

Belper School June Newsletter

Dear Belper Families,

June has been a packed month, full of celebrations, hard work and memorable experiences. I wanted to take this opportunity to share just a few of the highlights with you.

Ofsted Report – A Proud Moment for Our School

We were delighted to be able to share our recent Ofsted report with you last week. While we've always believed that Belper School is a good school, thanks to the dedication of our staff, the enthusiasm of our students, and the support of our families, it's incredibly rewarding to have that confirmed by Ofsted. The section titled "What is it like to attend this school?" was especially encouraging, capturing the mutual respect, care and calm that we see every day in our corridors and classrooms.

We were proud to see the inspectors recognise the "positive buzz of learning" and to hear how strongly students identify with our values, particularly the pride they take in being part of the school, captured so clearly in their own words: 'Be Belper'. It's a moment to celebrate, but also a reminder that our work is never done. We remain committed to continuous improvement and to helping every student be the best version of themselves.

End of Exam Season

We have now reached the end of what has been a long and demanding exam season for our Year 11 and Year 13 students. For some Year 11s, this meant sitting more than 20 separate exams over the course of several weeks, an intense and often exhausting schedule.

Throughout it all, our students showed real maturity, resilience, and commitment. They came in prepared, focused, and determined to do their best, often supporting each other with quiet encouragement along the way. The way they conducted themselves, both in and out of the exam rooms, was a credit to them. Several of our invigilators took the time to comment on how impressed they were by the students' behaviour and attitude.

We know how much hard work has gone into this behind the scenes, from revision sessions to late nights and early mornings, and we're incredibly proud of the way our students rose to the challenge. Whatever the outcomes in August, they should be proud of the way they approached this important stage in their school journey.

A big thank you also goes to our exam team and invigilators who supported students so well during this time and whose hard work can often go unnoticed.

Prom Celebrations

Following their examinations, both Year 11 and Year 13 celebrated these important milestones with their Proms.

Year 11 celebrated their prom at a beautifully decorated Shottle Hall last week. Students were welcomed by their families, support staff and teachers who came along to see the arrivals and share in the occasion. It was lovely to see the pride on everyone's faces as students stepped out in a wide range of outfits, each reflecting their own personality. The evening really captured the spirit of 'Be who you are, become who you aspire to be', a genuine celebration of individuality, growth and achievement.

For the majority of our students, the prom was not a goodbye, but a celebration of what comes next. We're really pleased that most will be continuing their journey with us in the Sixth Form. We look forward to welcoming them back this Friday for their Transition Day as they begin the next chapter of their Belper experience.

Year 13's Prom took place at Horsley Lodge and was a fitting celebration of their time with us. Most of these students have been part of the Belper School community for seven years, and the evening was full of laughter, reflection, and pride in how far they've come. The event was supported by the Sixth Form team and form tutors, with a special guest appearance from their former Head of Year, Stephen Davison!

As with Year 11, it was a night that reflected their journey and growth. We look forward to seeing them again on A Level Results Day (Thursday 14th August), when we'll wish them well as they head into their next exciting chapters.

Year 8 Trip to Disneyland Paris

Our Year 8 students returned this week from a memorable trip to Disneyland, Paris, where they enjoyed the rides, the sights, and the unique atmosphere that only Disney can offer. Staff commented on how well the students represented the school, showing great enthusiasm, curiosity, and kindness throughout.

A particularly unforgettable moment came just before the fireworks display, when the skies opened and they were unexpectedly caught in a torrential downpour. Despite the soaking, their spirits remained high, they took it all in their stride, laughed together, and enjoyed the spectacle regardless. It was the kind of experience that turns into a story they'll remember for years to come.

Thank you to the staff who gave up time with their own families to make the trip possible and ensure that our students were well cared for every step of the way.

Creative Industries Workshop with Shao Dow

While some of Year 8 were in Paris, others were treated to a unique experience here at school. Earlier this term, our local MP, Jonathan Davies, contacted school inviting us to take part in a special Music Industry Workshop led by award-winning rapper and Manga author, Shao Dow.

Shao Dow began the morning by speaking to our Year 8 students about his own career journey, and encouraged them to think about the wide range of careers available within the creative industries. He rounded off his talk with a live performance and stayed to sign autographs and chat with students. Following this, he led a workshop for our Year 9, 10 and 12 students who have chosen to study Music and Music Tech. It was an inspiring and energising morning, and we're grateful to both Jonathan Davies and UK Music for this opportunity.

The Creative Industries Faculty will be showcasing even more of their work at our Creative Industries Festival this Thursday – all are welcome. See poster below.

Welcoming Our New Year 7s

This evening, we welcome the parents and carers of our incoming Year 7 cohort ahead of our two transition days. We are excited to meet all 210 of our new students on Tuesday and Wednesday. We've put together a fun-packed and welcoming experience for them, and we know our current students are looking forward to meeting them and showing them what it means to Be Belper.

