COWES SIXTH FORM

AN ORMISTON ACADEMY

Prospectus

Educate for life

Choose Cowes Sixth Form



Welcome to

COWES SIXTH FORM

Strong results, strong futures

At Cowes Sixth Form we want to further your passion to learn, explore and develop, in a learning community that is vibrant, challenging and caring.

Our Isle of Wight community contains students of exceptional talent and ability. We are committed to helping them achieve the highest possible academic and career aspirations. The unique opportunities fostered by Ormiston Academies Trust help us to provide the highest level of enrichment and personalised student support. Our close-knit sixth form family stands out for the personalised support we offer to support students on their journey with us and beyond.

We are your route to a brighter future; a place to work, socialise and excel academically.

At Cowes Sixth Form, we educate for life and believe your studies will not only change your own lives but other people's too. We want you to be passionate about your subject choices, eager to learn and work hard to make your dreams reality. We are a bridge to your independent future, a safe base for you to explore and develop your true potential.

> **I never thought that I could apply to the University of Cambridge, let alone achieve the grades! Cowes pushed me to become confident and take the jump. I would not be on the path I now am, without Cowes.**
>
> Madeline R, Homerton College, University of Cambridge





Support that unlocks your potential

Choose COWES SIXTH FORM

Active learning

Playing an active part in your learning is central to us; we offer much more than just a learning environment. Our teachers inspire you to learn, question, challenge and create. We have been praised by students, parents, education specialists and Ofsted for our inspirational masterclasses and high aspirations.

In addition to offering field trips, laboratory studies, work visits and placements in both the public and private sectors, we focus on the development of your transferable skills. Our curriculum ensures you are able to hone higher level skills such as oracy, teamwork, communication and project management.

You will develop your independent study skills through a programme of structured activities requiring time management, task prioritisation, strategic planning and adherence to deadlines.

You will be challenged intellectually and encouraged to develop your ability to work and learn independently – all skills helping your chosen career.

> **I always felt comfortable to ask questions. I was fully supported in every aspect of my uni applications, whether that be how to write a successful personal statement, do mock interviews or cope with admissions tests.**
>
> Rusen U, medicine,
> University of Cambridge



The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

Completing an EPQ teaches you university level research skills and the ability to manage your own studies. An EPQ is an opportunity to develop an area of interest of your choice, outside your A-level subjects. Recent projects have varied from art exhibitions to music competitions to building a robot. The choice is yours! Your EPQ raises your UCAS points and offers as well as giving you the ability to excel outside exams. Our students gain an incredible number of top grades.

Equivalent to half an A-level, an EPQ requires students to complete a self-directed and self-motivated project on a topic of their choice. This can either be a research-based, written report or dissertation, a performance, design or artefact. Students present their projects once a year at our sixth form Showcase event. Completing an EPQ gives you a head start in your research-led education and independent study. The skills gained in academic research, report writing, presentation and referencing will prove vital during your future degree, apprenticeship or career.

> **Sixth form is independence with a timetable. It's challenging, exciting, and where you start figuring out what you're capable of. Sixth form lessons aren't about copying notes; they're about arguing your point and having your mind changed.**
>
> Mason S, year 13, heading to study English at the University of Cambridge

Top level results

Our university and apprenticeship preparation programme helps students to achieve the most aspirational apprenticeships and degree courses, working closely with world class employers to support careers. Our specialised charter programme gives our students the edge in applying for competitive courses and universities, with our highly experienced advisors offering one-to-one tuition and coaching.

We specialise in entry to professional careers such as medicine, law and engineering, helping hone and craft the successful applications of future doctors, vets, lawyers and engineers every year. We currently have former students studying at Cambridge, Oxford, Imperial, UCL and numerous Russell Group universities, as well as in the USA on scholarships following our work with the Sutton Trust US programme. We are closely linked with Homerton College Cambridge, Southampton University, the Sutton Trust USA Programme and the IW NHS Youth Council in providing our students with the best possible opportunities.

Cowes Sixth Form enjoys particularly close links with Russell Group universities and the Sutton Trust, with students gaining places at highly competitive summer schools and on aspirational degree courses. Our university and apprenticeship preparation programme has an



Together, we break down barriers to success

outstanding track record with the vast majority of our students gaining their first university choice. Our recent work with the Sutton Trust US has led to former students gaining a paid scholarship to study in America – you could be the next!

We focus on competitive degree apprenticeships and work to help students develop the strong qualifications and professional skills they require. Our **Aspire Apprenticeship** programme offers real insight through talks, mentoring, and work experience opportunities, with our expert academic team supporting the application process, offering workshops on apprenticeship applications, interview preparation, and assessment centre skills. We hold partnerships with employers, universities, and armed forces outreach teams, ensure students understand the unique structure and expectations of degree level training. By offering high quality academic pathways alongside targeted careers education we support students in building the resilience, teamwork, and leadership qualities valued in STEM degree programmes. Our personalised support and focus on progression assists our students to navigate the full range of apprenticeship pathways with confidence and ambition.

We understand that some students need a greater level of support to reach their aspirations and offer each student an academic mentor, peer mentor, further intervention and bespoke assistance so all our students are enabled to fulfil their potential. Together, we break down barriers to success!



> **The teachers listened to my worries and motivated me to persevere when I was in doubt and now I am a qualified solicitor specialising in an area I love.**
>
> Lauren W, former head student, solicitor

Aspire to the TOP COURSES AND CAREERS

A centre of excellence for Isle of Wight students

Our bespoke programme of aspiration includes:

Oxford and Cambridge: **Aspire** is our highly successful, dedicated Oxbridge preparation programme designed to provide essential information and support for Oxbridge applicants and to offer expert guidance and tailored feedback to help you throughout the application process. Our many alumni attending both universities reflects the impact of the Aspire programme in offering top level preparation for challenging application process, pre-entrance exams and interviews. We hold rigorous mock interviews and specialist support from our alumni at Oxbridge colleges and our highly experienced head of sixth form who is a Cambridge graduate. We are also delighted to welcome previous students and Oxbridge graduates as visiting mentors.

Our recent pairing with Homerton College, Cambridge, was fostered by our students there and we are excited for the workshops, masterclasses and residential stays in our future.

Medical Society: We specialise in support for medical students, with a superb record in supporting and placing students to become our future doctors every year. Our former students, now doctors and medical students, offer tuition and support as well as practical sessions, UCAT training and interview practice, as well as a specialised 'multiple mini interview' support session.

AspireMed, our specialist medicine preparation programme, provides expert, bespoke information, advice and guidance to enable you to succeed in

> **Cowes Sixth Form went above and beyond in supporting me in the medicine application process. Now I'm working as a doctor I am pleased I can go back and help other students through the same process.**
>
> Dr Daisy C, Junior Clinical Fellow in Child Health, Southampton University Hospital







> **The smaller cohort at Cowes meant I was able to get to know people better. My teachers really supported my interests and helped a lot with uni applications which was endlessly helpful.**
>
> Ines A, graduate from Durham University and MA from Cambridge

your application to medical school. We specialise in ensuring you have access to the very best medical work placements. Our medicine alumni and specialist university application team provide support and lead you through the varied interview process. We provide rigorous mock exam and interview experience and access to the elite medicine summer schools to ensure your successful application.

