



# **School Newsletter**

**SUMMER 2  
2016 - 2017**

## Message from the Headteacher

A warm welcome to the final newsletter of the academic year. Once more the year has flown by and we find ourselves looking back on another great year for the school. We hope that all the hard work and effort will pay dividends, particularly for our latest Year 11 and Year 13 cohorts, who we said goodbye to recently. There has been tremendous effort all round throughout the year working towards the examinations and I hope that the students achieve the outcomes their commitment and determination deserve. Although I accept it is a nervy wait!

As ever at this time of year the school has been busy with the major annual events that occur in the summer term. There have been two stunning proms in which the students looked fabulous and made the most of their magical finale. At the other end of the age range we are just about to welcome in our new Year 7 through the induction process, and their two transition days at Belper School. These days quickly follow last week's Year 5 Activity Days in which all Year 5 students from the local Primary schools took part in a range of lessons and activities. There was a marvellous buzz about the school!

The summer term also brings many other events of which we are tremendously proud. The X Factor once more was an unbelievable showcasing of Belper's finest singing talent. Oh my, was it special. The Lord of the Flies school production was simply breathtaking and has received rave reviews. There was tremendous effort from staff and students to put on such a professional and memorable performance. We were also delighted with one of our Y7 students receiving a BAFTA nomination for his computer game design – one to look out for in the future for sure. Furthermore, our linguists have once more showed the nation what Belper School Languages are all about by smashing the regional finals and qualifying for the nationals at Cambridge University. We await these finals with great excitement and anticipation. In the field of sports we have also continued to excel winning District and County Cup Finals and getting placed finishes in numerous athletics competitions. There is so much more we could go on about! The mighty Belper is certainly stamping its mark. And we love that.

Attention now is firmly turning to the start of the new academic year in September. Having been here for four years now I feel the vision and expectations are clear and all stakeholders know what Belper School is all about. The focus from September onwards will continue to be on being the best we can be and 'solid as' with all the systems and structures we have in place, making sure that students kick on, take part and realise their potential as the drive towards outstanding continues.



**Mr Cooper**  
**Headteacher**

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## **End of the Summer term and Extravaganza**

The Summer term Extravaganza will take place on the last day of term, Friday 21 July 2017, and will include a celebratory assembly for each group, where excellent student attendance, individual achievements and contributions to school life will be recognised with the award of certificates and prizes. Students will also participate in fun competitive activities both with their tutor group and students in their year.

The opportunity will be available for students to leave after lunch at 1.10pm. Please note that school transport will be running at normal times, so if you would prefer your son/daughter to remain in school, they will need to report to A6 at 1.10pm. These students will be supervised in school until the normal end of the school day at 3.00pm.

School will be closed to students throughout the holiday and will re-open to students on Wednesday 6 September 2017.

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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 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 by selecting *Term Dates* from the Information menu on the website.

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## **Maths Faculty news**

A huge well done to William Skelton 10SWG. William won a Silver medal at the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge. Our apologies that we omitted this from our last newsletter.

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## **End of school day arrangements**

Could you please ensure that your children are aware that students should not be on the school site after 3.30pm unless they are attending a supervised after-school activity or are under agreed supervision by an individual member of staff.

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## Requests for absence during term-time

The following guidance has been received from Derbyshire County Council regarding the above, which we have been asked to pass on to our parents/carers.



### **IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR PARENTS/CARERS**

#### **Unauthorised leave of absence during term time**

**On 6<sup>th</sup> April 2017 the Supreme Court appeal, in relation to the Platt v Isle of Wight case, determined that under section 444(1) of the Education Act 1996 attending school 'regularly' means:**

***"in accordance with the rules prescribed by the school"***

#### **PLEASE NOTE**

**Therefore, from 1st September 2017, if requested, Derbyshire County Council will consider the issue of a penalty notice for any period of holiday absence which has not been authorised by the Headteacher regardless of a child's wider school attendance.**

School is only able to grant requests for leave of absence during term time for exceptional circumstances. Leave of absence request forms can be obtained from the School Office or from the school website. If the leave of absence is due to a holiday, the form must be submitted before booking the holiday. Please note the new guidance (above) which comes into effect on 1 September 2017.

