



Belper School and Sixth Form Centre

'Create your future'

Upcoming dates

Tuesday 21 December 2021

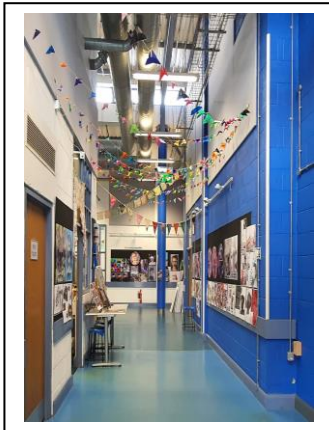
Last day of term

Wednesday 22 December 2021

INSET day

Monday 10 January 2022

INSET day



Term Dates

Spring 1

11 January to 18 February 2022

Spring 2

28 February to 8 April 2022

Summer 1

25 April to 27 May 2022

Summer 2

6 June to 22 July 2022

INSET day

Monday 10 January 2022

Headteacher message

Dear Families and Students,

Welcome to our December newsletter! It has been a long and at times tricky term which has been complicated recently with the discovery of another Covid variant – Omicron. Although there are only a few cases so far in the country, there is a worry that this new variant may trigger another Covid wave. We have already taken some precautions and will take further precautions if the Covid situation in the local area worsens significantly. Please note that we have no plans for another lockdown and the message coming from the Government is that they don't expect to need one.

Currently the Covid numbers in school are low and we are working hard to get everyone back on track after the pandemic disruptions. As part of this plan, in January we will be launching a new teaching initiative in the younger year groups called Knowledge Organisers. These will be given to students in years 7-9 at the start of each unit of work to help them understand the "big picture" of what they are learning and give them an important resource to revise from. We are also currently planning an enrichment week in July of extracurricular activities to support students' personal development. The full details will be sent out soon.

Another initiative we are working on is our new parental App and web access for our new student database system – CloudSchool. This replaces the old ePortal. The full details will be sent out before Christmas.

We finish the term on Tuesday 21 December at 1.10pm after lunch. Students will be returning during the week beginning 10 January 2022, but it will be a staggered return because schools are now required to offer students Covid tests before they come back. These tests are voluntary but will help to keep students Covid safe. We have sent out the consent forms recently and will announce the full return plans once we know how many students want the lateral flow tests.

Thank you, as ever, for your ongoing support!
Nick Goforth

***** PARENT PORTAL NEWS *****

We sent out further information regarding our new Parent Portal system to parents/carers via email at the end of last week. Usernames/passwords for our new Parent Portal system will follow by email this week.

Return to school in January 2022

We have recently emailed a letter to all parents/carers regarding the offer of one on-site lateral flow test to all students before they return to school after the Christmas break. If you have not seen this letter, please [click here](#).

Parents/carers will need to complete a new consent form if they wish their child to have this test.

[Click here for the consent form](#) for Year 7 to Year 11 students

[Click here for the consent form](#) for Year 12 and 13 students

To take account of testing, there will be a staggered return for students in January – more information to follow.

COVID-19 VACCINATION CLINICS AVAILABLE FOR CHILDREN AGED 12-15

Joined Up Care
Derbyshire

COVID-19 vaccination clinics are now available for children aged 12-15 who have not had their first dose.

Please note, if your young person has had a positive COVID-19 test, they need to wait 12 weeks before attending a vaccination clinic. The 12 weeks start from the date they had their PCR test. Please pre-book their vaccination via the links below at your preferred location. They will be given one dose of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine.

COVID-19 vaccination resources for children and young people are available on the government website in a variety of languages, Braille and Easy Read. These [resources](#) are to help children, young people and their parents or guardians make an informed decision about whether to take up the offer of the COVID-19 vaccination.

Vaccinating children can help stop the spread of COVID-19 to other people, including within schools. COVID-19 is usually mild in most children, but it can make some children unwell. One dose of a COVID-19 vaccine gives good protection against your child getting seriously ill.

