The Purbeck School

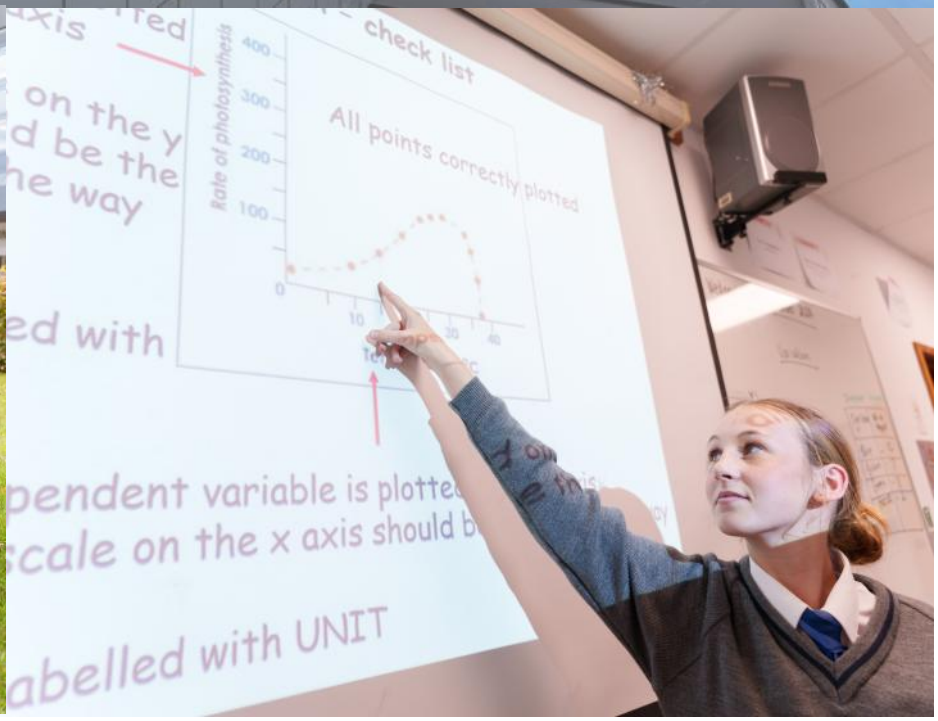
Achieving Excellence Together

Application pack for Learning Mentor

Kindness, Aspiration, Perseverance

Ofsted Good Provider

THE PURBECK SCHOOL


check list
All points correctly plotted
rate of photosynthesis
400
300
200
100
0
10
20
30
40
on the y
d be the
ne way
ed with
pendent variable is plotte
cale on the x axis should b
abelled with UNIT

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'. In the last set of outcomes the school was placed in the top 10% for results at GCSE and A level.

We are looking for a dynamic, committed Learning Mentor who cares passionately about the welfare and progress of students. This role is primarily based in the classroom supporting students with special educational needs. The Learning Mentor team is incredibly supportive and we place personal and professional development at the core of everything we do. We are very proud of how well SEND students achieve here (which is consistently well above the national average).

This is an exciting time to join the special educational needs department as we recently received significant investment for a new complex communications base which opened in September 2025. This involved a complete refurbishment of the SEND block and upgraded the resources available.

If you would like to take a look around the school, or if you have any questions please contact the SENCo, Becky Alls (ralls@purbeck.wessex.ac)

The closing date for applications is Midnight, 6th December 2026.
Interviews will be held the following week.

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

Yours sincerely,

Mr Adam Darley
Headteacher

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 verified GCSE and A level results that have 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 are incredibly proud that the inspectors recognised the unique ethos of our school—where *kindness, aspiration, and perseverance* go hand in hand.

This 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.

We believe the report reflects who we are as a school and the values we live by every day. It is a moment of celebration for our entire community.
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

JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title: XS 10a Learning Mentor
Responsible to: SENCo (Rebecca Alls)
Salary: Grade 5
Actual Salary: £20,389.57 - £20,713.15 per annum (actual salary)~
Start date: January 2027

Working Hours: 35 hours per week , term time only plus one inset day

Purpose of the Post: This post is placed within the main school to provide pastoral support to help every student adopt a positive behaviour for learning in order to support their achievement and success.

This role will primarily involve supporting students in their classroom environment across a range of subjects at key stage 3 and 4.

