



March 2024

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

As we come to the end of the spring term, I wanted to give you an update on some of the many successes we have had over the past few months and also make you aware of a change to the school timings from September.

Two recent highlights for the school were the ski trip and the trip to Japan. Travel broadens the mind, as the saying goes, and both trips were huge successes which were thoroughly enjoyed by all the participants.

We are already planning some similar trips next year including the possibility of a trip to China, following on from the Chinese students' visit recently, and we will let you know more when we can.

Just a quick reminder that we finish school for the Easter break on Thursday 28 March and return on Monday 15 April which will be timetable 1.

School Timing Change from September

The DFE has asked all schools to move to a 32.5-hour week from September. This will require us to add 10 minutes to the length of our school day. Please note this time restriction is simply about the start and end of the day and does not include any stipulations about lesson timings. We currently have five, one-hour lessons per day which is standard for secondary schools and this will not change.

To keep the change practical for families we are going to add 5 minutes to the start of the day and 5 minutes to the end so that our standard school day runs from **8:35am until 3:05pm**, although we will be requesting students arrive at school before 8:35am to ensure they arrive at their tutor rooms on time.

The extra 10 minutes will be added to tutor time in the morning so that we can move our current PSHE curriculum into the tutor slots thereby freeing up an extra academic lesson per week.

We are currently liaising with the bus companies to slightly alter some of the bus timings to fit in with this new time table and will let you know more when we can.

Young Enterprise Success

On Thursday 15 February, Belper School participated in its first ever Young Enterprise Trade Fair stands competition in Chesterfield. Our first Y12 team, called "Ropehope", set up their stall and products for sale inside the Pavements Shopping Centre for 4 hours selling to shoppers in Chesterfield. The students are upcycling used rope which has been made into handmade dog toys.

The Year 12 who have signed up to Young Enterprise are participating in the accredited "Company Programme" initiative. We have a team of 14 willing and inventive students.

After an intense round of judging, we were delighted to be awarded the prize of "Best Trade Stand", our first ever win in our first ever contest! We beat off tough competition from Ecclesbourne, Lady Manners, Brookfield, Eckington and Dronfield Henry Fanshawe schools.

Continued ...

The next part of the programme sees the Ropehope team head off to Chesterfield on Thursday 28 March to take part in the County Finals. The team will pitch to a team of judges and members of the public. Fingers crossed we can pick up where we left off and secure ourselves a place in the Regional Finals in Leicestershire in May!

Adam Walton and Carol McKenzie

Rotary Group

Students and staff at Belper School have formed a junior Rotary group to encourage work for the community.

The 'Interact' group comprising of twelve students have carried out their first community project, a 'litter pick' around the school and the Leisure Centre grounds.

Interact clubs are junior members of the international Rotary organisation bringing together young people ages 12-18 to develop leadership skills while discovering the power of 'Service Above Self' involving: making a difference in school and community; discovering new cultures and promote international understanding; becoming a leader in school and community; having fun.

Belper School Pastoral Support staff member Emma Fitzgerald supports the Interact group says, "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 Interact group will certainly help achieve this."

The Belper School Interact group will be self-governing having agreed for two members of the sixth form as 'President' and 'Secretary' to help take the group forward.

A member of the local Belper and Duffield Rotary group, Dave Ashley said, "It's great that young people of Belper School can use Rotary (Interact) to experience what it's like to serve those in need, whether it's in your local area or third world countries."

Recently ten members of the newly formed Interact group aged between 11 and 16 years, did the litter pick around the grounds during their lunch break. They collected eight bags of rubbish using litter pickers kindly loaned by Belper Town Council.

Year 8 Careers Inspiration Day - Tuesday 19 March

The whole of year 8 took part in a series of workshops, presentations and activities on the 19th of March. Sessions were delivered by employees and individuals from local businesses and the arts. This was a fantastic day with students given the opportunity to find out about wide variety of careers and areas of employment they may not have considered before.

We were supported by the following organisations and individuals – Stepnall, British Army, Futures Homes Group, Danny Taylor (Actor & Producer), Morrisons Flower World, Worcester Lloyd Ltd, Bowmer & Kirkland, Emma Reeves (Writer for TV & Theatre), Hannah Robertson (Art Therapist), MAN Bus & Truck, Simon Tew (Digital Musician), Mollie Hewitt-Richards (Actor), Ashley Franklin (Photographer) and Ian Pingle (Actor) and Christopher Graves (Submarine Engineer).

Belper School would like to thank everyone who took part for their huge support.

Highlights of the day include Danny Taylor demonstrating his acting skills and running an impromptu singalong, and MAN Bus & Truck from Ripley bringing a massive truck on to site for our students to explore!

Richard Leach, Careers Coordinator

I hope you have a lovely Easter break.

With my best wishes,



Nick Goforth, Headteacher