First dose Covid-19 vaccinations

Parents/carers of those students who missed their first dose Covid-19 vaccination in school can now book this via the national booking system.

Go to ..

<http://www.bit.ly/covid19derbyshire> and follow the instructions to book an appointment.

Don't forget that lateral flow home test kits are available for students to collect from school. Tutors will be distributing these to students on a couple of occasions between now and Christmas, so please encourage your child to bring a kit home if you are low on supplies. Students can also get these from Student Reception, and parents/carers are welcome to collect a kit for their child/children from Visitor Reception.



COVID-19 Vaccination clinics

■ Midland House
1 Nelson St,
Derby, DE1 2SA

■ Walton Hospital
Whitecotes Lane,
Walton,
Chesterfield, S40 3HW

■ North Wingfield Resource Centre
Whiteleas Ave,
Nth Wingfield,
Chesterfield, S42 5PW

■ Stubley Medical Centre
7 Stubley Drive,
Dronfield Woodhouse, S18 8QY

How to book

119



www.bit.ly/covid19derbyshire

The coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccines are safe and effective. If you have any questions, please speak to a clinician at the vaccination centre.

Careers News

Post 16 – Futures beyond year 11 ***Start researching and applying now***

All students need to stay in some kind of education or training until their 18th birthday. This does not mean they need to stay in school. The main options to choose from are:

- Full time education at a school sixth form or college
- Apprenticeship
- Pre-apprenticeship or traineeship

Deciding on their next steps after year 11 is a really exciting point in a young person's life. Students are expected to attend open evenings, apply for sixth form and college courses and/or apprenticeship opportunities. Help from family will support them greatly and there is plenty of support in school for those who would like it.

More information and contact details are on the careers page of the school website: [Careers Service at Belper School](#).

School have a legal responsibility to confirm that all students have an option in place for September 2022. We will be asking students about their plans at regular intervals and may need to contact parents/carers occasionally.

Please encourage your child to provide us with information when it is requested. If you have questions in relation to this please contact me by email to ers@belperschool.co.uk.

Unifrog Careers Platform

The school has recently started using the Unifrog platform to help provide students, parents and staff with access up-to-date information on all the pathways available to young people moving on from school.

Students can use the platform to do many things including:

- Completing an individual Personality Profile
- Completing an individual Interest Profile
- Looking at profiles and videos linked to subjects
- Looking at profiles and videos linked to careers
- Accessing webinars and MOOC learning opportunities (MOOC = Massive Open Online Courses)
- Accessing a database of current Post 16 and Post 18 opportunities for every pathway including
 - Intermediate, Advanced, Higher and Degree Apprenticeships plus Traineeships
 - Further education college courses
 - UK university courses

Parents/carers have an option to view the platform.

More Careers News on the next page ...

Careers news continued

Roll out of Unifrog has begun with students in years 11-13.. They have all been sent an email with sign up details and parents have also had an invitation via ParentPay. If students or parents/carers in these years would like help with logging in or using the resource they can contact me via ers@belperschool.co.uk .

In the coming year we plan to roll out to all remaining year groups. If any students/parents in these years would like to receive a sign up email before the official year group launch they can contact me using the above email.

Eleanor Snape, Careers Leader
ers@belperschool.co.uk

Year 11 Mock Interviews - January 2022

Covid allowing we are planning to run the twice postponed mock interviews with employers from Tuesday 24 January 2022 to Thursday 28 January 2022

We are looking forward to the event which is always exciting for students, staff and employers. All students will receive some feedback from the employer to help them in the future when they do real interviews..

Neil Fordham - Head of Year

Eleanor Snape - Careers Leader

Lateral Flow Test kits for home testing



Please be aware that we will shortly be moving over to some new style home testing kits.

These Flowflex kits (see picture) are **nasal swab only**. Full instructions on their use are given in the box.

Sanitary products

In our Medical Room we have a large stock of free sanitary products.

Students can collect a supply for home use, or come to the Medical Room if they need any supplies in an emergency.

