



The Purbeck School

Achieving Excellence Together

APPLICATION PACK For Teacher of English Maternity Cover



Kindness, Aspiration, Perseverance





Welcome to The Purbeck School

Thank you for your interest in becoming part of the team at The Purbeck School.

I am obviously a little biased but The Purbeck School is a wonderful place to work. The school prides itself on ensuring that students not only leave with an excellent set of qualifications, but also a set of values based around our core principles of '**kindness, aspiration, and perseverance**'. The school is performing particularly well at the moment, with a progress scores that places us in the top 10% of schools in the country for both GCSE and A level results.

We are looking for a dynamic, committed, and innovative teacher and leader, who cares passionately about their subject and the welfare and progress of their students. This is also an incredibly supportive and friendly school which places teacher personal and professional development at the core of everything it does.

If you have any questions, or would like to visit the school prior to application, then please feel free to get in touch by telephoning Sarah Penney, Headteacher's PA on 01929 550077 or e-mail spenney@purbeck.wessex.ac

Full details of how to apply are available on our website.

The closing date for applications is Wednesday 18th February 2026

Interviews to be held on Thursday 26th February 2026

I hope you find the information in this booklet useful and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Adam Darley
Headteacher



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What OFSTED say

Recognises a school where students make 'exceptional progress'

We are absolutely delighted to share with you the outcome of our recent Ofsted inspection (May/June 2025), which has resulted in an exceptional report that we believe truly captures the spirit and strength of our school community. This report builds on the last set of progress based GCSE and A level results that placed us within the top 10% of schools nationally.

The opening paragraph of the report encapsulates everything we strive for at The Purbeck School:

"The culture of the school is one of personal care and ambition for all. The value of 'kindness' underpins the work of the school to sustain high standards. The school has the highest expectations for the personal development and academic achievement of pupils. As a result, pupils make exceptional progress through the curriculum, and outcomes are high."

We were proud that the inspectors recognised the unique ethos of our school where *kindness, aspiration, and perseverance* go hand in hand.

The report is a testament to the hard work, dedication, and passion of our staff, the enthusiasm and commitment of our students, and the support across the local community from parents.

Here are some more statements from the report that highlight the 'exceptional' work of the school:

'Pupils treat other respectfully'

'Pupils make exceptional progress'

'The design for the Personal Development of pupils prepares them exceptionally well'

'An exceptional approach to Careers'

'The school runs an aspirational programme of over 70 clubs and events'

'Pupils conduct themselves exceptionally well'

'Curriculum design is both detailed and coherent'

The full report is available here: <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/23/148737>

The report does not identify any areas for improvement .

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JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title: Teacher of English (Maternity Cover)

Responsible to: Mr Joshua Basford, Head of English

Salary: ECT/Main Scale/UPS

Working Hours: Full time/Part time considered (0.6 or above) Fixed term (1 year from September 2026)

Purpose of the Post: To teach in the English department and to be accountable to the Head of English for the standards of student achievement.

Background: English Department

The successful candidate will be welcomed into a thriving English department to join this lively and committed team who share a passion for both English and for developing the love of the subject in young people. The English department have a passion for English as an academic discipline, an art form and an essential skill, which enables young people to achieve their ambitions.

Our classroom practitioners, ranging in age and experience, offer varied teaching styles and expertise whilst all supporting the common pedagogy of our conceptual approach, working towards developing the core concepts that underpin mastery in English. Schemes of Learning and pedagogical strategies are continually reviewed in order that students receive the most relevant and effective classroom practice at The Purbeck School.

Many of our English teachers have wider responsibilities in the school; all are devoted to supporting students on their learning journey, encouraging and inspiring the love of the subject as well as securing excellent progress and outcomes. All colleagues take on responsibility within the department, supporting curriculum development such as reviewing and updating schemes of learning, supporting Initial Teacher Training and/or providing targeted support for students. Every member of staff is committed to helping students to achieve the very best that they can and this is reflected in our results. The English department is renowned for high quality teaching practice and are regularly at the forefront of developments in the school. In short, this is an excellent place to teach and further your career whatever stage of it you may be in now.

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JOB DESCRIPTION

Facilities

The Department comprises a relatively new, dedicated suite of English classrooms, with computer rooms available for booking. There is also a department office where we share ideas and cake where you will be given dedicated space to work. All classrooms have their own sets of mini white boards, visualisers and projectors and offer sizeable space for students to work in.

