

BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

The English Department

Spring 2026



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.

These are dynamic times in education with English playing a major role and we therefore seek an outstanding Head of English with the vision to lead, innovate and manage the changes ahead.

The English team consists of 5 full-time members of staff, including a Second in English, and one part-time teacher. The department has five teaching rooms and every member of staff has their own laptop with a projector in every room. The department is well resourced, but as a school we are always looking for new and innovative ways of delivering learning.

At Key Stage 3 classes are taught in mixed-ability teaching groups and follow our established scheme of work which uses a variety of resources which are regularly revisited and updated accordingly. There are nine lessons per fortnight in Year 7, eight lessons in Year 8 and seven lessons in Year 9. Students also currently access 'Bedrock' for vocabulary building and grammar and there is dedicated time for creative writing.

At Key Stage 4, students follow the AQA English syllabus course, achieving over 76% for 4+ and 62% for 5+ GCSE English Language and Literature in 2025. Literature texts are A Christmas Carol, Macbeth and An Inspector Calls, with the poetry anthology based upon Power and Conflict. Students are taught by the same teacher in Years 10 and 11 with well-established support and intervention.

We have a strong and dedicated team at A-Level, with growing numbers across English Language (AQA), English Literature (AQA) and Film Studies (EDUCAS). Our students use their 'Give-Back' time to go into local feeder primaries and read to Year 4 and 5 pupils and help to run reading events in our library. We have a combined 6th Form with the nearby Sir John Colfox Academy in Bridport with staff from both campuses working closely together on the planning and delivery of Sixth Form courses and sharing teaching. Students travel between the sites as required, but staff teach only at their base school.

The department makes a strong contribution to the extra-curricular life of the school with half-termly 'Reading Weeks', where all staff support our whole-school reading drive, involvement in World Book Day and trips to local theatres and museums, as well as a range of other cultural experiences throughout the year. We also have strong links with our pyramid primaries and provide transition activities linked to ensuring a smooth start to Year 7 English.

All teaching staff are 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

We look forward to receiving your application and thank you, in advance, for what we know is a time-consuming process.

The closing date for all applications is **Tuesday 14th April 2026**, with interviews the following week.