



Prospectus



Introduction

Belper School and Sixth Form Centre is a lively and successful school of around 1250 students including more than 170 Sixth Formers.

It has been proud to serve the community of Belper and surrounding villages for nearly 40 years. It has also been a Foundation School since 1998.

At Belper School we believe passionately in an inclusive approach to education and in promoting the personal development of every student.

We work hard to provide excellent opportunities and the range of our students' successes can be astounding. Every day we see young people who excel academically, socially and in sporting or extra-curricular areas.

They rival the very best in the country and it is a privilege to work in such a positive learning community.

Our visions and values

We value all students equally regardless of ability or background and good relationships are at the heart of what we do. Providing excellent learning opportunities is the core activity of our day-to-day work with students. Having high expectations of them but within a supportive environment is the key to helping our students to succeed.

Our overall aim is to be outstanding and produce qualified, confident but caring young citizens who are ready to face the future.

Our students consistently display evidence of good personal development and self-reliance.



Facilities and resources

Belper School has a vast array of facilities and resources to support learning and teaching and enable students to thrive in all areas.

There is extensive ICT provision and all rooms are equipped with digital projectors and many have interactive whiteboards. Other specialist teaching facilities include ten science laboratories, eight technology workshops and two well-equipped rooms for the teaching of catering. The school has large playing fields and uses Belper Leisure Centre as its indoor PE facility.

The school hall has excellent facilities and is used extensively by local groups as a community theatre.

Care and guidance

Students are assigned to a tutor group from their first day at Belper School.

The tutor usually remains with the group from Year 7 through to Year 11 and is a key figure – the first port of call if students or their parents have any concerns. The tutor sees the group each day and oversees their academic progress and general welfare. Each year we set aside time for a review meeting with the tutor for each student and their parents. A parents' meeting will also be held during the year for parents to have the opportunity to meet the subject teachers.

The Head of Year also plays an important role in monitoring students' progress and intervening to both challenge and support students in working to their full potential.

Successful transition

At Belper School we work hard to remove any anxieties which may surface when students are contemplating the move to a large secondary school. The process begins with our annual Open Evening in September of Year 6.

We also liaise closely with primary schools in preparation for the move and the Head of Year 7 will visit each primary school during the summer term to talk to the Year 6 children and their teachers. The process culminates with the Year 6 children spending two full days at Belper School in July so that they feel settled in before they arrive officially in September.

The Headteacher also meets each Year 7 tutor group personally during their first term to review with them how they are settling in. Students adapt extremely well to the move and their feedback is very positive.



Celebrating success

Academic success is given the highest priority and our aim is to help every student to leave Belper School with the best set of grades possible in GCSE examinations, vocational qualifications and A-levels.

Our track record is strong and we have many students who gain places at top universities including Cambridge and Oxford. What matters is that we prepare each student well whether they are leaving to follow their chosen career path or to pursue further study.

There are many other kinds of success which is why we encourage students to achieve well in creative, sporting and other areas. Being the best you can at whatever you do is perhaps the most important success of all.

Acknowledging our students' achievements through informal praise on a day to day basis is important but there are also more formal reward mechanisms such as merits, certificates, termly celebration assemblies and annual award evenings.

Supporting the more able

To extend the learning of students who have been identified as particularly able we have a programme of additional activities both within normal lessons and as extra-curricular provision. Students who show an exceptional talent in creative subjects such as Art or Music or in a sporting activity will also be able to access extra activities and the support to help them maximise their potential. We encourage our students to develop resilience, to challenge themselves and to understand that outstanding achievement and attainment are the products of perseverance and sustained effort. There is a teacher with a specific responsibility to oversee the More Able programme and to monitor the progress of all the students within it.

Learning Support

For students with special needs or learning difficulties, our Learning Support department will be there to assist with its highly trained teachers and team of teaching assistants. This could take the form of supporting students during lessons, as well as working one-to-one or in small groups. The key priorities are to improve basic skills in literacy and numeracy, develop social skills and to enable the students to become more independent learners.