Main responsibilities and duties:
Support for pupils

1. Work with selected pupils in and out of the classroom situation. This will mainly be with pupils who have an Education Healthcare Plan, but could also include students excluded from or otherwise not working to a normal timetable.
2. Develop 1:1 mentoring arrangements with pupils which enable the pupil to agree plans and targets to move forwards.
3. Provide information and advice to enable pupils to make choices about their own learning/behaviour/attendance.
4. Provide support to pupils to enhance their emotional health and well-being (EHWB).
5. Help pupils to follow individual Education Plans where appropriate.
6. Assist in organising and running small group interventions e.g. circle time.
7. Challenge and motivate pupils.
8. Support students who have been absent.
9. Promote and reinforce self-esteem.
10. Receive and supervise pupils excluded from, or otherwise not working to, a normal timetable.
11. Act as a positive role model.
12. Liaise with parents/carers as appropriate
13. Network with other learning mentors, teachers and professionals, eg educational psychologist

Support for the teacher

14. Support pupils' access to learning using appropriate strategies, resources etc.
15. Provide feedback on pupil's progress as required.
16. Maintain records as agreed with other staff, contributing to reviews as requested.
17. Assist in the implementation of strategies to promote positive behaviour and attitudes.

Support for the curriculum

18. Implement agreed learning activities/teaching programs, adjusting activities according to pupil responses/needs.
19. Be aware of and appreciate a range of activities, courses, organisations and individuals to provide support for pupils to broaden and enrich their learning.

Support for the school

20. Be aware of and comply with policies and procedures relating to child protection, health, safety and security, confidentiality, equal opportunities and data protection, reporting all concerns to an appropriate person
21. Contribute to the overall ethos/work/aims of the school.
22. Attend and participate in relevant meetings as required.
23. Participate in training and other learning activities and performance development as required.
24. Recognise own strengths and areas of expertise and use these to advise and support others.
25. Supervise pupils on visits, trips and out of school activities as required.
26. Clerical/admin support e.g. dealing with correspondence, making phone calls etc.
27. Promoting and safeguarding the welfare of children and young people in accordance with the school's safeguarding and child protection policy.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

	Essential	Desirable
Qualifications	• 5 GCSE's; Maths and English to grade C/ grade 4 or above	National Learning Mentor Training
Experience	• Experience of working with young people	Experience of working with students with additional needs
Skills and Abilities	• Excellent communication skills • Ability to motivate students to engage in the learning process • Ability to work effectively with professionals and parents • Ability to work across Key Stage 3 and 4	Working knowledge of current programs of study and other relevant learning programs
Personal Attributes	• Emotionally resilient and able to cope under pressure • Committed to your own continuing professional development • Willingness to collaborate as part of a team	Someone looking to further their own career
Other Specific Requirements	• Willingness to take part in after school clubs • A sense of perspective and humour	N/a

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 850 lower school students and 180 in the sixth form, we are ambitious to grow these numbers over the coming years.

The job you are applying for would be based in the Aim High (SEND) area of the school where you would be working alongside a committed team of other Learning Mentors. Learning Mentors run a range of interventions for students, but are primarily based in the classroom supporting students with education healthcare plans across a range of different subject areas. We currently have around 40 students with EHCP's across the school. You would be line managed by the SENCo (Rebecca Alls).

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 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.

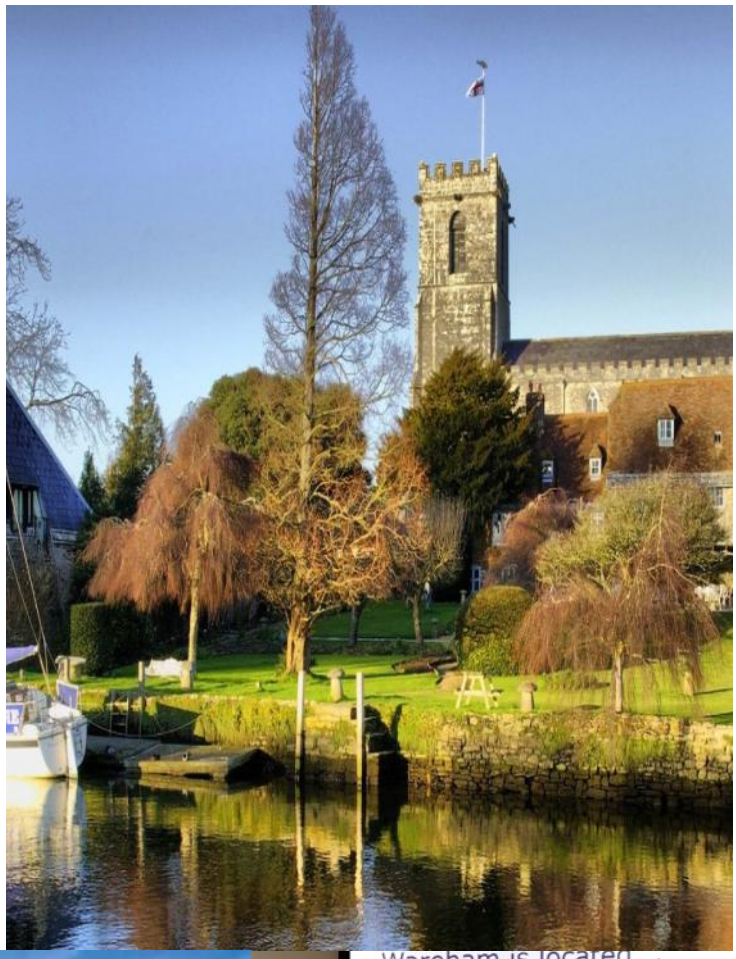
Elsewhere in the school our ICT network comprises over 250 networked computers located around the school and in our excellent Learning Resources Centre. All staff have their own laptop computers and a wireless network covers the whole site, allowing sixth form students to access the school network with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

