

# School Newsletter

## SPRING 1 - 2016-2017

### Message from the Headteacher

The New Year has started apace with mock exams and their follow-up in full swing for many students and the settling into familiar, and mightily enjoyable, routines of school life. So many students have got much to celebrate and I am sure they look forward to 2017 with great excitement and anticipation.

As a school we welcome the New Year with optimism and determination. Having recorded many successes with exam results, attendance, awards, competitions and events at local, regional and national level we are optimistic that there is plenty more to come from the school. Indeed, as I write this we are basking in more Technology achievement with another winner of the County's FutureChef competition. Outstanding.

We also have great determination as the education world continues to suffer upheaval and change with curriculum, assessment and exams all being radically changed over recent times, with more to come. Through these turbulent times, where funding and resources continue to dwindle, we remain as steadfast as ever to deliver quality education to the children of Belper and its surrounding villages. Difficult times ahead but we face it head-on and will step up to the plate.

In the meantime please find enclosed a wealth of information that comes with our half-termly newsletters which serve as a useful means of communication on a variety of aspects of school life.



**Mr Cooper**  
**Headteacher**

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## **School Calendar and important dates**

The school calendar is regularly updated and is available to view on the school website at [www.belperschool.co.uk](http://www.belperschool.co.uk) by selecting *Calendar* from the Information menu. You can also view our term dates for 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 by selecting *Term Dates* from the Information menu on the website.

The remaining INSET day for 2016/17 academic year is Friday 16 June 2017

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## **Parent Consultation/Information Evenings 2016-2017**

Year 9 Options at 14+ Evening – Thursday 9 February 2017

Year 9 Parents' Consultation Evening – Thursday 23 February 2017

Year 7 Parents' Consultation Evening – Thursday 6 April 2017

Year 10 Parents' Consultation Evening – Thursday 25 May 2017

Year 8 Parents' Consultation Evening – Thursday 29 June 2017

Letters with further information will be sent home via students shortly before each event.

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## **Accessibility Plan**

Our Accessibility Plan sets out the commitment of the governing Body of the school to improve access to education for disabled students in areas required by the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. You can view the plan on our website at [www.belperschool.co.uk/policies](http://www.belperschool.co.uk/policies). Printed copies are also available on request from the School Office.

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## **Belper School success at Derbyshire FutureChef finals**

We are extremely proud that Erin Sinclair, a Year 12 student, won the Derbyshire FutureChef finals, and will now go on to compete in the East Midlands Regional Final on the 3 February 2017. Erin is now working alongside a professional chef from Derby County Football Club who will act as her mentor, helping her to prepare for the regional finals. Good luck Erin!

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## Parent/Carer Surveys

Below is a summary of the parent/carers survey that you may have participated in during Tutor Review Day and we value your responses. The questions asked are the ones used by OFSTED as part of its national Parent View surveys. You will be pleased to see that we have improved the number of strongly agree and agree responses in a number of areas since last year. Additionally, we have once again scored significantly higher than schools nationally in every area surveyed. We are proud of our commitment to creating good partnerships with all members of the school community and we understand how important parental engagement is in our efforts to drive up student progress at the school.

Parent/Carer Survey issued on Tutor Review Day			
Percentage of Strongly Agree/Agree Responses	720 responses	603 responses	
Question	Belper 2016	Belper 2015	National
My child is happy at school	95%	96%	92%
My child feels safe at school	98%	98%	93%
My child makes good progress at school	94%	92%	87%
My child is well looked after at school	98%	98%	90%
My child is taught well	94%	94%	86%
My child receives appropriate homework for their age	86%	85%	82%
The school makes sure its students are well behaved	91%	90%	85%
The school deals effectively with bullying	80%	69%	68%
The school is well led and managed	94%	95%	82%
The school responds well to concerns raised	83%	81%	80%
I receive valuable information on my child's progress	88%	86%	83%
I would recommend the school to another parent	89%	N/A*	85%

\*Question not asked in 2015 survey

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## Follow-up Parent/Carer questionnaire

As a follow up to the information we collated above following the recent parental feedback forms at Tutor Review Day we are now looking to focus on particular areas. To begin we would welcome your views on how messages are passed on to students and would invite you to complete a simple multiple choice questionnaire. This is a confidential survey and can be accessed by using the following web address <https://goo.gl/X5cHVb>. This link will also be available on the school website and via our twitter feed. We would appreciate any comments and views by 10 February 2017.

