there is no uniform. You can wear what you want and express your individuality!
- 91% of Cowley Sixth Form College students move directly into higher education, employment or training after completing their studies with us, 5% above the national average!

CLASS OF 2026



*I had a great time at Cowley Sixth
Form College.*

Everyone is really lovely.

FREYA

GRADES: A B C

DESTINATION: BIOLOGY & GENETICS AT
UNIVERSITY OF YORK



VOCATIONAL

Designed to meet the needs of employers, vocational subjects are work-related qualifications for learners taking their first steps into employment or planning to enter university.

Vocational subjects, e.g. BTECs, tend to be more career-based and practical.

Did you know that nearly all universities accept vocational qualifications in relevant subject areas, similar to how they would with equivalent A-level qualifications.

HOW MANY SUBJECTS YOU CAN CHOOSE?

A typical combination would be between three and five subjects. Students are able to choose A-Levels, vocational courses or a combination of both.

ENTRY CRITERIA

To study at Cowley Sixth Form College, you must have achieved a minimum of five GCSEs or equivalent, graded 9 - 4, across four separate subjects, including GCSE Mathematics and English Language.

In addition, a positive college interview is required.

A few courses have specific entry requirements. Relevant details can be found on individual subject information pages.

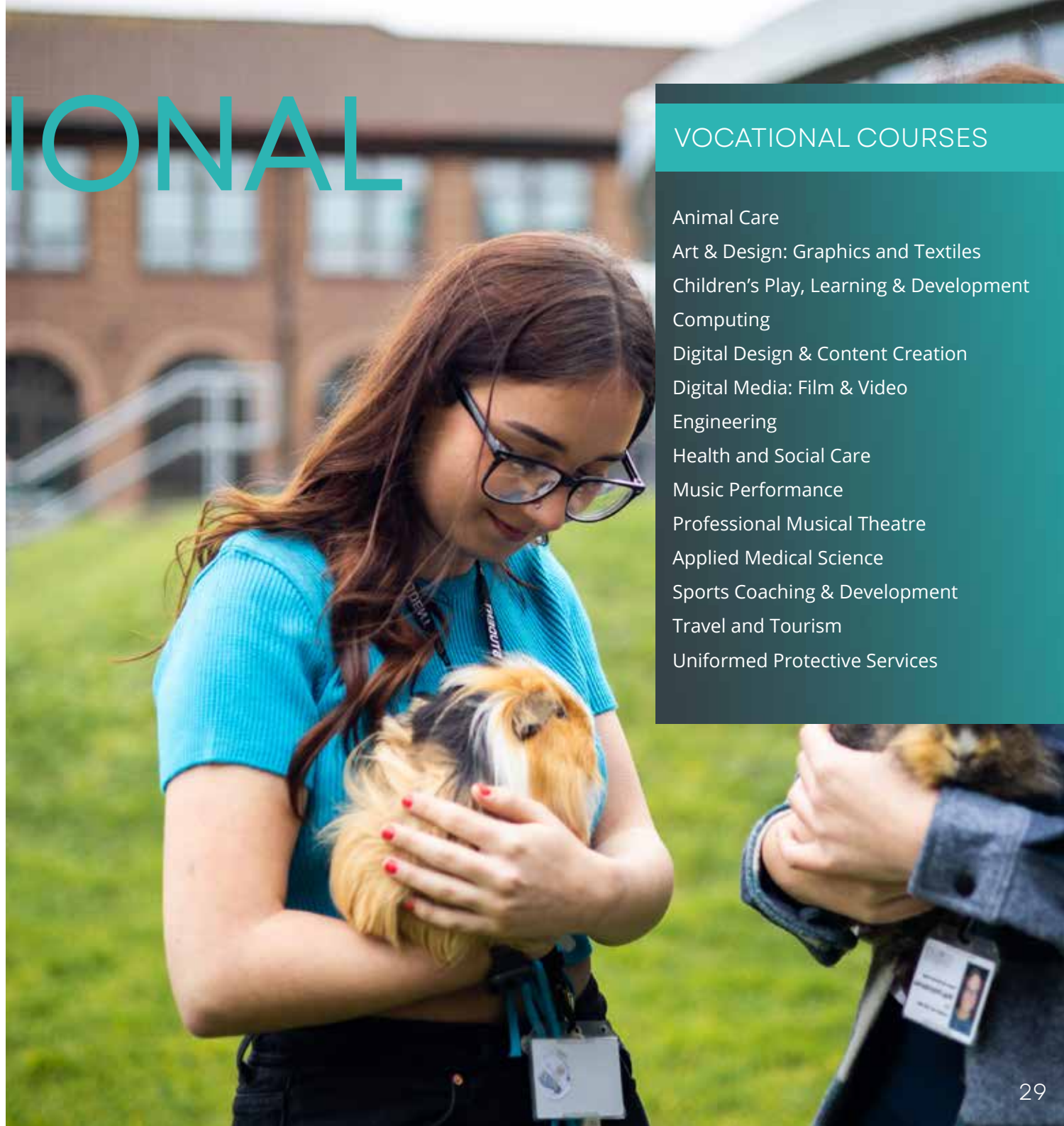
****Please note that all courses, including their entry requirements, are subject to change and are delivered depending on demand and other factors****



