

BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

The Art Department

Spring 2025



Ambition • Service • Kindness

Dear Colleagues

Thank you very much for your interest in this post, and we hope that the information provided encourages you to make a formal application. We can offer you the rare opportunity of working in a small, rural, vibrant school community, situated in a delightful part of Dorset close to the Jurassic Coast, a World Heritage site.

We are seeking a committed and inspiring teacher to join our supportive and high-achieving Art team. We are at an exciting point in the development of our curriculum and are working closely together to innovate our department.

The current Art team consists of the Head of Art and two part-time members of staff, supported by a part-time technician. The department has three specialist teaching rooms and every member of staff has their own laptop, visualiser and a projector in every room. The department is fully resourced, and is also resourceful in always looking for new and innovative ways of delivering learning.

At Key Stage 3, all classes follow our bespoke scheme of work which uses a variety of resources and includes the study of key technical skills, drawing, printing, painting and making. This provides firm foundations so that students are able to structure a project and develop ideas, as well as building confidence and self-esteem. Across Years 7 to 9 a rich range of artists is studied, in context, taught in mixed-ability groups. In the Spring of Year 9 we hold a special Art Exhibition at Sou' Sou' West Gallery, Symondsburry, to celebrate the quality of work completed.

At Key Stage 4, students follow the AQA specification, building on their skills from KS3. We run a well-structured course exploring all that Art can be through a wide variety of techniques, materials and artists' work. We are ambitious and aim to challenge our students, push at boundaries and encourage taking risks. We study predominantly 20th century and contemporary artworks in a course that builds independent research skills and critical thinking. A London Tate Modern visit is used to launch the final coursework project where students have a choice of themes based on their visit. Alongside this, our Sculpture GCSE visits Roche Court as their starting point.

At A level, we deliver the Edexcel specification as part of our Joint Sixth Form with the nearby Sir John Colfox Academy in Bridport, with staff from both campuses working together on the planning and delivery of Sixth Form courses and sharing the teaching. Students travel between the two school sites as required, but staff teach only at their base school. Our A level Art course is enjoyable, rigorous and challenging, culminating in a professional annual show at Bridport Arts Centre. We also provide opportunities such as sculpture workshops and additional extra-curricular experiences such as life drawing. Our residential trip to St Ives in September provides an important input into coursework through a wide range of opportunities to visit galleries, exhibitions and Falmouth Arts University.

All teaching staff are also form tutors and play an important role in the wider life of the school.

Our most recent Ofsted inspection (September 2023) reflected the aims and ethos that we promote as inspectors said:

"Beaminster School is a community that pupils, parents, staff and Governors are proud to be a part of... Adults know pupils well as individuals. As a result, pupils get the help and support they need."

We hope the details supplied will give you all the information you need, but should you have any further questions, or would like to come and visit the school, please contact the Head's PA, Mrs Nicola Chalkley: NChalkley@beaminster.dorset.sch.uk or 01308 862633.