We also provide a dedicated programme of support for NHS apprenticeships and a range of healthcare careers, with many students going on to successful careers as paramedics, pharmacists, optometrists, midwives, and physiotherapists. All of these return to mentor our future students and enhance their learning.

Law Society: **AspireLaw** is our expert support programme for law degree preparation which provides the information and experiences required to make a successful application to a law degree. Our students benefit from lectures, debates and tuition from lawyers and judges, leading to an aspirational Law Society. We have been consistently placed in the top two schools for the Crown Court's Mock Trial competition for the past 6 years. Our specialist university support package will assist your preparation for the LNAT and provide mock interviews and exam support. Our alumni currently reading law degrees will provide you with information, advice and guidance.

STEM careers: Our Academic Journal Club provides a challenging opportunity for STEM students to discuss, present and evaluate the latest research. Our Science Fair and links with industry enable our students to go on to a wide range of STEM studies at university.



Make memories and friendships for life

Cowes Sixth Form IS YOUR SIXTH FORM

Our sixth form stands out as it is student-led – allowing you make your ideas a reality. Student leadership is central to our successful sixth form. Our student leaders organise events, provide a powerful student voice to the academy leadership and offer student leadership to all year groups in the academy. They make real changes and work towards improving the school as a whole. Elections for Head Student and Deputy Head roles take place in December/January and our incredible students truly do make a difference.

> **Before becoming Head Student I was scared to speak in front of large groups. Teachers worked with me to improve my public speaking skills and gave me the confidence to speak to large audiences.**
>
> Beth P, psychology,
> University of Leeds

It is your sixth form and your choices, with the sixth form team here to help and guide you.

Sixth form-led committees include academic mentoring, achievement, equality, enrichment, fundraising and an eco-council. Student-led clubs, events and activities extend beyond our curriculum. We are always willing to work with students to make their ideas happen, from themed days to band nights to proms.

Clubs, trips and events

Your experience of Cowes is a lot more than just gaining excellent qualifications. We want to help you make memories and friendships for life as well as prepare you for your chosen university course, apprenticeship or career.

We enable you to develop confidence, self-motivation and leadership skills through our rich curriculum opportunities and enrichment activities. Each year a range of leadership opportunities is available to you, from joining the Sixth Form Student Leadership Team, to running or supporting clubs and activities for



peers or younger students, or taking part in our many sporting events. You also have access to a rich and varied range of clubs, sports teams and creative groups, ranging from the annual production to the pool tournament and *MasterChef* competition to sixth form sailing club.

Our students visit UCAS Discovery events every year and make trips to aspirational universities, from a yearly trip to Oxford and Cambridge, to UCL, Bath and Surrey, to the University of Southampton where we work in partnership with their expert researchers to achieve top EPQ grades for students, with more than half gaining A or A* in the EPQ.

A work-life balance is an important part of getting the most from your sixth form experience. We provide a wealth of social and leisure activities, as well as help and support with your studies. Hiring Tapnell Farm for our Christmas party, regular visits to Head-hunters and numerous events from cinema evenings to band nights enable our students to make friends easily.

We also offer countless activities and opportunities, including participation in mock trials and debating and a wide range of sporting and social events, including the National Island Games, Resilience Challenge, and Literary Festival.



The extracurricular sports activities vary from whole-school activities to sixth form exclusive clubs which can be influenced by the interests of the current sixth form students.

Evie C, sports leader

Find your new world

WITH COWES CHARTER

Your journey to independence begins at sixth form. Our unique charter programme enables students to undertake impressive extracurricular activities, working towards achieving bronze, silver or even gold charter awards at the end of year 12, achievements that support their application to a university or degree apprenticeship. We believe our students should receive equal opportunities to succeed and that extracurricular achievements are a key to this.

Throughout your time at Cowes Sixth Form, you will have an additional timetabled lesson every week through our unique charter programme, which enhances and educates students on their personal development. Recent charter activities have included learning CPR, student led presentations on alcohol safety, cybercrime and family planning.

Charter curriculum

Our charter programme covers three areas and all students complete at least one activity from each area.

Academic Charter: Undertake additional courses, academic research or an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) in partnership with the University of Southampton to gain an academic advantage to support your future, with more UCAS points, lower offers and a better university place – not to mention a depth and breadth of knowledge, interests and understanding. A highlight of our year is the Sixth Form Showcase evening, where students present their EPQs to family, friends and the wider community.

Community Charter: As a central part of our Sixth Form Charter, our students are tasked with making an impact in the community. We offer extensive opportunities for volunteering and access to the wealth of enrichment opportunities on offer, working closely with the IW Literary Festival, NHS Youth Trust, Earl Mountbatten Hospice, The British Legion, the RYS and many more. Within the school community, our academic and wellbeing mentors support their peers in a wide range of ways, volunteering as mentors in academic achievement and wellbeing as well as sports leaders and in the sixth form band.

Careers Charter: Shaping your future begins right now. Whether you are secure in your direction or are unsure about where your studies might take you, our careers team can help you on your journey. At Cowes Sixth Form we recognise that getting excellent qualifications is about hands-on experience. By undertaking extensive careers education and advice, dynamic work experience opportunities and forging network links with local business and enterprise, you can develop skills in the workplace alongside your learning. We ensure you are fully informed by independent careers services and university networks.

Cowes Sixth Form is delighted to have been presented with the prestigious Quality in Careers Standards award, in recognition of the wide range of career programmes and support offered to students. Our dedicated careers team is ready and available to help you realise your potential through a wealth of opportunities beyond your core studies.



Shaping your future begins right now

Our strong employability links with key local and national employers give you an advantage when it comes to enriching your studies. We attract a large variety of universities, employers and apprenticeship providers to our campus through our extensive programme of careers fairs, networking and events, including our STEM-based Science Festival. The opportunity is a platform for you to show-case what you can do and discover who you could be.

Your bespoke work placement will run within your timetable, such as medical students having weekly placements at hospitals during the school day. Many students choose a workplace experience aligned to their course options while others try out a completely new working environment. Whether you come back confident that you know where you are headed, or full of questions over what your future might hold, you will receive the guidance you need at every stage from our Careers Leadership Team.

> **Each day at Cowes is freedom and independence to spend time in a way that is effective for you, making studying more personal and more enjoyable than it ever was in high school.**
>
> Lola L, year 12 student

Combined Cadet Force (CCF)

The CCF is an exciting initiative for you to develop employability and life skills and helps build an excellent personal statement for the future. There is an extensive range of activities on offer such as weapon handling, adventure training, leadership overnight and weekend exercises.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE)

Cowes Sixth Form is committed to providing all three levels of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award – bronze, silver and gold. Students who achieve the award demonstrate resilience, commitment, problem solving and strategic planning over a sustained period of time. All of these also count towards your community charter award.