Curriculum Organisation and Courses

Key Stage 3: There are seven hours of English lessons a fortnight and we aim to deliver a challenging and engaging curriculum that enables all learners to understand and analyse writers' craft and utilise this knowledge and these skills in their own writing.

Key Stage 4: Students begin their GCSE courses half way through Year 9. The course specification is the AQA English Language GCSE, studied alongside AQA English Literature; these GCSEs are delivered by the same teachers maximising the opportunities to interleave knowledge and skills.

Key stage 5: We offer A level Language and A level Literature qualifications, both specifications from AQA.

If you are looking to develop your own pedagogical practices alongside a talented and creative group of practitioners, then we would welcome your application for this post.

If you have any other questions about the post please contact Joshua Basford, Head of English on 01929 550077 or e-mail:

jbasford@purbeck.wessex.ac

PERSON SPECIFICATION

	Essential	Desirable
Qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qualified Teacher Status • A degree in an appropriate relevant subject • Suitable for ECT 	
Professional Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recent training in what makes effective teaching and learning 	
Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of teaching Key Stages 3 and 4 • Experience at Key Stage 5 or a desire to teach at this key stage 	
Skills and Abilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICT competency • An excellent classroom teacher with a clear understanding of what makes for effective teaching and learning and the capacity to share it with others. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to teach a Second Subject
Personal Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cheerful and hardworking disposition. • Committed to your own continuing professional development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ambitious for future promotion.
Other Specific Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Willingness to take part in after school activities 	

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Purbeck School is a very successful school. GCSE and A level results have consistently place us as one of the leading schools in the County. In 2024 our results for GCSE and A level placed us in the top 10% of providers across the country.

Many of our students go on to study Medicine, Law, Physics and English Literature at universities including Oxford and many other Russell Group establishments, whilst others have secured highly competitive places on Higher Level Apprenticeships with companies such as Wessex Water and Babcocks.

As a result we have been consistently oversubscribed. The school currently has around 870 lower school students and 165 in the sixth form, we are ambitious to grow these numbers over the coming years.



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The School

The school has excellent facilities as much of the school was updated 10 years ago. The SEND block has undergone a major refurbishment this summer and now includes a bespoke Complex Communications Base. This will allow our SEND students to experience a fantastic new environment with the very best resource and equipment.



Elsewhere in the school our ICT network comprises over 250 networked computers located around the school and in our excellent Learning Resources Centre. All staff have their own laptop computers and a wireless network covers the whole site, allowing sixth form students to access the school network with their own devices.

An outstanding on-site sports centre with a sports hall, bar, floodlit all-weather tennis courts and Astro pitches, gym, dance facilities, squash courts and a six-lane, heated indoor swimming pool is shared with the local community. The sports complex also houses the Wareham Youth Centre with whom we enjoy an excellent working relationship.



The school has a largely comprehensive rural intake. Our roll includes around 180 in the Sixth Form. We have 65 FTE teachers and 40 FTE support staff. We are fortunate to have expert teaching in all areas of



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Location

The Purbeck School is located in a highly desirable area in which to live and work. The school itself is situated in Wareham, a Saxon-walled market town in the central southern area of Dorset known as the Isle of Purbeck. It is a gateway town to the World Heritage designated Jurassic Coast that stretches south west from Swanage to East Devon. We are on the edge of Dorset's wonderful Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and adjacent to Poole Harbour, the world's second largest natural harbour.

Our 1100 students mostly come from the towns of Wareham and Swanage, both tourist and commercial centres, and the neighbouring villages of East and West Lulworth, Corfe Castle, Wool, Bovington and Studland. It is a predominantly rural area of some 200 square miles. The Winfrith Technology Centre, extensive army garrisons at Bovington and Lulworth are all nearby. Throughout this valuable ecological area are many tourist attractions, and the towns of Poole, Bournemouth and Dorchester are within easy reach by car, train or bus and offer good cultural, shopping and sporting facilities.

The school is situated on a fine site sloping down to the River Frome, commanding unspoilt views of the Purbeck Hills. It lies adjacent to the Wareham bypass, about half a mile from the town centre, and has its own extensive playing fields and excellent sporting facilities.



