

BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

The English Department

Summer 2022



Ambition • Service • Kindness

Dear Colleagues

Thank you very much for your interest in this post, and we hope that the information provided encourages you to make a formal application. We can offer you the rare opportunity of working in a small, rural, vibrant school community, situated in a delightful part of Dorset close to the Jurassic Coast, a World Heritage site.

We are seeking a committed and inspiring teacher to join our supportive English team. We are at an exciting point in the development of our curriculum and are working closely together to innovate our department.

The English team consists of four full-time members of staff, including the Head of English and Head of KS3 English, two part-time teachers and an English Teaching Assistant. The department has five teaching rooms and every member of staff has their own laptop with a projector in every room. There is also a specialist literacy teacher who supports students across KS3 and KS4, and a lead Teaching Assistant of Accelerated Reader who runs our AR programme. The department is well resourced, and as a school we are always looking for new and innovative ways of delivering learning.

At Key Stage 3 all classes follow our school of work which uses a variety of resources. We have recently implemented a new set of criteria to assess students at grades 1-9 from Year 7 onwards. This set of criteria informs our English curriculum. Years 7 and 8 are currently taught in streamed groups and Year 9 is taught in mixed ability groups, including one small intervention group (also mixed ability).

At Key Stage 4, students follow the AQA English Language and Literature courses. Currently, each year group studies the same Shakespeare (Romeo and Juliet), poetry (conflict and power) and 19th century texts (A Christmas Carol), plus a modern text (An Inspector Calls). Year 10 and 11 are both taught in mixed ability groups and each year we go through a collaborative process to decide the setting system that is appropriate for each year group.

At A level we deliver AQA English Language and English Literature, and Eduqas Film Studies. We have a Joint Sixth Form with the nearby Sir John Colfox Academy in Bridport, with staff from both campuses working closely together on the planning and delivery of Sixth Form courses and sharing teaching. Students travel between the two school sites as required, but staff teach only at their base school.

This year, our team improvement focus is using feedback to help students to improve. 'Feedback' includes using our criteria ladders, working with example answers, reading other students' work, self-assessment, using checklists, colour-coding work, green pen time, and any other tasks that helps students to improve and make progress. We are enjoying exploring and developing our Teaching and Learning and working together to improve.

All teaching staff are also form tutors who play an important role in the wider life of the school.

Our most recent Ofsted inspection (September 2017) reflected the aims and ethos that we promote and inspectors said: "Students are proud of their school and speak highly of their teachers" and the school is: "Resolute in your drive to raise the aspirations of all pupils."

We hope the details supplied will give you all the information you need, but if you have any further questions, or would like to come and visit the school, please contact the Head's PA, Mrs Nicola Chalkley: NChalkley@beaminster.dorset.sch.uk or 01308 862633.