



John O'Gaunts Way
Belper
Derbyshire
DE56 0DA
Tel: **01773 825281**

Email: **belperschool@belperschool.co.uk**
Website: **www.belperschool.co.uk**
Twitter: follow us **@belperschool**
Headteacher: **Mr M Cooper**

31 March 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

It is with genuine sadness that I write to inform you that I will be leaving the school this summer. In September, I will be taking up the headship of Dronfield Henry Fanshawe in the north of the county. I have truly loved my six years at the school and thoroughly enjoyed working with so many magnificent people as the school secured improvements in a number of areas.

Over recent years there have been a vast array of memorable moments as the students and staff of Belper School and Sixth Form Centre stepped up to the plate on a regular basis to make a difference. Posting record examination results again and again over continuous years has been very rewarding, as has been moving to a 'good' OFSTED judgement in 2014 and retaining this in 2018. Watching the subsequent rise up the league tables has also been pleasing for the school, having secured ourselves as a strong school that delivers.

Away from exam performance and OFSTED ratings, it has been great to see the school achieve so many successes across the curriculum and the wider curriculum. Our sports performances across a number of disciplines have been brilliant, with County Cup and District Cup achievements. The performing arts have been superb, with drama and music performances highlighting the phenomenal talents that the students have. Who could forget the amazing Hettie Feather and the X Factor nights?

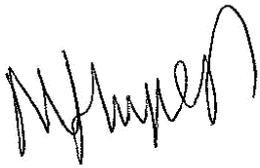
Other aspects of the school also deserve recognition, with Derbyshire Chef of the Year winners, Computing Coding national success, published writers, exhibited artists, Computer animation achievements, Maths competition champions and national Languages competition winners. There are so many other wonderful successes and achievements over the past few years that there simply isn't the space to write about them all. Every single one of these achievements makes up a small part of what we are about, and of that we should be truly proud.

Even considering all the positive aspects mentioned above, one of the elements of the school I am most proud of, and will miss the most, is the people. We have a vision to be outstanding and to enable people to grow, develop and become somebody. How effectively all the people of Belper School work together to achieve this is really remarkable and as a combined force we are something to be reckoned with. I will miss so much the positive vibe and happy faces that are a daily occurrence at this school.

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Belper School and Sixth Form Centre has a unique culture and ethos, which people buy in to. This makes it a very special place and enables it to deliver success and support for the children of the town and the surrounding villages. I am proud of who and what we are, and everything we have achieved over the last few years. The Governors have started the process to appoint the next Headteacher and I am confident that when this is concluded, the successful candidate will be taking on a strong, vibrant school that is hungry for even more success.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Cooper', written in a cursive style.

M Cooper
Headteacher

