In September 2013, The Swanage School opened as an entirely new 11-16 school in brand new buildings.

Being a new school was a golden opportunity to create an amazing school from the ground up. Since opening The Swanage School has developed from a visionary ideal to an extremely successful comprehensive school catering for all ranges of ability in a caring environment.

In May 2015 the school had its first Ofsted inspection and was graded ‘good’ against all criteria.

In June 2016 the first set of students took their GCSE exams. Progress 8 score of 0.44 placed The Swanage School as the top performing school in Dorset and in the top 5% nationally.

In 2017 Progress 8 score was lower at -0.18 (broadly average) but when social economic factors are taking into account this increases to 0.64, again placing The Swanage School in the top 5% nationally.

The Swanage School was built on ‘human scale’ principles, where relationships lie at the heart of the school. With this in mind, whilst successful and popular, we aim to stay small with a maximum of 420 students. This means that we know and care for every child in the school. This in turn means that the children flourish.

Whilst a school is far more than a set of buildings, we are in the privileged position to have lovely new buildings (built in 2014), which include specialist teaching rooms, a large flexible atrium/hall, a full four court sports hall and playing fields.

The school is very much at the heart of the community and links with community groups and local organisations are extensive and are very much encouraged.

We are very lucky to be located on the ‘Isle of Purbeck’. Much of the local area is designated as an ‘area of outstanding natural beauty’ and it is steeped in historical significance. Teachers are encouraged to make the most of this and are facilitated by a small fleet of school minibuses.

Swanage is a great place to live and work. Some 120,000 students visit the ‘Isle of Purbeck’ each year. Swanage hosts many arts and music festivals throughout the year and has a thriving community. It has four primary schools, all of which are rated good or outstanding.

The Trust overseeing The Swanage School is Education Swanage Ltd, a community group of teachers, parents and residents. The school is unique in that the Trust is a community cooperative.  Anyone is welcome to join if they sign up.