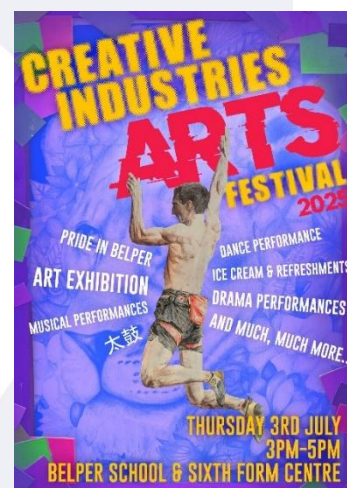
Faculty Focus: PE

Our featured faculty newsletter this month comes from our PE department. As many of you will know, Matt Boyle took on the role of Head of Faculty in January, having already been a valued member of our staff team. Since stepping into this position, he and the department have worked hard to place PE at the heart of school life. This month's faculty piece shares just a few of the things they've been doing over the past few months, and we hope you enjoy reading about their work.

Key Upcoming Dates

- **Monday 30th June:** Year 6 Parents' Transition Evening
- **Tuesday 1st & Wednesday 2nd July:** Year 6 Transition Days
- **Friday 4th July:** Year 11 Sixth Form Transition Day
- **Wednesday 9th July** – KS4 and KS5 celebration evening
- **Thursday 17th July** – KS3 celebration evening
- **Thursday 24th July (1:05 PM):** End of Term / Start of Summer Holidays
- **Thursday 14th August:** A Level Results Day
- **Thursday 21st August:** GCSE Results Day and Sixth Form Registration

Further information about results days will be sent separately.



Thank you, as always, for your continued support. As always, I continue to be incredibly proud of our students and grateful to our staff and families for everything you do to make Belper School the community it is.

With best wishes,

Matilde Warden

Headteacher, Belper School and Sixth Form Centre

BELPER PE DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

A WELCOME FROM THE PE DEPARTMENT

Welcome to the PE Department newsletter for 2025. Below you will find information on some of the events that we have been running this academic year. This represents the tip of the iceberg when it comes to what is going on in PE and any parents looking for further information should speak to their child's PE teacher.

Information about most opportunities or events running in the PE department are advertised on the PE Google Classroom page for your child's year group, along with the School Bulletin. We are also looking to launch our social media channels next academic year, including a public Facebook page and Instagram account that should help us to connect with parents and the community more easily.

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK



In the PE Department we are proud to support the mental health of all staff and students in school and have been taking part in events to raise its profile. The PE Department recently went green for the day and also took part in a 'soak the teacher' event on 16th May in which

Matt, James and Tom all took the ice bucket challenge in front of a large crowd of students. Thankfully it was a hot day and the cold water was actually quite refreshing!

DSSA COUNTY ATHLETICS COMPETITIONS

We have been very pleased to have some of our Belper School students representing the Amber Valley Schools Athletics Team at a couple of County events this term. This includes the very demanding 'Combined Events' competition in which athletes take part in a series of track and field events, requiring them to be a strong all-rounder as they must run, jump and throw. We have also been lucky enough to also have some Belper School students in the County Schools Athletics Competition, in which they can take part in their strongest track or field event, or both.

In the Combined Events Lucy in Y9 Won the 800m and secured a PB in high jump. Ryan from Y10 was 2nd overall and through to national competition, as was Seb in Y9 who secured 3rd overall and also went through to the national competition.

In the Individual County Schools Athletics Ryan, Seb (Y10) & Maggie (Y9) all represented the school and the Amber Valley team, with both Ryan and Seb being selected to represent the Derbyshire team at further events.

SPORTS LEADERSHIP ROUNDUP

We run a 'Your Time' Leadership programme in year 9, training girls to become sports ambassadors and role models



for young girls in school. This year the girls went through a training process before planning a large-scale multi-sports

event for year 7 girls, which gave 60 of our girls access to a competitive sports event which we hope will act as a stepping stone to them accessing further opportunities including extra curricular clubs and teams.

SPORTS LEADERSHIP CONTINUED...

In addition to this we run Level 1 Sports Leadership in year 10 and have been training 50 leaders this year. They have been influential in ensuring PE clubs and events can run in school but have also partnered with our colleagues in the AVSSP to deliver a number of primary school events as well as visiting some of our local primary schools to assist with their sports days and house games.



The Level 2 Sports Leadership has also been running in year 12 as part of the Sixth Form enrichment programme, which aims to give our A level students additional qualifications that help them to stand out on future applications. Our excellent team of elite Level 2 Leaders helped to plan and deliver one of our largest events of the year, the year 7 Quad Kids Inter-Tutor Athletics.

SPONSORSHIP FOR SPORTS LEADERSHIP

We are currently on the hunt for local businesses that may be willing to sponsor our Sports Leadership courses and kits for students.