Cowes CARES

Preparing you for life beyond sixth form goes hand in hand with your studies. Whatever your needs and aspirations, the individual package of support you will receive at Cowes Sixth Form focuses on your overall wellbeing, mental and emotional health.

We understand that the transition to sixth form can be challenging and we offer a wealth of support and guidance to help you settle into your routine and make the most of the opportunities before you.

> **Support was above all personable, bespoke, and genuine. I always felt I could turn to my teachers with any questions or concerns. Before sixth form I was lacking direction and drive, now I'm not afraid to take risks and I've discovered my passion.**
>
> Kieran W, former head student,
> Merton College, University of Oxford

The wellbeing of our students is central to our sixth form family. Our close-knit community enjoys team building activities and trips, clubs and events, as well as personalised mentor support from tutors and peers. We care about every individual student and provide an individually tailored level of support, specialising in understanding students' emotional and wellbeing needs to enable them to reach their full potential.

Working with student needs, we have established wellness activities such as yoga, meditation and Pilates. Our latest student wellness project is creating a sensory room for neurodivergent students to retreat from the busy school environment.

Pastoral support

Your mentor will be a key contact and source of support and guidance throughout your sixth form adventure. With a wealth of experience, they work with you individually to monitor your progress and attendance and will be a key part of the team helping you to decide your future plans.



Health and wellbeing are at the heart of all that we do



> **Superb visit to Cowes Enterprise College – you pair the highest of academic expectations with brilliant practical careers work.**
>
> Permanent Secretary,
> Department for Education

We have a team of professional, highly skilled Mental Health Practitioners who are able to support our students in times of need. Cowes Sixth Form is proud to have received the Wellbeing award in recognition of our dedication to supporting wellbeing among our sixth form community and we strive to ensure that wellbeing and promoting positive health are at the heart of all we do.

Student support fund

If you feel you have difficulty meeting the specific financial costs of attending sixth form, you may be eligible for financial help from the 16–19 Bursary. This is a cash-limited fund, so payments will be targeted at supporting travel costs, books and equipment. Free College meals are also available for those who meet the eligibility criteria. Application forms and further information are available from the academy website and if you need help applying, we are here to provide it for you.

Cowes Sixth Form is perfectly positioned to give you every opportunity to enjoy that all-important downtime, from a bustling common room and high street to the calm oasis of the open green spaces of our campus. Cowes Sixth Form benefits from its coastal location, numerous outdoor pursuits and close links with Southampton.



Your SIXTH FORM CAMPUS

Cowes Sixth Form is located within our multimillion-pound state of the art building designed to provide inspirational and practical bespoke facilities and learning spaces.

Relax in our lively and welcoming sixth form common room, the perfect place to grab a refreshment and catch up with friends during breaks and lunch.

Undertake research and revision in our spacious sixth form study areas, including bookable independent study booths as well as more sociable study areas to benefit your individual learning style.

Invigorate through our professional sports facilities which feature a state-of-the-art 3G artificial floodlit pitch, extensive playing fields, two large, fully equipped sports halls and a dedicated dance studio with sprung floor. We cater for all levels of sporting prowess, from county athletes and sporting elites to those who just enjoy an occasional keep fit class or the competitive spirit of team sports.

Explore the wonders of science in our dedicated sixth form laboratories. These feature bespoke equipment enabling, for instance, electrophoresis, aseptic science and DNA fingerprinting.

IT equipment and support

At Cowes Sixth Form, we provide all students with an individual Microsoft 365 account and is a service which provides each individual within our learning community with 1TB of cloud-based data storage and downloadable, full versions of Microsoft Office software for multiple devices. Our IT support team combines friendly approachability with top level support, all day, every day.

With wi-fi across our campus, you can access learning materials on the move. We provide a wide range of online resources, including specialised materials to complement your specific learning needs. These also give you the opportunity to interact with inspirational teachers and enable rewarding group project work.

A popular feature of our sixth form is our SharePoint, which allows all students to access a full range of study and learning materials, all day every day. This enables our students to control and prioritise their own learning effectively, preparing them for the independence of university study.

Your SIXTH FORM APPLICATION



September to October
Research. Read our prospectus, check out our website and speak with teachers and parents about your future subject and career options.

November
Visit our open event to experience what life as a Cowes Sixth Form student could be like. Gain information and advice by contacting our inspirational sixth form team.

December
Complete application process by visiting our website and reading our prospectus.

January to March
Attend guidance interview meetings with our enrolment team. Discuss your application, predicted grade profile and future aspirations beyond sixth form.

April
Receive your conditional offer and start the exam season.

August
Results and enrolment day! Celebrate your success and complete the enrolment process by meeting with our enrolment team for a bespoke one-to-one guidance interview.

September
Begin your sixth form adventure – your path to a brighter future. Final enrolment available for students by prior arrangement.

Begin your ▶ sixth form adventure



Why COWES SIXTH FORM

Cowes Sixth Form was judged good by Ofsted and our results have been praised nationally by the schools' minister.

We enjoy particularly close links with the University of Cambridge, Russell Group universities and the Sutton Trust enable students to successfully gain places at highly competitive summer schools at the end of Year 12 and then progress to aspirational degree courses. Our university and apprenticeship preparation programme works to support students to achieve aspirational apprenticeships and degree courses, with on average 95% of our A-level cohort going on to be accepted into further education, apprenticeships or employment.

Our students have gained incredible undergraduate degree places at prestigious universities including:

- Merton College, University of Oxford
- St. Hugh's College, University of Oxford
- Brasenose College, University of Oxford
- Homerton College, University of Cambridge
- Fitzwilliam College, University of Cambridge
- Gonville and Caius College, University of Cambridge
- Trinity Hall, University of Cambridge
- Selwyn College, University of Cambridge
- Peterhouse, University of Cambridge
- Imperial College London
- University College London
- Durham University
- Loughborough University
- University of Warwick
- University of Bath
- Lancaster University
- University of Manchester
- University of Exeter
- University of Southampton
- University of Bristol
- University of York
- University of Birmingham
- University of Sheffield

... and many more.

> **Cowes Sixth Form provided me with the skills and confidence to apply to the UK's top universities and I wouldn't be at UCL without them! I'd recommend Cowes Sixth Form to anyone who wants to aim high and feel well-supported before their next steps, post A-levels.**
>
> Jess C-L, University College London (UCL)

Choosing your A-LEVEL SUBJECTS

Our results have been praised nationally by the schools' minister

Universities and apprenticeship providers look for students who not only have good grades, but grades in the right subjects for the course they want to apply for. A key advantage of our sixth form is our subject flexibility. You can trial different A-level subjects up until the 1st of October each year to make an informed decision about the course that is right for you.

