



Belper School and Sixth Form Centre

Parent/Carer newsletter

Issue no 9: Spring 1 2019

IMPORTANT NOTICES

FRIDAY 15 FEBRUARY 2019

On the morning of Friday 15 February 2019 (the last day of this half-term), students will have Mid-Year Celebration assemblies with their year group in the morning.

Please note that the school day will finish at 1.10pm and students will be permitted to leave. For those students unable to leave early there will be supervised activities until the normal end of the school day at 3.00pm. At present, school buses will be operating their normal timetable at the usual times at the end of the school day with the exception of the 360 Harpurs service to Bargate, Parks Estate, Three Gates and Milford which WILL NOT BE OPERATING.

Students return to school on Monday 25 February 2019 which will be **timetable week 2.**

MID-YEAR TUTOR REVIEW AND SCHOOL CLOSURE ON FRIDAY 1 MARCH 2019

Students will shortly be given information to bring home regarding the Mid-Year Tutor Review, including details of how you can make appointments with your child's tutor through our on-line booking system. Please note that appointments will be available to book for the evening of Thursday 28 February and the morning of Friday 1 March 2019. **School will, therefore, be closed to students on Friday 1 March 2019.**

Remember that the Parent Login Code you receive to log on to the on-line booking system remains valid for the whole time your child is at Belper School. You can also use this to book Parent Consultation Evening appointments approximately two weeks before these are held.

Message from the Headteacher

The new year has started apace with mock exams 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 2019 with great excitement and anticipation.

As a school, we welcome the new year with optimism and determination. Having recorded many successes with exam results, awards, competitions and events at local, regional and national level we are optimistic that there is plenty more to come from the school.

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.

M Cooper
Headteacher

School Calendar and Term Dates

Don't forget that you can view our up-to-date school calendar and term dates in the Information section of our website, along with term dates for the 2019-2020 academic year.

Our remaining INSET days this year are:

- Friday 7 June 2019
- Monday 22 July 2019

In addition **school will be closed to students on Friday 1 March 2019** to accommodate the Mid-Year Tutor Review

Coming up next half-term ...

- Thursday 28 February 2019 (evening)/Friday 1 March 2019 (morning) - Mid-Year Tutor Review
- Thursday 4 April 2019—Year 10 Parents' Consultation Evening

Year 9 Options Evening—Thursday 7 February 2019

Year 9 parents/carers will already have received a letter via their child regarding the upcoming Year 9 Options Evening. The evening will commence with a brief presentation in the school hall followed by an opportunity to look at subject displays and talk to subject staff.

Due to the large numbers of parents/carers and students involved, the evening will be organised into two parts according to tutor groups ...

- **Parents/Carers of 9STM, 9JGH, 9HSB and 9EMF are asked to arrive in time for a presentation at 5.30pm in the school hall.**
- **Parents/Carers of 9PAJ, 9LLL and 9MJM are asked to arrive in time for a presentation at 6.15pm in the school hall.**

Students have already had a presentation regarding the options process, so they will be supervised by their tutor in a classroom during the presentation to parents in the school hall.

We look forward to welcoming our Year 9 parents and carers to this important event and hope that the Options Evening will be successful in helping you and your child select a range of suitable options.

Fay Couchman—Assistant Headteacher

Parent Portal

Parents/carers can apply for a username and password to access Parent Portal through which they are able to view attendance, behaviour and reports. If you do not have access and would like an application form, please see the school website and look under *Services/Parent Links/Parent Portal applications*. These forms are also available on request from the School Office. If you mislay or forget your log-on details, or are having difficulty accessing the Portal, please email info@belperschool.co.uk or contact the School Office.

Head Lice

From time to time we are made aware of the 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.

Good luck!

Good luck to our GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition students who will be busy completing their practical examinations during weeks commencing 25 February and 4 March 2019. Students will have to complete a three hour exam from 8.30am until 11.30am, contributing 35% to their final grade. Please could parents/carers contact school if students have any issues with the planning of these exams.

Policies and Procedures

Don't forget that you can view all our school policies and procedures [on the school website](#). Paper copies of any documentation on our website are available on request from the School Office.

Year 11 update

Don't forget that year 11 parents/carers can access information on the school website under *Information/Year 11 Information*. Please refer to this for the timeline of events between now and the end of the school year

Year 11 Prom (Wednesday 26 June 2019) and Leavers' breakfast (Thursday 27 June 2019) letters have now been sent home via students. The letter confirms the venues and arrangements for these events.

