



Ambition · Service · Kindness

# WELCOME TO BEAMINSTER SCHOOL



Ambition · Service · Kindness

## NOTES FOR APPLICANTS

*“Pupils behave well in lessons and around the school site.  
They are proud of their school and speak highly of their teachers.”*  
Ofsted ‘Good’

Thank you for your interest in a post at Beaminster School.

Beaminster School is a thriving and popular 11-18 comprehensive school 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).

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 our students to take responsibility for their actions and promote positive behaviour both in and out of school.

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

We operate a joint **Sixth Form** with our partner school, The Sir John Colfox Academy in Bridport, which provides a wide range of A levels and post-16 vocational courses through our link with Yeovil College. There are currently 675 students on roll, the majority of whom are bussed in from a largely rural catchment area, with 104 teaching and support staff.

There is specialist accommodation for all subject areas, including a new Music Suite, offering a broad and balanced curriculum. We have lifts and ramps for wheelchair access, and many teaching rooms have been adapted for use by students with visual and/or auditory impairments.

We have extensive playing fields and sports facilities and our students enjoy the opportunities open to them to play competitively, both locally and further afield. We are proud to have a number of students who compete at county and national level.

The Senior Leadership Team consists of the Head, Mr Keith Hales, Deputy Head, Mr David Withers, and Assistant Head, Mr Richard Barnes, together with associate members who are seconded to the team.

Beaminster has a ‘horizontal’ pastoral system with the Head of Pastoral Care ably supported by 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 House sports competitions and other activities.

We actively encourage responsibility and kindness and each year group has its own charity fundraising day.

We have wonderful parents and carers with high levels of parental engagement and attendance at parents’ evening and other school events, and the BSPTA (Beaminster School Parent Teacher Association) actively supports the school. We also work closely and have good links with all our primaries through the West Dorset Schools Collaboration ([www.wdsc.education](http://www.wdsc.education)).

We fully embrace technology and offer a broad and diverse range of extra-curricular activities including sports clubs (football, rugby, basketball, netball, badminton, cricket, cross-country etc), a competitive equestrian team, music, drama, film, science, Lego, Eco-schools and public speaking clubs. We run a highly successful Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme and our students also take part in the National Citizenship Scheme (NCS).

We have regular "Stop the Clock" days throughout the year, where students take part in a range of activities and trips related to a particular curriculum area. Activities Week runs at the end of the Summer Term, and is a fantastic opportunity for all staff and students to build and strengthen relationships by taking part in a wide range of activities, events, day and residential trips.

Trips are run throughout the year, and recent trips have been to India, New York, Borneo, Barcelona, Barbados, Austria, Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands, Tanzania, Spain, France and Jersey. Young people can apply to our associate charity, the Frances Tucker Trust, for grants and bursaries to help them take part in activities they may not otherwise be able to afford.

All Year 10 students are given the valuable experience of having a formal, mock interview, and also have two weeks of Work Experience during May.

Year 12 have the opportunity to attend a series of post-16 days, apprenticeships and A Level days, and complete their period of Work Experience in July.

Our Music and Drama departments run an annual school play with concerts and other performances taking place throughout the year, and Art and Photography run a series of trips along with formal, highly regarded external exhibitions of their work in Bridport and the local community.

We are very excited to be part of a 2 year Erasmus project which involves our students working collaboratively with schools across the world on a combined environmental project.

We do hope that the information provided will convince you that Beaminster is a school in which you would like to work. 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](mailto:NChalkley@beaminster.dorset.sch.uk).

Please do also visit our school website, [www.beaminster.dorset.sch.uk](http://www.beaminster.dorset.sch.uk), Facebook page and Twitter feed (@BeaminsterSch) for additional information about us.

#### **Ofsted**

"Staff know the pupils well and are able to support them effectively."

#### **Parent Comment**

"Our experience is that each child is supported to become "the best they can be" and we very much value the ethos that education is not just about exam results."

#### **Student Comment**

"Teachers are always willing to do what they can to help you."