



**BELPER SCHOOL &  
SIXTH FORM CENTRE**

# **Sixth Form Prospectus**





# Welcome

Belper School is an 11 – 18 comprehensive school for students within and beyond the Belper area. The school is set within its own grounds and has extensive open fields on the edge of the rural town of Belper. Our school motto is “Create your future. Be who you are and Become who you aspire to be”, a set of values which underpins our approach. We believe in our students and want them to flourish in school and beyond.

Our Sixth Form aims to offer a very high-quality all-round education so that our students acquire the knowledge, skills and attitudes they need to create happy and successful futures for themselves.

Being a Sixth Form student is very different from year 11 and has many new opportunities and freedoms to develop your independence and maturity. We see the mission of sixth form education as preparing

you fully for early adulthood whether that be in university, apprenticeships, employment or further education.

The Belper Sixth Form is open to students from across Derbyshire and there are courses suited to the needs of most students wishing to embark on Level 3 courses. We offer an environment of mutual trust and respect with a personal tutor who will support you through your studies, and teachers who are keen to help you excel in your education.

We are very proud of the many recent developments in Post-16 education at the school and in the examination successes of our Sixth Form students. There has been significant investment in the education we offer and many students have gone on to achieve exceptional results, securing excellent future prospects for themselves.







# How do I Apply to the Sixth Form?

In November both internal and external students are invited to attend our Open Evening. This is an ideal opportunity to meet with subject teachers and to discuss the courses available.

We are always happy to provide a tour of the school for any external students and parents and these can be arranged through the Sixth Form Team. Current students in Year 11 will be asked to complete an application form and will have an interview with a member of the Sixth Form Team in December.

External students will be interviewed in January. Interviews will be a positive and friendly experience and a chance for students to let us know a little bit more about themselves and raise any issues they may have.

We will be able after the interview to give a conditional offer; however, final confirmation will be given after the interview process has been completed.

# Admissions Criteria

The following entry criteria will be applicable for any student applying to Belper School and Sixth Form Centre. Courses will be Level 3 courses only, with the exception of statutory English and Maths resits:

- All candidates are expected to have achieved a minimum of 5 GCSEs at grades 4-9 including GCSE mathematics and GCSE English Language or Literature. There are also subject specific requirements which are available on the Sixth Form website.
- They also require an outcome in line with or above those indicated by individual subjects in order to access each individual course.

We also consider the suitability, attitude and approach of students which may include:

- Recommendations from a student's previous teachers / school
- The general school/college report
- The contribution the student is likely to make to the life of the Sixth Form and their embodiment of the school ethos.





# What is life like in the Sixth Form?

Life in the Sixth Form at Belper School and Sixth Form Centre brings increased responsibility with much greater freedom and the opportunity to take a lead in shaping the school and local community. Leadership experience will have inestimable value for your future and help you to develop the personal skills needed for life beyond Belper School and for future success. It's a great stepping stone to the start of your adult life at university, apprenticeships, gap years or employment.

## Teaching

The Sixth Form is an adult environment and relationships with staff are more relaxed in preparation for university study. In both Years 12 and 13, you will have nine, one hour periods per fortnight for each subject. Lessons are taught in smaller classes and tutorial style groups so there is plenty of opportunity to discuss ideas and develop independent thinking. One-to-one trouble-shooting and guided individualised support is available if necessary.

***"Teachers deliver the curriculum well. This means that students can build on what they already know and achieve well."***

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## Your Academic Tutor

As a student in the Sixth Form you will have an Academic Tutor who takes a personal interest in your welfare and progress, and is available to offer advice. The help of someone who knows you well could make all the difference in making the right decisions about your future.

## Social Action Within the School and Local Community

This is not just about developing students' own employment skills, but rather about giving back to the community. Students volunteer within a range of local organisations, including working within Belper School and Sixth Form Centre. A major success of recent years has been establishing a network of Sixth Form Ambassadors where students are able to help younger students in lessons and take an active role in the life of the school

## PSHE and Guidance

All students are required to take part in the PSHE and Guidance programme which takes place each week. This will deal with a range of personal, social and health issues relevant to 17/18 year olds. Towards the end of Year 12 the focus shifts towards university and careers guidance.

***"Students in the sixth form have high aspirations. They say that the school has prepared them well for their next steps."***

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# Enriching the Curriculum

As part of the Sixth Form curriculum, you will be able to take part in a wide range of opportunities aimed at enriching your learning experience and developing new academic interests without the pressure of an exam.

These include the Young Enterprise Scheme, the Duke of Edinburgh Award, Sports Leaders Programmes, Arts Awards and the Extended Project Qualification; as well as a wide range of subject and pastorally based activities.

Speakers and visiting experts are invited to the school on a regular basis to take part in talks, discussions and wider learning sessions. You will also have the opportunity to gain life skills to help prepare for the practical side of the transition to university and work.

***“The students speak very positively about the sixth form which promotes their good personal as well as academic development.”***

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## Work Experience

All students undertake a work placement relevant to their study programme or future aspirations. These take place mainly in July and can include a wide range of opportunities including placement visits, work shadowing and virtual work experiences. Tutors and the Careers Team are able to assist in finding suitable placements.

All students are encouraged to undertake a wide range of super curricular activities that take their curriculum beyond what they study in the classroom. These activities are available in a variety of formats from reading, online courses, listening to podcasts, attending lectures, educational visits or entering academic competitions. Engaging in super curricular activities will help you develop a love for your favourite subject or subjects.