Teaching and Learning

The school is totally committed to ensuring that all its students have the opportunity to flourish. As part of this commitment we have established our teaching and learning around the principles of a Mastery curriculum which premise starts from one that all can succeed given the time and the right instruction. Effective curriculum design and using evidence based teaching techniques are the absolute cornerstones of our teaching and learning. All teaching staff at The Purbeck School are dedicated professionals who take an active part in their own professional development, supported by evidential based practice.

Pastoral Care and SEN

A well-established pastoral care system, based upon our four houses of Swift, Skylark, Kestrel and Kingfisher, provides many opportunities for students to develop their leadership skills and also forms the basis for our healthily competitive academic, sporting and cultural competitions. Students are part of a same-year tutor group, with each belonging to one particular house. We are looking to change to Year based system for September 2026.

We are committed to an inclusive education and as such provide our students with a range of support through the 'Nest' which comprises of 4 non-teaching staff who support students with the day to day rigours of school. Within the Nest there is behavioural/ mental health/ attendance/ and safeguarding expertise and it is a vital support system for our staff and students.

In addition to an excellent pastoral system we also provide a highly effective SEN provision (Aim High). Our SENCO and team of HLTA/TA's work with small groups and individuals to ensure that all of our students have the very best opportunities to succeed.

The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. We enjoy accredited Healthy Schools' Status and are a completely non-smoking site.

Leadership and Management

The school's Senior Leadership Team comprises the Headteacher, a Deputy Head, six Assistant Heads and the School Business Manager.

The school is organised into curriculum areas and we offer wide choice and diversity. Our curriculum is rich and we provide a wide range of learning opportunities in a variety of contexts through both the formal curriculum and the extra-curricular programme.

The Governing Body comprises 16 governors, including staff governors, who meet termly, as do their sub-committees for Finance, Teaching & Learning, Pay & HR, Student Development and Chairs'.

Achievement

As you will see from our examination results, we continue to work hard to improve progress and achievement at The Purbeck School. We aim to achieve this by focusing on high quality teaching and learning. We invest heavily in professional development to continually improve practice and are looking to appoint teachers who share this same aspiration and potential.

Safer Recruitment Procedure

The Purbeck School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the school. In order to meet this responsibility, we follow a rigorous selection process to discourage and screen out unsuitable applicants. The process is outlined below, but can be provided in more detail if required.

Reference Checking

At least two references will be requested, normally from previous and current employers. These may be contacted before the 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 an application to confirm the validity of information supplied.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES STATEMENT

The Purbeck 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 a Disclosure and Barring Service check with the Governments safer recruitment.



School Staffing Structure 2025/26

Senior Leadership Team (SLT)

Headteacher – Mr Adam Darley
Deputy Headteacher – Mr Carl Morris

Assistant Headteachers

Mr Simon Holmes
Mrs Carly Watson
Mr Joshua Mead
Mr Joe Foyle

Head of Sixth Form – Mr Simon Holmes
Special Needs Coordinator – Miss Rebecca Alls

House Heads

Head of Kestrel— Miss Katie Yarnold
Head of Kingfisher— Mr Nathan Hunt
Head of Skylark— Mr Jerome Deremaux
Head of Swift— Mr Adrian Barker

Core Subject Leaders

English: Mr Joshua Basford - **Maths:** Mr Carl Morris - **Science:** Mr Joe Foyle

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

Mrs Claire Smith

Deputy DSL

Mrs M Coronilla - Mr Adam Darley - Mr J Mead
Mr S Holmes - Mr J Waterman

Support Services Manager

Mrs Paula Dale

PA to Headteacher/HR Manager

Mrs Sarah Penney

Subject Leaders

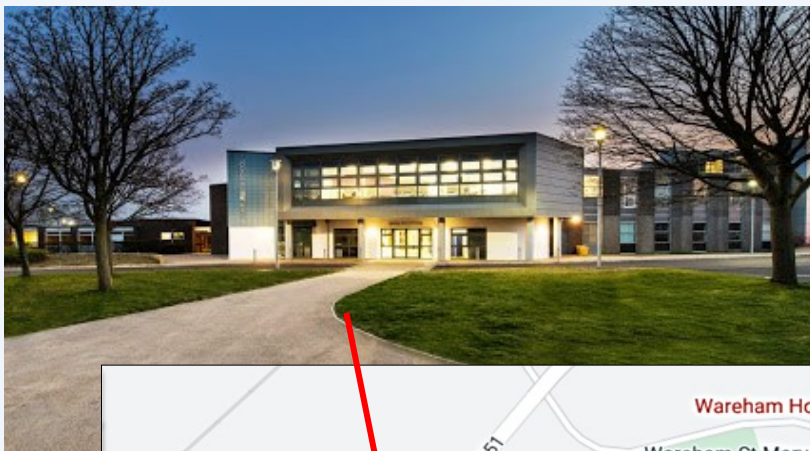
Form Teachers— Subject Teachers— Class Teachers

