



John O'Gaunts Way  
Belper  
Derbyshire  
DE56 0DA  
Tel: **01773 825281**

Email: **belperschool@belperschool.co.uk**  
Website: **www.belperschool.co.uk**  
Headteacher: **Matilde Warden**

April Newsletter

**Dear Belper Families,**

Welcome back after the Easter break! Due to the holidays, it doesn't seem long since the last newsletter, but we have certainly been busy as we start the summer term.

---

### **Goodbye and Thank You**

This month, we sadly say goodbye to two much-valued members of our staff who are retiring: **Gary Brown**, our Estates Manager, and **Dianne Beard**, our Reprographics Technician. Both will be deeply missed. We thank them both for their dedicated service to Belper School and wish them the very best for their future adventures.

---

### **Belper School Appointed Lead School for Music Across Derbyshire**

We are delighted to share some fantastic news!

Following a visit from the **Derbyshire Music Hub**, and in conjunction with **Arts Council England**, we are proud to announce that Belper School has been appointed a **Lead School for Music across Derbyshire**.

This appointment recognises our commitment to providing a rich and inclusive musical culture, alongside strong curriculum delivery in music education. As a Lead School, we will work collaboratively with other schools to support and raise standards of music education across the county.

This is a wonderful achievement for our school community. A huge thank you to **Anna Davey-Caines** and the team for their hard work and dedication in securing this recognition — exciting times ahead!

---

## Mini Marathon – PE Department Event

On Monday 28 April, the PE Department held its annual **Mini Marathon** to tie in with the London Marathon weekend. Staff and students challenged themselves to complete 10% of a marathon distance (2.6 miles) on a special course set out on the school field.

Participants were encouraged to complete the distance at their own pace, with everyone receiving a certificate for their achievement. This year, with a mini heatwave arriving at the end of April, conditions were particularly warm, but we were delighted to host almost **50 participants** representing all year groups, along with some special guest staff runners!

Looking ahead, there will be another opportunity for students to get involved later in the term at our **Belper School Triathlon**, taking place on **Monday 7 July**. The event will involve a swim in the Sports Centre pool, followed by a cycle and a run around the school fields. Details will be released nearer the time, and students should speak to their PE teacher for more information.



## Busy Month of Trips and Opportunities

- **Cromford Mill – GCSE History Trip**

On Wednesday and Thursday last week, Swerupa and the History team took our Year 10 GCSE History students to **Cromford Mill** as part of their "History Around Us" course. Students explored the local site's historical significance and, as always, impressed us with their engagement and attitude throughout two very successful days.

- **Bristol – A-Level History Conference**

On Friday, the History department also took our A-Level students to a conference in **Bristol** focusing on the **African Kingdoms** unit. Students attended three lectures by leading professors and were fantastic ambassadors for the school. We were proud to have one of the largest school groups attending.

- **Higher Education Fair – Year 12**

On Thursday 24 April, Paul and the Sixth Form team took our Year 12 students to the **University of Derby** for this year's Regional Higher Education Fair. Students explored post-18 options, asked questions directly to university admissions teams, attended workshops on personal statements, degree apprenticeships, and university funding, and experienced subject tasters. It was a really positive and informative day to help them begin planning their next steps.

- **Business Studies Trip – Year 10 and 11 Visit to Thorpe Park**

Also last week, our Year 10 and 11 Business Studies students visited **Thorpe Park** to enhance their understanding of marketing and sales in the real world. Having studied the history and development of Thorpe Park in lessons, students were able to see first-hand how marketing strategies are applied in practice. It was a fantastic opportunity for them to experience the connections between theory and real business operations, and the students represented Belper School with maturity and enthusiasm.

- **Duke of Edinburgh Practice Walk – Year 10**

On Friday 25 April, Marc and his incredible team of volunteers—including staff, past and present, and a few furry friends!—led **106 Year 10 students** on their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh practice walk. This represents more than half of the year group.

Eighteen groups set off from school, walking a 12km route through Boothgate, Marehay, Codnor Breach and Denby Village. The weather was perfect, and despite a few sore feet, spirits remained high. We are so proud of their achievement. Next up: their final expedition at the end of May and, for some, their Silver practice in July.

Students sign up for Bronze DofE at the end of Year 9, complete Bronze in Year 10, and move onto Silver through Years 10 and 11, with Gold opportunities available in the Sixth Form.

---

### Japan Mural Project Video

Last month, we shared how a group of students collaborated with professional artists ThomFong to create a stunning mural inspired by their Japan trip. We are excited to share a video capturing their creative journey showcasing the incredible outcomes and the valuable insights students gained into careers in the creative industries. [Click here to watch.](#)



---

### Listening to Our Families – Parental Survey Results

We are always looking for ways to improve, and we were really pleased to see how positively the Year 10 parental survey was received. The responses were overwhelmingly encouraging:

- **90%** of parents said their child feels happy at Belper School.
- **93%** said their child feels safe
- **91%** agreed that we have high expectations of our students
- **87%** said they would recommend Belper School to other parents.

