

## November Newsletter

Dear Belper Families,

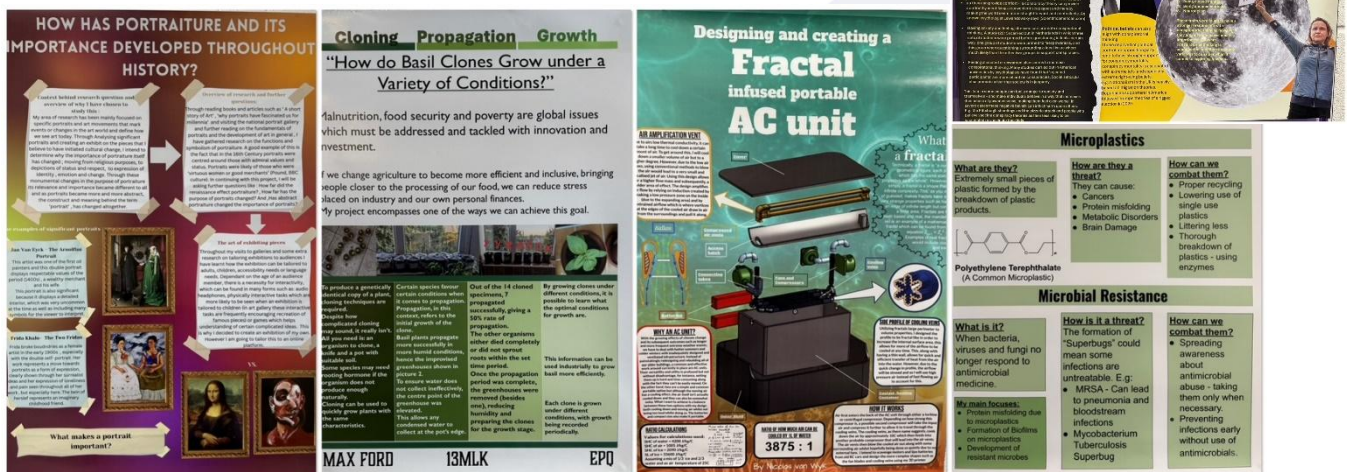
Thank you for your support and understanding on our snow day last week and the difficulty in getting to school on Friday. It is always a difficult decision on whether to close school or not, and we know it can cause inconvenience for some of you. I'd like to thank the site team who were at school early on Tuesday and Friday mornings checking the site to ensure we made the best decision to keep our students and staff safe. Hopefully we will have some milder weather in the run up to Christmas!

## Sixth Form Open Evening Success

We are thrilled to share that our recent Sixth Form Open Evening was a resounding success! It was wonderful to see so many prospective students and families exploring the next steps in their educational journey with us. The evening provided an excellent opportunity for students and parents alike to meet our staff, explore the range of courses on offer, and experience what life is like in our Sixth Form. We hope the evening has inspired students to continue their studies here at Belper and are excited to welcome the next cohort of sixth formers next year! Applications can be made using this form [click here](#)

## EPQ Showcase

Continuing with the theme of our Sixth Form, I had the pleasure of visiting our Sixth Form EPQ showcase last week. The EPQ, or Extended Project Qualification, is an independent research project that gives students the opportunity to explore a topic of their choice in depth. It's a chance for students to develop valuable skills such as critical thinking, independent learning, and project management, all while delving into a subject they are genuinely passionate about. The event gave students the opportunity to showcase their work so far. Here are some examples:



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## **Year 7 Tutor Evening and 6th Form parents evening**

A heartfelt thank you to all Year 7 parents and carers who attended our Tutor Evening. It was lovely to meet so many of you in person and share in the early successes and achievements of your children. We are grateful for your support and involvement as your children settle into life at Belper School, and we look forward to partnering with you throughout their school journey. Similarly, thank you to the parents and carers of our Sixth Form students who attended the Sixth Form Parents' Evening last week. This is a particularly important time for our Year 13 as they plan their next steps.

