

— Spring —

Sixth Form Newsletter

Belper School and Sixth Form Centre



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Message from the Sixth Form team *Paul, Carolyn, Lizzie and Jo*

With the harsh winter now behind us we take a moment to look back on the remarkable achievements within our Sixth Form. In this edition, we are also thrilled to showcase some of the outstanding accomplishments of our students:

These stories are just a glimpse of the remarkable talent and dedication present within our Sixth Form community. Additionally, we introduce members of the Sixth Form Student Ambassadors and highlight the important part they play for themselves and the people they support.

To support everyone as we approach exam season, we've included some practical revision tips to help prepare for upcoming assessments.

This term has been filled with remarkable achievements and growth, and as we look ahead, we continue to reflect on the progress we've made together. We hope this edition inspires you to keep striving for excellence and embracing new opportunities in the months ahead.



Student Finance

Student Finance Applications open from Monday 23rd March

Apply is now open for 2026/27 student finance in England online via [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk). You do not need a confirmed university place to apply; use your first-choice option and update it later.

Applications take ~30 minutes, requiring your National Insurance number, passport, and bank details.

Key Steps for 2026/27 Application:

- When to Apply: Applications for September 2026 opened March 23rd 2026.
- Create an Account: Set up an account on the [Student Finance England portal](#).
- Application Details:
- Apply with your first-choice course/uni.
- Include parent/partner details for household income assessment to maximise maintenance loans.
- Have your passport and National Insurance number ready.
- Submit Early: Apply before the deadline (usually May/June) to ensure funds are in place for the start of term.
- Evidence: Upload any requested proof (e.g., identity documents) directly to your account.

For specific, up-to-date presentation slides or official guidance, it is recommended to monitor the [Student Finance England Campaign site](#) for 2026 updates.

UNDERGRADUATE
FULL-TIME STUDENTS

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APPLY FOR STUDENT FINANCE FROM

MONDAY 23 MARCH!



You do not need a confirmed university place to apply; use your first-choice option and update it later.

UNDERGRADUATE
FULL-TIME STUDENTS

sfe

HOW MUCH CAN I GET?

Household income	Maintenance Loan living away from your parents and studying outside London	Maintenance Loan living away from your parents and studying in London	Maintenance Loan living with your parents
£25,000	£10,830	£14,135	£9,118
£30,000	£10,058	£13,349	£8,354
£40,000	£8,512	£11,777	£6,825
£50,000	£6,967	£10,205	£5,296
£60,000	£5,421	£8,632	£4,013
£70,131	£5,048	£7,039	£4,013

International Women's Day

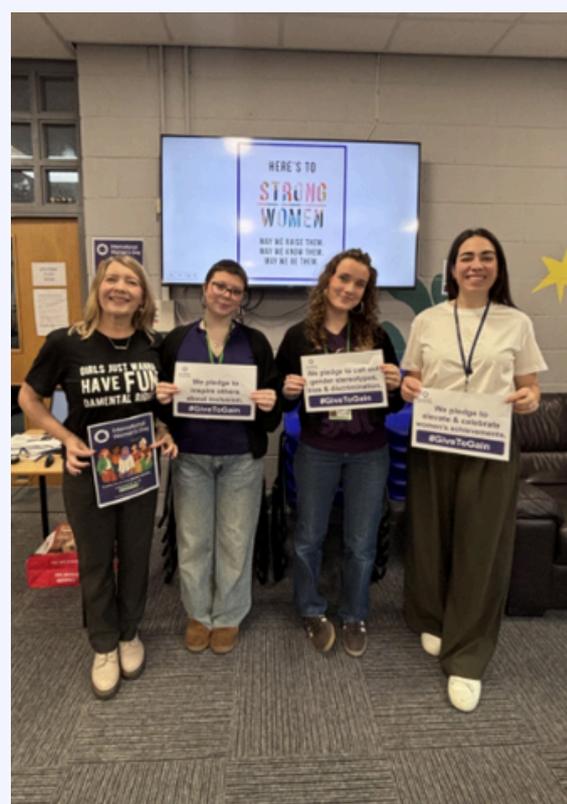


Year 13 students Marianna and Maddie delivered a thoughtful and engaging assembly to the Sixth Form in celebration of International Women's Day. They presented with confidence and clarity, proving themselves to be inspiring role models within the school community. The assembly also featured a fantastic performance by Colette, who sang a song by CMAT, adding a memorable and uplifting touch to the event. A big well done to all involved for such a meaningful and empowering celebration.