If you already know what you want to study at university, you should think about choosing subjects which give you the best possible preparation for your chosen degree course. If you're not sure what you want to study at university yet, it's important to choose subjects which will leave as many options open as possible. Your subject teachers will work closely with you to ensure that you are making the best progress possible. They will tailor learning experiences to your individual needs and work with you on a bespoke basis to enable you to overcome challenges and succeed.

Many courses at university build on knowledge and skills which students gain while still at school. For this reason, some university courses require you to have studied a particular subject already.

Science and maths

Degrees in sciences, technology, engineering and maths are sometimes referred to as STEM degrees. For these courses, universities often expect you to have studied specific subjects at A-level, or a specific combination of subjects. The sciences – chemistry, biology or physics – and maths, including further maths, are a good place to start. Many STEM degrees fall into one of three disciplines: biological and life sciences, physical sciences (which includes engineering) and medicine, dentistry and veterinary sciences.

Arts and humanities

Arts and humanities degrees involve the study of human culture. English literature, history and philosophy are some examples. Some courses may require you to have studied the subject at A-level, which is often the case with history and English literature. Others have no specific requirements but may suggest taking related subjects as good preparation. Sometimes, universities want to see that you have built up your essay writing skills. It's always best to check individual university requirements carefully.

Social sciences

Social sciences include anthropology, business, economics, geography, law, politics and sociology. These degrees involve the study of human society and social relationships. The topics social scientists study varies a lot, which means that subject requirements vary too. For example, maths may be considered good preparation for courses that involve frequent use of statistics, such as economics, but won't be necessary for others. For some social science degrees, such as geography, some universities may expect you to have taken the same subject at A-level.

ARTS AND HUMANITIES

ART AND DESIGN

A-level

Course overview

The A-level art and design course includes a detailed introduction to a wide range of media and techniques, allowing you to experiment, explore and discover your strengths. You will then use these skills to work independently, creating a set of work, using whatever media and techniques you choose. You will learn to develop ideas over time using artists and designers as inspiration. You will also explore your ideas through research and writing based on your practical work.

Choose Cowes Sixth Form

Our unique, open-plan inspiration zones allow sixth formers to work collaboratively in open spaces facilitating discussion, group work and creative approaches to learning.

ART AND DESIGN

Entry requirements

GCSE grade 5 across subjects including English and maths. Ideally a grade 6 in art.

Typical A-level combinations

Film studies, drama, English language and/or English literature, history.

Career opportunities

Possible degree options include: fine art, history of art, design technology. Art and product design are closely allied, and some universities do not wish students to study both.

Many fields of work need creative, imaginative employees who pin their thinking in research and careful thought and exploration. An art and design A-level will allow you to apply for work or a degree course at university in a wide range of fields such as digital design, multimedia art and design such as web design, photography, fine art, graphic design, fashion, animation, interior design, illustration, theatre and exhibition design, or an art foundation course at a college or university.



Choose Cowes Sixth Form

"I was concerned that sixth form would feel like two more years of secondary school. The sixth form feels like a professional environment however, so it was not a problem!"

Sam R, psychology, University of Exeter

SCIENCE AND MATHS

BIOLOGY

A-level

Course overview

This programme offers you a broad study of the biosciences. You will develop your practical skills through fieldwork and the carrying out of experiments while gaining a fuller understanding of living matter. You will study life at several different levels, from molecules and cells to whole organisms and species, right up to communities and ecosystems.

Typical course content:

- Development of practical skills in biology
- Foundations in biology
- Exchange and transport
- Biodiversity, evolution and disease
- Communication, homeostasis and energy
- Genetics, evolution and ecosystems

BIOLOGY

Entry requirements

GCSE grade 5 across subjects including English and maths. GCSE grade 6 in triple or double science.

Typical A-level combinations

Chemistry, maths, physics, psychology.

Career opportunities

Possible degree options include: biological/life sciences, medicine, biomedicine, biochemistry, pharmacy, psychology.

Students who take biology have access to a huge range of degrees, including those leading to a definite career path such as medicine, dentistry, veterinary science, pharmacy, dietetics, and those based on research, for example, biochemistry, biomedical materials science, pharmacology.



SOCIAL SCIENCES

BUSINESS

A-level

Course overview

A-level business introduces students to the fundamental principles of all business. The first part of the course covers the four main business functions: marketing, finance, operations and human resources. It outlines the way businesses have to co-ordinate, measure and adjust these four to remain competitive but profitable. The second half teaches how to measure corporate performance, analyse changing external influences on business including technology, competition, the economy and globalisation and finally to compare how different businesses manage change.

You learn to analyse real life business case studies (Apple, Uber, Sainsbury's, Dominoes etc.), write more general essays on business theories, calculate and compare business performance and even make business decisions.

SCIENCE AND MATHS

CHEMISTRY

A-level

Course overview

You will gain a sound background in all aspects of chemistry along with comprehensive practical training. This course will ensure you develop your interest in, and enthusiasm for chemistry, appreciating how society makes decisions about scientific issues and how the sciences contribute to the success of the economy and society.

Typical course content:

- Practical skills
- Periodic table and energy
- Physical chemistry and transition elements
- Foundations in chemistry
- Core organic chemistry
- Organic chemistry and analysis



BUSINESS

Entry requirements

GCSE grade 5 across subjects including maths. Ideally GCSE grade 6 in English.

Typical A-level combinations

Economics, law, geography, maths.

Career opportunities

Possible degree options include: business, management, marketing, economics.

CHEMISTRY

Entry requirements

GCSE grade 5 across subjects including English and maths. GCSE grade 6 in triple or double science. You must be prepared for background reading and consolidation.

Typical A-level combinations

Biology, maths, psychology.

Career opportunities

Possible degree options include: chemical/life sciences, medicine, biochemistry, pharmacy.

Students who take chemistry have access to a huge range of degrees, including those leading to a definite career path such as medicine, dentistry, veterinary science, pharmacy, dietetics, and those based on research, for example, biochemistry, biomedical materials science, pharmacology.



Choose Cowes Sixth Form

"Cowes Sixth Form made me feel part of an academic community and gave me the support and confidence to gain a place at university to study law."

Millie H, law,
Southampton University

SCIENCE AND MATHS

COMPUTER SCIENCE

A-level

Course overview

You will understand how computer hardware and software operate as well as studying programming fundamentals and problem-solving skills. You will be able to apply your knowledge in programming to solve real life problems and learn how to write programs using programming languages and write your own simple games. You will apply what you learn, to develop the skills to solve problems, design systems and understand human and machine intelligence.

