



Educate for life

What's new at Cowes Enterprise College, An Ormiston Academy?



What's new at Cowes Enterprise College?

This is the story of Cowes Enterprise College (CEC) in 2021. It is the story of a transformation in the education our academy offers so that, already an Ofsted Good school with rising and strong results over time, it promises soon to be delivering an exceptional education for every child.

You will read inside about the way our staff are researching cutting edge approaches to classroom delivery to ensure the very best practice is consistently delivered in our classrooms. You will read about the fundamental changes we are making to strengthen our curriculum. And you will read about the changes we are making to ensure that our students receive an excellent education, exceptional personal development and the most effective support.

We get the basics right

Here at Cowes Enterprise College we work hard to get the basics right. We have high expectations of student attendance, punctuality, uniform and behaviour and have strengthened both our internal systems and staff structures, investing more of our budget into the pastoral life of the academy to ensure the most effective student support can be delivered.



“Pupils make good progress because leaders and teachers have high expectations of them.”

Ofsted 2017

Inclusion and Success for all

We provide bespoke support for students in our dedicated intervention hub. Our wide-ranging offer of social, emotional and academic interventions operates from our Success Centre, delivered by our specialist Success Team.

Our Oasis Department combines medical, safeguarding, attendance and inclusion support for students and is focussed on ensuring inclusion and success for all.

In recognition of our ethos of school as a 'family', the academy has been awarded the 'Wellbeing Award for Schools'. This prestigious award celebrates our work to ensure mental health and wellbeing is at the heart of school life. Our holistic approach includes on-site mental health practitioners and staff members trained in emotional literacy interventions to ensure every student is treated as an individual, equipping them with the tools to build resilience and skills for life.

Teaching

Staff at Cowes Enterprise College are now at the forefront of continuing professional development. Teachers carry out action research to develop and share the most effective classroom practices leading to a Teach Meet and annual published academic journal.

Working in partnership with our regional Teaching School, and operating as the island's Teaching School Regional Hub, we offer regular high-quality long term CPD to our own teachers and those across the island beyond our normal training calendar. We also give teachers weekly time to co-plan as we believe in the power of collaborative planning and run a weekly briefing session on teaching, which enables staff to share good practice on a regular basis. As an Ormiston Academies Trust school, we benefit from excellent networking, conferences and training.



Our Maritime Futures Curriculum

We embrace our rich local heritage and place demanding academic concepts and techniques into 'real life' settings using our close ties with the maritime industry. Students have the opportunity to, for instance, visit and work in industry standard facilities, see coastal features in real life through maritime field trips in Geography, work on their sailing dinghy prototypes in Design Technology and visit the Mary Rose in History.



Our OAT Futures Maritime Portal offers further maritime careers guidance right from Year 7 onwards.

Language Options for Year 7

We believe in the importance of all students studying a language. Students at Cowes are able to opt for their preferred language choice to start in Year 7. All students will study their chosen option through from Year 7 to Year 11 with the potential to also select to study a second language along the way. The languages that we offer are French and Spanish.

Mastery Approach Teaching

Key Stage 3 students follow a mastery approach in both English and Maths. This aims to provide deep learning and understanding right from the off so students have a solid foundation of knowledge to draw upon as they move up the school and through their academic career. Our work around Mastery Teaching has increased the challenge across these curriculum areas and builds a solid foundation for students.

 *Teachers ask questions that probe pupils' understanding and require them to explain their thinking. Consequently, pupils gain and consolidate their knowledge and skills well in a range of subjects.* 

Ofsted 2017

Everyone Matters Curriculum

We have a pioneering approach to our PSHCE (personal, social, health and citizenship education) curriculum. Our Everyone Matters (EIM) curriculum takes strands of thinking from across the safeguarding and more traditional PSHCE curricula. We use a cutting-edge delivery style which sees students working together in large social action groups to wrestle with topics such as 'how can I keep myself safe?' and 'how can I be the change I want to see?'.

