WELCOME TO BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

NOTES FOR APPLICANTS

"Beaminster School is a community that pupils, parents, staff and governors are proud to be part of. Pupils behave well in lessons and around the school site."
Ofsted 'Good', September 2023

Beaminster School is a thriving and popular 11-18 comprehensive school, currently **oversubscribed in several year groups and 3rd in Dorset for results**, with christian values and origins stretching back to the 17th century. It stands in beautiful open countryside on the edge of Beaminster, a town with great charm and historic interest just 6 miles from the Jurassic Coast, a World Heritage site. We currently have 680 students on roll from a largely rural catchment area.

In line with our values of **Ambition, Service and Kindness**, we have high expectations for our students and a challenging curriculum, as well as a flexible approach to deal effectively with the needs and issues of every child on an individual basis. We encourage all students to take responsibility for their actions and promote positive behaviour both in and out of school. Visitors often comment on the friendly, happy atmosphere at Beaminster and we work hard to make both students and staff feel supported and valued. Please do also visit our school website www.beaminster.dorset.sch.uk Facebook page for additional information about us.

As a comprehensive school, Beaminster does not select its intake and the vast majority of our students are delightful, cooperative and hardworking young people.

The Headteacher, Governors and Staff are all committed to making Beaminster a true community school, sharing its facilities with local people and serving their needs in any possible way.

THE SCHOOL AND FACILITIES

We have extensive playing fields, tennis courts and floodlit courts, 3 court Sports Hall, Fitness Suite and a synthetic turf 3G pitch with a community programme. We are delighted that solar panels across the school now supply most of our electricity. Our woodland area has been developed as a Forest School and our horticultural space is starting to take shape.

We have specialist accommodation for all subject areas, a dedicated Music Suite, Drama, Art and Photography Studios, fully equipped Science and Technology areas, a library, assembly hall, computer and reprographics rooms, and the staff room offers good facilities for staff, including separate social and quiet areas.

There are lifts and ramps for wheelchair access and many teaching rooms have been adapted for use by students with visual and / or auditory impairments.

LIFE IN WEST DORSET

We are fortunate to live, and work, in a truly wonderful part of England; a rare area of unspoilt charm. **West Dorset has been rated one of the fifteen best areas to live** for the quality of life it provides. Staff who work at Beaminster live in a variety of surrounding villages and towns, including over the border into Somerset and Devon, and with a wide range of property on offer, ranging from dramatic coastal locations to quiet rural idylls, there really is something to suit everyone.

The Jurassic Coast and the numerous other local Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty are opened up through treks, trails, cycle paths and water sports. Many local towns have maintained bustling markets and independent shopping, whilst the larger towns and cities of Exeter, Taunton, Yeovil, Dorchester and Bournemouth are all within easy reach.

OUR STAFF

Our vibrant, enthusiastic and caring staff are the key to our success and we are committed to their ongoing professional support and development. For example, all teaching staff are currently working collaboratively on “Responsive Teaching” to develop evidence-based teaching and share good practice, and a growing number of staff have been supported with study at Masters level, or on senior leader training. There are induction programmes for all new staff and for those who change role internally. Alongside performance management, all staff are actively encouraged to participate in a range of decision-making and consultative groups, and many staff carry additional management responsibilities.

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

The Senior Leadership Team currently consists of the Head, Mr Keith Hales, Deputy Head, Mr Richard Barnes, Assistant Headteacher, Mr Kieron Quigley, and three Directors of Learning and Achievement (DoLAs) for each Key Stage, Ms Jones, Mr See and Mrs Walters. Beaminster has a `horizontal’ pastoral system with 5 Heads of Year who are each responsible for a particular year group. Our five houses, Eggardon, Lewesdon, Pilsdon, Waddon and Mapperton, form the basis for competition and other group activities.

LEARNING AND THE CURRICULUM

Learning floats on a sea of enquiry and reflection and we believe this should include all staff, students, Governors and parents. We are always looking for ways to continue to improve learning in our school.

We are proud to have maintained a broad and balanced curriculum in the face of Government change, ensuring that a heartening **93% of our students continue on to further education or training**. The Sixth Form provides a wide range of A levels in conjunction with our partner school in Bridport.

To help us make even more efficient and effective use of data we use ClassCharts. This enables staff to do their registers, produce quick and easy seating plans that include student photos, as well as organise student data, rewards and behaviour information, set homework and share information with parents in one single package. It also links to other teaching staff so that any comments or concerns about a student can be easily shared.

We fully embrace technology and also offer a broad range of extra-curricular activities including sports clubs (football, rugby, hockey, basketball, netball, badminton, cricket, cross-country etc), music, drama, film, science, and a very successful Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme at both Bronze and Silver level.

Our Music and Drama departments hold concerts and other performances throughout the year and work closely together on our annual school play, the most recent production was an inspiring version of ‘Chariots of Fire’. The Art and Photography departments run trips to galleries and other places of interest to stimulate and engage students, along with formal, highly regarded external exhibitions of student work in Bridport and the local community. All Year 10 students take part in two weeks of Work Experience during May, and Year 12 do their Work Experience in July.

We have regular “Stop the Clock” days throughout the year, where students take part in on-site curriculum-based activities or trips, and then formal teaching is suspended at the end of the summer term for Activities Week – a wide range of activities, speakers, events and trips involving all students in Year 7-10. Both day trips and residentials are run throughout the year, including regular ski trips. Young people can apply to the Frances Tucker Trust for grants or bursaries to help them take part in activities they might not otherwise be able to afford.

LAST BUT NOT LEAST

We do hope you will feel that Beaminster is somewhere you would like to work and will come and join us.

If you have any further queries then please feel free to contact our Office Manager, Mrs Nicola Chalkley, on 01308 862633, or by email: NChalkley@beaminster.dorset.sch.uk