

RICHARD JONES BRYANSTON



My philosophy focuses on allowing our pupils to discover what they are truly capable of and encouraging them to leave the school as unique individuals who work well alongside others, yet are ready to lead.

With a reputation for innovation, individualism and creativity, my vision for Bryanston is to build on these existing strengths. Our new 'Bryanston Promise' strives to turn out those who can think for themselves, solve problems, and have a conscience. The aim for pupils at Bryanston is for them to 'learn to love their minds', 'free their spirits' and 'find their mission'.

Looking beyond grades, we promise to set expectations for each individual pupil and walk alongside them to push and extend themselves. Our whole culture is based on creativity and unbounded thinking.

There are four pillars to my overarching strategy: creative and performing arts, sport, the digital world, and entrepreneurship and innovation. Across all four pillars, I want to ensure pupils find their own 'ikigai' - waking up every day and embodying happiness in living. By giving our pupils the chance and support to discover what they are most passionate about, they are more likely to wake up every day with the motivation required to succeed, and the ability to find joy in their life through purposeful work they believe in.

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HILARY SHAW, DEPUTY HEAD DUMPTON SCHOOL



I've been in the prep sector for a short few months after a career in senior education, moving into Dumpton School in Wimborne 'in search of joy'. And how I have found it!

It is a privilege to work with the children and staff at Dumpton, with the vast amounts of energy and enthusiasm that they bring to the cloudiest of days. At Dumpton we focus on two main values which even the youngest children know by heart: be kind, aim high. This underpins absolutely everything that we do, from how we teach, reward, and report to how we strategically plan, allowing every child to do both of these well, irrespective of their likes, abilities and experiences.

I am proud of our renewed focus to character education with The Dumpton Way, believing that virtues such as courage, enthusiasm, global citizenship, empathy, collaboration, creativity and resilience can be sought, caught and taught. Children are explicitly taught what these mean, and the importance of their own character attributes to their and others' future lives.

I truly believe that harnessing these fundamental character virtues at an early age will reap huge rewards for a whole lifetime. Living 'The Dumpton Way' will make young adults who are happy, resourceful and determined, ready to take on a role in life that makes a difference.

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RORY JOHNSTON HANFORD SCHOOL



It is a real privilege to be head of Hanford, a leading independent girls' boarding and day school in Dorset for seven- to 13-year-old girls. I feel Hanford is unique in the way we nurture each child's emerging talents, helping them find their strengths and unique personality, and giving them the time and space to allow them to be children. I want the girls to be climbing trees, building dens, riding ponies, and playing in the garden, away from the pressures of modern life. Our pupils learn to be independent, confident, curious, inquisitive and creative. Importantly, they are absolutely ready to move on and excel at the senior school of their choice.

Our unique boarding and day offer attracts many, as it's so flexible. All girls - boarders and day girls - have their own bed in the dormitories. Day girls can board any night they wish. Weekends are flexible too - girls can stay in and take part in the popular games and activities, or go home if they wish. I'm delighted that, as Hanford grows, we are introducing daily bus routes in response to parent demand.

Of course, academics matter too, and I'm so proud of our pupils' achievements - over the past eight years, our girls have been offered more than 80 scholarship or exhibition awards.

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ED BENBOW HAZLEGROVE PREP SCHOOL



I was extremely fortunate to have enjoyed five years at a brilliant, co-educational boarding prep school in Somerset, and my inspiration to become a teacher, and ultimately a head, was undoubtedly shaped by this experience.

I remember having a superb maths teacher who just made it all seem easy, and a headmaster who did everything, from coaching hockey to teaching French to playing the piano. As someone who thrived in academics, sport, music, and drama, I have been forever grateful and motivated by the all-round education that a country prep school continues to provide to this day.

My vision has always been to provide as many opportunities and experiences as possible for each child, so that they can discover their own unique skills and talents, and develop into curious and passionate learners. Every child is a human being with immeasurable potential, not simply an academic robot, and it is my aim at Hazlegrove Prep School to help my staff and pupils find and nurture that potential. I am also a real advocate of boarding, both in terms of the family community that is cultivated, and the relationships and resilience that each child develops. Ultimately, I want to ensure that every child has the social, emotional, and academic foundations to go on to thrive at senior school and beyond.

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