

January Newsletter

Dear Belper Families,

A belated Happy New Year to you all! As we embark on the new term, I would like to share some of the achievements and exciting activities that have already taken place, as well as highlight some upcoming events for our school community.

Year 11 Mock Results Day

We started off the new term with our Year 11 Mock Results Day. This was a key milestone as we continue to prepare for the summer exams. The event, alongside the recent Year 11 Parents' Evening, marked the launch of our final push towards the GCSE exams. Thank you to everyone who attended.

By now, you should have received the Revision Session Timetable, offering 44 sessions across all subjects. Please encourage your child to attend as many as possible to support their progress.

Our Year 12 and 13 students have also recently completed their mock exams, which are a vital step in preparing them for the challenges of their final assessments.

Year 11 Visit to Beth Shalom Holocaust Centre

This month, as we commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day and mark the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, 95 of our Year 11 students visited the Beth Shalom Holocaust Centre. The impactful visit offered students the chance to deepen their understanding of this dark chapter in history and reflect on its relevance to our world today.

We were especially proud to receive the following email from someone who interacted with our students during their visit:

"I taught a group of pupils from your school today at the Holocaust centre this morning as part of my interview for a position there. I'm a primary school teacher so teaching GCSE students was a bit daunting, but I wanted to let you know what a lovely, well-behaved, and polite group they were. Please will you pass on my comments. They are a real credit to the school!"

Such feedback is a testament to the maturity and respect shown by our students on this important visit. We are immensely proud of them for representing our school so well and for their thoughtful engagement with the lessons of the Holocaust.

Year 10 Sports Leadership Workshop & Year 7 Sports Festival

On Monday, our Year 10 students participated in a Sports Leadership workshop run by Amber Valley School Sports Partnership. In the afternoon, they put their new skills into practice, guiding Year 7 students through a dynamic sports festival.

The event was a resounding success, showcasing teamwork, enthusiasm, and mutual encouragement. A big thank you to our PE department for organising such a valuable and enjoyable day!

Year 12 Music Trip to Derby University

Our Year 12 music students recently visited Derby University, where they gained invaluable insights into Music at University through workshops led by current Derby University students. It was an enjoyable visit, giving our students much to think about as they start to plan their next steps.

Year 10 Construction Visit to Babington Construction Site

Last week, the Technology department took 30 of our Year 10 Construction students to visit the Babington Construction Site. Students experienced the realities of working in construction, from site management to hands-on activities.

The trip provided them with a fascinating glimpse into the sector and inspired potential career aspirations.

Upcoming Events

Year 9 Guided Pathways Evening – Thursday 6 February

As our Year 9 students prepare to transition into Year 10, we are hosting a Pathways Evening to provide essential information and support as they begin to shape the next stage of their academic journey.

The process has changed significantly over recent years, so even if you have had older children go through it before, we encourage you to attend to ensure you have the most up-to-date information available.

Year 10 Assessments – Monday 3 February – Friday 14 February

Year 10 students will soon undertake in-class assessments across all their subjects during the upcoming assessment window. This will be the first time they will receive GCSE-style 9-1 grades for their assessed work and is a valuable opportunity for them to evaluate their progress and adapt their approach as they settle into their GCSE courses.

Students will have received information about how to revise for each subject. Please encourage them to revise thoroughly to ensure their teachers can accurately pinpoint any areas of need.

Year 11 Revision Evening – Thursday 27 February

To further support our Year 11 students with their revision, we are holding a Year 11 revision evening for parents and students. The evening aims to help families navigate the busy months ahead. Look out for invitations, which will be sent out shortly.

Reminders

Dress Code

We have recently noticed a few students wearing pyjama bottoms to school. While we did recently hold a 'Pyjama and Onesie Day' for Children in Need as a charity event, sleepwear is not appropriate for everyday school attire.

Although we do not have a school uniform, students should come appropriately dressed for a working day. While pyjamas are not explicitly addressed in the current Dress Code, we will be updating it accordingly to reflect this.

Faculty Newsletter

This month's featured faculty is **Design and Technology**. Please enjoy their newsletter, which is attached, to see the incredible projects our students have been working on.

Thank you to our entire school community for your ongoing support and involvement. Wishing everyone a productive and positive final few weeks of this half term.

