



# DUMPTON SCHOOL WIMBORNE

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## HEAD OF ART

*Candidate Information*

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# WELCOME

Dear Colleague,

My name is Christian Saenger, and it is both a privilege and a joy to serve as Headmaster of Dumpton School.

If you are reading this, you may be considering taking the exciting step of applying to join us. I wanted to share a little more about our school and our community to help you decide whether Dumpton might be the right place for you.

First, a few words about the school itself. Dumpton is a thriving, coeducational prep school built on a simple but powerful belief: that every child has remarkable potential within them. Our role is to create an environment in which each individual has the very best opportunity to flourish. Our values – Be Kind and Aim High – are not slogans on a wall; they guide our decisions, shape our culture and define our expectations of one another. We strive to balance academic ambition with character education. Academic outcomes matter, of course – but we are equally committed to developing confident, kind and resilient young people. We often say that we are in the business of “growing great humans”, and we mean it, with our Character Education recently being awarded a ‘Significant Strength’ by ISI.

I would also like to say something about our staff. I am convinced that Dumpton’s success over many years is rooted in the quality, warmth and professionalism of the people who work here. It is a genuinely supportive and welcoming team. The staff room is a place of laughter, collaboration and encouragement, and new colleagues are embraced wholeheartedly. Schools are defined by the adults within them. It is they who shape the culture, the tone and the daily experience for children and for one another. When I first walked around Dumpton many years ago, I felt there was something distinctive and special about the place. I very much hope that you would feel that, too.

We also firmly believe that the best way to ensure outstanding care for children is to show outstanding care to the staff who look after them. That is our commitment to you. We will encourage you to have high expectations of yourself and to pursue excellence in your role – whatever that role may be – but you will have our wholehearted support in doing so. There are, of course, practical benefits to working at Dumpton: our beautiful setting, generous holidays, and free food and drink among them. We also provide an Employee Assistance Programme offering professional support and guidance. However, beyond these tangible benefits, our priority is that every member of staff feels valued, respected and genuinely cared for. When we speak about “living our values”, the Be Kind principle applies just as much to how we treat our colleagues as it does to how we guide our pupils.

It is also an exciting time to be joining Dumpton. The school continues to grow and strengthen, and despite wider political headwinds, we are flourishing. Our recent merger with Canford School to form the Canford Schools Group has further enhanced our position. While Dumpton retains its autonomy, identity and distinctive ethos, the partnership brings significant opportunities – including investment, collaboration and long-term stability. The future is full of promise.

If you are seriously considering applying but would value a visit first, please do get in touch. I, or a member of the team, would be delighted to welcome you and show you around. There is no substitute for experiencing a school in person.

Thank you for considering Dumpton. I hope we may have the opportunity to meet you soon.

**Christian Saenger**  
Headmaster



## BACKGROUND

Dumpton School is a prep school in the heart of Dorset near the thriving market town of Wimborne, which offers an outstanding education to children aged 2 to 13 years old. Founded in 1903, the school has undergone a prolonged period of stability and success in recent years and boasts superb, modern facilities, strong pupil numbers, and a forward-thinking and ambitious approach to education, recognised by ISI as having a “Significant Strength” in our most recent inspection. In January 2026, Dumpton merged with Canford School, and together, both schools have founded the Canford Schools Group, promising a bright future for independent education across the region.



## OUR VALUES

The education at Dumpton is built upon two clear and simple values which guide all that we do: 'Be Kind' and 'Aim High'.

### *Be Kind*

Kindness could not be more important to us. Our main school rule is 'treat others as you would like to be treated', and we aim for friendliness and empathy to permeate every classroom and corridor of the school. The atmosphere is nurturing and inclusive, and pupils, staff and parents share strong relationships as a result. Dumpton is more than just a school: it is a home away from home.

At a deeper level, our focus on kindness and empathy aims to build pupils' emotional intelligence – their ability to understand themselves and those around them. Nobody quite knows what the world of tomorrow will look like for our children, but at Dumpton, we strongly believe that empathy, kindness, and emotional intelligence will lie at the heart of a happy and successful future.

### *Aim High*

Our quiet sense of aspiration and ambition is illustrated by our school motto: 'You can because you think you can'. Inspiring self-belief is key. Inside the classroom, this means a commitment to small class sizes, high-quality teaching, and academic success for all. It means helping every child realise that with hard work, practice, determination and resilience, anything is possible. Outside the classroom, this means a broad range of experiences that not only provide huge enjoyment but, crucially, help children further develop their character: an outstanding sports programme, a broad range of performing arts opportunities, outdoor learning through our forest school and the famous Dumpton allotments, a diverse range of clubs and co-curricular activities, and some pretty adventurous and exciting residential trips.

It is, of course, the outcomes that matter most. Our children are our greatest advert – friendly, personable, energetic, determined, and smiling in all that they do. Our track record of ensuring successful transfer to the finest senior schools – and record numbers of scholarships across the academic, sporting, creative and performing arts domains – suggests we are getting something right, too.