Please ensure that your children are aware of this.

PE NEWS

Well done to all the students who have got quickly back into the swing of joining in with the wide variety of sports activities that are on offer at school. We have had some excellent attendances at the various sports which have included football, netball, basketball, volleyball and running. The number of fixtures is now starting to increase with December being a busy month with events in handball, table tennis, football, basketball and swimming. After Christmas, the list of sports clubs will change to include some different activities. The list of available activities is regularly communicated to students via the weekly bulletin, via google classroom, via school noticeboards and verbally by the PE staff. It is also available to view on the school website by [clicking here](#).

One disappointment this term was that we were unable to attend the annual Amber Valley Schools' Cross-Country Championships. This is an event in which our students and teams always excel. Unfortunately, the event fell on the same day the vaccinations were administered in school so presented an insurmountable barrier to us in terms of getting the students to the event. Here's hoping we can get there next year.

Special mentions for sport and PE over recent weeks go the following:

- All of the Year 10 and 11 Sports Leaders who have been helping out at the primary school athletics and handball festivals on Monday evenings throughout the term.
- The year 8 football team who won 3 out of 3 at the first round of games in the Amber Valley football competition. They then also played out an excellent performance at Friesland in the county cup but eventually went down 2-1.
- The senior students who played volleyball at the Derbyshire Schools' Volleyball Association's teacher training event, demonstrating to visiting teachers how we develop volleyball at Belper School.
- All the students who ran our first mini-marathon - 40 students turned out to tackle the 2.6 mile event back in October.
- All the students who have been nominated by their PE teacher as 'Sports person of the Month' for their efforts in lessons or at the various sports clubs.
- All the sports leaders who have attended courses outside of school hours including on the recent inset day.

Well done everyone!

Steve Lawes
Head of PE Faculty

SPORTS LEADERSHIP

1. OPPORTUNITIES

There have been a number of sports leadership opportunities taken up by our Year 10 and 11 students over the last week or two. These include:

- **Sports Leadership Workshop** - This took place on the inset day and was run by the Amber Valley Schools Sports Partnership (AVSSP). 20 students attended the day and learnt various skills which they will be able to utilise in the future at other sports leadership events and beyond.
- **AVSSP Key Stage 1 and Yr 3/4 Handball Competition's** - A number of Yr 10 and 11 students helped the AVSSP run these events by officiating the small sided games of handball.

More Sports Leadership news on the next page ...

Sports Leadership news continued ...

All students who attended these events were a credit to themselves and the school. Well done on an excellent job!

Further opportunities will be available in the new term after Christmas.

2. YEAR 11 FINAL ASSESSMENT

Year 11 sports leaders are about to undertake their final assessment on either the 6th or 13th December. This will involve them delivering a sports hall athletics competition to the Year 8's during PSE. Students need to check which day their assessment is on. All the relevant information for the students is on their sports leadership google classroom.

Christmas Food Bank Appeal 2021

Following our successful collection for the Belper Food Bank last year, we are once again appealing for your assistance to help others less fortunate than ourselves this Christmas.

It would be great if you feel able to donate what you can. In the words of a very well-known supermarket, "Every Little Helps"! It would be great if you could help by donating whatever you can into the designated collection bins in the next couple of weeks.

[Click here for examples of items that we are looking for.](#)

This is not an exclusive list and, if you think of anything else, by all means bring it in but **PLEASE DO NOT BRING IN FRESH FOODS OR ANYTHING WITH A SHORT EXPIRY DATE AS THIS WILL HAVE TO BE DISPOSED OF.**

There will be black bins placed at the school entrance every morning between 1 and 10 December, so that you can deposit your items before you come into school.

It will be amazing if we can send a fabulous stash from Belper School to the food bank as we did last year.

Thank you
Alison- Family Support Worker

We will shortly be moving to Parent Portal to circulate all notices, letters and newsletters to parents/carers. The next edition of this newsletter will be published via Parent Portal on Monday 20 December 2021.