This is what Maddie said about the event:

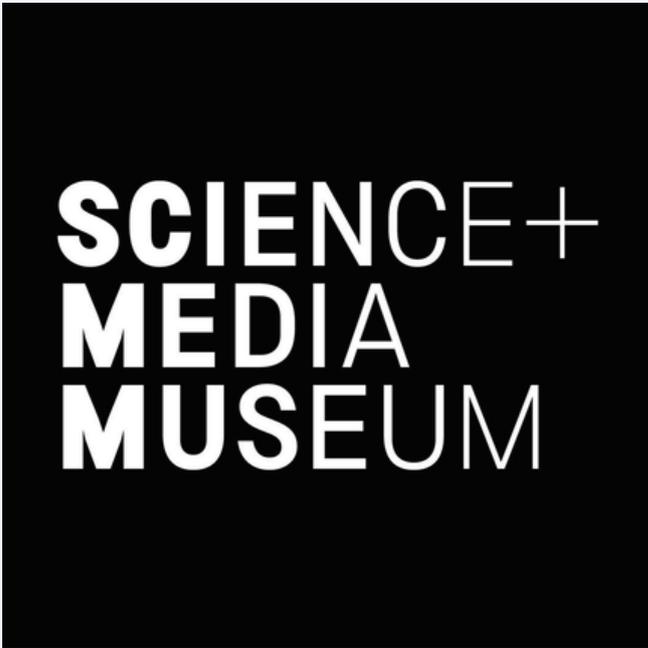
'When I was first asked to deliver the assembly, I felt incredibly nervous and self-conscious about how I might be perceived. However, only then did I truly begin to understand the importance of International Women's Day. Reflecting on my initial reaction made me realise how often women and girls feel hesitant to speak out, concerned about judgement or not being taken seriously. This is exactly why raising awareness matters. International Women's Day is not only a celebration of women's achievements and how many countries have progressed in the past century, but also a reminder of the barriers that still exist and the importance of continuing to challenge them.'

“International Women's Day is... a reminder of the barriers that still exist and the importance of continuing to challenge them.”



National Science and Media Museum Trip

Zoe in Year 13 tells us about her experiences



At the start of the year, the Year 10, 11, 12, and 13 Film and Media students of Belper school went to the National Science and Media museum in Bradford, which was an incredible day out, on a surprisingly comfortable coach. We walked around six floors, each with their own focus. Fascinating exhibits caught our eye at every turn- interactive marvels of film, the art and science of light and sound, exhibits of culture and music, the history of all aspects of media and a cinema screen the size of a London Bus. Yes, it's true- the Bradford Science and Media museum houses one of the largest IMAX cinema screens in the country. A wide range of films is on offer for visitors to see, from classics like 'The Shining' and 'E.T.' to blazing new titles like 'Project Hail Mary' and 'If I Had Legs I'd Kick You.' We watched an educational film about human life- I myself and many others cried. It was truly marvellous. This was no stuffy museum- almost everything was interactive, from lightning-fast cameras that could capture the smallest movements, to a mirror maze, a Foley effect studio, a life-size Dalek (thankfully not an animatronic- I would have jumped out of my skin if that thing moved) and even a room that put you on eight screens at once, with fever-dream music video special effects. We even got to see the beginning of a Corrie/Emmerdale crossover event, with all the stars there.



This day out was truly an incredible experience for every type of student- the artists, scientists, historians and future film-makers alike. It was wonderful to see such unique exhibits, learn about film and spend time with friends there!

Food Bank Donations

Year 12 student Darlaa recently organised a collection in support of Hope for Belper Food Bank, demonstrating fantastic initiative and community spirit.

Thanks to the generosity of both staff and students, a wonderful range of donations was gathered. These contributions were gratefully received by Jo from the food bank, who expressed sincere appreciation for the school's support.

A big well done to Darlaa for leading such a meaningful effort and making a positive impact in the local community.