# ACADEMIC SUCCESS FOR ALL

Our small class sizes, 'aim high' culture, and outstanding teaching ensure that every child, regardless of their ability, is supported to fulfil their academic potential.

## *Curriculum*

We broadly follow the National Curriculum from Reception until Year 6, with Dumpton pupils performing well above national standards year on year and achieving enviable success rates in senior school admissions testing, like the ISEB Pre-Test and the 11+. In Year 7 and Year 8, pupils embark upon our own bespoke curriculum – the Dumpton Diploma – which prepares them brilliantly for life at their chosen senior school.

## *Culture*

Our school motto – 'You can because you think you can' – is the cornerstone of our teaching. Teachers, as well as teaching assistants, have the highest expectations of the pupils and encourage children to develop a powerful growth mindset towards their learning. We build on innate abilities and help every single child to aim high. Academic progress is tracked carefully and reported to parents regularly – it's a real team effort as we work closely with parents to support their children.

## *Technology*

Technology is used to enhance children's learning – but never to distract from it. We are a mobile phone-free school, but interactive screens, computing suites, tablets and laptops are available for all pupils: we ensure that children learn how to use technology proficiently, effectively and wisely. In Year 7, every pupil receives their own Chromebook from the school so they can manage their learning even more independently and are old enough to take this privilege seriously.

## *Facilities*

Our outstanding teaching team develop individual curriculums with their specific subject knowledge, which is enhanced by our first-class facilities. For example, two state-of-the-art Science Laboratories, a Design and Technology Laboratory, an Art Studio, a Food Technology Kitchen, and an Outdoor Classroom – which allow children to develop their own excitement and passion for learning across our broad curriculum.



# CHARACTER EDUCATION

At Dumpton, we believe that character matters. Whilst academic success remains a core priority, we ensure our pupils know that it is the person they become – not the grades they achieve – that is most important to us.

framework is built around seven character virtues which we model, teach, seek out and celebrate throughout the school: Empathy, Resilience, Courage, Collaboration, Enthusiasm, Creativity and Global Citizenship.

Our approach to character education at Dumpton is underpinned by ‘The Dumpton Way’. This

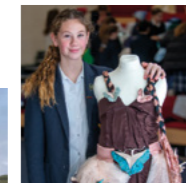
Every single child has remarkable potential within them: it is our job to help them discover it.



*Resilience*



*Enthusiasm*



*Creativity*



*Empathy*



*Courage*



*Collaboration*



*Global Citizenship*



# STRUCTURE OF THE SCHOOL

## NURSERY

*Snowdrops, Bluebells and Dandelions*

Children in the Nursery are split over two spacious activity rooms, depending on their age – both rooms have free-flow connections to our newly refurbished Early Years Garden so that children's playing and learning can occur both inside and outside. A dedicated sleep room upstairs provides a calm space for our youngest children.

**School Day:** 8:15am until 3:15pm

## PRE-PREP

*Reception, Year 1 and Year 2*

Located in the same building as the Nursery, our Pre-Prep is split over six bright and airy classrooms. Two Reception classrooms sit on the ground floor, with easy access to the Early Years Garden. Two Year 1 classrooms and two Year 2 classrooms are located on the first floor.

**School Day:** 8:15am until 3:30pm

## PREP SCHOOL

*Year 3 to Year 8*

The Prep School includes Year 3 to Year 5 (the Juniors) and Year 6 to Year 8 (the Seniors). All children have a form room and form teacher, but they also move round the school for their different lessons from specialist subject teachers. Children are taught in form groups, though some subjects are set further up the school.

**School Day:** 8:15am until 4:15/5:15pm

**Wrap-around care from 7:45am until 5:45pm is available for all pupils.**





## THE ROLE

The Head of Art is a crucial role within our thriving prep school. We are seeking a passionate and inspiring teacher who will raise the profile of Art across the school and foster a love of creativity in all pupils. This is an exciting opportunity for a candidate with the vision and ambition to shape and lead the future of creative education at Dumpton.

The successful candidate will be responsible for leading the Art curriculum and teaching, ensuring that every child at Dumpton has the opportunity to experience a rich and varied creative education. At the same time, in line with our 'aim high' ethos, we are committed to nurturing those pupils with particular enthusiasm and talent, supporting them to develop their skills and flourish through a strong co-curricular programme and a well-established scholarship pathway.

We are highly ambitious about the future of art, design and creativity at Dumpton. For the right candidate, there is clear potential for this role to develop into a broader faculty leadership position, with responsibility extending beyond Art to include other creative subjects across the school.