We are less than 16 weeks away from the Summer exam window. With this in mind we are encouraging students to get into good habits for revision and to run with the motto REVISE, TEST, REST, REPEAT. Post-its, packs of postcards, highlighter pens and past papers should be beginning to take over wall space at home! Revision should be visible and, where possible, involve others, but should also allow for rest periods. A good revision timetable should plan for blocks of 30-40 mins, allowing for some 'down-time'.

Revision timetables are available for students to download from the Year 11 Student Notices class on Google Classroom.

Suman Sharma-Mulgrew
Head of Year 11

Message from the PE Faculty

With cold and wet weather in full swing, we thought it would be an appropriate time to send out a few notices and reminders about PE kit. The vast majority of students are smartly and correctly dressed for their PE lessons and we would like to thank you for your support in making sure students are ready to participate and appreciate the challenge this poses with students needing different kits on different days. If you have any queries about PE issues, you can contact me directly at stl@belperschool.co.uk.

Jewellery: With the current trend for facial piercings, Derbyshire County Council has issued guidance on safety in PE for students who choose to wear these items. It is important that Belper School ensures its students are operating within the health and safety expectations of DCC. To this end we need to have clear rules on jewellery in PE. 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. Students and parents are asked to bear these rules in mind when considering new piercings.

Mouthguards: Parents are reminded that the PE Department strongly recommends the wearing of a mouthguard for hockey and rugby. A 'boil and bite' style of mouthguard offers considerable protection for just a couple of pounds from most sports shops. Custom made mouthguards are often available through dentists and are worth considering for those who are participating more often or at a higher level.

Shinguards: These are a compulsory part of the kit for football, hockey and rugby for all age groups.

Cold Weather: In the event of cold weather, students may bring tracksuit bottoms to wear over their PE kit for outdoor lessons at the discretion of the teacher. Students may also wear extra layers under their PE kit. They can wear woolly hats. Gloves may be worn provided they do not limit grip or movement in activities where the hands are used.

Wet Weather: Lessons will often continue outside when it is raining. Sometimes we can go out in reasonable weather and find ourselves caught in a downpour. We strongly recommend students bring a towel and a change of underwear when rain is forecast.

Showers: Showers are available in the changing rooms for students to wash themselves off if they get muddy. They must bring a towel if they anticipate needing a shower.

Football boots: Football boots are not a compulsory item of kit due to the relatively small number of football and rugby lessons on the PE programme. Those who have them are expected to bring them. An old pair of trainers is acceptable for football and rugby lessons.

Rugby Shirts: Despite the name, rugby shirts are compulsory for boys for rugby, football and hockey in lessons. T-shirts are not up to the rigours of rugby and the reversible shirts aid quick selection and identification of teams in the other outdoor activities.

Names on PE kit: We have an incredible array of kit that has been found over the years with no name on. Please try to ensure that any kit is clearly marked with the student's name. Clearly marked kit will be returned to the student if found.

Kit Problems: In the event of a problem providing kit for your son or daughter, we keep plenty of spares at school and can easily arrange a long term loan. A short note to your child's PE teacher to explain the situation will allow a discreet arrangement to be made with the student.

Notes: In the event of a fitness or kit problem, a note in the student planner remains the best way to inform the PE teacher. Please be aware that we may not see emails or receive telephone messages until it is too late.

School Closure Procedure

It would be extremely rare for Belper School to have to close on a day when it should be open to students. However it is possible that for health and safety reasons such as the failure of the power or water supply we would be unable to remain open. Severe weather such as heavy snow could also cause the closure of the school at short notice.

Hopefully these arrangements will rarely, if ever, be needed, but it is important for our parents/carers to be aware of how we keep you informed.

Advance warning of event likely to necessitate a school closure

Once advance warning is received, a message will be displayed on the school website indicating the school is currently open, advising parents/carers to regularly check the school website for updates. Decisions will be taken daily and posted on the school website by 7.00am.

Closing before the start of the school day

Please check the school website - a message will be displayed from 7.00am indicating whether the school is open, part-open or closed.

A text will be sent to all parents regarding the closure. The school's Twitter account will be updated (@belperschool) and closure information will be displayed on the DCC website (www.derbyshire.gov.uk).