# **Governor report from Student Matters, Equality and Community Committee**

**30 March 2017**

Governors were impressed by a presentation of the work of the Computing Faculty which has led to the school becoming a recognised Hub for Computing for Schools (CAS). This is an laudable achievement and has enabled Belper School to collaborate with Nottingham Trent University and local primary schools, including hosting workshops about how computing can be integrated into teaching and learning. Outcomes have included Belper School being used as an East Midlands case study for computing at Key Stage 3 and improved liaison with other secondary schools at Key Stage 4 through the CAS Hub network. Governors went on to discuss the impact of changes to the Key Stage 4 curriculum which will see Computing becoming an optional rather than core subject.

Governors also considered a report on the implementation of the school's policy for Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND). They were particularly pleased to hear that, whereas many schools are reducing their provision for SEND, Belper School is maintaining its ethos of inclusivity by retaining both Learning Support and ACCESS provision. The SEND Policy is available on the school website.

We approved the latest Privacy Notice which sets out how the school collects, uses and shares personal information about its students. The Notice is available on the school website and includes details of who to contact at the school, local authority and Department for Education if parents or students have any questions or concerns.

Finally, we discussed the latest statistics on exclusions, both fixed term and permanent, focusing on the exclusion of Children in Care who are recognised as a group particularly at risk of exclusion.

**15 June 2017**

Governors reviewed two Policies:

- the Policy for Supporting Students with Medical Conditions and the Administration of Medicine. This Policy is reviewed and revised regularly to ensure that it continues to reflect the needs of students with medical conditions. Governors discussed proposed changes to the policy and recommended it for approval at the next meeting of the full Board of Governors. Governors also wish to remind parents and carers that the school requires a comprehensive and up-to-date Individual Health Care Plan for every student with a medical condition.

- the Word Processor Policy (Exams) 2016/17. This Policy is reviewed and revised annually and sets out the school's approach to the use of 'word processors' in examinations and assessments. Governors recommended the Policy for approval at the next meeting of the full Board of Governors.

All the school's policies are available to read on the website.

The Committee also heard a presentation which set out the results of a survey of communication between staff and students and will inform changes to communication methods in the future. Governors welcomed this piece of work and support any measures which improve communication within the school.

Finally, the Committee discussed strategies for ensuring that more able students are challenged and stretched to their full potential. This item included proposals for how more able students are identified and ways in which both teaching and pastoral staff may best support and develop them.

As routine business, Governors also considered the Terms of Reference of the Committee and received a verbal update on both fixed-term and permanent exclusions.

*Rachael Hatchett - Chair*

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## Sports Round-Up 2016-2017

Huge congratulations to all our sports players for their fantastic achievements throughout the year in such a wide variety of disciplines. Here is a list of our team achievements (3<sup>rd</sup> place or above) over the course of the year. For information, there are 8 schools in the Amber Valley competitions and approximately 40 schools in the County competitions. This is not to forget the dozens of other boys and girls who have been out there giving it their all in the name of Belper School this year who didn't quite make the top three – well done all of you folks too!

**CROSS-COUNTRY** Under 16 Boys – Amber Valley Runners-Up  
Under 14 Boys – Amber Valley Runners-Up  
Under 12 Boys – Amber Valley Champions  
Under 14 Girls – Amber Valley Runners-Up  
Under 12 Girls – Amber Valley Runners-Up  
Amber Valley Overall - Champions

**SWIMMING** Under 16 Boys – Amber Valley Champions  
Under 16 Girls – Amber Valley 3<sup>rd</sup> Place  
Under 14 Boys – Amber Valley 3<sup>rd</sup> Place  
Amber Valley Overall – 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

**FOOTBALL** Year 7 Boys – Amber Valley Runners-Up  
Year 10 Boys – Amber Valley Champions  
Year 11 Boys – Amber Valley Runners-Up

**NETBALL** Year 9 Girls – Amber Valley Runners-Up

**RUGBY UNION** Year 8 Boys – Amber Valley Tournament Winners

**BASKETBALL** Under 13 Boys – Amber Valley Champions  
Under 13 Girls – Amber Valley Champions  
Under 16 Girls – County Semi-Finalists  
Under 14 Girls – County Runners-Up (First ever girls' finalists for Belper School)  
Under 16 Boys – County Champions (3<sup>rd</sup> successive title!)