ARTS AND HUMANITIES

DRAMA AND THEATRE

A-level

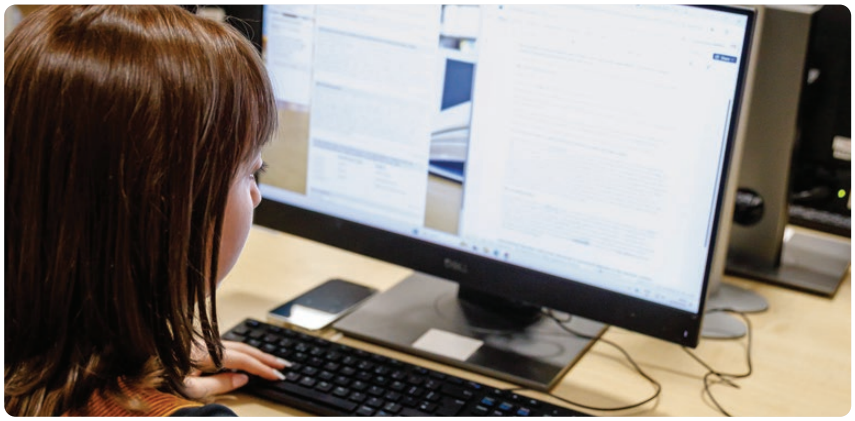
Course overview

Studying the practical, theoretical and technical aspects of theatre in combination offers you an unparalleled opportunity to explore and understand drama's relevance, considerations and practicalities. The subject content for A-level drama and theatre explores drama and theatre, creating original drama and the making of theatre.

Choose Cowes Sixth Form

"Teachers are so helpful, easy to get along with and are always contactable via email which makes it so much easier to get help with the work."

Treeve W, computer science, Exeter University



COMPUTER SCIENCE

Entry requirements

GCSE grade 5 across subjects including English and maths. Ideally grade 6 in ICT.

Typical A-level combinations

Maths, further maths, physics, philosophy, health and social care.

Career opportunities

Possible degree options include: computer science.

This course enables you to enter straight into employment in the ICT industry or to continue into further education at college or university level.

Major employers worldwide, such as Bloomberg and IBM, are keen to employ ICT graduates in systems development, information technology and communications in the IT sector. Others enter careers in the finance, communications and entertainment industries and the Ministry of Defence. Following a degree in software engineering, computing science or games technology, you could enter careers in software development or the computer games industry.

DRAMA AND THEATRE

Entry requirements

GCSE grade 5 across subjects including English and maths. Ideally grade 6 drama.

Typical A-level combinations

English language and/or English literature, film studies, history.

Career opportunities

Possible degree options include: drama.

Actors communicate characters and situations to an audience through dialogue, body language and actions. Such skills are highly transferable, equipping you with the ability to communicate with confidence and sensitivity in whatever job you decide is right for you. In addition, this course refines your collaborative, analytical and research skills.

Those who choose to pursue drama as a career beyond A-level have a broad range of options to choose from, spanning roles on the stage, in film or television and on the radio, work behind the scenes in drama production or in screen or play writing or teaching.



SOCIAL SCIENCES

ECONOMICS

A-level

Course overview

Working in a highly practical way, you will develop the skills to think logically and use theories to understand how economies work. At the centre of the subject is the question of how we divide up our scarce resources, and how these decisions affect us all – in other words who gets what and why? Economics is therefore the study of our society, as well as the activities of various groups and institutions within it.

ARTS AND HUMANITIES

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

A-level

Course overview

A-level English language is concerned with many different facets of language, from the way we learn to speak to how we use language to assert power and influence on others. You will develop and apply your understanding of the methods used for the study of language, explore data and examples of language in use and develop your skills as a producer of language.

ARTS AND HUMANITIES

ENGLISH LITERATURE

A-level

Course overview

The study of literature is also the study of life. You will read widely and independently, engaging critically and creatively with texts and ways of responding to them. You will develop and apply your knowledge of literary analysis and will explore the contexts and interpretations of the texts you are reading, deepening your appreciation and understanding of English literature, including its changing traditions.

Choose Cowes Sixth Form

"My English literature lessons were challenging and inspiring. They gave me a love for literature that will stay with me for life."

Ellie C, English graduate, University of Exeter

ECONOMICS

Entry requirements

GCSE grade 5 across subjects including English. Ideally grade 6 maths.

Typical A-level combinations

A mixture of humanities and STEM subjects.

Career opportunities

Possible degree options include: economics, law, maths, business

Following a university economics course, you could enter a variety of careers, including banking, insurance, accountancy and the civil service. You could work as an economist, actuary, fund manager, financial analyst or dealer in the financial markets, or in government departments such as the Ministry of Defence.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Entry requirements

GCSE grade 5 across subjects including maths. Ideally grade 6 English language.

Typical A-level combinations

Psychology, sociology, geography, business, English literature, Spanish.

Career opportunities

Possible degree options include: English, humanities, education, psychology, law, media.

A-level English language will provide you with communication and research skills valued by employers, and will prepare you for a variety of university courses and careers in many areas.

Students of English language often enter fields including professional writing, journalism, entertainment, media, the theatre, publishing, advertising, marketing and teaching.

ENGLISH LITERATURE

Entry requirements

GCSE grade 5 across subjects including maths. Ideally grade 6 English literature.

Typical A-level combinations

History, psychology, sociology, law.

Career opportunities

Possible degree options include: English literature, humanities, education, law, media.

A-level English literature will provide you with communication and research skills valued by employers, and will prepare you for a variety of university courses and careers in many areas.

Students of English literature often enter fields including professional writing, journalism, entertainment, media, the theatre, publishing, advertising, marketing, law, the civil service, and teaching.

ARTS AND HUMANITIES

FILM STUDIES

A-level

Course overview

You will broaden your knowledge and understanding of film and the range of responses films can generate, learning how narratives are constructed and the ways that spectators and audiences interact with films within specific cultural, political and social contexts. In this multi-faceted course, you will study contemporary and historical films from both Britain and beyond and will also produce a practical short film with a focus on technology and digital production.

FILM STUDIES

Entry requirements

GCSE grade 5 across subjects including English and maths.

Typical A-level combinations

Art, product design, drama, English language.

Career opportunities

Possible degree options include: media, film studies.

Students studying film find the course equips them for a wide range of future careers including broader creative fields, management, teaching and the civil service.

Following a degree in film studies you could enter a variety of careers in television, film, journalism and the creative industries.

SCIENCE AND MATHS

FURTHER MATHEMATICS

A-level

Course overview

A-level further mathematics is designed to broaden and deepen your mathematical knowledge beyond the range of A-level mathematics. It must be studied alongside A-level mathematics and will equip you with the foundation of skills needed to study mathematics at university. All students must study the core aspects and then choose one route from statistics and mechanics pathways.

Typical course content:

- Proof
- Complex numbers
- Matrices
- Further algebra and functions
- Further calculus
- Further vectors
- Polar coordinates
- Hyperbolic functions
- Discrete
- Mechanics
- Statistics

FURTHER MATHEMATICS

Entry requirements

This course is only available to students studying A-level mathematics with GCSE grade 8 or 9 mathematics.

Typical A-level combinations

Physics, another science subject.