If the school is closed, external examinations will still take place. Students should make every effort to come to school and take their exams. Access into the school will be through the Caretakers Office. Students will be asked to sign in and go straight to the Exam Office to be told where the exam will take place. Students will need to bring exam equipment and their ID card as normal and will be expected to stay in school for the full length of the exam. Exam enquiries on school closure days can be made by calling 01773 825281 ext 251.

Towards the end of the school day, a further message will be posted on the school website regarding the following day. This will indicate either that school will be open, part-open, closed or that a decision will be taken early the following day with a further message being displayed from 7.00am.

Closing during the school day

A text will be sent to all parents regarding the closure. The school's Twitter account will be updated (@belperschool) and closure information will be displayed on the DCC website (www.derbyshire.gov.uk) and the school website. Please note that there is often a delay in the posting of closure information on the DCC website, particularly in severe weather conditions when exceptional numbers of establishments are closing.

Continued over ...

School Closure Procedure continued ...

Students will be kept in school until contact is made with their parent/carer and permission given for them to come home*. Your son/daughter may call you on their mobile phone or school phone and ask you to speak to their tutor/member of teaching staff/member of the School Office to confirm your permission for them to leave. Those students with pre-authorisation to leave in the event of an emergency closure will be permitted to leave without the need to contact parents/carers. For students travelling home by school bus, you may allow them to walk home (if safe/practical), make alternative arrangements for collection, or allow them to wait until the bus arrives if they are still operating. **Students will not be permitted to leave the school site unless we have pre-authorisation or we have received verbal permission from a parent/carer.**

Note: Any students taking external examinations will need to stay in school and take their examinations if it is safe for them to do so as students will not normally be allowed to take the examination on another day and will be marked as absent if they do not turn up.

Important: Students should be made aware that if they are experiencing difficulties getting home once they have left school, or their lift/bus does not arrive, they should return to Student/Visitor reception as soon as possible.

*Sixth form students will be permitted to leave as soon as the decision has been taken to close the school.

Children and social media

Have you ever felt 'out of your depth' when you think about your child and their use of social media? Have you ever wondered where you can go to for advice and useful hints and tips in relation to your child and the internet?

Can we recommend the link on our website to 'Parent Zone'. This will take you to information from a group called Digital Parent. Here you will find all kinds of useful information on parenting a child in the digital age, the positives as well as the negatives, with tips from online safety experts, parents and the children themselves. It is a super resource for all.

Vaccinations

SECONDARY SCHOOL BASED VACCINATIONS FOR TEENAGE BOOSTER AND MENINGOCOCCAL ACWY (MEN ACWY) - Year 9 students

These will be taking place on Wednesday 6 March 2019. Most parents/carers have returned their consent forms; if you have not done this then please do so as soon as possible. Copies of the consent forms are available from the School Office.

Students will be notified of appointment times shortly after their return to school following the half-term break.

SECONDARY SCHOOL BASED VACCINATIONS FOR HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS (HPV) - Year 8 and Year 9 female students

These will be taking place on Wednesday 8 May 2019. Letters and consent forms will be sent home with students shortly.

Important information regarding vaccinations in school

- The vaccination programme is delivered by the School Age Immunisation Service. If you have any queries regarding this, please contact the Immunisation Team direct on 01283 707170 and select option 3.
- Parents/Carers will still need to complete the consent form even if they do not wish their child to receive the vaccination.
- As the NHS have arranged for these vaccinations to be delivered in school, these are no longer offered routinely at the GP surgery.

NHS 'Self-care Aware' Campaign

We have been asked by our local NHS Clinical Commissioning Group to make our parents/carers aware of their 'Self-Care Aware' campaign, encouraging people to visit their pharmacist for advice and medication rather than visiting GPs to request a prescription. Their guidance covers over 35 conditions which are considered to be self-limiting minor conditions and include colds, conjunctivitis, fever, sore throat, rashes and hay fever. You can find out more from the campaign website <http://nhsstaywellderbyshire.co.uk/services/self-care/>.

Belper School and Sixth Form Centre

John O'Gaunts Way, Belper, Derbyshire DE56 0DA

Telephone 01773 825281— Email belperschool@belperschool.co.uk— [belperschool](https://www.facebook.com/belperschool)