With best wishes

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'M Warden'.

Matilde Warden
Headteacher



Welcome to the Design and Technology Newsletter, as a faculty we aim to promote creativity, independence, and skill within a wide variety of practical specialism

Year 7

Students are nearing the end of their first rotation of specialisms, they have completed projects in Design, Food and Textiles.

The students have been introduced to the workshops and made some amazingly creative PhoneBots!

This has included learning about core tools used to cut, shape and form timber. However, the students most enjoyed learning how to use CAD and casting pewter into small metal coins.

While in Textiles, the students have been introduced to the sewing machines, and developing skills in stencil design to create a range of uniquely personalised brilliant banners.

In Food, students have focused on core safety skills, including knife safety, as well as looking at the importance of healthy eating, all backed up by a range of practical lessons in the kitchens making a range of dishes, *Pizza Toast* definitely being the most popular!

In the second half of the year the students will move onto a range of more challenging activities in all three specialisms, including cold forming of metal to create a personalised coat hook, using tie dye and appliqué to create a tote bag, and continue to explore a healthy diet, and food production.





Year 8

Students are nearing the end of their first rotation of specialisms, they have completed projects in Design, Food and Textiles

They have developed timber-based skills with the introducing of wood joints to create a frame, and learning about a range of mechanisms, cams, levers and linkages which can be used to create personalised automata mechanisms.

While in Textiles, the students have taken a closer look at some of the most popular fashion brands and applied this knowledge to the production of prototype trainers, use heat print transfer, and template assembly techniques.

Students have focused in more detail on hygiene and microbiology including learning about pathogenic bacteria, fermentation and preservation. They have carried out an experiment into enzymic browning of apples.

In practical lessons they have further developed their practical skills including demonstrating the fermentation process when making bread-based pizzas and using temperature probes to check the core temperature of meat.



In the second half of the year the students will take part in a range of more challenging activities in all three specialisms, including food from around the world, projection lamps, and bucket hats.





KS3

Year 9

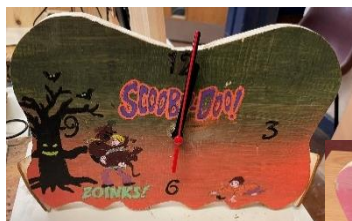
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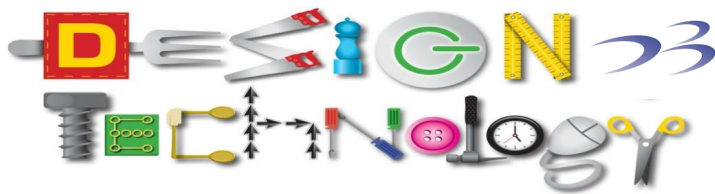
In Design the students have assembled their first PCB based circuit to create a dark activated light, which is used to add backlighting to a CAD designed, hand-cut and painted clock based on a theme of their choice.

Textiles have partnered with a local charity shop who are provided clothing items for the students to breathe new life into as they upcycle the items. Students are applying the range of skills they have learnt over Year 7 and 8 to redevelop items which can be returned to the charity shop for resale.

Students have been learning about macro and micro nutrients in Food. Applying this knowledge to create increasingly complex dishes including, sausage rolls, curries, and learning techniques such as 'en papillote'.

In the second half of the year the students will complete their most challenging activities in all three specialisms, equipping them with skills which will prepare them for GCSE studies, including food science experiments and coding.





BTEC Construction

The students have been developing their carpentry and joinery skills by creating a range of themed gift items and traditional wooden toys.

They have also toured the construction site for the new Babington Health Centre



GCSE Design and Technology

Students have been working on their core skills by 'making' exam questions, with some imaginative outcomes and electronic Christmas decorations.

GCSE Food

Year 11 students have been planning and practicing their dishes ready for the extended practical exams.



6th Form Design

6th form Design have students focused on creating artistic and meaningful outcomes using a wide range of high quality traditional, and new and emerging technology skills



6th Form Food

Our 6th Form food students focus their time on creating restaurant standard outcome



Clubs and Extra-Curricular Activities

The department offers a range of clubs and activities to suit all students, including Scalextric, Model Railway, Textiles, and Maker clubs. While also completing in a national robotics competition in partnership with Derby Grammar School.