## Common Room and Study Facilities

Students are free to use the newly refurbished Common Room for social purposes at virtually all times of the day. The adjacent study room is equipped with computers and is available to all students at virtually all times for study purposes only. Students can access the library at all times for research purposes and quiet study. In addition, we have separate study rooms for use by Sixth Formers only.

***“Teachers of students in the sixth form have strong subject knowledge. Curriculum plans in the sixth form are well developed and the work that teachers set is demanding.”***

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# Former Students



**Chris Boon**

Progressed to: Studying Natural Science at the University of Cambridge

"The opportunities provided by the mathematics department at Belper School, including the maths ambassadours scheme and UKMT pushed me to develop my teamworking and resilience, which has helped me become a more well-rounded individual. You would be surprised at how transferrable mathematical skills are in every day life."



**Jamie Vella**

Progressed to: Lighting Control and Visualisation Manager at the Royal Opera House

"In my time at Belper School I lived in the drama department and spent all of my free time setting up lighting and sound for all manner of productions that Sarah would throw at us! The Drama department enabled me to be creative and learn in a safe space and kick started my career as soon as I left."



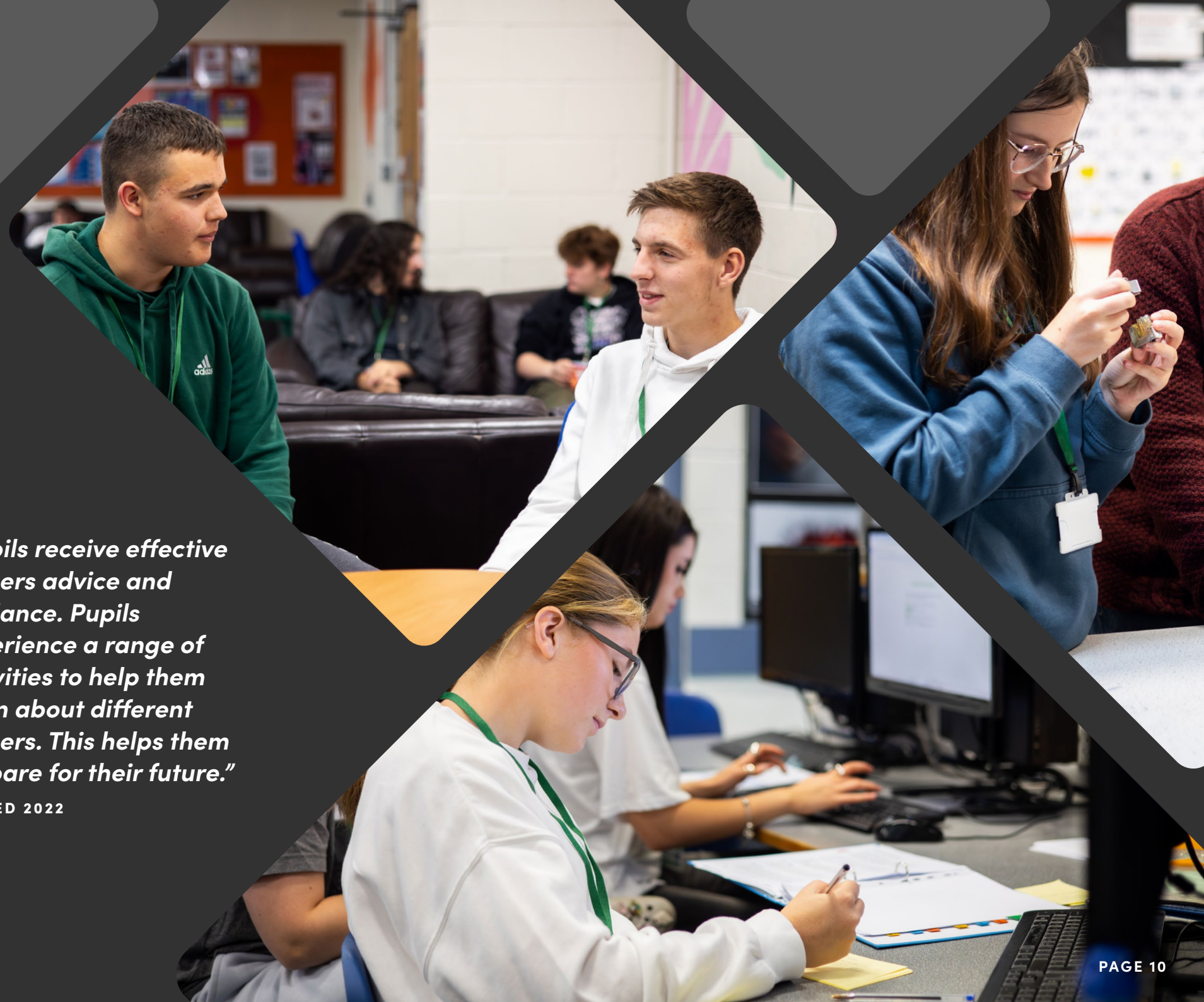
**Georgia Moule**

Progressed to: Designer and Archivist for the BBC for EastEnders

"At Belper School I studied GCSE and A-level Fine Art and these were the subjects that I was most passionate about. I spent all my time painting and drawing, while maintaining my interest in theatre and film and taking part in theatre productions. I did a short course at Nottingham Trent University in Theatre Design during my A-levels. I now work in London for the BBC on Eastenders in the art department. I do a variety of jobs - archiving sets for continuity - producing Autocad drawings for new sets, meeting with the designers to check the script for new set designs. I love my job."

***"Pupils receive effective careers advice and guidance. Pupils experience a range of activities to help them learn about different careers. This helps them prepare for their future."***

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## **BELPER SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM CENTRE**

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