



Ambition • Service • Kindness

WELCOME TO BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

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’, September 2017

Beaminster School is a thriving and popular 11-18 Christian designation comprehensive school. There are currently 680 students on roll from a largely rural catchment area and we operate a joint Sixth Form with the Sir John Colfox Academy in Bridport.

We encourage all students to take responsibility for their actions and we promote positive behaviour. 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 and Twitter feed (@BeaminsterSch) 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. We have a flexible approach to deal effectively with the needs and issues of every child on an individual basis, and encourage students to take responsibility for their actions and promote positive behaviour management.

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

Although its origins are in the 16th century, the present school opened in purpose built accommodation in 1963. 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. The location is stunning.

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. Our woodland area is currently being developed as a Forest School and our new horticultural space is starting to take shape.

We have specialist accommodation for all subject areas, a brand new Music Suite, Drama, Art and Photography Studios, fully equipped Science and Technology areas, a well-stocked 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

We have vibrant, enthusiastic and caring staff who are the key to our success. Therefore, we are committed to their ongoing professional support and development. For example, all teaching staff are currently working collaboratively on the SSAT “Rethinking Assessment” 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 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 SLT. 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 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 **96% 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, and vocational courses post-16 through our link with Yeovil College. The quality of teaching, wide range of courses and enrichment programme is all reflected in our **Ofsted inspection in September 2017**.

To help us make even more efficient and effective use of data we have invested in Class Charts. 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, basketball, netball, badminton, cricket, cross-country etc), a competitive Equestrian team, music, drama, film, science, Lego and Eco-schools clubs, and a very successful Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme.

We have regular “Stop the Clock” days running throughout the year, where students take part in on-site activities or a range of trips, and formal teaching is suspended at the end of the summer term when all staff and students take part in Activities Week – a range of activities, events, day and residential trips.

Trips are also run throughout the year and in recent years our students have been to India, New York, Barcelona, Borneo, Barbados, Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands, Tanzania, France and Jersey.

All Year 10 students take part in two weeks of Work Experience during May, and Year 12 do their Work Experience in July.

LAST BUT NOT LEAST

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.