

12 September 2025

Dear Belper Families,

Headteacher's Welcome – A New School Year

I hope you have all had a restful summer are feeling refreshed and ready for the year ahead. It has been wonderful to see everyone back this week, and I am delighted to say it's been a really positive start. Students have settled in so well, and the atmosphere around school has been fantastic.

In our assemblies, we've been talking about our mission statement: *"Create Your Future – Be who you are, become who you aspire to be."* We have explored how this links to our Be Belper values and how students can live these out in everything they do. These themes will continue to be developed in PSHE lessons this half term. To see what your children are learning in their other lessons, do take a look at your child's Knowledge Organisers — they're a great way to see what topics and skills they'll be learning. These are also available on our website [here](#).

A particularly warm welcome goes to our new Year 7 students and their families, who have joined us for the first time, and to the almost 100 students who have started their journey with us in Year 12. We're so pleased to have you as part of our Belper School community. We're also excited to welcome some new staff to our team this year:

- **Maths:** Danielle Spears
- **English:** Olivia Waterhouse and Mashal Iqbal
- **Geography:** Jack French
- **History:** Sinead Harrison
- **MFL:** Sally Middleton
- **Criminology:** Allain Gratton-Brown

They are already making a wonderful contribution, and we know our students will benefit greatly from their enthusiasm and expertise.

Looking ahead, there are some key dates we'd like you to save:

- **Year 5/6 Open Evening:** Thursday 25th September
- **Year 11 Parent Information Evening:** Thursday 9th October (an important evening as we look ahead to exams and the start of the 16–18 pathways process)
- **Year 12 Open Evening:** Thursday 6th November

Finally, just a quick reminder about communication. With almost 1,200 students, the start of term is always a busy time. To help us respond quickly and make sure your queries get to the right place, please use the school office email – **belperschool@belperschool.co.uk** — as your first point of contact. Messages will then be directed to the right member of staff. Please avoid contacting teachers on their internal emails, as these may be missed while they're teaching. We aim to respond to all emails within **48 hours**, though we will always try to reply sooner whenever possible.

Thank you for your continued support. It has been a wonderful start to the year, and I am really looking forward to all that we will achieve together in the months ahead.

With best wishes,



Matilde Warden
Headteacher