Iceland Trip

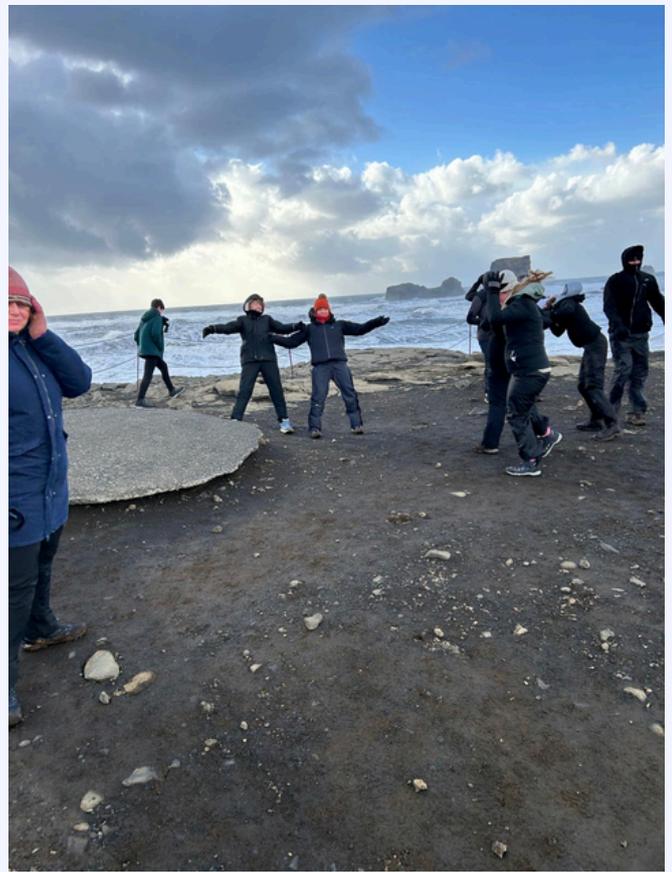
Orla and Marianna in Year 13 told us about their experiences in Iceland.

Taking Geography A-level, we knew the Iceland trip was an option, but we never knew how amazing it would be! We went for four days, but it was packed with fun things all day, every day... Thank you so much to the geography teachers, Kirsty and Mick, for taking us.

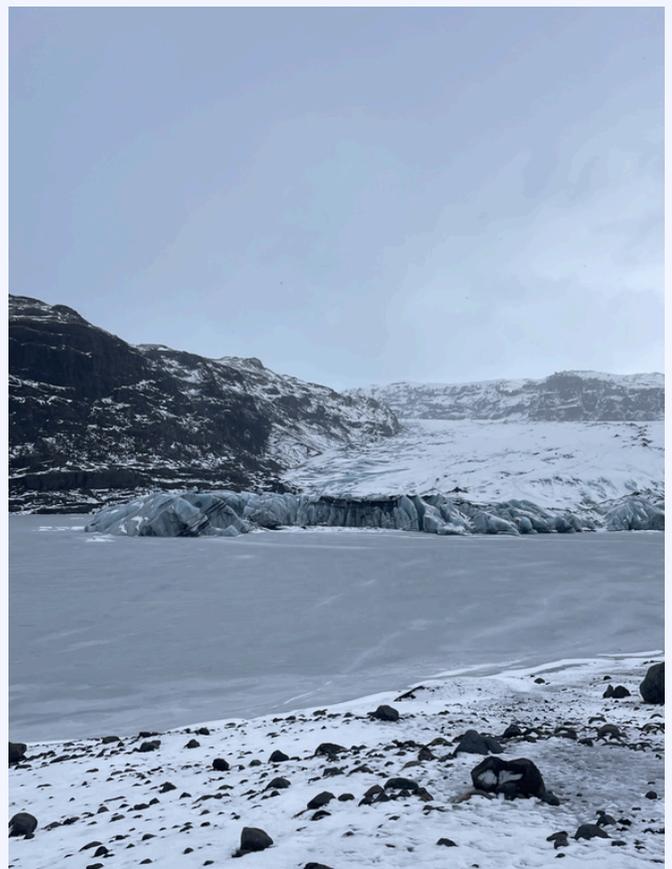
We did a huge range of activities, including a geothermal spa (with a beautiful mountainous view), saw countless waterfalls (somehow every one was just as impressive), walked around incredible landscapes with geysers everywhere, and even saw Icelandic horses. We also seemed to experience every weather type within an hour! Definitely take your coats if you are going to Iceland...

I think my personal favourite activity has to be the Skógafoss waterfall, where we went up some steps (too many!) to be at the top of the waterfall and look down, experiencing its amazing size and a lot of water spray—where one of our Year 13s unfortunately lost his glove... Icelandic winds are no joke! However, it was beautiful and definitely worth the trek.