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# **Report from the Governors Student Matters, Equality and Community Committee**

The Student Matters, Equality and Community Committee met on 5th December 2016.

Governors heard a report from the Director of Sixth Form on the take-up of Bursaries for 16-19 year olds. Funds are available to support students from lower income households (less than £26,000 pa or students who have claimed free school meals) who remain in full-time education and it was disappointing to hear that not all eligible students appear to be claiming their entitlement. If you think you may be eligible, please contact the Director of Sixth Form and complete the easy application process.

Governors also discussed where our Sixth Formers go to when they leave school: two-thirds go on to University or Further Education, with the next largest category (16%) going into employment. Apprenticeships and Gap Years are also popular choices. Governors congratulated the Sixth Form on these positive destinations and noted that parents from all walks of life can play a useful role in preparing young people for the next step by offering interview practice. Please contact the Director of Sixth Form if you could help with this.

We also approved amendments to the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and the Sixth Form Admissions Policy. We reviewed the process for In-Year Admissions and discussed the Years 7-11 Admissions Policy for the 2018-19 year.

We spent some time looking at the use of the Focus Room and MOSOC in the 2015-16 year and specifically at how these support measures against bullying, homophobia and racism.

Finally, the Governors thanked John Young for his wonderful support of the Committee over the years and wished him well in his retirement.

**Rachael Hatchett**  
**Chair**

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## **Report from the Governors' Curriculum and Performance Committee**

Governors were presented with the forthcoming KS4 national curriculum changes and the school's programme of options to deliver that curriculum for current year 9 students going into year 10. The school has to balance the broader educational aspirations we hold dear at Belper with the currently falling roll, resourcing challenges and the year on year curriculum changes imposed by government. The governors recognise the enormity of the task in trying to deliver this for as many students as possible.

Governors also had the chance to review the attainment and progression results for the 2016 KS4 student cohort. Although attainment is important, not least for the students themselves, the school is also judged more critically on the progress, and this is what we scrutinised more closely. The expected progression of students is compared to national figures by OFSTED and progression reported for subsets of the total cohort. It was evident that low ability and disadvantaged students in 2016 were not making as much progress as expected, and this is something we will be looking at the school to improve.

**Mark Revill**  
**Chair**

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## **Report from the Governors Personnel and Finance Committee**

The Governors Personnel and Finance Committee met in December 2016 and looked at the following areas as part of its monitoring work:

1. Report & Review of Financial Reports, Budget, and Private School Fund Accounts.
2. Review and approve the School Action Plan stemming from the Internal Audit Report.
3. Annual Review of Policies (Competence Procedure & CPD Policy)
4. Update on Staffing Issues and Belper Leisure Centre working relationship.

**Lisa Salton**  
**Chair**

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## **Head Lice**

From time to time we are made aware of an occasional student in school who has head lice. We would ask parents to be vigilant, check their son/daughter's hair regularly and treat accordingly as and when necessary.

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## News from the Maths Faculty

There has been lots happening in the maths department this term. Here are a few of the highlights!

### UKMT Senior Maths Challenge

Congratulations to all students who took part in the UKMT Senior Challenge. This is a national challenge aimed at year 12 and 13 students. Particular congratulations go to the following students who were awarded Bronze, Silver or Gold certificates:

<b>Bronze</b> <u>Year 13</u> Owen Smith Alexander Shelley <u>Year 12</u> Millie Parker Charlotte Skinner Peter Berthelemy Thomas Pike Sophie Hollingworth Eliot Cholerton-Hill <u>Year 11</u> James Brass Joe Parkin Amy Bradbury Reuben Paisley	<b>Silver</b> <u>Year 13</u> Ashley Redfern Sam Paisley Thomas Stanton <u>Year 12</u> Eve Jansen Phoebe Oldfield Thomas Asher Emma Hickman <u>Year 11</u> Lois Parry <u>Year 10</u> Will Tansley <u>Year 9</u> Daniel Whyman	<b>Gold</b> <u>Year 13</u> Charlotte Elliott-Goodacre <u>Year 11</u> Thomas Lunn <u>Year 9</u> Daniel Phillips
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In addition to this, well done to Charlotte Elliott-Goodacre and Daniel Phillips for getting through to the next round!

