

December Newsletter

Dear Belper Families,

As the Autumn Term draws to a close, I would like to thank you for your continued support this year. It has been encouraging to see such strong attendance at parents' evenings and school events. The level of engagement we receive from families makes a real difference. This positive partnership helps to create the inclusive school community and sense of belonging that we value so highly at Belper School.

Into the Woods

One of the highlights of the term has undoubtedly been our recent production of *Into the Woods*. The performances were outstanding, and it was a pleasure to see the confidence, commitment and talent of our students on stage. The attention to detail and the effort behind the scenes were evident throughout.

My sincere thanks go to everyone involved, particularly Sarah Holme and Anna Davey-Caines, whose dedication and hard work made the production such a success. They have been teasing us with picture clues about next year's production over the past week, with the full reveal taking place on Thursday! We are very excited about what it will be and will keep you posted.

Year 11 Mock Examinations

Our Year 11 students have now completed their mock examinations, and we are extremely proud of how they approached this important milestone. They demonstrated resilience and maturity throughout, with invigilators commenting positively on their conduct.

Mock exam results will be shared with students on Monday 5 January and we look forward to welcoming Year 11 parents to Parents' Evening on Thursday 8 January. Over the Christmas break, we hope students are able to rest and recharge ahead of the final phase of preparation for their summer examinations.

Sixth Form Applications

Following our Sixth Form Open Evening at the end of last half term, we are delighted to report a record number of Sixth Form applications from both internal Year 11 students and external applicants. Interviews began immediately after the mock examinations and will continue into the new year.

It is extremely positive to see our Sixth Form growing so strongly. My thanks go to the Sixth Form Team, Paul, Carolyn, Lizzie and Jo, for their hard work during this particularly busy period.

Year 13 Mock Examinations

As part of their preparation for summer examinations, Year 13 students will sit a full set of mock exams on their return after Christmas. These will help ensure students are on track and identify any areas requiring further focus. Revision is already well underway, and we look forward to seeing their progress.

Christmas Dinner Arrangements

Our school Christmas Dinner will take place on Wednesday 17 December, this week. Thank you to everyone who has supported this event; we have sold several hundred tickets and are looking forward to the meal prepared by Janice and the catering team.

Students are welcome to wear festive attire if they wish.

Please note that no other food will be served at break or lunchtime on this day. Students with pre-bought tickets will have lunch provided. All other students will need to bring a packed lunch.

Christmas Break Arrangements

School will close for the Christmas holidays on Friday 19 December, with an early finish at 1:05pm. As in previous years, school buses will not be running at the end of the day, so alternative arrangements will need to be made.

Students return to school on Monday 5 January. The holiday period is a good opportunity to check that equipment and pencil cases are fully stocked for the new term. Please also be reminded that new piercings will not heal in time for the start of term, so we ask families to avoid arranging these over the break.

Wishing You a Wonderful Christmas

I would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a restful break. Thank you again for your ongoing support. It is greatly appreciated and plays an important role in helping us provide the best possible education for our students.

With best wishes,



Matilde Warden
Headteacher