

27 November 2025

Dear Belper Families,

November Newsletter

We have had a busy and exciting start to the second half of the Autumn term. I am pleased to share some of our recent highlights and reminders with you.

Year 11 Trip to China

Over half term, myself, Hannah, Wain and Dan had the privilege of taking 24 Year 11 students on an unforgettable trip to China. We began our journey in Beijing, exploring the historic Forbidden City and walking along the iconic Great Wall.

From there, we travelled by bullet train to Hai'an and then onto Nantong, where we visited six different schools over three days. We received a warm welcome everywhere we went! It was inspiring to see both the cultural and educational differences, and our students really enjoyed taking part in lessons. We finished the trip with some sightseeing in Shanghai, including a visit to the famous Bund.

I was so proud of our students who were incredible ambassadors for Belper School, demonstrating the Be Belper values wherever they went. They were a credit to their families and our whole school community.



Children in Need

Earlier this month, we were thrilled to welcome Pudsey Bear to Belper School as part of Radio Derby's three-legged challenge, and we were proud to be chosen as the finish line for the televised event! Year 7 and 8 students (and staff!) certainly showed their excitement, and many of you may have spotted the brilliant atmosphere on *East Midlands Today*.

Our Sixth Form students joined in with great enthusiasm too, leading the three-legged race and showing what fantastic role models they are for our younger students.

Some footage from the event, captured by our Sixth Form Social Media Ambassadors, can be found on their TikTok page:

https://www.tiktok.com/@belpersixthform/video/7569576859235667222?is_from_webapp=1&sender_device=pc

We also marked Children in Need Day last week. Students and staff embraced the fun by coming to school in their comfiest pyjamas and spottiest outfits, all in support of this fantastic cause.

Year 7 Laptop Scheme Launch

This year we have introduced a new laptop lease scheme for Year 7 students. These devices will support their learning both in school and at home. As this is our first time running the scheme, we have had to demonstrate patience as we work through a few small teething issues. However, our students are very excited to start using their laptops in class.

Once the Year 7 rollout is fully settled, we plan to extend the scheme to other year groups on a staggered programme over the next year. More information will be shared in the New Year.

Sixth Form Open Evening

We are thrilled to share that our recent Sixth Form Open Evening was a resounding success. It was great to see so many prospective students and families exploring the next steps in their educational journey with us. The evening provided an excellent opportunity for students and parents alike to meet our staff, explore the range of courses on offer, and experience what life is like in our Sixth Form.

We are pleased to see that the evening has inspired students to continue their studies here at Belper, having already received a strong number of applications, building on last year's record numbers.

The deadline to apply is Thursday 5 December. With Year 11 mocks now complete, we will be encouraging any students who haven't applied yet to do so. Application details can be found on our website. Our interview process will begin shortly and continue into the New Year.

Year 9 Parents' Evening

On Thursday 27 November this week, we are holding our Year 9 Parents' Evening. This is a valuable opportunity to review progress made during the recent Year 9 assessment window and to reflect on their attitude to learning grades.

As students approach the end of Key Stage 3, this is an important moment to discuss how they can continue growing across all subjects in preparation for their GCSE pathways process which will be introduced in January. We look forward to seeing you all.

School Production – Into the Woods

We are very much looking forward to our school production of Into the Woods, which is coming up on the 3, 4 and 5 December. Full rehearsals are taking place this weekend, and our cast will also be performing to some of our local primary schools next week in preparation.

Tickets are available to purchase via ParentPay. We would love to see you there supporting our many talented students.

Sixth Form Trip to Parliament

Earlier this week, 34 students from the Sixth Form Student Leadership Group and both A-Level Politics classes visited Parliament to see democracy in action.

They had a tour of the parliament buildings, met with our MP, Jonathan Davies for a question and answer session and then attended a parliamentary sitting in the afternoon from the public gallery. The students asked Jonathan some probing questions about education funding, the Ada Belfield centre and on flood prevention in Belper.

They enjoyed some celebrity spotting too. Rishi Sunak, Jeremy Hunt and James Cleverley were all seen but the highlight for them was when Hugh Grant walked past!



Additionally, Jonathan Davies has launched a Youth Survey and is inviting young people aged 15–25 to share their views. He has asked specifically whether students from Belper School would be willing to take part. All students in this age range have received an email and a QR code to take them to a survey. We encourage them to complete this in order to have their voices heard.

Colder Weather PE Kit

As temperatures drop, please ensure students wear a suitable coat to keep them warm on the way to and from school and during break and lunchtimes.

Similarly, please ensure they remember to pack warm items to wear for their PE lessons, which continue outdoors throughout the winter months. It is important they are well prepared.

Full details of our approved PE kit can be found here in the PE dress code and policy, which can also be found on the website:

<https://www.belperschool.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/PE-DRESS-CODE-AND-KIT-POLICY-June-2025.pdf>

Reporting Student Absence

A reminder of the importance of notifying us if your child is absent. Lynne and Jill in our Attendance Team are currently having to call around 50 families each morning where no absence has been reported, which creates a significant delay in ensuring all students are safe.

If your child is going to be absent from school, please contact us before 8:30am each day of their absence.

You can either:

- Phone school and select the option to report a student absence
- Email: attendance@belperschool.co.uk

Thank you for your support with this. It helps us fulfil our safeguarding responsibilities promptly and effectively.

INSET Day – Friday Reminder

A reminder that this **Friday, 28 November** is an INSET day, allowing students a well-earned rest partway through this long term and a chance to recharge before we head into the final few weeks of term. Students will return to school as normal on Monday 1 December

School Closure in the event of Snow

As the weather gets colder, can I remind you that in the event of snow a message will be displayed from 7.00am indicating whether the school is open, part-open or closed. A further note will be posted at the end of the day to indicate if the school is open the following day.

Christmas

Term finishes on **Friday 19 December**, this will be a half day for students, who will finish the day at 1.05pm. There will be no provision for students to stay at school after 1.30pm as school will be closed.

Please note: The Harpur's 360 bus service will not be running in the afternoon, therefore parents/carers will need to make alternative arrangements. The service will run as normal on the morning of Friday 19 December.

As always, thank you for your continued support. We are proud of our hardworking students and appreciate your partnership in helping them to thrive.

With best wishes,



Matilde Warden
Headteacher

