

Dear Belper Families,

Belper School March Newsletter

It has been a short five-week half term, but as always, we've managed to pack a huge amount in. Just as it felt like we were starting to see the first signs of spring, this week reminded us we're not quite there yet, with a few unexpected snow flurries thrown in for good measure!

Staff Farewell

We said goodbye to Sarah Harrison, one of our English teachers today. We would like to thank her for her work here at Belper over the past 3 years. On Monday she will start an exciting new role as the Senior Education Officer with the Leicester Tigers Foundation. We wish her all the best for the future.

Year 9 Pathways Interviews

Over the past few weeks, we have met with every Year 9 student to talk about their pathway choices. It has been a genuinely enjoyable process, and it has been great to hear so many students speaking so positively about their future plans.

For those who are still undecided, the conversations have been just as important, giving everyone a bit of time and space to think things through properly, which isn't always easy during a busy school day.

We're now in the process of finalising groups, and students will receive their confirmed subjects by May half term.

Work Experience and Careers

A reminder for our Year 10 students that the deadline for submitting work experience placement information on Unifrog is coming up. The Easter holidays are a great time to sort this, so do make the most of it.

We also had our Year 8 Careers Inspiration Day this month, with a range of organisations coming in to run sessions. It was a really positive day, and it was great to see students engaging so well and asking lots of thoughtful questions.

Year 11 & Sixth Form

We're really pleased to share that we've had a record number of applications to our Sixth Form this year, which is fantastic news.

Year 11 students who have applied will have received their offer and should now accept these on Applicaa.

Our Sixth Form continues to grow and offers such a wide range of opportunities beyond the classroom.

Our termly Sixth Form Newsletter can be found here <https://www.belperschool.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Spring-Newsletter-2026.pdf> where you can all read about the opportunities and experiences from the students themselves.

You will be able to read about the recent Geography and Geology trip to Iceland, our International Women's Day activities, and of course, Same Beat, Different Rhythm, organised by two of our Sixth Formers which was a real highlight.

World Book Day

World Book Day was once again, a real success this year. A huge thank you to Tamara for organising it all.

There were lots of activities organised, from the brilliant Traitors-style mystery activity, which students absolutely loved, to some brilliant costumes around school. The door decorating was also a highlight. It was great to see so many classrooms getting involved and being so creative.

Enrichment at Belper

Enrichment is such a big part of what we do here, and this month has been no exception.

Some of our Year 8 and 9 students took part in a hands-on STEAM workshop where they built chain reaction machines using everyday materials. It was messy, creative and full of problem-solving, exactly what you'd want. Matt Pang, who led the session, was fantastic, and four students will now go on to represent the school at the Derby Makes Advanced Manufacturing Conference.

Our book group, led by Sarah, our Librarian, also had a great time at the Derbyshire Schools Book Award final at Derby University. They listened to author Sarah Hagger-Holt, shared their own ideas and represented the school brilliantly, as they always do.

At the Young Enterprise trade fair, students did a fantastic job running their stall. With the support of Carol McKenzie, they made over £50 in sales and received lots of positive feedback. We're looking forward to hearing how they've done overall next month.

In performing arts, our LAMDA students gave a really lovely showcase of speeches, monologues and songs. It's always great to see their confidence grow.

It's been a strong month for sport too. We've had Joyce L from Year 8 and Lucy N from Year 10 representing Derbyshire at the National Cross Country Championships in Liverpool, which is a huge achievement. Our Year 7 and 8 girls' football team have also had a great season, finishing as district runners-up.

We were also really proud to hear that Emily T in Year 8 won the Belper 250 Past, Present, Future Arts Competition, an amazing achievement and very well deserved.

However, none of these great opportunities happen without staff giving their time and energy to create them, so a big thank you to them.

Finally

As we head towards the Easter break, thank you to you all for your continued support and encouragement in what has been another busy and positive term.

We hope you all have a really enjoyable and restful holiday.

Happy Easter!



Matilde Warden

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