Effective Year 7 and 8 Catch Up

We have introduced highly effective accelerate groups into Year 7 and 8. The purpose of these groups is to ensure, across a broad curriculum, the rapid acceleration of literacy and numeracy skills of those who did not meet the secondary standard on entry to the academy. The Year 7 accelerate classes are taught across a number of subjects by either a highly experienced primary teacher or specialist SEN teacher and the environment provides a supportive structure to yield impressive and rapid results. Our students thrive on this programme.

Literacy and Oracy

All teachers consider themselves to be teachers of literacy here at Cowes and we understand the importance of literacy in all students' development. In addition to our new curriculum in English, we have a form time reading programme across all year groups to ensure that students gain additional support with academic and formal vocabulary and read daily. Literacy features highly on our staff training foci and a considerable amount of additional spending in this area has meant our generous literacy staffing structures ensure we can catch students up quickly who need extra support.

“ *Leaders focus relentlessly on the quality of teaching and on the progress pupils make. They intervene promptly to support any pupils who may be underachieving.* **”**

Ofsted 2017

Leadership Academy

We are committed to leadership development across the academy. Our sixth form students head the student leadership structures for the school and our councils are chaired by students. These structures enable students to direct the priorities of the school and input specifically into the academy improvement plan and long-term strategy. Students lead pupil working parties to review key policies which affect them, such as the anti-bullying and behaviour policies.

We build capacity in staff leadership long-term through a coaching programme delivered by high level, experienced external leadership coaches and offer our staff the National Professional Qualification courses alongside other rich CPD opportunities.



Communication

Working in partnership with parents is at the heart of our academy aims and we have strengthened communication pathways with parents as a result of this. We use digital platforms to improve the way we communicate; all our homework is set using an online platform called Show My Homework and we have a handy app for parents, accessible through mobile phones, which keeps parents in touch with information about their child on a daily basis. Parents are able to see rewards, behaviour, punctuality and performance data updated each day during the day.

In addition, our website provides a one-stop shop for news and information and the principal offers two bookable parent forum slots every week of the year to ensure she is always accessible to parents. We also consult regularly with parents.

Careers

Cowes Enterprise College has been awarded the prestigious Quality in Careers Standards award for providing students with valuable career engagement opportunities. We offer students a wide range of careers programmes and support, and career development has been embedded into each year group's curriculum.

“*Congratulations to all the pupils and staff at Cowes Enterprise College and the wider team at Ormiston Academies Trust, on such an impressive set of results. A Level results day marks the moment so many young people will make choices that can shape the rest of their lives, so whatever path they choose, every pupil at Cowes Enterprise College should do so full of confidence.*”

Schools Minister Lord Agnew



The Cowes Charter

We believe in enabling rich experiences, developing character and building employability skills here at Cowes Enterprise College. The Cowes Charter offers a series of experiences guaranteed to each student, ensuring that we offer a range of wider experiences for every student beyond the traditional curriculum. Aspects of the Charter in Year 7, for instance, ensure students see live theatre, take the role of a leader, speak in public and learn about road and water safety. As students move through the school the Charter becomes an opportunity for students to volunteer and gain weekly work experience as part of their timetable and to receive expert UCAS application guidance and support.

What remains to be done?

Of course, much remains to be done if we are to achieve our ambition to educate for life and advance education for our community's benefit.

We need to continue with the developments in our curriculums, both within and beyond the school day. We need to know that literacy support is placed at the heart of the academy. We need to continue to develop our staff so that they consistently deliver the very best learning experiences and support for our students.

Alongside all of this, we will look to identify and develop our strengths as an academy and ensure that we share what is best with others, so that, as well as making great strides ourselves, we contribute to the development of the school system as a whole.

“ *Staff leave no stone unturned in their determination to remove barriers to learning and raise standards of achievement.* **”**

Ofsted 2017

And so...

...this is the current edition of the Cowes Enterprise College story. It is the story of the continuing commitment of our experienced staff and the fresh input of the new. It is the story of the tremendous ambition of our students and the unstinting support of our parents. It is the story of a governing body, Ormiston Academies Trust and a wider community working together to transform education.

Those of us who are playing a part in shaping this chapter of Cowes Enterprise College's story are immensely proud to be seeing it unfold.

“

Pupils behave well in lessons and around the school. They wear their uniform with pride and ensure that the school site is free from litter and graffiti.

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Ofsted 2017

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Educate for life

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