Overall, the trip was amazing, and we are all so incredibly grateful to have been offered this opportunity, made even better by our amazing tour guides, with their shortened Icelandic names being 'God' and 'Allah'. It was also super fun and bonding for the Year 12 and 13s (one big snowball fight later). We definitely won't forget Mick and Kirsty almost being taken out by the western coastal winds any time soon... an amazing trip.



“We never knew how amazing it would be.”





Young Enterprise

Evie and Lauren in Year 12 reflect on creating and running their Derbyshire cookbook business in Young Enterprise.

Within the Sixth Form there is an extra-curricular opportunity to do the Young Enterprise programme which runs for a year, allowing you to participate in a team of hard-working, ambitious individuals of which you work together to create a business, producing, marketing and selling a final product(s).

This year, our Young Enterprise Team have collectively decided to produce a cookbook based on traditional Derbyshire recipes, in which we all played a role by researching recipes and creating one each at home to photograph for the book., which took a few weeks to put it all together (put the recipes in the book, choose the colour scheme and actually create and take the photos of the homemade trials). But to fund our production and marketing we carried out frequent bakesales, creating the treats at home, advertising on social media and then selling to students throughout the school. We were also fortunate enough to have acquired a card reader by this stage, allowing us to have flexible payment methods, ultimately leading us to a lot more revenue to spend on the cookbook, marketing and aesthetic of the trade stall. But it ultimately came down to the brilliant sales team we have, encouraging people to purchase our goodies, as the more revenue we had, the more flexibility we had around purchasing books.

When pricing the cookbook, we needed to generate a profit but at a fair price and that's how we came up with £7.50 and delivery is a fixed standard at £3, as we offer online delivery through our social media accounts (Instagram [@belperpeakappetites](#) and Tiktok [@peakappetite](#)) and through a qr code which is printed onto our leaflets and is going to be on display on our trade stall. The link/qr code takes you to a google form created by us to fill in your details, then we send everyone the same email, providing our bank details for us to then receive their payment, then we package and send out the book to the provided details.

After we had a decent pot of money, we started purchasing the marketing (leaflets, bookmarks and stickers), the sweets from Oh So Sweet Belper and stall accessories, which are essential to show we are a good quality brand.



Our mission statement is: Our mission is to build a good business reputation and relationship with customers from being reliable and providing good communication. Overall, promoting recipes from Derbyshire in a quality cookbook published by us. Our goals: Make home cooks feel more confident at home, share easily accessible recipes., build a good business reputation and teach people a little bit about Derbyshire.

Our business values: prioritise our customers, cooking should be accessible to everyone, we are promoting a meaningful area to our team, local sourcing and community through some larger portion sizes.

Our in person event is at Chesterfield Market on 19th March 2026 and if we make it past that stage we will be at the final! Regardless, the books are available to purchase online throughout this whole time period.





Charity Concert

Lizzy in Year 12 talks us through the concert that she organised and her motivations

Our concert took place in the school hall on Tuesday 17th March. It featured a range of acts including solo acts, duets, a group dance and even a band featuring 8 students across all year groups and Phil the music teacher! There were 31 students that took part on stage and 5 that helped with the technical side. We've estimated with Anna that we've managed to raise over £800!

Neurodiversity UK is a charity that supports and empowers people who are neurodivergent and Family Fund is a charity that provides grants and services to families raising a disabled or seriously ill child or young person.

One of the most inspiring acts of the night was 4 girls in Year 8 who were all nervous at the beginning of rehearsals however on the night they smashed it and even performed sign language while singing Count on me together.

A huge thank you is needed to the teachers that helped me organise this show. Anna and Sarah helped me organise all of the rehearsals and made sure that everything ran smoothly along the way, Carolyn helped me organise the raffle and think of even more ways we could raise money for these incredible charities and Phil helped with all of the tech side happening backstage.

At first, this show seemed like a huge challenge as there weren't many people at auditions and even fewer than turned up to the first few rehearsals. However perseverance showed that anything is possible when you put your mind to it. I hope to be able to do this again next year, however supporting more charities next time!

Here are some words of appreciation from Henley, one of the Year 8 students who performed on the evening.

"This experience has meant more to me than I can fully explain. I've grown in confidence, learned so much, and made memories that I'll always carry with me. It wouldn't have been the same without every one of you. I always felt supported around you all, and that meant everything to me.