Support Staff— Office Staff

How to find us

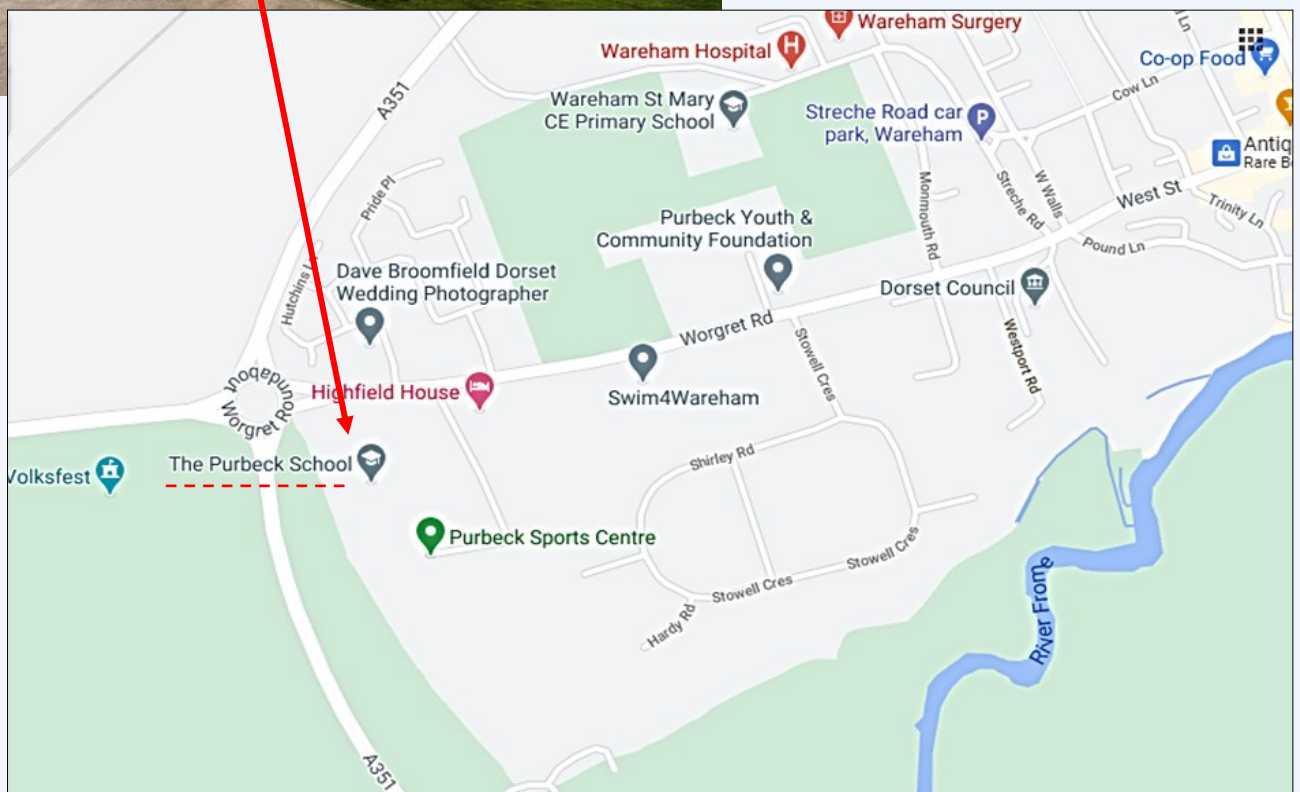
The Purbeck School
Worgret Road
WAREHAM
BH20 4PF

Phone: 01929 550077
Email: office@purbeck.wessex.ac
www.purbeck.wessex.ac



Company number: 07677838

REGISTERED IN ENGLAND AND WALES



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