

Dorset Studio School

LAND & ENVIRONMENT



Welcome to the Dorset Studio School

on The Kingston Maurward Estate

Dear Candidate,

An inspirational Head of Mathematics is required at the Dorset Studio School on The Kingston Maurward Estate, in Dorchester.

We are now looking to appoint a colleague who can bring additional expertise to our fantastic staff team. The successful candidate will be able to make a significant contribution to both our Key Stage three and four provision. They will be able to confidently prepare students for assessments, whilst also embedding the skills required to support successful and happy lives.

This is a rare and exciting opportunity within a forward thinking school for a proactive and energetic individual to work with our experienced, friendly, supportive department. We are seeking someone with the ability to inspire students, to make the subject 'come alive' for them, whilst ensuring the continued development of standards and progress. Students work towards subject specific GCSE qualifications within an inspiring and diverse 750-acre campus.

Dorset Studio School is oversubscribed and is proud of its strong reputation. As an evolving and growing school, the range of appointments we make, and the skill set we look for is ever expanding. We are developing our provision in many of our staff teams. It is possible that a future TLR could be considered for the right candidate. If you feel that you have more to offer, and that this post could be the next step in your career development, please do let us know.

If you want to work in a good school with a creative and ambitious outlook, we would love to hear from you.

Recruitment and retention payments

£1.5 K payable on commencement of post

£1.5 K payable on successful completion of first year

£1.5 K payable on successful completion of second year

Web: www.dorsetstudioschool.co.uk

Yours faithfully

Mr Paul Green

Principal

*Please apply through the TES application process.
Closing date Friday 4th October 2024*



What did OFSTED say (September 2024)

'The school has high expectations of all pupils.'

'Extensive work experience for those in key stage 4 is highly valued by pupils.'

'Interactions between staff and pupils are warm and friendly.'

'Both sites are calm and orderly.'

'The land-based curriculum inspires and motivates pupils.'

'Teachers' strong knowledge of the subjects they teach helps them to present information clearly. They check what pupils know and identify misunderstandings and errors.'

'Bullying and discriminatory language are not tolerated by the school. Reported incidents are dealt with well.'

'There is a comprehensive programme to support pupils' wider personal development.'

What our students say

'Choosing DSS was one of the best decisions I ever made. The teachers are all friendly and supportive and try to get the best out of all of us for the future'

'The best school I have ever been to'

'Dorset Studio School has given me opportunities I didn't think about before and would not have been able to access in my previous school'

'Work experience throughout year 10 and 11 has helped me grow as a person.'

'DSS is a great school. I no longer wake up and complain about going to school. I now look forward to coming to school'

'DSS is very different to other schools in a good way!'

'I feel seen more as a person and not just a student / number. The way teachers teach is so much more than reading off a board. They encourage conversations and questions to make the lesson more interesting and inclusive'

What our staff say

'I feel valued'

'Colleague relationships are amazing'

'The SLT are the most supportive I've known'

'I am entrusted to do my job to the best of my ability'

'I feel supported, encouraged and valued. I have also been supported towards the completion of my NPQSL. This was not my idea and something the school encouraged me to do.'

General information for Applicants

About Us

The Dorset Studio School is a thriving, mainstream 11-16 co-ed secondary school situated within the superb facilities and exceptional teaching environment of the 750-acre Kingston Maurward estate. Studio Schools champion academic excellence alongside the development of a student employability profile. Our learners leave us with an impressive blend of skills and knowledge, perhaps evidenced by destinations and employment rates significantly above national averages for other schools. We have recently opened a temporary, second, KS4 site, just a few miles away on the beautiful Poundbury development within the county town of Dorchester. This, whilst we await the building of our new school, on the same Kingston Maurward site, due for completion during 2026.

All students at our school follow a demanding academic curriculum with the majority working towards nine GCSE and equivalent qualifications. Our staff are extremely dedicated, caring, professional and innovative; as well as being committed to ensuring excellence for our students.

Teaching and Learning

This is an exciting opportunity within a forward thinking school for a proactive and energetic individual to join our experienced team, as we embark on a mission to drive forward the academic excellence within the school. Progress is above national expectations and is demonstrating an improving picture year on year.

We are seeking candidates with vision, knowledge, skill and enthusiasm to contribute to the teaching team. You will need to be an ambitious and creative individual, keen to inspire a love of Land Based and Animal Education in our young people, whilst applying learning to real life scenarios. You must be keen to embrace innovation whilst maintaining high standards and outcomes.

Staff Well-being

If done well, teaching is a hugely challenging, complex and yet rewarding job! Conscious of this, we are constantly striving to evaluate staff work-load and well-being, making this an important part of our ongoing self evaluation.

Situated just minutes from the incomparable Jurassic coast and its world famous beaches, we are fortunate to be accommodated on a beautiful 750 acre campus, frequented by paying members of the public who 'flock' to the popular Animal Farm park and grounds with their families. Staff are encouraged to use the facilities that this provides both from a teaching perspective, but also at the weekend with their families (where entry to the site is free to staff).

Facilities on site include an international standard equine arena accompanied by a working stables, offering horse-riding lessons to all abilities. There is a fully stocked gym with both fixed gym apparatus and free weights (free for staff to use) and extensive grounds including a boating lake.

We ensure that our support for staff is robust and visible. The Senior Leadership team maintain a strong, supportive and caring presence for both staff and students alike. Line management support ensures a regular through-feed of ideas and views from all staff members and these are genuinely incorporated into our school improvement model.

We have invested in a CPD programme which has been rated by 100% of staff as 'good' or 'outstanding'. With both weekly and annual focus and linking with our two sponsors (the Kingston Maurward College, and the Ofsted rated 'Outstanding' Thomas Hardye School) we provide regular opportunities for staff development, both through in-house training and national development and leadership courses.

The school year mirrors that of the college, which is, therefore, a little shorter than that of some other schools. This allows us to dedicate time over the summer term (whilst students are exploring work experience opportunities) towards all staff being 'off -timetable' and preparing for the year to come. Following this, our staff benefit from additional holiday in the summer term, as well as additional days throughout the year. This can, and does, lead to staff being able to benefit from taking advantage of cheaper holidays for example, which may be taken at what would be 'term-time' in another school.

Most notably, however, is the incredibly collegiate and supportive staff, which is perhaps reflected in the minimal staff turnover.

Safer Recruitment Procedure

Dorset Studio School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the school. In order to meet this responsibility, the school follows a thorough selection process to discourage and screen unsuitable applicants. The process includes at least 2 references, from previous and current employers. These will be contacted before interview and in all cases, before an offer of employment is made. Please be aware that there may be checks carried out on all aspects of the application to confirm the validity of information supplied.

Equal Opportunities

The Dorset Studio School values the diversity of our workforce and welcomes applications from all sectors of the community.

Child Protection Statement

The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people; this is a commitment which we expect all staff and volunteers to share. The successful candidate will be required to have an Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check with the Governments Safer Recruitment Guidelines.