A special thank you to Lizzy and Darcy for this amazing opportunity—I will never forget what you have done for me. You believed in me when I didn't believe in myself, and that means more than I can say. I owe you both a huge thank you."



"We've estimated that we've managed to raise over £800!"

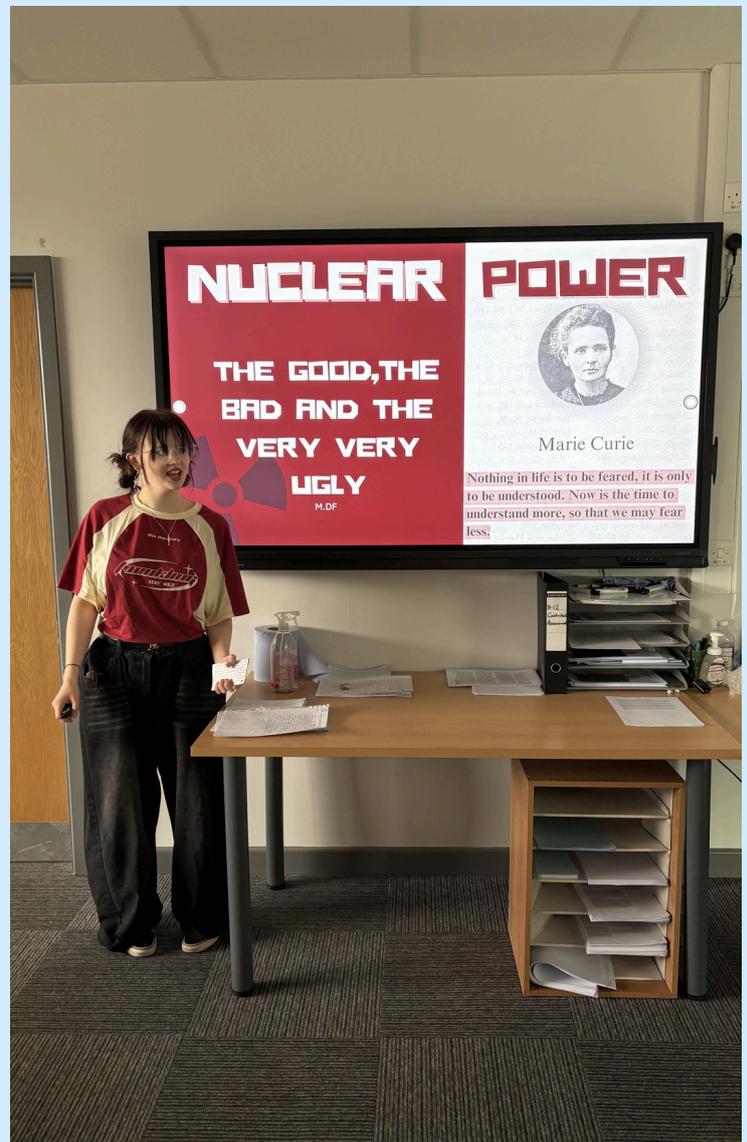


EPQ Success

Our students recently showcased their hard work and intellectual curiosity through their EPQ (Extended Project Qualification) presentations, delivering a series of thoughtful, well-researched, and highly engaging talks.

Topics ranged widely, reflecting the diverse interests of our cohort, and each student demonstrated not only subject knowledge but also impressive skills in critical thinking, independent research, and confident communication. Among the highlights were Mia's compelling exploration, "How can the applications of nuclear physics both eliminate and sustain life, and should we continue to harness nuclear power due to this paradox?", which sparked lively discussion around ethics, sustainability, and scientific responsibility. Equally thought-provoking was Hannah's project, "To what extent do genes influence behaviour as opposed to the environment?", offering a fascinating insight into the ongoing debate surrounding nature versus nurture.

It was inspiring to see students take ownership of their learning, respond to questions with maturity, and present their ideas with such professionalism. The EPQ continues to be a valuable opportunity for students to explore their passions in depth, and we are incredibly proud of the dedication, curiosity, and achievement displayed by all involved.



Coursework Efforts

This has been an incredibly busy time for all Year 13 students with several subjects completing their NEA pieces and coursework. Despite initial fears about the magnitude of the tasks, it's been fantastic to see so many finally hand in completed pieces and take a sense of real pride in their achievements.