Need more details? Scan QR for more

VOCATIONAL COURSES

- Animal Care
- Art & Design: Graphics and Textiles
- Children's Play, Learning & Development
- Computing
- Digital Design & Content Creation
- Digital Media: Film & Video
- Engineering
- Health and Social Care
- Music Performance
- Professional Musical Theatre
- Applied Medical Science
- Sports Coaching & Development
- Travel and Tourism
- Uniformed Protective Services



Animal Care	This course will give you a full understanding of animal care, covering the practical, scientific and ethical aspects of caring for animals. As part of the course, you will work with a variety of birds, mammals and reptiles in our bespoke animal care facility.
Art & Design: Graphics & Textiles	Are you passionate about design and see yourself working in the rapidly growing creative industries? If you are creative with an interest in the arts, then this is the ideal course for you to study.
Children's Play, Learning & Development	Students will have the opportunity to develop their skills and the knowledge necessary to work with children and young people. Students are given access to specialist equipment, including interactive babies, pregnancy simulator and model infants exposed to various lifestyle induced disorders.
Computing	If you intend to pursue a career in computing, ICT or games development, or have a strong interest in this area, then the BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate in Computing is perfect for you.
Digital Design Content Creation	This course will give students the opportunity to learn about the digital world, including app production, website production and coding, digital graphics and manipulation linked to digital publishing and photography.
Digital Media: Film & Video	This qualification is designed to provide a technical introduction to digital film and video production. Learners develop skills in areas such as single camera techniques, storyboarding and film editing.
Engineering	Delivered over two years, this Level 3 Extended Certificate will provide students with both practical and theoretical skills to develop a career in the engineering sector. Each unit focuses on key elements of industry. In addition to the College entry requirements, a grade 5 or above in Mathematics and a grade 5 or above in Science is required.
Health & Social Care	This popular course offers a practical and vocational route into fields of Health & Social Care employment. Students are given access to a wide range of specialist equipment and they benefit from placements within the St Helens & Knowsley NHS Trust.
Music Performance	If you are looking to become a cutting-edge music performer, then this is the course is for you. This course will provide you with access to some of the leading products and artists within the industry. You will receive one free instrumental lesson a week.

Professional Musical Theatre	Here at Cowley Sixth Form College, we focus on the development and refinement of vocal, acting and dance skills and techniques preparing you for drama school and university training.
Applied Medical Science	This program is perfect for those aspiring to careers in healthcare, biomedical research, or forensic science, offering a qualification pathway tailored to your ambitions. By enrolling in this course, you'll work towards BTEC Level 3 Nationals 2025 (AAQ) qualifications: Gain expertise in Medical Science, exploring the fundamentals of human health, anatomy, and medical technology, including fertility medicine. In addition to the College entry requirements, a grade 4 - 4 is required in Combined Science, or 2 grade 4s in Separate Sciences, along with grade 4 in both GCSE English and GCSE Maths.
Sports Coaching & Development	As part of this course, you will learn about the different aspects of sport, from coaching to fitness testing and the organisation and development of sport.
Travel and Tourism	The study of Travel and Tourism aims to develop a student's knowledge and experience in geography, customer service and employability skills. The course will develop key skills such as creativity, problem solving, communication, and business management which are transferable into the world of employment.
Uniformed Protective Services	This popular course is designed to equip students with the knowledge, understanding and skills needed for a career in the public and uniformed services. This shouldn't put off those who aren't considering a career in public services, though, as this course includes many sociological, political, leadership and physiological units.