We are also committed to addressing areas where further development is needed. One area highlighted was how we communicate what our Year 10 students will be learning throughout the year. We know that parents greatly appreciate the Knowledge Organisers we provide in Key Stage 3, and we are pleased that they have been so well received. Currently, we do not provide Knowledge Organisers at Key Stage 4, which may be contributing to a lower percentage of parents agreeing with the statement, "*The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year.*"

Parents can currently find information about the exam syllabus that each subject follows on the school website under the Curriculum tab. Each syllabus contains detailed information about what is studied in each subject. However, following your feedback, we will work on plans to strengthen this provision for next year, aiming to ensure that parents and carers continue to feel fully informed and confident about the curriculum throughout their child's time at Belper School.

Thank you again to all Year 10 parents who took the time to complete the survey—your feedback is invaluable as we make plans for the future.

The **Year 7 parental survey** will be released this week, with other year groups being added over the coming months.

---

### Hot Weather Reminders

Although it may be short-lived, we are expecting some warmer weather over the next few weeks. Please ensure that students bring a **water bottle** to school to help them stay hydrated. Bottles can be refilled at designated times — before school, at break, and at lunchtime.

As always, we ask students to dress appropriately for school, remembering that it is a place of work. Clothing should be smart and suitable for a school environment: **tops should cover the midriff, and clothing should not reveal underwear**. These expectations apply to all students. I would also like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that **aerosols are not permitted** in school for safety reasons. If students wish to bring deodorants, these should be **roll-on** products rather than sprays.

If the weather is particularly warm, students spending time outside are encouraged to use **sunscreen**. Each year group also has a **supervised indoor space** available at break and lunchtime for those who would prefer to stay out of the sun.

---

### Upcoming Events

We are looking forward to welcoming parents and carers into school at some upcoming events:

- **Year 7 Parents' Evening** – Thursday 1 May  
We look forward to seeing Year 7 families in school for an important opportunity to discuss students' progress so far this year.
- **Parent Carer Coffee Morning** – Wednesday 7 May, 9:00am–10:30am  
Hosted by our SEND Inclusion Team, this is an opportunity for parents and carers to meet informally, hear about our provision, and connect with others.

---

## Thank You

Thank you for reading, and for your continued support of Belper School and Sixth Form Centre. We hope you enjoy the **bank holiday weekend!**

This month, our featured faculty is **Humanities**—please take a moment to read their newsletter, which can be found below. It's full of highlights from the brilliant work happening across History, Geography, World Views, and our A-Level Social Sciences subjects.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "M Warden".

**Matilde Warden**

*Headteacher, Belper School and Sixth Form Centre*

A large, light blue decorative swoosh that starts from the left, curves upwards and then downwards, ending on the right side of the page.





# Humanities Faculty Newsletter April 2025

---

## Welcome from the Head of Faculty

After many years as Head of Faculty of Humanities here at Belper School, it continues to be my privilege to oversee such a broad, relevant and interesting range of subjects. We have developed a curriculum which enhances the skills, knowledge and understanding of all our students and we are very proud of the opportunities we have offered over the past year.

We cover a range of subjects at each Key stage. At key Stage 3 all students study History, Geography and World Views. At Key Stage 4 students take History and Geography as part of the pathways options and at Key Stage 5 students can study Politics, Psychology, Sociology and Criminology in addition to the Geography and History options. What follows is a flavour of the activities we've offered outside of 'normal' lessons!

Mick Worrell, Head of Humanities



## Key Stage 3

As we move into the Summer Term a number of Geography lessons are based on carrying out survey work on the school site in Years 8 and 9.

In History, Year 8 paid a visit to Strutts Mill in Belper where they were given the opportunity to wear hats to reflect the different classes of people in society.

Year 9 visited the Imperial War Museum in Salford to build on their studies of World War I and Year 7 will visit the Civil War Museum in Newark in July.



In World Views as we approach the final term of the academic year, students are going to be given the opportunity to consolidate their learning by being given the chance to enter a national competition. Students this year are being invited to take part in the NATRE Spirited Arts competition for 2025. This is a national competition with prizes to be won and is open to students across all year groups.

For further information students should pop by H3 and speak to Clare.

---

## Key Stage 4

Humanities Faculty Newsletter April 2025

At Key Stage 4, all Year 11 Geography groups have carried out fieldwork in preparation for their Paper 3 final exam.

This has involved a visit to Hornsea on the East Yorkshire coastline to study coastal erosion and management and then a visit to Bakewell to consider issues of sustainability.

All Year 10 History groups have been to Cromford Mill to carry out work for their Local Studies Unit at GCSE and Y11 went to the National Holocaust Museum at Laxton in Nottinghamshire.



## Key Stage 5



At Key Stage 5 there have been a variety of trips to enrich the curriculum.

History students have recently visited the University of Bristol in preparation for the African Kingdoms Unit of their 'A' level.

Geography students have visited Scarborough, Bridlington, Mappleton and Spurn Point as part of their coastal studies as well as Salford Quays to study re-branding.

In addition a group of Year 12 and 13 Geographers had an amazing experience on their Iceland trip last March.

Year 13 Psychology and Criminology students had a great day out at 'Think Forensic' and Year 12 developed a greater insight into the subject by attending Nottingham Trent University's Psychology Experience Day.



As we approach the very busy Summer Term it's pleasing to see GCSE revision classes being well attended after school on a Tuesday and remind students that we as staff are available for support, with the reassurance that they are being well prepared for the final exams. Be well prepared and you will be rewarded!