**ROUNDERS** Year 7 Girls – Amber Valley Champions (Our first ever Amber Valley girls' rounders title)  
Year 8 Girls – Amber Valley Runner-Up  
Year 9 Girls – Amber Valley Runners-Up  
Year 10 Girls – Amber Valley Runners-Up

## **ATHLETICS**

Year 7 – Amber Valley ‘Quadkids’ Champions  
Year 7 Boys – Amber Valley Runners-Up  
Year 7 Girls – Amber Valley 3<sup>rd</sup> Place  
Year 8 Boys – Amber Valley Runners-Up  
Year 8 Girls – Amber Valley 3<sup>rd</sup> Place  
Year 9 Girls – Amber Valley Runners-Up  
Year 10 Boys – Amber Valley Runners-Up  
Amber Valley Overall – Runners-Up

Well done to all of our athletes who represented Amber Valley at the recent Derbyshire Schools Championships : Jonathan Howkins, Oli Dann, Joel McGraw, Matt Fraser, Ellie Whitehead, Dani Hutchinson, Jack Husselbee, Joe Parkin. Good luck to Tamsin McGraw, Niamh Emerson and Emily Coope who progress to the English Schools’ Finals.

Congratulations and good luck to all of our young sports players who are doing great things at a high level including...

Megan Lovatt – East Midlands Basketball  
Charlie Brown – Great Britain Basketball  
Oscar Gaunt – East Midlands Cricket

Isaac Caddy – Swimming  
Josh Horobin – Swimming  
Luke Ince – Tennis

If there is anyone else out there playing to a high level, be sure to keep your PE teacher informed of your achievements!!

## **TEAM OF THE YEAR**

What a fantastic list of achievements above by both boys and girls of all age groups - some do stand out above the rest though. The Year 11 boys are County Champions in Basketball for the third time in a row and the Year 7 girls are our first ever Amber Valley Rounders’ Champions. However, when effort, time, commitment and progress are all factored in, it has to be the Under 14 Girls’ Basketball team becoming our first ever County finalists that is the greatest achievement. The girls were unwavering in their commitment to training and games from September through to April, and the hard work paid off. It will always be tough in County competitions to overcome some of the schools who specialise in certain sports or who have very close ties with community sports teams, but these girls have set a new marker for others to follow. Well done to: Megan Lovatt, Katy Baker, Katy Dymond, Lamorna Peake, Bela Mistry, Ellie Kirk, Georgia Foulke, Emma Gotheridge, Hannah Cotton, Holly Tempest, Claudia Lancashire and Natalie Coomber.

### **ALL ROUNDERS...**

Special mention must go to our top all-rounders who can turn their hand to anything, which in itself is a fantastic sporting ability to have. For the girls' top all-rounder, there is quite a lot of competition, but out in front is Katy Dymond from Year 9 who has represented the school in six sports this year: Netball, Basketball, Athletics, Cross-Country, Rounders and Swimming. The return of girls' football to the competitions programme next year may present another opportunity for the girls to broaden their talents. On the boys' side, Harry Gregory of Year 11 takes the plaudits as the only sportsman in his year to have represented the school in four team sports during his time here: Football, Basketball, Rugby, Volleyball – a superb achievement. Well done to all of our multi-eventers!

### **SCHOOL WEBSITE...**

Don't forget that the latest school sports clubs information and team pictures can be found on the school website in the school sport section. Any questions relating to school sports involvement and opportunities can be directed to Steve Lawes, Head of PE at [stl@belperschool.co.uk](mailto:stl@belperschool.co.uk).

Onwards and upwards next year!

Best Wishes, Steve Lawes, Head of PE.

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## **MFL news**

### **There's buzz about Belper School!**

#### **Y7 Foreign Language Spelling Bee**

All of our Y7 linguists started the spelling bee in September and class and then school finals took place. Isabel Moss, Katie Potts and Elise Stone went to Corby Business Academy to represent Belper School at the regional finals. Elise came 1<sup>st</sup> in French and Katie came 2<sup>nd</sup> in German in the East Midlands final this year. Isabel got through to the last 40 in French in the East Midlands.