****Please note that all courses, including their entry requirements, are subject to change and are delivered depending on demand and other factors****



Need more details? Scan QR for more

ACCESS TO NURSING PATHWAY



Our Access to Nursing Pathway has had outstanding success and is designed for students who aspire to a future career in nursing or related health professions. This specialist route combines academic study with valuable real-world experience, giving you the knowledge, skills and confidence to take the next step towards university and a professional career in healthcare.

This carefully chosen subject mix provides an excellent foundation, covering everything from human development and healthcare practice to applied science and the social factors influencing wellbeing.

Alongside classroom learning, students take part in a work experience placement within a healthcare setting. This opportunity allows you to apply your learning in practice, gain insight into the demands of the profession and develop the personal qualities valued by employers and universities – such as empathy, communication, teamwork and resilience.

Suggested course choices for this pathway

Health & Social Care

+

Any of the following subjects:

- Applied Medical Science
 - Biology
 - Chemistry
- Children's Play, Learning and Development
 - Psychology
 - Sociology

WHAT CAREERS COULD I GET INTO?

- Medical & Healthcare Professional
- Forensic Science
- Social Worker

ACCESS TO ENGINEERING PATHWAY



Our Access to Engineering Pathway has been designed for students passionate about problem-solving, innovation and understanding how the world works. We specialise in these subject areas and this pathway gives you the skills, knowledge and experience relevant to pursuing a career in the exciting and ever-evolving field of engineering.

Students will develop a strong foundation in engineering principles while deepening their mathematical and scientific understanding. This combination supports progression into engineering apprenticeships, higher education courses or degree apprenticeships, while equipping you with transferable skills such as analytical thinking, creativity and practical application of knowledge.

Students on our Access to Engineering Pathway will receive support in finding relevant work experience placements as part of the course.

Suggested course choices for this pathway

Engineering

+

Any of the following subjects:

- Computing
- Core Mathematics
- Further Mathematics
 - Mathematics
 - Physics

WHAT CAREERS COULD I GET INTO?

- Civil Engineer
- Aerospace Engineer
- Software Engineer
- Electrical Engineer
- Mechanical Engineer

ACCESS TO PERFORMING ARTS PATHWAY



Our Access to Performing Arts Pathway has been incredibly successful and is designed for students passionate about performance, creativity and the entertainment industry. You'll develop your performance, communication and creative skills in a practical and supportive environment.

You'll have opportunities to perform on stage and work backstage at a range of annual college performances, gaining valuable experience of live production and working as part of a creative team. Students can also benefit from free musical instrument tuition, helping you develop your confidence and skills as a performer.

The pathway prepares you for progression into higher education, specialist training, apprenticeships and careers across the performing arts, music, media and wider creative industries.

Suggested course choices for this pathway

Music Performance
and/or
Professional Musical Theatre
+

Any of the following subjects:

- Digital Design & Content Creation
- Digital Media: TV & Film
- English Language

WHAT CAREERS COULD I GET INTO?

- Professional Performer
- Music Producer
- TV or Film Producer
- Content Creator

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How many subjects will I study?

Most students will study three subjects in the Sixth Form.

High achievers may be able to take a fourth or even fifth subject.

Students can take A-levels, BTECs or a combination of both qualifications.

What are class sizes like?

Class sizes are usually smaller than at GCSE, to allow teachers to give more of their time each lesson to each student.

Small class sizes allow for extra support from your subject teachers.

FAQ

How and when do I apply?

Applications open in September and run through until enrolment in August.

We advise applicants to submit their application before the Christmas break.

Is Sixth Form like high school?

Sixth Form life is totally different to what you will be used to in high school, for example, in Sixth Form, you can address staff by their first name.

You will study around three to five subjects and you will have time in which to study further or to relax.

Sixth form gets you ready for university, an apprenticeship or work and the environment is more adult than high school.

How much work will I get?

Work will be different for each subject.

As a rule of thumb, you should dedicate at least 4/5 hours per week per subject for independent study.

When will I have an interview?

Once you have applied, you will be contacted to attend an interview to secure your place from November 2026.

