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Headteacher: **Matilde Warden**

13 September 2024

Dear Belper Families,

As the new Headteacher of Belper School and Sixth Form Centre, it is my privilege to welcome you to the new school year. I extend a special welcome to our new Year 7 and Year 12 families. I hope that you have all enjoyed your first week.

We have had a brilliant start to the year with students and staff settling quickly into our new routines. I have visited lessons in all areas of the school every day and have been incredibly impressed with the attitude to learning displayed in lessons so far. Our classroom values are to **Be Curious, Be Respectful, Be Resilient, Be Confident** and to **Be the Best Version of Yourself**. I am pleased to say that I have seen these values displayed in abundance.

Extra-curricular activities have started up again this week. I would encourage all of our students to try some of the 32 different activities that we have on offer during lunchtimes or after school this half term. There are activities that range from crochet to dodge ball! There really is something for everyone. I would like to thank the wonderful staff members who give freely of their time to offer such a wide variety of opportunities.

We continue to have the highest expectations around school attendance. Our GCSE results showed very clearly, as they do every year, that students with the highest attendance make the most progress. I am pleased to say that the vast majority of students have started the year with excellent attendance allowing them to benefit from the rich learning experiences that we offer in our lessons. Student punctuality to school and lessons has also been good. We know it can be quite confusing when there is a change to the timings of the school day (for staff and students!), but everyone has made an effort to arrive on time.

The dress code has been well-adhered to so far. Please can I remind students of the need for a warm coat for the cooler weather, and that crop tops are still not permitted as part of the dress code.

## Open Evenings

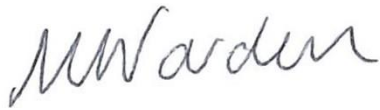
Although our Year 7's and 12's have only just started, we are already looking forward to welcoming potential students to our school and Sixth Form. Our Year 5 & 6 Open Evening takes place on Thursday 26th September from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Our Year 11 families should save the date for our Sixth Form Open Evening on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> November. Details for both events can be found on our website.

## Be Curious

As a taster of what we offer in lessons, I will be sharing a newsletter from each of our nine faculties over the course of the year. Our first newsletter is from our brand new Creative Industries faculty who have shared with us many examples of how we proudly promote the Arts subjects in our school.

I look forward to working with you all over the year ahead.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading 'M Warden', written in a cursive style.

Matilde Warden  
Headteacher

# CREATIVE INDUSTRIES



## A NEW FACULTY ART, MUSIC & DRAMA



At Belper School we have a long tradition of supporting the Arts provision for our students. In creating the Creative Industries Faculty it is a further endorsement of our belief that we wish students to create their future. The faculty title is very deliberate. We wish to build an awareness of the industry for our students, parents and staff. The faculty's aims are;

- To work with and offer access to new artforms and technologies.
- To develop cultural awareness and collaboration.
- To develop, communicate and share the opportunities for arts pathways and careers.
- To celebrate aspiration, achievement and engagement with the sector.
- To develop 21st century skills.
- To nurture collaboration, critical thinking and creativity.

We want to celebrate and grow the creative spirit of our students, whilst building their awareness of the wealth of opportunities available to them.

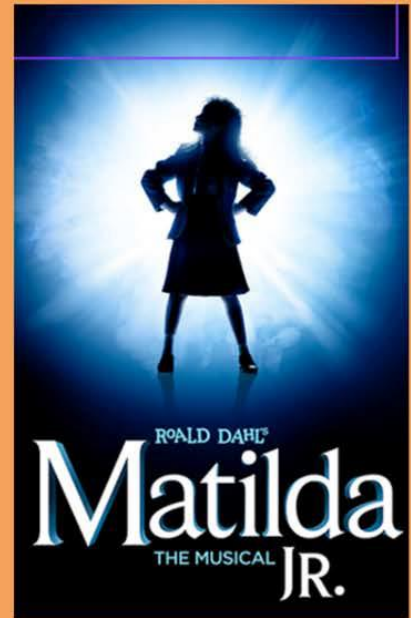


Our first 6 months have been really busy. Keep reading to find out what we have been up to.....





## SCHOOL PRODUCTION



The school production of Matilda Jr took place in December. The audience loved their amazing performances, enjoying the set, costumes and admiring the teamwork so clearly on display. Neil Fordham's performance as Miss Trunchbull was a triumph. It was the first production presented by M.A.D. Productions, our student-led production company. Year 6 students from Pottery and St John's schools were taught signing by our Arts Award students and they all signed along to "When I Grow Up" when they came to watch the play. A matinee and a 3 night run played to a packed house - a huge success.



# Art Work

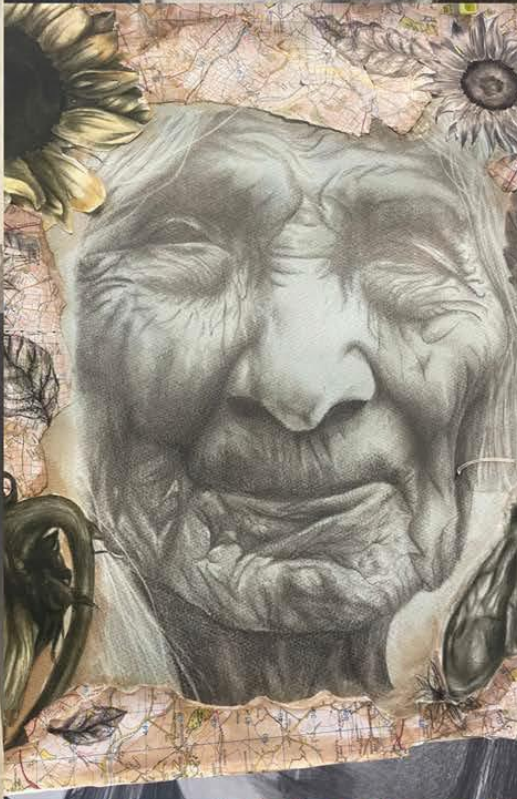
## 2024

Another year of incredibly creative work from our artists from all year groups. Key Stage 3 African Masks, Animal Portraits and Black History. GCSE and A Level Fine Art, Graphics and Photography. The work is creative, innovative and reflective. Students explore topics and themes in ever more creative ways.





# Art Work 2024



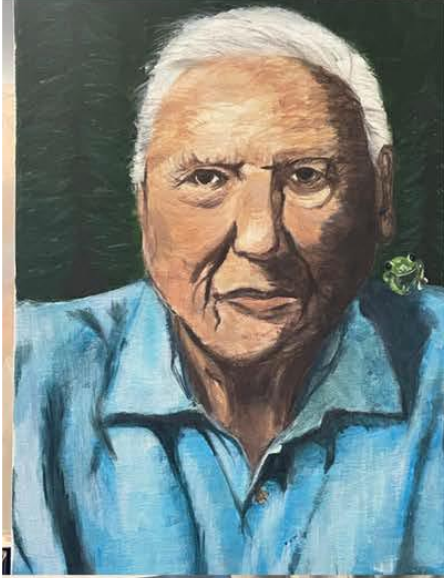


# Art Work 2024





# Art Work 2024







## Daydream - Feb 2024



## Night at the Musicals - May 2024



## Performance at Co-Op - Out and about in the wider community





# BATTLE OF THE BANDS



Talented bands from Belper, Ecclesbourne and West Park School came together for an EPIC 'Battle of the Bands'. This will be back NEXT YEAR. Live music front and centre. A celebration of great talent.