Career opportunities

Possible degree options include: engineering (mechanical, electronic/electrical and civil), physics, materials science, PPE.

Physical sciences degrees involve the practical application of mathematics and physics. If you are a very talented scientist/mathematician, it is important that out of the four available sciences – biology, chemistry, maths (which includes both mathematics and further mathematics) and physics – you should choose three.



Choose Cowes Sixth Form

"Teachers at Cowes Sixth Form helped me grow in confidence to gain a place at the University of Oxford to study maths."

Layla J, mathematics,
St Hugh's College,
University of Oxford

ARTS AND HUMANITIES

GEOGRAPHY

A-level

Course overview

You will explore popular and contemporary geographical themes and issues and gain a grounding in both physical and human fundamental areas of geography, meaning your studies will move from tectonic processes and energy conflicts to globalisation and the effect of superpowers.

Choose Cowes Sixth Form

"Cowes helped foster my love for geography, and I will be forever grateful. Cowes helped to raise my aspirations to apply to some top universities and I'm not sure I would have received the same level of support elsewhere!"

Jess C-L, University College London (UCL)

GEOGRAPHY

Entry requirements

GCSE grade 5 across subjects including English and maths. Ideally GCSE grade 6 in geography. Students who have studied other humanities subjects or similar and who can demonstrate suitable abilities and aptitudes may be considered.

Typical A-level combinations

Sociology, biology, law, business.

Career opportunities

Possible degree options include: environmental science, geography.

The skills developed in studying geography are broad ranging and include independent practical research and project management, data analysis and problem solving. The subject therefore supports other career fields, including financial services, the retail sector, management, marketing, local government, the civil service, the Ministry of Defence, the media and the voluntary sector.

Geography degrees open up a wide range of career opportunities such as environmental management, urban and rural planning, environmental consultancy and economic development work.



ARTS AND HUMANITIES

HISTORY

A-level

Course overview

Develop highly transferable skills and foster your passion for history in our friendly and supportive history department.

You will develop vital skills of research, analysis and communication while understanding how the history of the world has shaped its present. You will be able to follow your interests through our inventive historical innovation project which gives you a chance to undertake a personal study based on a topic of your choice.

HISTORY

Entry requirements

GCSE grade 5 across subjects including English and maths. Ideally GCSE grade 6 in history. Students who have studied other humanities subjects or similar and who can demonstrate suitable abilities and aptitudes may be considered.

Typical A-level combinations

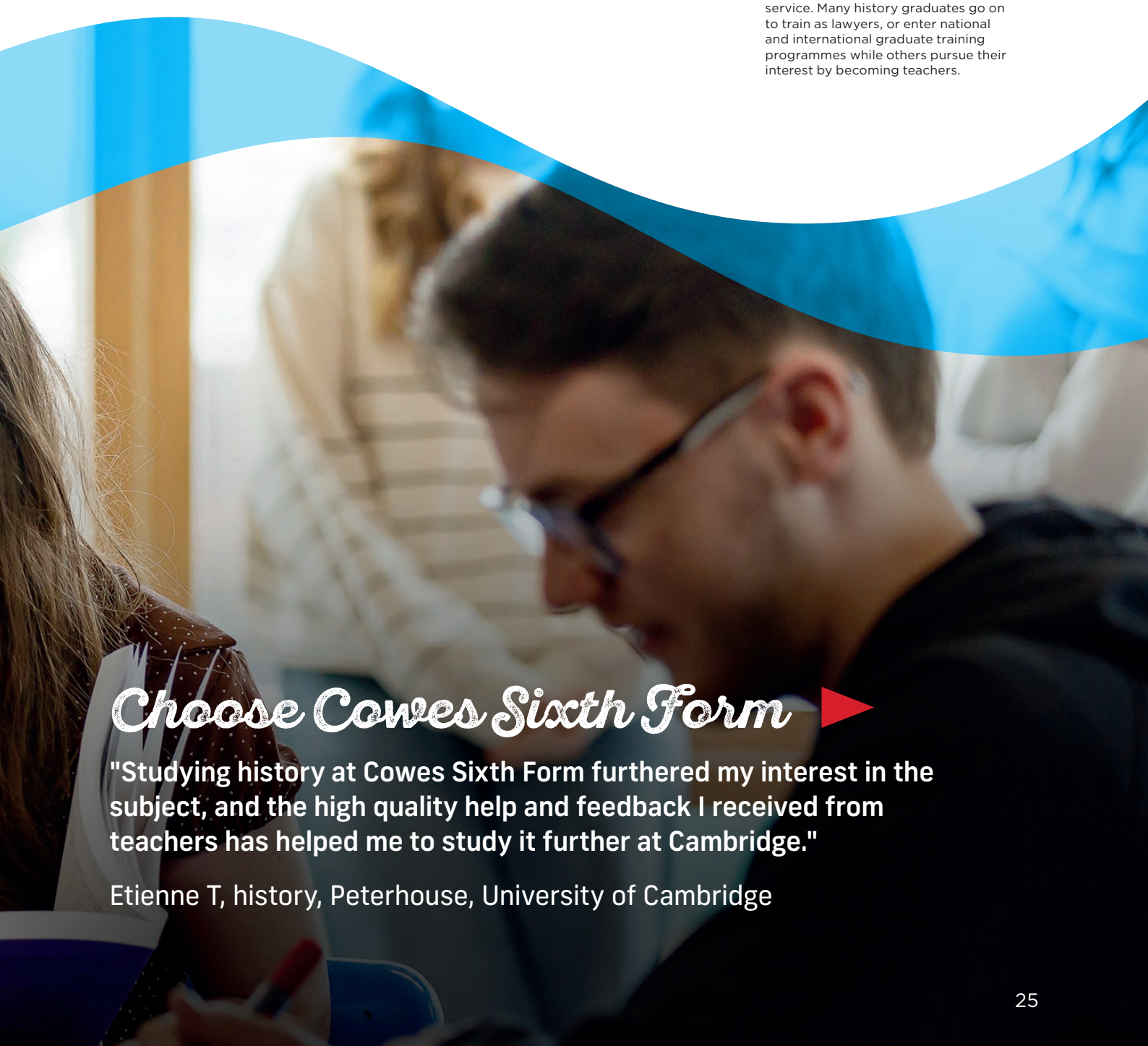
English literature, sociology, psychology, law.

Career opportunities

Possible degree options include: history, law, humanities.

A-level history develops critical thinking and evidence-gathering skills that provide an excellent foundation for a wide range of employment opportunities and degree courses from journalism to politics and law.

Following a history degree, popular careers include publishing and the media, advertising, accountancy and banking, human resources, politics and the civil service. Many history graduates go on to train as lawyers, or enter national and international graduate training programmes while others pursue their interest by becoming teachers.



Choose Cowes Sixth Form

"Studying history at Cowes Sixth Form furthered my interest in the subject, and the high quality help and feedback I received from teachers has helped me to study it further at Cambridge."