### *Head of Art Responsibilities*

- To lead and oversee the quality and success of Dumpton's Art provision, ensuring that all pupils are inspired to enjoy Art and make excellent progress
- To develop and articulate a clear vision for Art across the school aligned with whole-school strategic priorities
- To take responsibility for the Art curriculum across all year groups, ensuring a broad, balanced and cohesive programme that develops pupils' knowledge and skills effectively
- To lead, support and develop colleagues' teaching of Art, particularly in the Pre-Prep
- To deliver inspirational teaching of the Art across the Prep School (Y3 to Y8), supporting the teaching of other creative subjects if required (Design and Technology, Food Technology)
- To develop breaktime and lunchtime Art provision that promotes art in an inclusive way for all pupils as a co-curricular opportunity
- To oversee an Art Scholars programme that identifies promising artists and supports them with preparation for Art Scholarship processes at senior schools
- To raise the profile of Art throughout the school through trips, workshops, opportunities, and competitions

- To contribute to whole-school events, exhibitions and initiatives that celebrate creativity and artistic expression
- To ensure the effective management and organisation of art resources, promoting a purposeful environment for teaching and learning in the art studio
- To play a key role in the future development of the school's creative provision, with scope to extend leadership across additional subject areas

### *Class Teacher Responsibilities*

- To promote at all times the school values of being kind and aiming high, becoming an inspirational role model to the children you teach
- To create a friendly, happy classroom environment where every child is valued, nurtured and supported and provided with outstanding pastoral care
- To plan and deliver inspirational teaching of the Art curriculum, ensuring all pupils are encouraged to love their learning and achieve their full potential
- To plan and deliver lessons in line with the school's focus on Quality-First Teaching principles, ensuring an inclusive classroom environment where all children can achieve success
- To monitor and track pupil progress efficiently and intervene effectively, ensuring all pupils are supported to fulfil their potential, both through stretch and challenge and early intervention for those requiring additional support
- To build strong links with all parents, ensuring proactive communication about children's learning experiences and regular feedback on children's progress and development
- To embrace the school's commitment to character education and emotional literacy through 'The Dumpton Way' to ensure that all pupils can be supported to fulfil their personal potential
- To show an ongoing commitment to professional development and reflective practice, engaging with the latest research and best practice in education
- To attend Prep and whole-school staff meetings as required, as well as taking an active part in the school's internal CPD activities
- To become a fully integrated member of a busy and mutually supportive staff team, working collaboratively with other staff in the school
- To play an active role in safeguarding children and report any concerns or observations to the Designated Safeguarding Lead

This list of responsibilities is not exhaustive, and the employee will be required to perform duties outside of this at the discretion of the Headmaster.



# THE PERSON

## *Qualifications*

### **Essential**

- Appropriate teaching qualification for either Primary or Secondary age groups

## *Experience/Knowledge*

### **Essential**

- Strong experience teaching Art
- An understanding of both primary and secondary Art curriculums
- An ability to teach children a range of artistic mediums
- An understanding of safeguarding children

### **Desirable**

- Experience or knowledge of Design and Technology or Food Technology

## *Key Skills*

### **Essential**

- An outstanding and inspiring teacher of Art
- An effective communicator to both children and adults

- An ability to work collaboratively with colleagues within the school
- An ability to be nurturing and supporting whilst also upholding the high standards and expectations of pupils at Dumpton
- An ability to model the school values of Be Kind and Aim High in all that they do
- Proven interpersonal skills

### **Desirable**

- Personal artistic skills, talents and interests to inspire our pupils

## *Personal Qualities*

### **Essential**

- Caring and nurturing – someone who is kind in all they do
- Enthusiasm and good humour
- A desire to be a team player at all times
- A passion for art and creativity





## TERMS & BENEFITS

Contract Type:	Permanent
Hours:	47½ hours per week (with some flexibility for the right candidate), working term time only
Commencing:	September 2026
Salary:	Competitive salary
Health Benefits:	Medical expenses cash plan (Medicash), staff wellbeing focus, free healthy lunch
Money Benefits:	Contributory pension scheme, cycle-to-work scheme, free car parking, free financial advice
Work Benefits:	Appraisal scheme, professional development opportunities, excellent working environment
Life & Family Benefits:	Employee assistance programme (Health Matters), staff discount on fees, free cash plan for children, family social events



# APPLICATION PROCESS

To apply, please visit **Vacancies | Dumpton School**, where you'll be asked to complete our application and upload a covering letter.

Applicants are asked to submit a covering letter (no more than two pages) addressing the following:

- Why you are interested in the Head of Art role
- How your experience and skills meet the requirements of the role
- How your personal qualities, approach and values align with the ethos of the school
- Demonstration of your ability to contribute to the growth and success of Dumpton

If you have any questions or wish to arrange a visit, please contact: [recruitment@canford.com](mailto:recruitment@canford.com) / 01202 847590.

The process is as follows:

- Closing date: 9am on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2026
- Shortlisting: 8<sup>th</sup> May 2026
- In-person interviews: w/c 11<sup>th</sup> May 2026

Early applications are very much encouraged. We will review and shortlist candidates on an ongoing basis and may close the vacancy once the right candidate has been identified. Candidates are therefore advised to submit their applications promptly to avoid disappointment.

*Dumpton School is committed to equity, diversity and inclusion in all areas of our community and encourages applications from all suitably qualified candidates.*

*Dumpton School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.*

*All successful job applicants will be required to undergo child protection screening.*







DUMPTON SCHOOL  
WIMBORNE

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HEAD OF ART