An outstanding on-site sports centre with a sports hall, 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 the school and staff turnover is low.

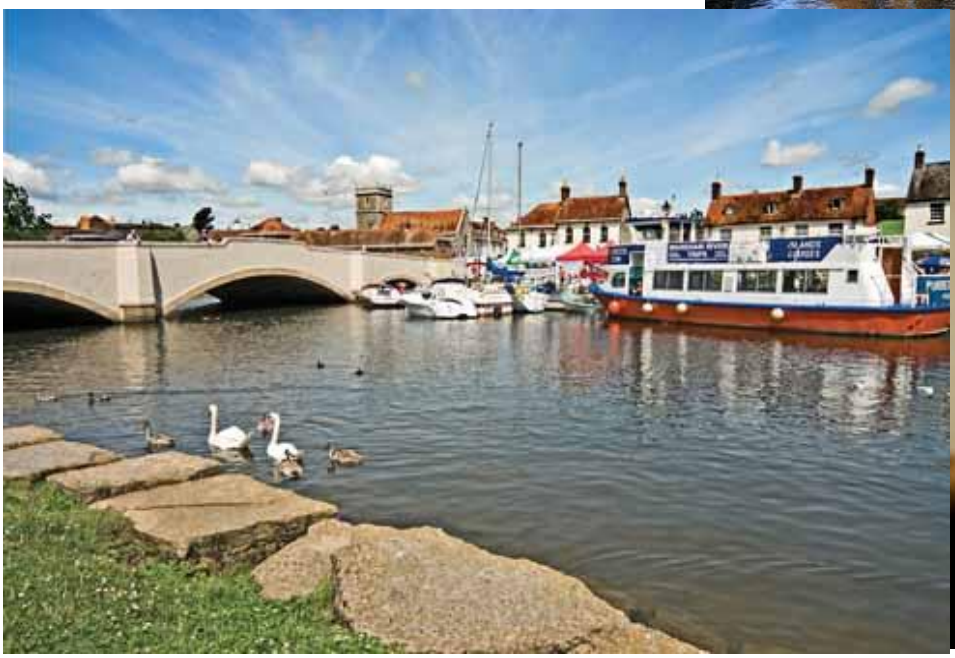
Location

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 1050 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 staff at The Purbeck School are dedicated professionals who take an active part in their own professional development to ensure that their own teaching incorporates the very best evidential practice.

Pastoral Care and SEND

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 committed to an inclusive education and as such provide our students with a range of support through the 'Nest' which comprises of 3 non-teaching staff who support students with the day to day rigours of school. Within the Nest there is behavioural/ mental health/ 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 SEND provision (Aim High). Our SENCo and team of Learning Mentors 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, and six Assistant Heads.

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 13 governors, including staff governors, who meet half termly. We are also supported by the wider Wessex Multi Academy Trust.

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 caring and passionate people 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 2026/27

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
Miss Lydia West (seconded)

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

Heads of Year
Year 7 - Mrs Gemma Heighway
Year 8 - Mr Luke Maddison
Year 9 - Mr Nathan Hunt
Year 10 - Mr Adrian Barker
Year 11 - Miss Katie Yarnold

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

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)
Mrs Claire Smith

Deputy DSL
Mr Adam Darley - Mrs M Coronilla - Mr J Mead - Miss R Alls
Mr S Holmes - Mr J Waterman

