SCHOOLS ACHIEVING SUCCESS TOGETHER
SAST
SHERBORNE AREA SCHOOLS' TRUST

Sturminster Newton High School





Applicant Information

Respectful | Responsible | Resilient

WELCOME TO STURMINSTER NEWTON HIGH SCHOOL

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for expressing an interest in a post at Sturminster Newton High School. We hope this information gives you a clear sense of who we are, what we stand for, and what makes our school a special place to work.

SNHS is a thriving 11–18 community school with just over 600 students, including an ambitious Sixth Form offering both A Levels and BTECs, with some subjects offered in partnership with Shaftesbury School. We are proud to serve the town of Sturminster Newton and its surrounding villages, and our school has long been a place of learning at the heart of the local community. While the world around us has changed, our commitment to delivering an outstanding, values-driven education has remained constant.

We offer the warmth and personal attention of a smaller school, combined with the ambition and high expectations that drive excellent outcomes. In 2025, we celebrated some of our strongest ever GCSE results, placing us among the highest-performing schools in Dorset — a testament to our students' determination, our staff's dedication, and the strength of our school culture.

Our close relationships with families, local organisations, and the wider community shape who we are. We believe that education is a shared endeavour — one strengthened by collaboration, trust, and the understanding that it truly takes a village to raise a child. This sense of collective responsibility underpins our ethos and enriches the experience of every young person in our care.

We hope this information provides insight into the ambition, warmth, and purpose that define Sturminster Newton High School. If you would like to see the school in action, we warmly welcome visits during the school day. We would be delighted to show you around, introduce you to our staff and students, and answer any questions you may have.

Thank you once again for your interest. We look forward to welcoming you to our school.



With warm regards
Mr Mike Motteram, Headteacher



ABOUT OUR SCHOOL

The Local Area

Sturminster Newton is a friendly market town set within the beautiful rural landscape of North Dorset. The school sits on the edge of the town, surrounded by villages and open countryside, with superb views and extensive playing fields on site. The wider area offers easy access to the Jurassic Coast, beaches, and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Our buildings, dating from 1960 to 1995, have been continually refurbished to ensure a cared-for, high-quality learning environment that students respect and value.

We work closely with the Sturminster Newton network of primary schools, including Child Okeford, Shillingstone, William Barnes, Stalbridge, and Hazelbury Bryan. The school's planned admission number (PAN) is 120 per year, and we operate under the Dorset Admissions Policy.

Our Students

We currently have just over 600 students on roll, including around 70 in our Sixth Form. All Sixth Form Learning is in person, with a small number of subjects delivered in partnership with Shaftesbury School. This collaboration provides a broad choice of A Level and vocational pathways, available across both sites, giving students access to a wider range of courses and specialist teaching.

Our Staff

Our staff are central to the success of SNHS. We are fortunate to have well-qualified, committed and supportive colleagues across all areas of the school. Curriculum teams are staffed by subject specialists working in dedicated learning spaces, enabling strong teaching, collaboration, and shared professional development.

Curriculum, Teaching and Learning

We work with a range of partners to provide students with the widest possible opportunities at every key stage. In addition to a strong academic curriculum, students enjoy a rich programme of lunchtime and after-school clubs, enrichment activities, local and national visits, and residential trips. These experiences reflect our staff's commitment to giving every student a rewarding and ambitious school experience both inside and beyond the classroom.

OUR SCHOOL VALUES

Our core values of Respect, Responsibility and Resilience are at the heart of everything we do. We instil these values in our students, helping them to become confident, responsible members of our community.

By embedding these values into our daily practices, we aim to nurture well-rounded individuals who are prepared to make a positive impact in the world

Respectful

Respect is at the heart of our school; we promote a culture of mutual respect by encouraging students to use kind and polite words, even in challenging situations, and by celebrating diverse perspectives and backgrounds.

Responsible

We believe that fostering a sense of **responsibility** in our students helps them become accountable for their actions and duties, encouraging them to take ownership of their learning and contribute positively to our community.

Resilient

Resilience is important, as we teach our students to persevere through difficulties and view challenges as opportunities for growth, be that during exams, challenging subject content or in social situations.

SCHOOLS ACHIEVING SUCCESS TOGETHER

Part of a Flourishing Trust

Sturminster Newton High School is proud to be part of the Sherborne Area Schools' Trust (SAST) — a collaborative family of 18 schools across Dorset and South Somerset, spanning four secondary schools, thirteen primary schools, and an alternative provision. This diverse mix creates a strong network where staff and students benefit from shared expertise, shared ambition, and shared values.

At SAST, we believe that education transforms lives. The Trust is committed to creating schools where every child and every colleague can flourish. Our schools are collaborative, outward-looking, and deeply connected to their local communities, drawing strength from one another while also learning from best practice nationally.

Being part of SAST enhances our work at SNHS. Staff have access to high-quality professional development, leadership pathways, and cross-school networks that enrich teaching and strengthen curriculum design. Working alongside other secondary schools such as The Gryphon and Shaftesbury School, we share resources, ideas, and expertise to ensure students in every SAST school — including ours — receive the very best.

SAST's values — Partnership, Equity, Aspiration and Kaizen (Continuous Improvement) — underpin everything the Trust does, ensuring that improvement is constant and that collaboration sits at the heart of our work. Its vision, The SAST Mission Statement of Flourishing Children, Flourishing Schools, Flourishing Communities, reflects our shared belief that successful schools are built on strong relationships, high expectations, and inclusive practice.

As a member of SAST, SNHS benefits from being part of a forward-thinking, ambitious trust committed to developing talent, supporting staff wellbeing, and ensuring that local schools continue to serve and strengthen their local communities.

WHAT WE CAN OFFER

SAST Employee Benefits



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