

Educate for life

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are well and enjoyed our recent bank holiday weekends.

I am pleased to inform you that, following a full inspection by Ofsted on the 7th and 8th March, Cowes Enterprise College remains a 'Good' school. We are extremely proud of this result, and I would like to firstly thank you for your continued and unwavering support. I would encourage you to read the full report, which is now available on both our website and Ofsted's, but I also wanted to take the time to share some of the key conclusions made by the inspectorate.

The report states "pupils benefit a great deal" from coming to Cowes, and thanks in part to school leaders' "uncompromising" aspirations, they "gain vital knowledge that prepares them well for a successful future life." As a result, Ofsted concludes Cowes pupils are "prepared well for the future, both academically and personally." Setting our pupils up for future success is of course one of our central aims as a school, and we were therefore very pleased to see Ofsted reflect this in their report. Beyond this, the report concludes:

- Pupils "generally behave well", their "attitudes are mature, and their conduct is courteous." This is driven by "well-established routines and expectations."
- The school environment is "one in which pupils feel safe and can learn." Classrooms are "purposeful and the school site is calm," and any reports of bullying or inappropriate behaviour are dealt with "swiftly and effectively."
- A "thoughtful and comprehensive personal development programme nurtures [pupils'] understanding of the world beyond the school and the island that they live on."
- Our curriculum is "well considered and academically rigorous," and gives our pupils the tools to "move on to follow high-quality education, employment and training routes at the end of Year 11."
- Leaders give "careful thought to the whole curriculum, not just the academic subjects that pupils learn", and "strive to expand pupils' horizons way beyond their local community through a rich diet of carefully planned experiences that are captured in the school's enrichment charter."
- Careers education, information, advice and guidance is "of a high quality," and leaders make "effective use of local expertise about apprenticeships, recognising the diversity of opportunity that is available locally."
- Teachers are "ambitious to do more for pupils." As such, "what pupils need to learn has been identified and mapped out precisely across Years 7 to 13," and teachers use "their strong subject knowledge to teach these concepts effectively."
- Pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) "learn well here", while the report also notes that "since the last inspection, leaders have prioritised developing the school's reading curriculum."

We are exceptionally pleased that Ofsted has highlighted the work we do to support our students every day, and we were also encouraged to see our keen focus on staff development and support also recognised. As the report concludes, staff "value the way that leaders involve them in improving the school while being mindful of their well-being" and are "exceptionally positive about working at [the] school and about the support that they receive." Moreover, the report praises the work of Governors and Ormiston Academies Trust (OAT) in supporting our work.

The report also outlines a positive and proactive change we can make as a school to build on this positive momentum and further enhance what we are able to offer our pupils. We are already hard at work putting this recommendation into practice and are truly excited about the school's next steps.

Thank you once again for your support. This result is thanks to a real 'team effort', and one which fully reflects the brilliant community that supports the school every day.

Should you have any specific questions on this report, then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R. A. Kitley". The signature is written in black ink and includes a long, sweeping horizontal flourish at the end.

Rachel Kitley
Principal
Cowes Enterprise College