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## **Children in Need: Pyjama, Onesie and Spotty Day**

What an incredible day we had for Children in Need earlier this month. Students and staff fully embraced the fun, dressing up in their comfiest pyjamas and spottiest outfits to show their support for this fantastic cause. The school was alive with energy and creativity, as so many of our school community got into the spirit of the day.

The highlight of the event was undoubtedly highly entertaining Lip Sync Challenge, featuring Rachel, Stewart, and Gavin. Held on the Art Hill, the performance drew a large and enthusiastic crowd who cheered on every moment of the showdown.

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## **School Communication Policy**

Belper School and Sixth Form Centre follows a clear communication policy to ensure effective and respectful exchanges between parents, carers and staff. If you have any queries, please email:

[belperschool@belperschool.co.uk](mailto:belperschool@belperschool.co.uk) for general enquiries

[sixthform@belperschool.co.uk](mailto:sixthform@belperschool.co.uk) for matters involving the Sixth Form

[senco@belperschool.co.uk](mailto:senco@belperschool.co.uk) for SEND enquiries

Our policy, which can be found on the website, states that we will acknowledge emails within two working days and reply within five working days. If the matter is an emergency, please telephone main reception.

Please do not email teaching staff or support staff directly using their internal email addresses. They are not guaranteed to be monitored during teaching hours and are therefore not covered by our communication policy.

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## **INSET Day**

Please note that there will be an INSET day this Friday, 29 November. School will be closed to students. Students will return to school as normal on Monday 2 December.

## **Year 9 Parents Evening**

We look forward to meeting the parents and carers of our Year 9 students this Thursday. You can still book appointments on the system if you haven't already done so.

## **School Musical: Shrek**

We are excited to announce that tickets for our production of \*Shrek the Musical\* are now available for purchase! Join us for a fun, family-friendly show featuring our talented students. Tickets can be purchased via ParentPay, and we recommend booking early to secure your seats.

## **Christmas Dinner**

Christmas dinner at school will be held on 18 December and bookings for this have now closed. Please note that if your child is not having a Christmas dinner, they must bring a packed lunch as no other food will be available.

## **End of Term**

Term finishes on Friday 20 December. This will be a half day for students, who will finish the day at 1pm.

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Our featured faculty this month is Maths, please enjoy their newsletter which I have attached at the end of this.

Thank you to our entire school community for your ongoing support and involvement. Wishing everyone a wonderful last few weeks of term.

With best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M Warden".

Matilde Warden  
Headteacher



# Maths at Belper

Welcome to our Maths Newsletter, where we have exciting updates from the world of numbers and shapes. From competitions to fun maths activities to try at home, there's something for everyone.

Big Congratulations to our Senior Kangaroo Qualifiers!

We're thrilled to announce that two of our Belper students have qualified for the prestigious Senior Kangaroo Maths Challenge! This outstanding achievement shows their dedication and problem-solving skills. We wish them the best of luck as they tackle even more tricky questions in the upcoming rounds. Here are photos of some of our brilliant students who have achieved excellent results in UKMT Maths Challenges.





# Maths at Belper

## A Snapshot of Maths at Our School with The University of Nottingham

We teamed up with The Observatory for Maths Education at the University of Nottingham, who visited to capture our students in action during maths lessons. It was a great opportunity to showcase our school's energy and enthusiasm for learning. We're excited to see the photos featured by the Maths Observatory and have shared some with you here.







# Maths at Belper

## Checkmate! Belper School Chess Club Is Growing Stronger Every Move

Chess Club at Belper School has grown over the last three years to be one of the most attended extra curricular clubs, with 30 students regularly attending!

It was thanks to our previous head that we were able to buy 10 new sets of pieces and boards which are now frequently all in use. The arrival of the year 7s this year has brought lots of fresh interest in the game, and we still see some of our year 13s playing some intense games, even challenging Gary, Paul and Carlos to matches. The atmosphere is very social and inclusive, and It has been lovely to see students teaching new players the rules and some strategies. With the opportunity to play some team matches against other schools, the next steps for some regular players could be some match preparation (think the Queen's Gambit!), whilst others continue to enjoy some light-hearted fun on a Friday lunchtime. Either way, all are welcome!