### The Challenger

The Belper School Challenger has been a close fought competition so far this year. Congratulations to Alexander Shelley, Sophia Evennett-Bowker, Emily Pursey, Emily Douglas-Gilbert, Will Tansley and Eve Jansen, each winning a £10 Amazon voucher and a mind stretching maths book!

### Inter-form competitions

Congratulations to the following tutor groups;  
Winners of the year 7 Halloween Maths Challenge – 7LLD  
Winners of the year 7 and 8 Christmas Maths Challenge – 7HSB and 8ZKH

## **Maths Inspiration at Birmingham University**

A group of sixth form students had the opportunity to visit the University of Birmingham to take part in a Maths Inspiration event. Talks included how statistics can be used to create misleading headline and how 'Big Data' will soon be impacting on our everyday lives.

## **UKMT Senior Team Challenge**

Eliot Cholerton-Hill, Eve Jansen, Maddie Rutherford-Browne and Peter Berthelemy did a great job representing Belper at this event, achieving Belper School's best ever finishing position!

## **Upcoming Events**

Good luck to all students in Years 11, 10 and 9 taking part in the UKMT Intermediate Challenge on Thursday 2 February.

Good luck to the following students who are all taking part in the Mathsombe Competition over the next few weeks:

Maddie Rutherford-Browne, Eliot Cholerton-Hill, Millie Parker, Scott Gadsby, Eve Jansen, Peter Berthelemy, Tom Pike, Tom Asher, Ashley Redfern, Owen Smith, Charlotte Elliott-Goodacre, Emma Hickman, Sophie Hollingworth, Charlotte Skinner, Daniel Phillips, Daniel Whyman, Alex Cooke, Gabriel Coomber.

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## **Belper School Physical Education – Jewellery Policy**

The PE Department at Belper School operates a jewellery policy in line with recommendations from Derbyshire County Council.

The policy is that all visible piercings must be removed.

The only exception that can be made is for newly pierced ears which may be taped over in the first 6 weeks for non-contact activities. Thereafter they must be removed. Students are required to provide their own tape.

Removal of jewellery in readiness for the lesson is considered part of the changing process and students with piercings must ensure this is done before they leave the changing rooms.

Students and parents are asked to bear these rules in mind when considering new piercings.

**Steve Lawes**  
**Head of PE Faculty**

## Measles, chicken pox and shingles

At any time we may have a number of students who, because of low immunity to disease, are at risk if they are exposed to measles, chicken pox or shingles. Please let the School Office know immediately if your child is suspected of having any of these conditions. Your child is not at any risk whatsoever from this situation. However, the health and well-being of students who are at risk, depends on the co-operation of our parents/carers.

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## Free School Meals

If you feel your son/daughter may be entitled to Free School Meals at any point during their time at Belper School, you can apply online at [www.derbyshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals). A paper copy of the application form is also available from the School Office or to download from the School website. Students receiving Free School Meals may choose either a hot meal or sandwiches to a value of £2.30 (correct as at time of printing). In addition to this, students in receipt of Free School Meals may attend breakfast service and select one food and one drink item up to the value of £2.00, subsidised by the Pupil Premium funding. This subsidy does not affect their entitlement to lunch.

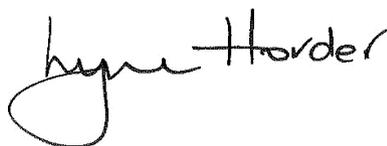
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## Students adopted from Care

If you have adopted a child or children from care, please consider letting Deputy Headteacher Jo Hawkyard know. We are able to access pupil premium funding to support the education of adopted students. All we need is a copy of the adoption certificate. All information would be treated in the strictest confidence. Jo Hawkyard can be contacted on the main school number or by email to [jmh@belperschool.co.uk](mailto:jmh@belperschool.co.uk).

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Please do not hesitate to contact the School Office team if you have any queries regarding the above, require paper copies of any documentation on our website or have any other school enquiries.



**Lynne Horder**  
**School Office Manager**