

# **APPLICANT INFORMATION**

## **School Introduction**

**2023 - 2024**





## WELCOME TO BELPER SCHOOL

Thank you for your interest in our school.

Belper School and Sixth Form Centre is an exceptional place. We combine strong 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, and Ofsted agreed! (*"Staff are happy and proud to work at the school. Leaders are considerate of staff's workload and well-being"* OFSTED, 2022)

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.

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. (*"Lessons are calm and orderly"* OFSTED, 2022) Belper is a school where teachers can truly focus on teaching.

If you would like to find out more, our website ([www.belperschool.co.uk](http://www.belperschool.co.uk)) gives a flavour of what we offer and we are always happy to meet with prospective candidates.

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

We look forward to meeting you.

Best wishes,

*Claire Lightfoot*

Chair of Governors



## AN INTRODUCTION

Belper School & Sixth Form Centre is a popular and high achieving foundation school at the heart of the picturesque Derbyshire town of Belper. We have just under 1200 students on roll with 150 in the sixth form and employ over 170 staff.

- Belper School is a non-uniform school which is an important part of our ethos.
- We are a very friendly school with a positive atmosphere, and we work hard to ensure that every child feels valued and respected. *“There are positive relationships between staff and pupils. Pupils are happy at school.”* (OFSTED, 2022).
- The school is very well resourced with a wide range of facilities across our large site.
- The foundation of our school is our caring and supportive highly inclusive ethos. *“Belper School and Sixth Form Centre is an inclusive school ... Pupils can ‘be who they are’ and have their own identity”* (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 and enrichment curriculum *“Leaders have developed a well thought out programme for pupils’ personal development. ... Pupils value the range of activities that the school offers”* (OFSTED, 2022).
- We have a wide range of academic courses *“Curriculum plans in the sixth form are well developed and the work that teachers set is demanding”* (OFSTED, 2022).
- Our pupils mostly achieve strong examination results although a small minority have struggled since Covid with their attendance due to health concerns. The school was ranked in the top 10 schools in Derbyshire at KS4 for EM5+ in 2023. *“Leaders have high expectations of all students in the sixth form. Students say that teachers want the best for them.”* (OFSTED, 2022).
- Improving teaching and learning is central to our mission to be the best school we can possibly be. *“Leaders have a sharp focus on improving the curriculum. In most subjects, curriculum plans are ambitious and well thought out.”* (OFSTED, 2022).
- 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 and we are usually oversubscribed which facilitates the building of very strong links with Key Stage 2.



## 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 our 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. We call this *“Respect for All, By All”*

### 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.



## FURTHER INFORMATION

### Senior Leadership Team

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| • Headteacher                                  | Nick Goforth     |
| • Deputy Headteacher                           | Matilde Warden   |
| • Assistant Headteacher (Climate for learning) | Robert Turner    |
| • Assistant Headteacher (Student wellbeing)    | Gavin Brookes    |
| • Assistant Headteacher (School organisation)  | Mark Kazmierczak |
| • SENDCo                                       | Ros Conroy       |
| • Head of Sixth Form                           | Paul Brumby      |
| • Business Manager                             | Julie Huddleston |

### Staff

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The school has 80 teaching staff and over 100 support, site & admin staff.

The TLR structure is based around 9 faculties: English, Maths, Science, Humanities, Modern Foreign Languages, Technology, Physical Education, Creative industries and Computing. There is a strong and well-resourced Learning Support department and an Alternative Curriculum inclusion centre (ACCESS).

Pastoral support is based on year groups, led by five Heads of Year and the Head of Sixth Form.

### School History

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The school opened in 1973 on its current site as a 13-18 school, becoming an 11-18 school in 1986. The school has expanded rapidly since then due to its popularity and several housing developments within the town. Consequently, the school has several buildings that have been added over the years, which have created a very distinctive look and feel to the site.

Originally, the school was a Local Authority school before becoming Grant Maintained in 1993. It is now a Foundation school working within the Local Authority, and is in the process of joining a Multi-Academy Trust.

### School Facilities

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The school enjoys good quality specialist facilities. We have our own large playing fields and benefit from an arrangement with Belper Leisure Centre for PE facilities and examination rooms. This arrangement provides access to a vast range of sports and physical activities including a sports hall, gymnasium, swimming pool, squash courts and the option to hire a state-of-the-art 3g football pitch. The school is divided into Faculty areas, all of which have dedicated and specialist spaces, with computing rooms located throughout the site.

The most recent buildings added were an extension block to the sixth form, a purpose-built Languages block and a superbly designed Art and Drama block. In addition to this, we benefitted from a grant to



develop the hall area into a superb fully functioning theatre space which is regularly hired by community organisations for performances, shows and events.

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## Student Numbers

There are currently just under 1200 students on roll, a number that is predicted to remain stable over the next few years although we are usually slightly over subscribed for year 6 into 7. The PAN is 210, with an intake of 210 predicted for the foreseeable future.

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## Partnerships With Feeder Schools

Belper School is a founding member of the Belper Cluster Collaboration (BCC), which is a group of schools within the town and surrounding villages, who work together to provide the best possible education for the children of the area. The BCC works effectively together to support school improvement in each other's organisations and to foster best practice across the schools.

Belper School is extremely proud of its close relationship with the local Primary schools and the regular joint events and activities that happen throughout the year.

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## The Curriculum

The curriculum offers students a broad and balanced high-quality education which supports learning and teaching. A strong curriculum vision and a commitment to providing appropriate provision enable students to learn the skills and knowledge which will equip them to achieve and navigate life beyond school successfully.

The impact of the curriculum is regularly assessed, evaluated, and reviewed to ensure that our provision is relevant and appropriate for the many different pathways available to our students. SMSC, including British Values, underpin and enrich the curriculum, enabling students to make academic progress whilst developing into well-rounded citizens.

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## Extra-Curricular and Enrichment Programmes

There is a wide variety of additional activities and programmes for students to participate in. Over the years we have been involved in exchanges and cultural experiences with other countries, including France, Germany, Spain and Japan, and we have run a number of residential within and beyond this country (including trips to Iceland, Paris, Barcelona and Amsterdam).

We run a regular calendar of clubs covering interests ranging from cooking to archery, chess club to live action role play, dance, and drama amongst many others. We also have a termly PE enrichment programme and a well-established Duke of Edinburgh Award programme.

The students at the school also participate in annual school events and performances, such as the X Factor, visits from Japanese students the annual school production. This year's school production was Matilda.



## Competitions

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Across a few disciplines, the school thrives on the buzz of putting our students up against the best of the rest to test our skills, talents, and abilities.

Over recent years, we have achieved success in many fields. This has included District and County competitions in sport, local catering events, robot competitions, Maths challenges, Technology challenges and National Foreign Language competitions.

## The Town of Belper

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Located at the heart of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site, Belper lies on the edge of the peak district. Belper is approximately 7 miles north of the city of Derby and is served by excellent transport links.