CLASS OF 2026



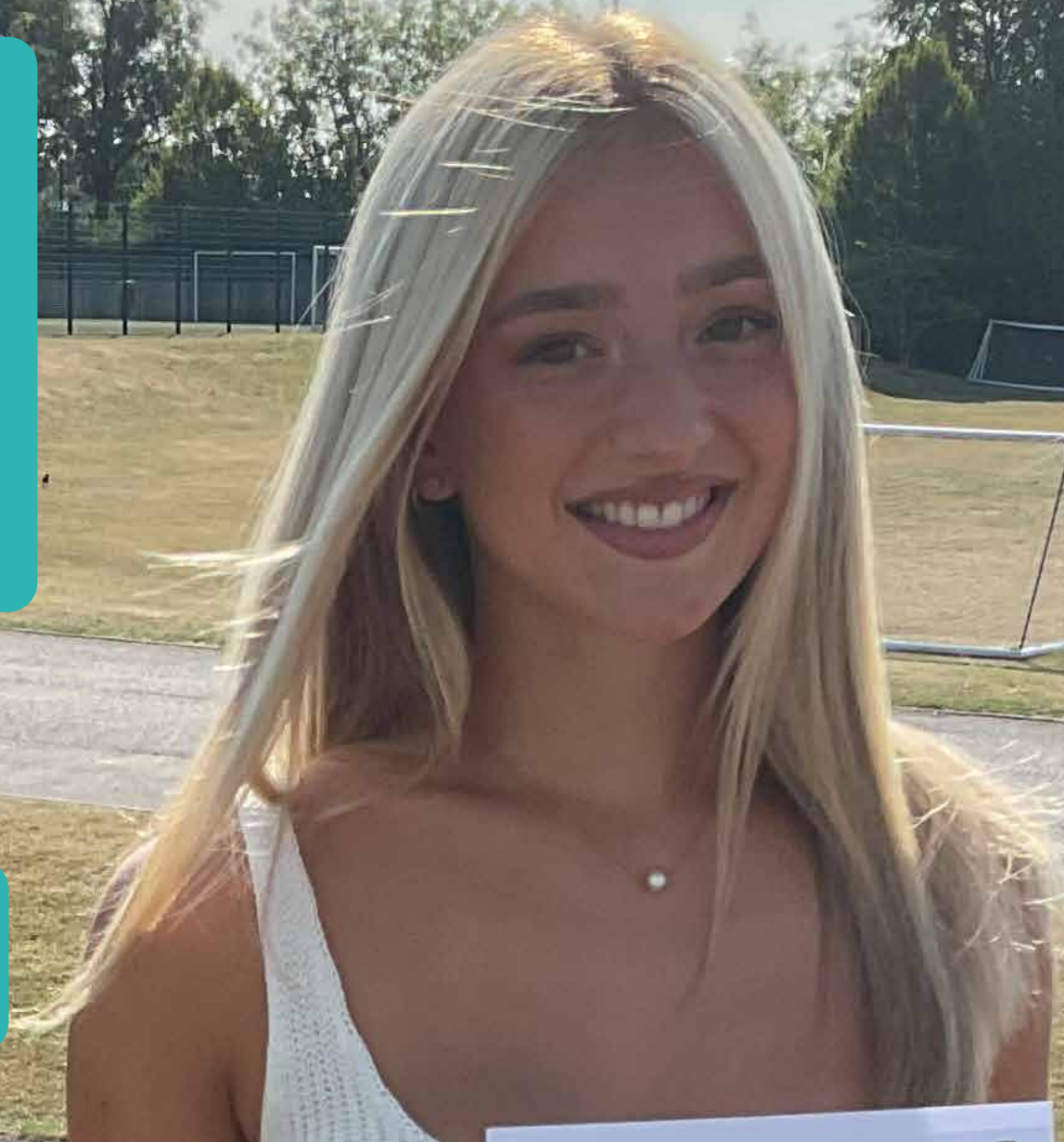
It was challenging but I learned a lot, both academically and about myself as a person.

The teachers go above and beyond and got me through it.

ELIZABETH

GRADES: DS* C C

DESTINATION: APPRENTICESHIP AT
NORTH WEST AMBULANCE SERVICE



GATEWAY PROGRAMME

This course is specifically designed to provide a transitional year for students who are not yet ready to embark on a Level 3 programme but are keen to move on to a Sixth Form College.