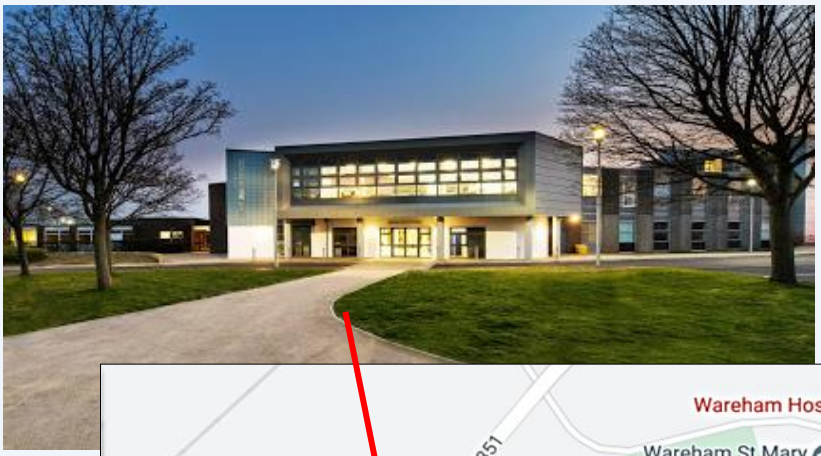
Support Services Manager
Mrs Paula Dale

PA to Headteacher
Ms Claire Harris

How to find us

The Purbeck School
Worgret Road
WAREHAM
BH20 4PF

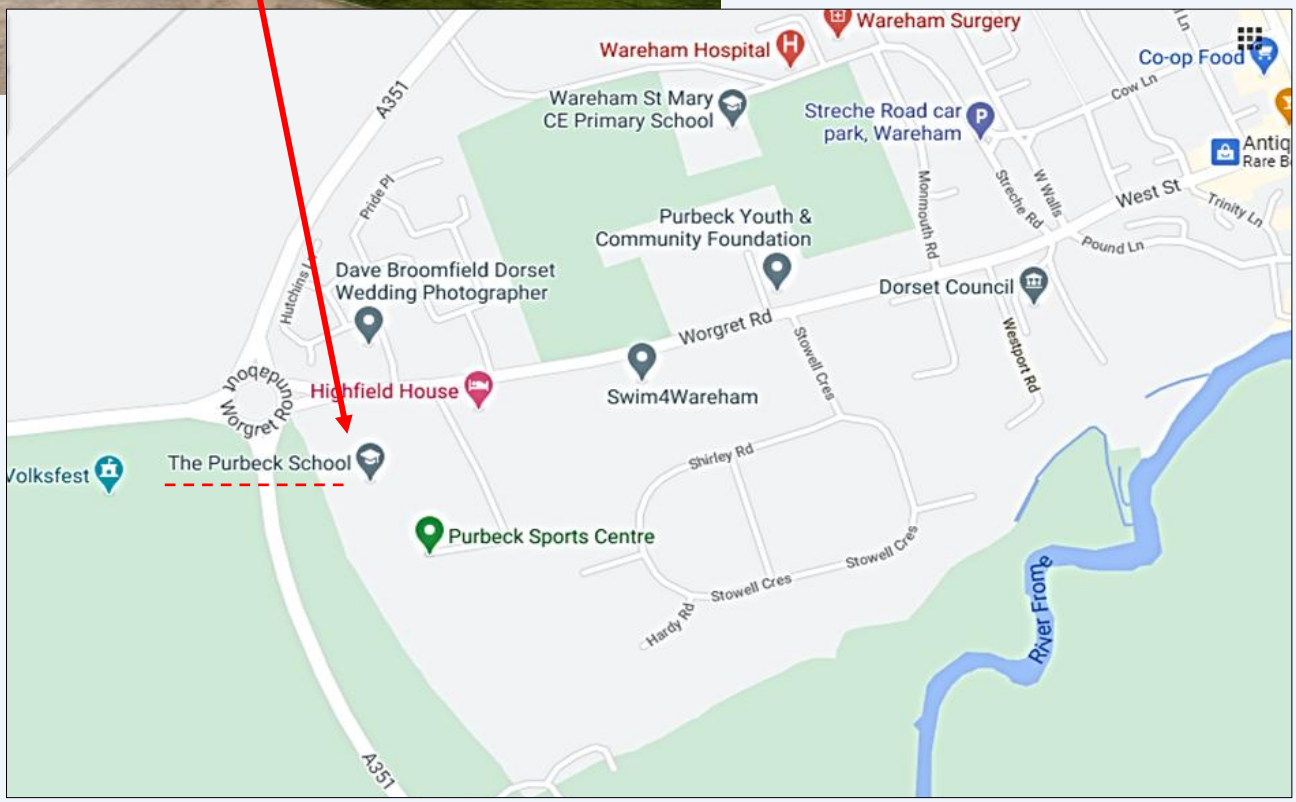
Phone: 01929 550077
Email: office@purbeck.wessex.ac
www.purbeck.wessex.ac



WESSEX
MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

COMPANY NO: 07677838

REGISTERED IN ENGLAND AND WALES



Kindness, Aspiration, Perseverance

Ofsted Good Provider