Our leaders are highly visible and represent the very best that Belper School has to offer. They volunteer to help to run sports events in school but also support district events as well as primary school sports events in partnership with our colleagues in the AVSSP. There are normally hundreds of local parents watching at these events and this would be a great opportunity for local businesses to get exposure for their brand

and be associated with a programme that makes a real difference in the community.

Rather than students being asked to pay for their own kit, we are looking for funding for t-shirts and whistles for our Sports Leaders this year in exchange for your company logo on the t-shirts. If this is something you would like to be a part of then please contact the school for the attention of Matt Boyle, Head of Physical Education.

SUMMER EXTRA CURRICULAR CLUBS

Throughout the summer term we have been running a series of popular after school clubs and have been pleased with the uptake. Tennis Club on a Monday and Athletics Club on a Tuesday have been a great opportunity for students to try new things and work with staff on some of the finer details of their technique beyond what is normally taught in lessons. We have also been delivering a very popular Rounders Club on Wednesdays and have been very happy to see the progress being made.

MOORWAYS ATHLETICS TRIALS

Moorways trial events took place in mid-June and we had around 70 students coming along to try different events hoping to make it onto the school athletics team for the District Schools Athletics Championships which take place in early July and will be our largest competitive sports fixture of the year.

DISTRICT SWIM GALA SUCCESS

Back in December we hosted the Amber Valley schools swimming gala. 6 schools from the local area attended, with some schools bringing multiple teams per age group. We are extremely proud that Belper managed to finish 3rd overall, with a very impressive win for our key stage 4 boys!

YEAR 7 GIRLS MULTI-SPORTS EVENT

Our year 9 'Your Time' Sports Leaders planned a fantastic morning of competitive sport for 60 of our year 7 girls earlier in the term. They had to



plan and promote the event themselves and it was used as part of their Sports Leadership assessment. In exchange, the year 7 girls got a fantastic morning of Netball, Dodgeball and Benchball and had certificates presented at the end.

YEAR 7 INTER-TUTOR QUAD-KIDS AND DISTRICT QUAD-KIDS ATHLETICS



In late May our year 12 Sports Leaders planned a large-scale inter-tutor athletics event called 'Quad-Kids'. Each of our 7 tutor groups had a team of boys and girls competing in the 100m, 800m, Long Jump and Howler Throw. There were around 70 competitors in total, with 7RPC coming

away as champions. A special mention also to Joyce, Charlie and Bronte who were our top 3 girls and Dylan, Mawgan and Charlie our top 3 boys.



This event also acted as a qualifying event for the District Quad-Kids, which we hosted in early June, inviting our top 24 athletes back to take on some of the local secondary schools. This was a team event and the 2 teams that we entered came 2nd and 3rd.

SPORTS DAY 2025

This year will mark the return of a full sports day at Belper School, with years 7-10 all taking part in inter-tutor athletics competitions on Friday 11th July. Field events will take place in the morning, with our track finals taking place in the afternoon. Each tutor group will need a team of keen athletes to compete and more details will go out closer to the time. Fingers crossed for some nice weather!

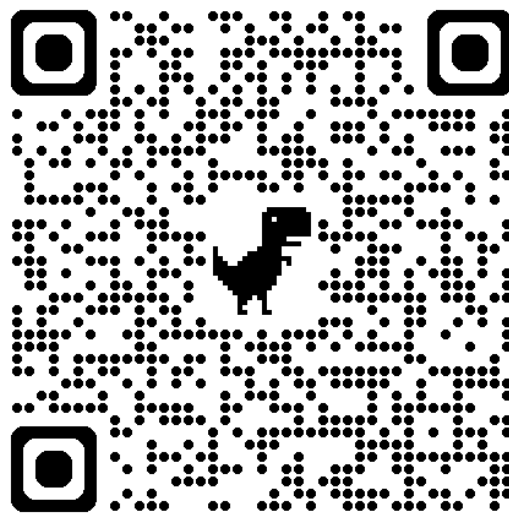
MINI MARATHON 2025

To tie in with the London Marathon, we organised a 'Mini-Marathon' in April in which our students were challenged to take on 10% of marathon distance. This took place on a bespoke course on the school field in unseasonably hot weather and we were very pleased to have 50 runners representing all year groups, in addition to some special guest star staff athletes!



BELPER SCHOOL TRIATHLON CHALLENGE

We have the Belper School Triathlon on Monday 7th July. Are you able to swim 100m (just 4 lengths)? Do you own a bike and can ride 2km? And can you run 1km? Then this might be the event for you! Follow the QR code to sign up or see Leanne for more details. Open to all year groups 7-13.



FOOTBALL, RUGBY AND NETBALL TEAMS

We are currently on our summer sports programme, but team training for some of our teams will kick in again when we return to school in the autumn. Thank you to the many hundreds of students that have been part of these teams this year and we look forward to seeing you in action again next year.