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Headteacher: **Matilde Warden**

Dear Belper Families,

## **Belper School February Newsletter**

Welcome back!

Although the weather has not felt particularly spring-like recently, with plenty of rain and grey skies, we were treated to a rare and very welcome sighting of the sun this week! Lighter evenings are on the horizon, and with them a busy and exciting half-term ahead.

Here is our news from the past month.

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### **Year 11 Revision Evening**

A huge thank you to everyone who attended yesterday's Year 11 Revision Evening as we continue our final push towards the GCSE examination window. We hope you found the session useful and informative, particularly the guidance on how best to support students in structuring their revision at home.

Special thanks to Hannah and Wain for their contributions to the evening and for sharing practical strategies to help students feel confident and prepared in the weeks ahead. Please keep an eye out for the purple revision folders that students will be bringing home next week.

If you require any further support or have additional questions about revision, please do not hesitate to contact us at [belperschool@belperschool.co.uk](mailto:belperschool@belperschool.co.uk), where your enquiry will be forwarded to the appropriate member of staff.

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### **Love, Laughter and Forever After – Charity Music Event**

Earlier this month, we were treated to a special evening of music at our *Love, Laughter and Forever After* concert, organised by Esme-Rose in Year 10

Thanks to Esme's vision, determination and many hours of preparation, the event raised over £1,200 for the William Garvey Foundation and Treetops Hospice, a remarkable achievement. We are incredibly proud of Esme for the hard work she put into organising such a meaningful event, and we would also like to thank all the students who performed so confidently on the evening. It was a wonderful showcase of both talent and community spirit.

In true Belper style, as one performance closes, another is already in rehearsal. Lizzy in Year 12 is organising a concert taking place on 17 March: *Same Beat, Different Rhythm*, in support of neurodiversity charities. Rehearsals are now underway every Wednesday after school. Tickets are available via ParentPay. We look forward to another fantastic evening of music and celebration.

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## **INSET Days 2026–27**

You may have seen recent media coverage regarding school “INSET weeks” and suggestions that schools group their five INSET days together to create a week-long break to help families access cheaper holidays. This idea originates from an advertising campaign by a travel company and is not a government directive or policy change.

We have already begun receiving enquiries about when this proposed arrangement might take place at Belper School, so I would like to clarify our plans and explain why we are not able to adopt the approach suggested in the recent On the Beach campaign. While the proposal may suit their commercial interests, our responsibility is to ensure that INSET days are planned carefully around school priorities, staff development and examination schedules.

We all feel the frustration of higher holiday prices during official school breaks. Teachers and school staff are also bound by the same term dates, so we completely understand the financial pressures this creates.

For 2026–27, to help address this, we have attached three of our five INSET days to the summer holiday period to provide as many weekends as possible, giving families greater flexibility to book holidays at the beginning and end of the break when prices can sometimes be slightly lower. However, the remaining two INSET days are scheduled at time-limited points in the year to support staff training for our school priorities, examination moderation and new staff induction.

As a school with a Sixth Form, we must also carefully plan around external examinations, in-class NEA assessments and revision periods, which significantly limits when INSET days can be placed.

Our full INSET dates and calendar for next year can be found here:

<https://www.belperschool.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/2026-2027-Term-Dates.pdf>

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## **Spring Dress Code Reminder**

Despite the current rain showers (and the occasional brave appearance from the sun!), we know that students may already be thinking about lighter clothing as we step into the warmer months. Please be reminded of our school dress code:

- Tops should be appropriate for school and not display any aspect of underwear or expose the midriff. We are aware that during the winter months some students manage this by covering up with large coats, puffer jackets or hoodies. However, we do not want anyone to be caught out when the weather becomes too warm for these layers, so please ensure that clothing underneath always remains suitable for school.
  - Footwear should be suitable for school activities. Flip-flops and open-backed or open-toed shoes should not be worn. Crocs may be worn but should be in ‘Sport Mode’ (backs down).
  - While shorts are allowed (some of our boys have worn them throughout winter!), please note that very short gym shorts should not be worn.
  - Coats should be removed in lessons, including jackets and other outer garments. Jumpers and hoodies may remain on. Hoods from coats or hoodies should not be worn up inside the school building.
  - Piercings must be removed for PE lessons. Students should not wear piercings that cannot be removed to school.
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## Upcoming Events

**Week commencing 9 March (for two weeks)** Year 9 1:1 pathways meetings. Each student will receive an appointment with a senior leader to discuss their pathway choices.

**5 March** World Book Day: Information has been shared by Tamara in assemblies. This is a great opportunity for our students to 'Be Involved'!

**5 March** Year 12/13 Geography trip to Iceland

**12 March** Year 10 Parents' Consultation Evening

**13 March** Attitude to Learning reports sent home

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of our school community.

With best wishes,



Matilde Warden  
Headteacher

