

December Newsletter

Dear Belper Families,

As our Autumn Term comes to a close, I wanted to take a moment to thank you all for your support and kindness during my first term as Headteacher. It has been a busy, rewarding, and thoroughly enjoyable few months. I feel very lucky to be part of such a welcoming and supportive school community.

Farewells and New Appointments

This term, we say goodbye to two long-serving members of staff:

- Steve Lawes, Head of PE, who has been with us for 16 years.
- John Godkin, Maths teacher, who has dedicated 21 years to our school.

We are incredibly grateful for all they have contributed here at Belper School and Sixth Form Centre and wish them the very best in their next chapter.

We also announce some exciting new appointments:

- Matt Boyle has been promoted to Head of PE.
- Lizzie Piroddi-Crean and Carolyn Wild will be stepping into new roles as Assistant Heads of Sixth Form, working with Years 12 and 13 respectively.
- James Bailey will be joining us as a PE teacher.

We are delighted with the appointments and look forward to them starting their roles in January.

Shrek

One of the absolute highlights of the term has to be our recent production of Shrek. It was a sell-out success and an absolute joy to watch. The students' performances were incredible, and it was clear how much effort went into every detail. A huge thank you to everyone who contributed, especially Sarah Holme and Anna Davey-Caines, whose hard work made it all possible. They're already planning next year's production – keep an eye out for more details in the new year!

Year 11 Mock Exams

Our Year 11s have finished their mock exams, and we couldn't be prouder of them. They've shown fantastic resilience and maturity, with invigilators commenting on how well they conducted themselves. This week, they celebrated the end of their exams with a trip to the York Christmas Market – a well-deserved treat! A big thank you to John McCleery for organising this lovely event for them.

Mock exam results will be shared with students on 7 January 2025 and we're looking forward to meeting Year 11 parents during at Parents' Evening on Thursday 9 January 2025. In the meantime, we hope students take the opportunity over Christmas to relax and recharge before the final stretch towards summer exams.

Christmas Break Arrangements

Just a reminder that we will be breaking up for the Christmas holidays tomorrow, on Friday 20 December, with an early finish at 1:05pm. Please note that, as previously communicated, school buses will not be running at the end of the day, so alternative arrangements may be needed.

Students return to school on Tuesday, 7 January. Over the break, it is a great chance to make sure pencil cases and equipment are topped up and ready to go for the new term.

Wishing You a Wonderful Christmas

I hope you all have a very merry Christmas and a relaxing break. Thank you so much for your continued support this term – it really does make such a difference as we work together to make this school the best it can be for our young people.

With best wishes



Matilde Warden

Matilde Warden
Headteacher