

Dorset Studio School

LAND & ENVIRONMENT



Welcome to the Dorset Studio School

on The Kingston Maurward Estate

Dear Candidate,

An inspirational teacher of Animal Care is required at The Dorset Studio School on The Kingston Maurward Estate, in Dorchester.

We are a thriving 11-16 secondary school situated within the superb facilities and exceptional teaching environment of the Kingston Maurward estate. We have recently opened a second, KS4 site on the beautiful Poundbury development within the county town of Dorchester. We are a relatively young school, uniquely placed to offer a 'twenty first century' education to those young people wishing to pursue employment in the Land Based, or indeed other sectors. Our students may typically aspire to careers related to Equine, Veterinary Science, Environmental Science, Agriculture or Travel for example; though in practice may progress on to a host of other Level 3 pathways or careers.

All students at our school follow a demanding academic curriculum with the majority working towards nine GCSE qualifications. This is complemented with an incrementally phased work experience commitment allowing the students to develop both the soft and technical employability skills that they will need to be able to flourish in a competitive market. Our staff is extremely dedicated, caring, professional and innovative; committed to ensuring excellence for our students.

As part of our targeted curriculum offer, the school delivers three vocational qualifications; BTEC Animal Care, BTEC Travel and Tourism and City and Guilds Land-Based Studies.

The department is seeking a teacher with the skills to inspire students, and to develop standards at this exciting time of development for the school. Working in partnership with Kingston Maurward Agricultural College, practical sessions are able to be delivered in the small animal centre, the animal park and gardens, and a working farm and dairy. Young people have the opportunity to complete their studies within this fully operational, commercial environment, which provides hands on learning in the rural industries, so experience in this area of study would be essential.

You will form part of a team of dedicated and committed staff that are committed to continual improving the schools unique land- based specialism and ethos. You will have strong pedagogical skills, as well as a clear focus on raising attainment. A strong background to deliver inspirational lessons in key subjects across a range of animal species will be a vital requirement.



There may also be opportunities to broaden your role by supporting the highly successful Forest School programme that develops children's confidence and self-esteem through learner inspired, hands-on experiences in a natural setting.

The Dorset Studio School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff to share this commitment.

The successful candidate will be required to have a Disclosure and Barring Service check, in line with national safer recruitment guidelines.

The Dorset Studio School values the diversity of our workforce and welcomes applications from all sectors of the community.

Yours faithfully

Mr J Malone
Principal

*Please apply through the TES application process.
Closing date Friday 5th December 2025*



What did OFSTED say (September 2017)

“Pupils and parents are enthusiastic about their school. They see it as unique and something to be proud of”

“Pupils are motivated by the excellent opportunities and facilities and are keen to do well”

“Pupils behave well in lessons and around the site. They act safely and responsibly”

“Pupils thrive in a caring atmosphere”

“Pupils benefit greatly from a wide range of well-planned work experience and work related learning”

“Pupils feel safe and are well protected”

“The quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good, Teachers motivate pupils to learn by giving them interesting lessons and providing the right support when they need it”

“Leaders and teachers set ambitious targets and expectations for students”

“Teachers are skilled specialists and use the excellent resources well. Consequently pupils are highly motivated”

“Pupils behave well as they move around the school site. They are calm and good natured”

“The most able pupils achieve well, particularly in English”

“The school’s work to promote personal development and welfare is outstanding”

“Leaders have made it a priority to develop the confidence and self-esteem of pupils”

“Teachers keep a close watch on progress”

General information for Applicants

About Us

Working in partnership with Coastal College and The Thomas Hardy School, young people have the opportunity to complete their 11-19 studies, within a fully operational, commercial environment, providing both highly academic and hands on learning in the rural industries.

Our students may typically aspire to careers related to Equine, Veterinary Science, Environmental Science, Agriculture or Rural Tourism for example. Recognised by OFSTED as a 'Good' School.

All students at our school follow a demanding academic curriculum with the majority working towards nine GCSE and equivalent qualifications. Our staff are extremely dedicated, caring, professional and innovative; as well as being committed to ensuring excellence for our students.

Teaching and Learning

This is an exciting opportunity within a forward thinking school for a proactive and energetic individual to join our experienced team, as we embark on a mission to drive forward the academic excellence within the school. Progress is above national expectations and is demonstrating an improving picture year on year.

We are seeking candidates with vision, knowledge, skill and enthusiasm to contribute to the teaching team. You will need to be an ambitious and creative individual, keen to inspire a love of Land Based and Animal Education in our young people, whilst applying learning to real life scenarios. You must be keen to embrace innovation whilst maintaining high standards and outcomes.

Staff Well-being

If done well, teaching is a hugely challenging, complex and yet rewarding job! Conscious of this, we are constantly striving to evaluate staff work-load and well-being, making this an important part of our ongoing self evaluation.

Situated just minutes from the incomparable Jurassic coast and its world famous beaches, we are fortunate to be accommodated on a beautiful 750 acre campus, frequented by paying members of the public who 'flock' to the popular Animal Farm park and grounds with their families. Staff are encouraged to use the facilities that this provides both from a teaching perspective, but also at the weekend with their families (where entry to the site is free to staff).

Facilities on site include an international standard equine arena accompanied by a working stables, offering horse-riding lessons to all abilities. There is a fully stocked gym with both fixed gym apparatus and free weights (free for staff to use) and extensive grounds including a boating lake.

We ensure that our support for staff is robust and visible. The Senior Leadership team maintain a strong, supportive and caring presence for both staff and students alike. Line management support ensures a regular through-feed of ideas and views from all staff members and these are genuinely incorporated into our school improvement model.

We have invested in a CPD programme which has been rated by 100% of staff as 'good' or 'outstanding'. With both weekly and annual focus and linking with our two sponsors (the Kingston Maurward College, and the Ofsted rated 'Outstanding' Thomas Hardy School) we provide regular opportunities for staff development, both through in-house training and national development and leadership courses.

The school year mirrors that of the college, which is, therefore, a little shorter than that of some other schools. This allows us to dedicate time over the summer term (whilst students are exploring work experience opportunities) towards all staff being 'off –timetable' and preparing for the year to come. Following this, our staff benefit from additional holiday in the summer term, as well as additional days throughout the year. This can, and does, lead to staff being able to benefit from taking advantage of cheaper holidays for example, which may be taken at what would be 'term-time' in another school.

Most notably, however, is the incredibly collegiate and supportive staff, which is perhaps reflected in the minimal staff turnover.

Safer Recruitment Procedure

Dorset Studio School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the school. In order to meet this responsibility, the school follows a thorough selection process to discourage and screen unsuitable applicants. The process includes at least 2 references, from previous and current employers. These will be contacted before 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 the application to confirm the validity of information supplied.

Equal Opportunities

The Dorset Studio 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 an Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check with the Governments Safer Recruitment Guidelines.

