



Belper School and Sixth Form Centre

Parent/Carer Newsletter

Issue no 4: Spring 2 2019

REMINDER: School will close at the normal time of 3.00pm on Friday 12 April 2019. School re-opens on Monday 29 April 2019 which will be timetable week 1.

Message from the Headteacher

Welcome to the latest issue of the newsletter, your one stop shop for timely reminders, updates and information about Belper School. Please do take the time to sit with a brew and cast your eyes over the articles to get up to speed with happenings at Belper School and Sixth Form Centre. Trying to keep on top of what is happening in your child's school can always be difficult in these busy times so hopefully this newsletter will cut to the chase about the important stuff!

In addition, don't forget the website is a valuable source of information which is regularly updated and should be seen as the go-to place. It is worth again having a brew and spending a few minutes looking through the tabs to see which bits would be most relevant for you. As well as this we regularly tweet information so get following!

Post-16 Enrichment – Giving Back to the Wider Community

As many of you will know our Sixth Form students are magnificent. On a regular basis their positive attitude, hard work and commitment to make a difference astounds me. And just when you think you have been wowed enough along comes more! I recently spent time looking at all the work that the students are doing as part of their 'contributing to the wider community' programme. The list is simply amazing and shows that our vision of supporting the development of rounded citizens who can make a positive contribution to society is a reality!

Well done to our tremendous Sixth Formers who have been involved in so much, such as:

- Supporting school events
- Helping out at food banks
- Supporting reading schemes with younger students
- Working at Oxfam
- Being a Maths ambassador
- Cleaning houses of vulnerable people
- Litter picking
- Working in a care home
- Helping at after-school clubs
- Helping run Brownies
- Volunteering at the local air ambulance

- Supporting younger students in lessons
- Volunteering at community events
- Police Support volunteer
- Partaking in schemes to support a link school in Malawi

Road Safety

Once again as Headteacher, can I ask parents to speak to their children about road safety, especially if they ride a bike. There have been a significant number of near misses recently on and near our roads. There is a genuine worry that we are moments away from a terrible incident. As a school we take a proactive stance with this, and over recent weeks we have:

- Liaised with the DCC Road Safety Team
- Undertaken road safety assemblies with the students
- Written to parents about our concerns
- Telephoned specific parents about their children when they have been identified
- Spoken to target groups of students who have been identified
- Undertaken group work with specific individuals
- Sanctioned students who have not cycled responsibly

It is with great sadness that I hear there are still occasions of poor conduct after all of the inputs above.

We will continue to push the message and deal with individuals as required. Please help us with this so we can continue to ensure the safety and welfare of the students.

Mr Cooper

Message from the Chair of Governors

I am sure you will have now read Mr Cooper's letter and you will know that he is moving on at the end of the summer.

We have good links with his new school and wish him every success in his new post.

The governors have already started the search for his successor and have selected a panel of governors to help with this. We will keep you informed as the process progresses.

Alan Eccleston
Chair of Governors

Parent Consultation Evenings

We just have two remaining Parent Consultation Evenings this academic year which are for Year 7 on Thursday 23 May 2019, and Year 8 on Thursday 20 June 2019 from 3.45pm to 6.45pm. Parents will be able to book appointments approximately two weeks beforehand, using our on-line booking system. The log-on details given to parents/carers for making Tutor Review Day appointments will remain valid for making all parents evening appointments for the remainder of your child's time at the school.

Term Dates

Term dates and INSET days for the 2019-2020, 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 academic years are now available to view/download from the school website at belperschool.co.uk/term-dates

Spring Term Subject Summary Reports

The above reports will be available to view/download via Parent Portal by the end of the day on Friday 12 April 2019.

A reminder that the end of year *Subject Progress and Tutor Reports* will be published to Parent Portal on Monday 22 July 2019.

If you do not have access to Parent Portal, or have mislaid your login details, please contact the School Office on 01773 825281, or email info@belperschool.co.uk.

Year 12 End of Year Assessments

The end of year assessments for Year 12 will take place between **FRIDAY 28 JUNE and FRIDAY 5 JULY 2019 (inclusive dates)** and will comprise of a maximum of two papers per subject. There will be no timetabled lessons for Year 12 students during the assessment window.

Students will not receive any study time in advance of the assessment window although Year 12 teachers may choose to incorporate 'revision sessions' into their usual timetabled lessons during the preceding weeks. The assessment results will be used internally by the school to analyse student performance. Grades will be shared with students at the start of Year 13. In the event of poor performance, the data may be used to instigate an intervention plan for a student as part of the school's Wave Intervention System. However, no student will be required to drop a course purely based on poor performance in their end of year assessment.

Please note that Year 12 students taking Maths or Further Maths will not have an in-school end of year assessment as they will be taking external examinations in this subject. The dates for these exams will be shared with students via their subject teachers.

National concerns over knives

As you will be aware there is a lot of growing concern over knives and bladed weapons in society across the country. There have been a number of very high profile tragic cases from various areas and these have highlighted the need to address this as a community.

From a school perspective, there are a number of ways in which we raise awareness of the issue, through PSE, assemblies and tutor sessions to name but a few. In addition to this we work closely with partner agencies, such as the Police, to run sessions and undertake group work with students.

The school has a clear stance on weapons and it is worth noting the two key policies that relate to this. The links to the Offensive Weapons Policy and the Behaviour Policy are available to view/download from our website belperschool.co.uk/policies.

Year 11 Applications for post 16 education choices.

By now students should have made plans for September 2019 and have been offered places at 6th forms or colleges (or be awaiting an interview).

There are a number of helpful website links to support with this on the school [careers programme information](#) page

We know a number of students are looking for apprenticeships and recommend that students (and families) use [Find an apprenticeship - GOV.UK](#) to search for opportunities as they occur in the local area. Local press, training provider open days, friends, family, social networks and employer websites often provide leads to potential apprenticeships too.