Etienne T, history, Peterhouse, University of Cambridge

SOCIAL SCIENCES

LAW
A-level

Course overview

Law plays a vital and wide-ranging role in society. Its functions include protecting the public, regulating relationships, the construction of agreements and the resolution of disputes.

An aspect of A-level Law that students particularly enjoy is the 'case study' approach, in which legal principles are applied to real-life cases. It is the combination of human stories raising real and relevant issues that makes A-level law an engaging, yet challenging subject to study.

A-level law is a thinking, writing, debating and learning subject. You need to be able to understand precision use of language, and to write clearly, and you will learn how to argue, on paper and in class, to develop and defend your views on how legal principles apply to case studies.

SCIENCE AND MATHS

MATHEMATICS
A-level

Course overview

This popular course will develop your skills in analytical, abstract and structured thinking. A-level mathematics provides students with a thorough grounding in the mathematical tools and techniques often needed in the workplace. You will gain strong foundations in algebra, geometry, trigonometry and calculus that form the fundamental building blocks of the subject.

Typical course content:

- Algebra and functions
- Coordinate geometry
- Sequences and series
- Trigonometry
- Exponentials and logarithms
- Differentiation
- Integration
- Vectors
- Decision – networks, algorithms, sorting
- Mechanics – forces, energy, motion
- Statistics – probability, data handling, testing hypotheses

LAW

Entry requirements

GCSE grade 5 across subjects including maths. Ideally GCSE grade 6 in English.

Typical A-level combinations

English literature, history, sociology, business.

Career opportunities

Barrister, solicitor, police, government and politics, social work, teaching, journalism.

MATHEMATICS

Entry requirements

GCSE grade 5 across subjects including English, and GCSE grade 7 in mathematics.

Typical A-level combinations

Physics, another science subject.

Career opportunities

Possible degree options include: engineering (mechanical, electronic/ electrical and civil), physics, materials science, PPE.

Physical sciences degrees involve the practical application of mathematics and physics. If you are a very talented scientist/ mathematician, it is important that out of the four available sciences – biology, chemistry, maths (which includes both mathematics and further mathematics) and physics – you should choose three.



Choose Cowes Sixth Form

"Cowes Sixth Form made me feel part of an academic community and gave me the support and confidence to gain a place at university to study law."

Millie H, law,
Southampton University

SOCIAL SCIENCES

PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS

A-level

Course overview

Philosophy has become such a popular option at A-level because of its contribution to independent thinking and analytical skills as students grapple with some of the most profound questions on the planet. You will gain in-depth knowledge of the core areas of philosophy while pursuing your own interests through optional modules on the great philosophers and key philosophical topics. The course introduces three components: the philosophy of religion, the problem of evil and religious ethics.

SCIENCE AND MATHS

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

A-level

Course overview

Our course allows you to play to your strengths and gain dynamic theoretical and practical skills for further education or work. You will learn to understand human behaviour and the human body, focusing on applied anatomy and physiology, sport and society, exercise physiology, biomechanical movement, sport psychology and the role of technology in physical activity and sport.

Choose Cowes Sixth Form

"Everyone was extremely helpful in every aspect. I always felt comfortable asking questions in lessons and my questions were always answered."

Rusen U, medicine, University of Cambridge

PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS

Entry requirements

GCSE grade 5 across subjects including English and maths.

Typical A-level combinations

English, history, sociology, geography.

Career opportunities

Possible degree options include: philosophy.

Philosophy will teach you how to think, rather than what to think, and *The Times* has referred to it as 'the ultimate transferable work skill'. Increasingly, employers value a philosophy qualification for its mature, logical and articulate students.

Following study in philosophy, you could enter careers in a broad range of professions including banking, journalism, law, advertising, the civil service, teaching, film, television and radio, information technology, accountancy and management.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Entry requirements

GCSE grade 5 across subjects including English and maths. Ideally GCSE grade 6 in PE.

Typical A-level combinations

Geography, biology, chemistry, mathematics, physics to enable sports science at university.

Career opportunities

Possible degree options include: sports science.

PE courses will be suitable for you if you want to move onto further education/ careers in the following areas: social sciences and sport policy, sport and physical activity, PE teaching, physiotherapy, personal training, sports coaching and allied professions.

Following successful completion, this course enables you to either gain employment in related fields or to continue studying at college or university.





SCIENCE AND MATHS

PHYSICS

A-level

Course overview

This subject will give you a profound understanding of the fundamental laws that govern the universe. You will build on your knowledge of the laws of physics, applying your understanding to solve problems on topics ranging from subatomic particles to the entire universe. You will also have the opportunity to develop all relevant practical skills.

Typical course content:

- Practical skills
- Foundations in physics
- Forces and motion
- Electrons, waves and photons
- Newtonian world and astrophysics
- Particles and medical physics

PHYSICS

Entry requirements

GCSE grade 5 across subjects including English. GCSE grade 6 in triple or double science and ideally GCSE grade 7 maths.