What? Chess Club

When? Friday lunchtime

Where? M2

Who? Everyone is welcome, no experience needed!

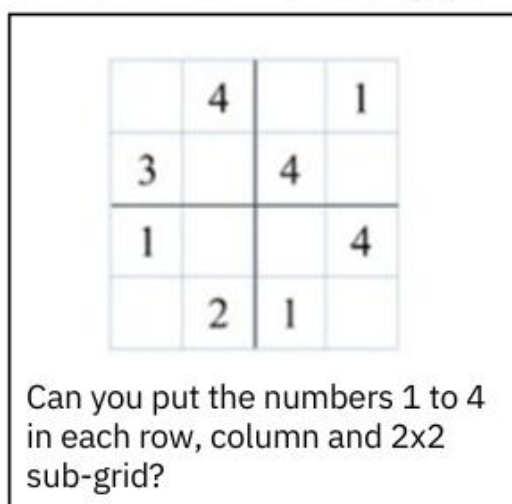
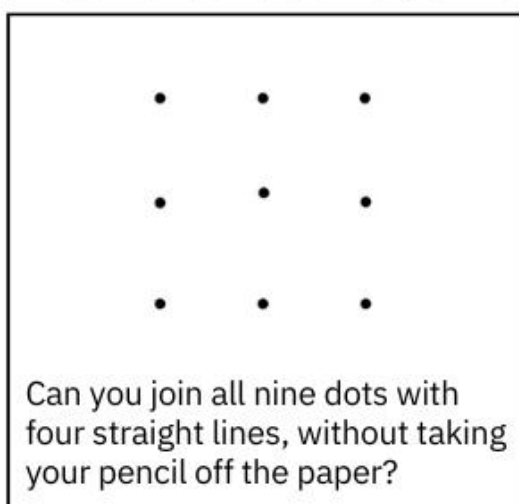




# Maths at Belper

## Maths Fun to Try at Home

Why not challenge yourself with a few maths problems to solve at home? Here are some puzzles for you and your family to enjoy:



## Exciting News About Our Maths Hub Link!

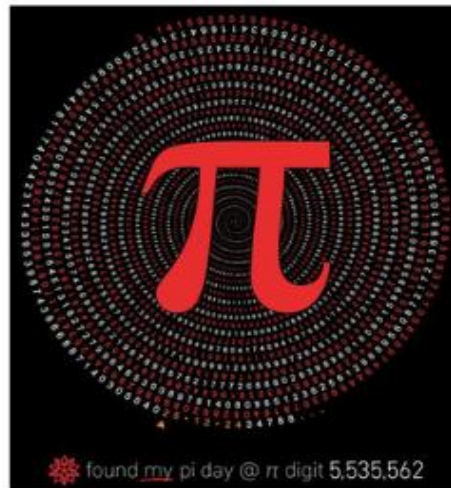
Our school continues to grow its connection with the East Midlands West Maths Hub, gaining access to valuable resources, professional development and collaborative projects with local schools. This connection helps us bring the latest, most effective maths strategies to our students. Stay tuned for more updates!





## Maths Fun Fact: Pi ( $\pi$ )

Did you know that pi ( $\pi$ ) is an irrational number with infinite, non-repeating digits? That means your phone number and birthday are somewhere in pi! Visit [mypiday.com](http://mypiday.com) to find your birthday. Here's Christmas Day 2024, over 5 million digits into pi...



Pi starts as 3.14159... and we know the first 105 trillion digits! While we only need a few for daily use, people love to memorize more. The current record is 70,030 digits, held by Suresh Kumar Sharma. How many can you memorise?

Stay tuned for more updates and keep counting!

We ❤️  
Maths