The intention is that students would be with us for a total of 3 years; 1 year on this programme and on successful completion, another 2 years studying the Level 3 courses of their choice.

This specially designed one-year course allows students to resit GCSE Maths and English Language, alongside the study of four small courses. Students can choose from:

- Healthcare
- Childcare
- Performing Arts
- Sport
- Travel & Tourism
- Uniformed Protective Services
- Video Games Development
- Business
- Employability
- Digital IT skills

This would enable them to progress to further studies or apprenticeships following the successful completion of this one-year course.

Entry Requirements

To be discussed at interview.

****Please note that all courses, including their entry requirements, are subject to change and are delivered depending on demand and other factors****



WORK RELATED LEARNING

Construction - Multi Trade (Entry Level)

This course offers an introduction to the construction industry, giving students the opportunity to develop a range of practical skills across different trades, including carpentry, bricklaying, painting and decorating, plumbing and electrical installations.

Students will take part in a variety of practical activities, from small-scale projects to larger, full-scale construction tasks, developing their knowledge, confidence and understanding of the skills required to work in the industry. Lessons are delivered by an enthusiastic and experienced team of staff, who bring a wealth of practical knowledge and industry experience to the course.

Throughout the year, students will have the opportunity to complete blocks of work experience placements within the construction industry. This will allow them to gain valuable hands-on experience in a real working environment, develop employability skills and build an understanding of the different career opportunities available.

Progression

The course is designed to help students develop the practical skills, knowledge and confidence needed to take their next steps into the construction industry. Previous students have successfully progressed into full-time employment, apprenticeships and further training within a range of construction trades.

The course provides a strong foundation for students looking to pursue a career in construction, while helping them identify

areas of interest and potential future specialisms.

It is anticipated that students will typically have a GCSE profile of subjects graded 3/4 and may not have Mathematics or English Language GCSE at grade 4 or above. In this instance, we can offer a resit in one of those subjects.

Year 12 Progression Week

Every year, Cowley Sixth Form College offers Year 12 students the opportunity to take part in Progression Week, a week-long event to help students think about what they'd like to do after finishing at sixth form college.

Progression Week takes the form of:

- **University** – featuring a careers fair (marketplace style) with a wide range of universities from around the UK, university-based talks and sessions as well as a presentation around UCAS applications.
- **Apprenticeship and Employers** – featuring a careers fair (marketplace style) of a wide range of apprenticeship providers and employers from a variety of different industries plus talks and sessions about apprenticeships and industry-based topics.
- **Mock Interviews** – each student sits a mock interview with a professional to help them prepare for university, apprenticeship or employment interviews.
- **Work Experience** – every student partakes in a work experience placement for a minimum of three days to gain valuable experience in a workplace.

ENRICHMENT AT COWLEY SIXTH FORM

We want you to achieve your potential and flourish in and out of the classroom.

As well as developing you as a person, enrichment is a social part of college life where you will be able to make new friends with similar interests. Enrichment activities change each term, offering a truly broad programme for students.

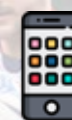
The enrichment programme at Cowley Sixth Form is a key strength of the college and staff go above and beyond to ensure that as many clubs and activities run as is possible.

Students play a huge part in the enrichment on offer, and they are encouraged to be involved in suggesting new activities.

Students can participate in a wide range of activities, including:



FREE
Driving
Lessons



Content
Creators



Senior
Choir



Rugby



Annual
Musical



Football



British Sign
Language



EPQ



Dance
Company



Student
Ambassadors



Rounders



Basics of
Business

All students are encouraged put ideas forward for new enrichment. What would you like to take part in as part of your sixth form journey?

CLASS OF 2026



My time at Cowley Sixth Form was great. The teachers all go above and beyond.

AIMEE

GRADES: A B DS*

DESTINATION: HISTORY & ANCIENT HISTORY AT
UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER



DEVELOPING LIFE READY LEARNERS.



APPLY ONLINE

COWLEY SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

Hard Lane, St. Helens, Merseyside, WA10 6JT

Principal: Mr Russell Cormack

Head of Sixth Form: Mr Danny Watkins

www.cowleysixthform.org.uk