Behaviour and expectations

There is a relaxed but purposeful atmosphere at Belper School. We seek to make students' time with us as productive and enjoyable as possible but within a framework of good behaviour. We expect students to work hard, do their best and treat others with respect. Promoting good behaviour through praise, encouragement and our rewards system is our preferred strategy but the normal disciplinary processes are applied where necessary.



The curriculum

It is impossible to detail here the complete range of subjects provided and the various courses that will be on offer to each student during their time at the school. What follows is a summary but the school would be glad to supply more information on request. Alternatively there is a wealth of curriculum information on the school website.

For students in Year 7 to 9, the curriculum will be:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Technology (including Textiles and Food Technology)
- A foreign language (French or German)
- Humanities (History, Geography and Religious Education)
- Art
- Music
- Drama
- PSE (Personal, Social, Health, Citizenship and Economic Education)
- PE
- Computing

Students in Years 10 and 11 can follow GCSE course in most of these subjects but they can also access a range of vocational courses. Other GCSE courses such as Electronics and Media Studies are also offered.

We have excellent catering facilities of a commercial standard for students who follow our catering courses.

In the Sixth Form, A-level courses are provided in all the subjects students would have studied at GCSE. A number of other courses such as Business, Health and Social Care and Psychology are also available.

Independent learning

Homework is a significant element of work for all students, and can add enormously to the learning which takes place at school. By Year 9 students should have become good independent learners and be able to tackle longer pieces of research-based homework. Developing good ICT and study skills is essential.

In Year 10 and 11 these skills together with the ability to follow revision programmes effectively become an important aspect of succeeding at GCSE.

For Sixth Form courses the ability to work and learn independently becomes even more crucial and is essential preparation for further study at university.



Monitoring progress

Part of our partnership with parents is keeping them informed about their children's progress. Every year there is a meeting with the tutor when effort and attainment grades are shared with parents and students. Termly school progress reports are issued during the year and there is also a parents' evening at which appointments can be made to meet individual subject teachers.

Internally we compile a termly profile for each student using our own assessment, external tests and other evaluation methods. This helps us to predict potential results and compare actual performance with what we should be expecting from each student. Identifying any underachievement issues and intervening to both challenge and support is a key feature of our work with students.

Parents can access an online platform via the school website that gives specific details about their child's attendance, progress and achievement in school.

Enrichment activities (extra-curricular)

We encourage all our students to join in activities beyond the classroom. We have an extensive range of extra-curricular opportunities (called Enrichment at Belper School) including three days of Enrichment activities in the summer term. We have a long record of success with individuals and teams locally and at county level with some students performing well nationally and even internationally.

Curriculum areas run clubs or activities at lunchtime or after school.

There are regular drama and music events as well as special interest and hobby groups. Many students have musical instrument lessons at school and for older students there is a thriving Duke of Edinburgh awards scheme.

An invitation to visit us

We hope this prospectus is informative but we realise there is nothing like seeing for yourself. Prospective parents and their children are invited to our annual Open Evening early in the Autumn Term. Details of this are shown on the next page.

If you cannot attend, please contact the school for an appointment to visit at another time.



SCHOOL OPEN EVENING

THURSDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 2018

5.30pm to 7.30pm



**Parents and students, current and future, and the local community
are invited to attend our annual
Belper School and Sixth Form Centre Open Evening**

**Headteacher's presentations
at 5.45pm and 6.45pm in the School Hall**

- See the wide range of work, extra-curricular and enrichments activities students experience at Belper School
- Get involved with hands-on activities to interest and entertain adults and children alike
- Take the opportunity to chat to teachers informally about the work in their departments
- A free crèche provided by staff and students on our Year 13 Health and Social Care course will keep our youngest guests aged 2 to 5 entertained with a range of activities and healthy food

www.belperschool.co.uk

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Photographs taken by Daniel Selway, Year 10 Student
Belper School and Sixth Form Centre and Braiswick Photographic

