

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.

With best wishes,



Christian Saenger  
**Headmaster**