As we cannot predict what apprenticeship opportunities will become available we suggest that all students have the offer of a place at a college or a sixth form as a back-up for September 2019. Apprenticeship vacancies are advertised all year round and students can leave post 16 education to take an apprenticeship should they be offered one after starting a college or 6th form course.

If you have any questions about any of this please contact me by email ers@belperschool.co.uk or by telephoning the school office 01773 825281. I will be available before and after the students leave to take their GCSEs (until Thursday 18 July 2019) and on GCSE results day on Thursday 22 August 2019.

Eleanor Snape
Belper School Careers Leader and Careers Adviser

Accessible Belper

Accessible Belper is an initiative to broaden our understanding of everyone's needs. With awareness raising and training, Belper town's friendliness and understanding can make an uplifting difference to everyone's experience.

The school was pleased to have worked with Accessible Belper recently in conducting a survey amongst students and their families with an aim of raising disability awareness in the town. The School Council produced an on-line survey and Accessible Belper awarded certificates and prizes to a number of students who made the most thoughtful suggestions in their survey responses. If you would like to know more about the work of Accessible Belper, whose aim is to make Belper a town that is accessible to everyone, then please visit their website - <http://www.accessiblebelper.org/>

School Council Update

The School Council have been working on a number of issues this academic year. However, their main focus for the year has been to drive forward the school's equality objectives. These objectives cover a 3 year time frame and this year students have been looking in particular at gender equality and community cohesion. They are currently planning a number of assemblies which they will deliver to students in the summer term.

MFL NEWS

Spelling Bee Regional Final

Huge congratulations go to Ava, Brook and Briony who recently competed in the Regional Spelling Bee final at Stamford School. Ava and Brook came in the top four and gained a place in the national final at Cambridge University. Well done to all three students – what an achievement! #BelperProud.

Foreign Language Translation Bee – School Final

On Monday 8 April, 18 students in year 8 and 9 who won their class competitions, will be battling out to win a place in the Regional competition taking place later this year in Peterborough. Good luck everyone!

ParentPay

On Monday 8 April, students in Years 8, 9 and 10 will be bringing home a letter with logon details for parents/carers for ParentPay. ParentPay is a secure online system which we will be using in future for payments for trips, visits and revision guides. We would advise all parents/carers to sign up now, even if you do not need to make any payments straight away.

Update from the Board of Governors

Our Full Governing Body and its sub-committees meet on a regular basis and you can learn more about our Governors and the work they do by visiting our website at belperschool.co.uk/governors

Personnel and Finance Committee

Aside from receiving reports and updates on financial and staffing aspects of the school, part of this committee's work is to review and update the school's policies in these areas.

Curriculum and Performance Committee

Various policies have been reviewed this academic year by the committee, including the school's Assessment Policy, Homework Policy and SEND policy. The committee have also been updated on collaborative work with primary schools in the local area.

Site Committee

Again, the committee has been busy reviewing policies, including the school's No-Smoking Policy, the Policy on the Use of CCTV on the site and the Health and Safety Policy and Statement. The committee regularly reviews accident reports, and analyses the annual and longer term maintenance plans for the site. The committee have recently been looking at some of the projects being undertaken in the school and the cost-effective ways in which these are being done. They expressed their thanks to the Site Staff for the care they give to the site, making it a pleasant and safe environment for students and staff.

Student Matters, Equality and Community Committee

The committee reviewed the excellent Duty Student initiative which was launched last year in year 8. Students each spend a day working with staff behind the scenes to gain an appreciation of what is involved in running a school. Feedback from students and staff has been overwhelmingly positive. The trial of this initiative is continuing with a view to this forming part of the standard curriculum. The committee has also reviewed policies and wished to convey to parents/carers the importance of keeping the school updated with details of students' medical conditions, particularly regarding the prompt return of Individual Health Care Plans. The committee has also focused on the experiences of different groups of students in the school where a review had taken place to understand school life from different perspectives. The school improvement plan will reflect the learning from this activity.

School policies are available to view/download from the school website at belperschool.co.uk/policies. Paper copies are also available on request from the School Office.

Attendance Matters

Welcome to our first Attendance Matters article. We want every student at Belper School and Sixth Form Centre to try their very best and to eventually leave us well equipped for life as a young adult. Evidence shows that students who attend school regularly are likely to be more successful than those whose attendance is poor.

We hope that you will continue to support us in improving school attendance by making sure that your child is in school every day. Of course, we appreciate that sickness bugs and other illnesses will occur, so if absence cannot be avoided due to, for example, illness or a medical appointment, please inform the school as soon as possible on the first day of absence by calling 01773 825281 and selecting option 1 for our absence line.

Term Time Holidays

Students are asked to attend school for 190 days out of 365, which leaves 175 days for holidays. Please book holidays during holiday time. If students miss school for unauthorised holidays in term time, there is a risk of parents/carers receiving a Fixed Term Penalty Notice.

Days Absent by End of Year	Equal to Absence Percentage	Overall Attendance Percentage by End of Year
1	0.5%	99.5%
5	2.5%	97.5%
10	5%	95%
20 (4 school weeks)	10%	90%
30 (6 school weeks)	15%	85% "Persistent Absence"

We know that you will want to help your child achieve excellent school attendance. If you have any concerns about attendance please contact the school on 01773 825281

Jo Hawkyard
Deputy Headteacher

GCSE Art Show

Parents and carers are invited to our GCSE Art Show taking place from 3.15pm to 4.45pm in the Art Area. There will be a fantastic display of artwork spanning all our art classrooms and the central open area. All are welcome.