Katie and Elise will be representing Belper School at Cambridge University in the national finals of the Foreign Language Bee on 30<sup>th</sup> June. Last year over 77,000 students started the competition and around 100 students from across the country went through to the national final after competing in regional finals. Good luck to Katie and Elise!

#### **Y8 & 9 Foreign Language Translation Bee**

Our Y8 and Y9 linguists took part in the translation bee this year. This is a newer competition but it is growing rapidly so much so that this year they had regional finals. Like the spelling bee there were class and then school competitions. Emily Clark, Rebecca Murfin and Anya Staton got through to the Central finals at the Voyager Academy in Peterborough.

It was a tough competition with Emily having to go through a tie-break and then sudden-death round! She kept her cool and I am delighted to announce that all 3 students are through to the national finals at Cambridge University on 3<sup>rd</sup> July. Rebecca came 1<sup>st</sup> in French, Anya came 2<sup>nd</sup> in German and Emily came 4<sup>th</sup> in French. Good luck to all three!

#### **University of Nottingham MFL Literature, poetry and song competition**

Over 60 students in KS3 took part in the competition and there were lots of really good entries. It was really tricky selecting two to be sent off to the university. Emily Pye and Cassandra Oakes' short film entitled *Une Banane* and Caitlin Doleman and Emily Clark's short film called *Cuisses de Grenouilles* were selected. Congratulations!

#### **KS3 Vocab Express -League of Champions 2017**

The championship will run for a week at the end of September to coincide with celebrations for the European Day of languages on 26<sup>th</sup> September. It's a fantastic way to engage students in vocabulary building by challenging them to compete against other schools across the UK and from around the world. In the Vocab Express Global Challenge in March 2017 Belper School were placed in the top 10 in the world over all languages!

*Johanna Johnson*

## School Life

The School Governors felt that it would be interesting to showcase to our parents/carers what has been going on in school since the publication of the last newsletter. Below is a list!

*Year 9 and 10 students to see Curious Incident of the dog in the night-time at Nottingham Theatre Royal; Year 8 Film School; Voice in a Million fundraising concert for Malawi expedition; Year 10 Fine Art and Photography competition in school; Selected Year 7, 8 and 9 students visiting Salters Festival of Chemistry at the University of Nottingham; Year 8 Humanities trip to the National Coal Mining Museum, Wakefield; Year 9 students trip to Beth Shalom; Year 10 Parents' Consultation Evening; Primary students visiting to see Lord of the Flies performance; Two evening performances of Lord of the Flies; Selected Year 8 and 9 students attending Foreign Language Translation Bee regional final in Peterborough; Ongoing preparation for Belper School's well dressing; Sixth Form students attending Sheffield Higher Education Fair; Y10 Catering students visit to Jamie's Italian in Nottingham; Rock Night; Duke of Edinburgh Bronze practice expedition; Year 12 Art trip to London; Year 10 mock interviews; Year 5 primary student Taster Days; Year 12 Chemistry students Spectroscopy workshop; Selected Year 7 and 8 students at Healthy Lifestyle Event, Lea Green; Year 8 parents' Consultation Evening; Selected Year 10 Catering students to Derbyshire Student Chef Competition, Buxton; Year 11 and Year 13 Prom; Selected students to Foreign Language Spelling Bee National Final.*

*Coming up ....*

*Duke of Edinburgh Gold Qualifier expedition; Sixth Form Taster day for Year 11 students; Foreign Language Translation Bee National Final; Foreign Language Spelling Bee National Final; Y10 Catering students visit from Royal Navy Catering Corps; Speakers for Schools talk to Year 10 more able students; Year 6 Transition Day; Year 12 English Language students coursework workshop at Derby University; HPV vaccinations for Year 8 and 9 female students; Year 7 students visit to Staffordshire Regimental Museum/National Memorial Arboretum; Annual Awards ceremonies; Sports Leaders Assessments; Duke of Edinburgh Silver Qualifier expedition; Selected Year 8 and 10 students visit to Young Engineers Design Challenge at Derby University; Year 12 English Language students visit to Samuel Johnson's Birthplace Museum, Lichfield; Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 Sports Festivals; Sixth Form Awards BBQ; Enrichment activities; Summer Extravaganza event.*

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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.

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