



# **Introduction to our School**

## **2021/2022**





## WELCOME TO BELPER SCHOOL

Thank you for your interest in our school. Belper is an exceptional place. We combine high academic standards, a rich & inspirational curriculum and a caring & supportive ethos to provide the best education we can for our wonderful students. We also like to think we are a great place to work!

Our vision is encapsulated in the phrase **“Create Your Future. Be who you are and become who you aspire to be”** and this vision guides our educational direction. We want to provide our students with the qualifications, knowledge and skills they need to have happy and successful lives. We hope that our students leave Belper well prepared to thrive as adults and we are proud of what our alumni achieve; from International athletes, to space engineers, to creative professionals, to self-employed entrepreneurs and much, much more. Our website shows just a small sample of the futures created at Belper School.

To provide the best education we can, we understand how important it is to recruit, retain and invest in our staff. We see our school as one community of families, students, teaching staff, support staff and leadership staff all working together. We know how important issues like workload and staff wellbeing are and build these into our everyday practices. For example, our school leadership team are very visible around the site always working hard to support and bring out the best in our staff.

We also know how lucky we are to work with our fantastic students. They are amongst the kindest and politest young people I have ever had the privilege to work with and visitors often comment on the very positive feel of the school. Their conduct in lessons and around the site is excellent. Belper is a school where teachers can truly focus on teaching.

If you would like to find out more, our website gives a flavour of the school and we are always happy to show prospective candidates around.

We value diversity in our staff teams and welcome applications from people from all backgrounds and life experiences.

The school takes its safeguarding and child protection responsibilities very seriously and all posts offered will be subject to agreeing to our ICT staff user policy, two supportive written references and an enhanced DBS clearance.

I look forward to meeting you.

Best wishes,

*Nick Goforth*

Headteacher

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## AN INTRODUCTION

Belper School & Sixth Form Centre is a popular and high achieving foundation school at the heart of Belper town.

- We are a very friendly school with a positive atmosphere, and we work hard to ensure that every child feels valued and respected. *“Most pupils are happy at school because relationships between staff and pupils are good. Pupils get on well together. ... They know that there is always someone who will help them if they are worried.”* (OFSTED, 2019).
  - Belper School is a non-uniform school which is an important part of our ethos.
  - The foundation of our school is our caring and supportive ethos. *“Pupils receive high-quality pastoral care and they know that teachers want them to do well. They appreciate their tutors’ support”* (OFSTED, 2019).
  - Our students are exceptionally understanding. *“Pupils are kind and considerate. They accept others’ differences”* (OFSTED, 2019).
  - We provide a very broad and inspirational personal development curriculum *“The school aims to help pupils become confident and independent. The school provides many opportunities for pupils to develop their interests and talents. For example, they can take part in drama and music productions and sporting events”* (OFSTED, 2019).
  - Our academic curriculum is also very broad *“Students in the sixth form can study lots of different subjects. Staff guide students to choose appropriate courses”* (OFSTED, 2019).
  - Our pupils achieve strong examination results. The school was ranked in the top 10 schools in Derbyshire at KS4 in 2019. *“Pupils are keen to do well. ... Teachers try to help pupils understand when they find things difficult”*. (OFSTED, 2019).
  - Improving teaching and learning is central to our mission to be the best school we can possibly be. *“Pupils know that their teachers want them to do well. They say that their teachers always help them to achieve their best.”* (OFSTED, 2019).
  - We see ourselves as being at the centre of the local community and have strong links with other local schools and organisations. We also strive to maintain excellent relationships with the families of our students.
  - Well over 80% of the pupils from our main feeder schools typically choose to come to us in Year 7 which facilitates the building of very strong links with Key Stage 2.
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## VISION & VALUES – CREATE YOUR FUTURE

Belper School is committed to providing a high-quality educational experience which develops in students the aspiration, knowledge, skills and understanding they require to create happy and successful futures for themselves. We summarise this vision in the phrase *“Create your future. Be who you are and become who you aspire to be.”*

At its core our ethos is built on respect, inclusivity and responsibility, nurturing students to be individuals within a family approach. Central to this ethos is a focus on relationships which demonstrate mutual respect and equality. The school places value on treating each other, and our environment, with care, dignity and compassion, so that as members of the school and wider community we can make a difference. The ethos is student-centred, empowering people to have confidence to participate and engage.

Belper School has a determination for all students to fulfil their potential and experience success. There is a commitment to high quality learning and teaching that challenges and inspires all, ensuring that individual needs are met and that students can make progress, develop and grow to make a valued and positive contribution to society. Emphasis is placed on a broad and balanced curriculum that enables horizons to be broadened and promotes independence, creativity and enjoyment. At the school there is a passionate belief in providing diverse and rich opportunities and encouraging students to step up and participate in what is on offer. There is a drive to celebrate success and take pride in effort and achievement.

### MISSION STATEMENT

Our educational mission is to provide excellence, inspiration, drive and a sense of community.

**EXCELLENCE** – We strive to provide a high-quality learning environment which enables all students to achieve excellence

**INSPIRATION** – We aim to deliver an inspirational curriculum which allows all students to be who they are and become who they aspire to be

**DRIVE** – Our staff drive themselves to provide the best possible education for our amazing students

**COMMUNITY** – We believe in creating a positive learning community that is supportive and caring, enabling all students to participate, achieve and flourish

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