

Dorset Studio School

LAND & ENVIRONMENT



Welcome to the Dorset Studio School

The Dorset Studio School on The Kingston Maurward Estate.

Dear Candidate,

Thank you very much for taking the time to consider our current vacancy at Dorset Studio School.

In September 2019 we became the only Studio School in the country to admit students in years 7 and 8.

To meet the needs of our growing intake we are recruiting an inspirational Head of Mathematics to join our dynamic team of staff.

Working on a beautiful 750 acre country estate, our students specialise in animal and land based learning, within a rural context. Conservation and environmental awareness are vital aspects of the curriculum.

In partnership with Kingston Maurward Agricultural College, young people have the opportunity to complete their 11-19 studies, within a fully operational, commercial environment, which provides hands on learning in the rural industries.

Our KS3 interdisciplinary approach to learning will be delivered in a Forest School context, which includes extensive outdoor learning and opportunities for work experience in Years 10 and 11.

I hope you find the enclosed information helpful but if you have any further questions please telephone the school office on 01305 215028 to arrange a discussion or email info@dorsetstudioschool.co.uk.

If you want to work in a small school with a bright future, we would love to hear from you.
Yours sincerely,

Dr A Minard
Principal.

Sponsored by Thomas Hardy and Kingston Maurward College



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”

General information for Applicants

About Us

Working in partnership with Kingston Maurward Agricultural College and The Thomas Hardye 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. With the school now in its fifth year we are uniquely placed to offer a '21st century' education to those young people wishing to pursue employment in the Land Based sector. 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 in September 2017, the report noted that our 'teachers motivate pupils to learn by giving them interesting lessons and providing the right support when they need it.' We 'set ambitious targets and expectations for our students' with, 'the most able pupils achieving well.' The schools 'work to promote personal development and welfare is outstanding.' All students at our school follow a demanding academic curriculum with the majority working towards nine GCSE and equivalent qualifications. Our interdisciplinary approach to learning in Key Stage 3 will be delivered in a Forest School context, which includes extensive outdoor learning and opportunities for work experience. 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 a rare and 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 in line with national expectations and is demonstrating an improving picture year on year. The current cohort are currently predicted to exceed national expectations.

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 your subject in our young people, while 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 onsite 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 Hardye 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 two weeks of 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 an additional week's 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 a Disclosure and Barring Service check with the Governments Safer Recruitment Guidelines.