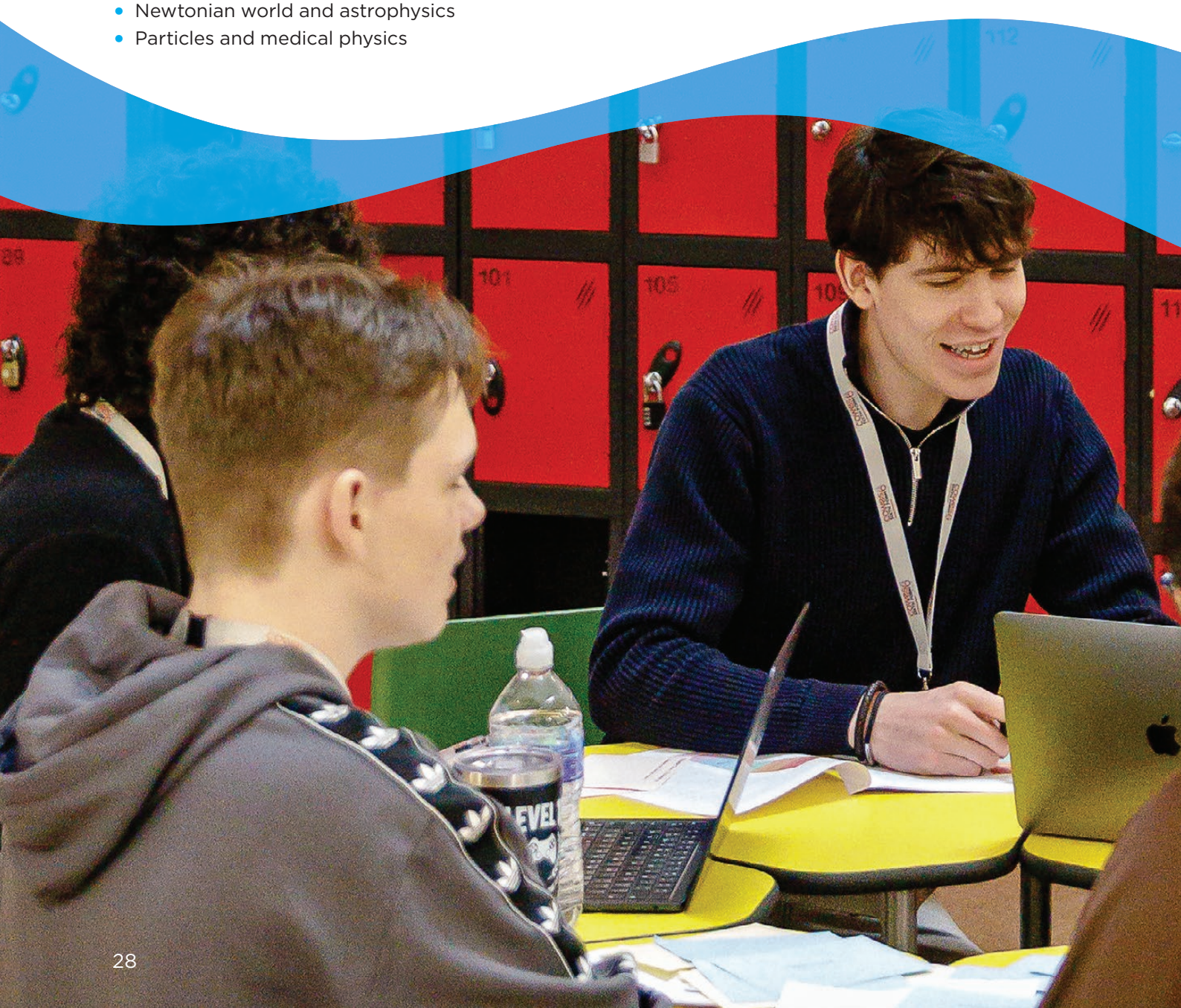
Typical A-level combinations

Mathematics, further mathematics, another science subject.

Career opportunities

Possible degree options include: engineering (mechanical, electronic/ electrical and civil), physics, materials science.

Physical sciences degrees involve the practical application of mathematics and physics. If you are a very talented scientist/ mathematician, it is important that out of the four available sciences – biology, chemistry, maths (which includes both mathematics and further mathematics) and physics – you should choose three.



ARTS AND HUMANITIES

PRODUCT DESIGN

A-level

Course overview

You will develop your product design skills in a hands-on approach through practical projects, working with a variety of materials such as wood, plastics and metals. You will gain skills using a wider variety of workshop tools, also branching into a more in-depth knowledge of CAD and CAM (computer aided design and computer aided manufacturing).

Choose Cowes Sixth Form

Cowes Sixth Form boasts cutting edge facilities and outstanding studio spaces for painting, printmaking, sculpture, performance, and lens-based and digital media, within a vibrant creative faculty.

PRODUCT DESIGN

Entry requirements

GCSE grade 5 across subjects including English and maths. Ideally a grade 6 in art.

Typical A-level combinations

Film studies, drama, English language and/or English literature, history.

Career opportunities

Possible degree options include: fine art, history of art, design technology. Art and product design are closely allied, and some universities do not wish students to study both.

Many fields of work need creative, imaginative employees who pin their thinking in research and careful thought and exploration. A product design A-level will allow you to apply for work or a degree course at university in a wide range of fields such as digital design, multimedia art and design such as web design, photography, fine art, graphic design, fashion, animation, interior design, illustration, theatre and exhibition design, or an art foundation course at a college or university.



SOCIAL SCIENCES

PSYCHOLOGY

A-level

Course overview

Psychology is the scientific study of the brain and behaviour. Human behaviour is complicated and psychology uses a number of different approaches in trying to explain behaviour. You will study topics such as social influence, memory, attachment, psychopathology and biopsychology and will learn how to carry out research and analysis and present information logically and coherently.

SOCIAL SCIENCES

SOCIOLOGY

A-level

Course overview

Sociology is the study of human society. On this course, you will learn to understand why people behave in particular ways when they are part of a group, tribe, culture, religion, or nationality, exploring the ways in which people are influenced by their childhood and education. You will be introduced to the key themes of socialisation, culture and identity, as well as how power and influence can be exerted in society.

ARTS AND HUMANITIES

SPANISH

A-level

Course overview

You will experience the rich diversity of Spanish culture, develop your language skills in reading, writing, listening and speaking and increase your understanding of the history of Spain. You will explore the social context of Spanish-speaking cultures and societies, also broadening your understanding of the Hispanic world by focusing on matters associated with multiculturalism and young people and their political engagement.

Choose Cowes Sixth Form

"Choosing to study at Cowes Sixth Form was one of my best decisions because of the support for learning and charter opportunities, such as volunteering at the hospital and the summer school for medicine at the University of Bristol."

Amie J, medicine, University of Bristol

PSYCHOLOGY

Entry requirements

GCSE grade 5 across subjects including English and maths. Grade 6 science.

Typical A-level combinations

A mixture of arts and science subjects, maths, sociology.

Career opportunities

Possible degree options include: psychology, medicine, biomedicine, pharmacy.

The various transferable skills acquired during this course can lead to a range of career options, from local government to marketing.

Following a psychology degree, you will be eligible, following further postgraduate training, for the myriad of psychology professions.

SOCIOLOGY

Entry requirements

GCSE grade 5 across subjects including English and maths.

Typical A-level combinations

Geography, psychology, English literature, economics, business.

Career opportunities

Possible degree options include: sociology, social sciences, law, humanities

In addition to the transferable skills in research, presenting, essay writing and project management, a sociology pathway can help you to enter careers in diverse fields: central and local government, the probation, police and prison services, the civil service, human resources, business and finance, social services and social work, public and other research environments, race relations and social research.

SPANISH

Entry requirements

GCSE grade 5 across subjects including maths. Ideally grade 6 in Spanish GCSE.

Typical A-level combinations

English literature or language, a mixture of arts and science subjects.

Career opportunities

Possible degree options include: European business studies, languages.

A-level Spanish will equip you with a range of transferable skills that are highly valued by employers: communication, critical thinking and the ability to analyse, research skills and creativity.

It will prepare you for further study of languages and for career paths including teaching, translating, interpreting, diplomacy, journalism, business, logistics, finance, advertising and public relations.



Choose Cowes Sixth Form

"I enjoyed the opportunity to challenge and be challenged by superb teachers. This more engaging style of learning really suited me, and prepared me well for the rigorous and combative tutorial system at Oxford."

Kieran W, graduate and postgraduate, University of Oxford



Choose Cowes Sixth Form

"Although there is a big step up from GCSE, I always felt supported in my studies and have progressed in a way I would never have imagined in my two years here."

Thomas G, automotive engineering, University of Surrey

COWES SIXTH FORM
AN ORMISTON ACADEMY

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