Our Year 13 Art Students are well underway with their preparation for their final exam. The exam will last two days in early May. It's fair to say that what they are producing is exceptional and would encourage everyone to pop down and see their final showcase following exam moderation.





Revision Tips

As A-Level exams slowly creep forward in May and with Year 12 Mock Exams quickly approaching behind between 15th & 24th June, it's important that we know how to revise effectively. However, for everyone it may be different, so it's important to know what revision strategies work for you! In this section, we will go through some revision strategies and some tips in general. To make the most of your revision, it's really important to use different study methods that suit your learning style.

- Flashcards can be super effective for memorization, allowing you to quiz yourself on key terms and concepts.
- Practicing past papers is great for getting familiar with exam formats and types of questions, helping you feel more confident when the time comes.
- Mind maps can also be really helpful, as they allow you to visualise connections between different ideas, making it easier to recall information during exams.
- Limiting procrastination is crucial, so try to set specific goals for each study session and stick to a schedule. Techniques like the Pomodoro Technique, where you study for 25 minutes and then take a 5-minute break, can help keep you focused and productive.
- Don't forget to take regular breaks to recharge your mind; this can help prevent burnout.
- Staying active is also key, as physical activity can boost your mood and concentration.
- Finally, make sure you get enough sleep, as it's essential for memory retention and overall cognitive function.

By incorporating these strategies into your study routine, you can enhance your revision process and improve your results significantly!

Important Dates for Revision:

A Level Exams begin on: 11th May
Year 12 Mocks begin on: 15th June

Revision POWER HOUR

Get the most out of your revision with a power hour. Here's a step-by-step of how to do it.

- STEP 01**
Choose a past paper question
Google your subject, level and exam board e.g. "Geography A-Level Past Papers AQA"
- STEP 02**
Revise
Spend 20 minutes revising what you need to know to answer your question
- STEP 03**
Do the question
Set a timer for 20 minutes and answer the past paper question you chose
- STEP 04**
Mark your answer
Using the mark scheme for the past paper mark your answer. This will help you to think like an examiner
- STEP 05**
Get feedback
Show your teacher your work. Ask them whether your marking is accurate and how you could improve your answers

lifemoreextraordinary.com



Sixth Form Diversity Ambassadors



Sixth form Diversity Ambassadors offer support to any younger students who are struggling in school. They attend lessons with students, work one to one and in small groups in our Access department, and mentor students during registration.

A huge thanks to these students for their kindness and compassion, it is greatly appreciated.

Message from Alex in Access:

Georgie helps out our ACCESS students in the Y11 Employability group. She even biked down to join us on our trip to Belper- my group really enjoy her company. She always has a positive outlook and gives them survival tips for Y11, job hunting and life in general! Georgie throws herself into any task with enthusiasm and we are delighted to have her on- board the ACCESS ship!

Sienna and Naiya are new to Belper School but have embraced our Be Belper values with gusto! They help in ACCESS with Y10 Employability and will tackle anything , be it cake decorating, fathoming out our IT pickles, treasure hunts or just generally keeping us organised! They are both unlocking skills they never knew they had and discovering that helping younger students is very rewarding.



“A huge thanks to these students for their kindness and compassion, it is greatly appreciated.”



Japanese Visitors

日本人観光客

Belper School Sixth Form recently played a key role in making a very special visit unforgettable.

A group of 14 students from Toyota City in Japan travelled all the way to spend the day at Belper School. They were each paired with a Sixth Form buddy from Years 12 and 13, creating a warm and welcoming experience from the moment they arrived.

Our Sixth Form students were truly exceptional. They showed kindness, respect, and genuine hospitality throughout the day, even preparing thoughtful gifts for their Japanese partners. The visitors experienced a full day of school life. They attended lessons, toured the school, and spent time at break and lunch getting a real sense of the social side of being a student at Belper. Along the way, they met many other students, and it was wonderful to see members of the wider school community greeting them with cheerful “konnichiwa” in corridors and around the site.

One of the highlights of the day was an hour spent making scones from scratch with Karen, giving our visitors a taste of a traditional English treat. Although the visit lasted just one day, it was clear that meaningful friendships were formed. It was a memorable experience for everyone involved and a fantastic example of the inclusive and supportive spirit of our school.

This special day would not have been possible without the enthusiasm and dedication of our incredible Sixth Form students.



“One of the highlights of the day was an hour spent making scones from scratch with Karen, giving our visitors a taste of a traditional English treat.”



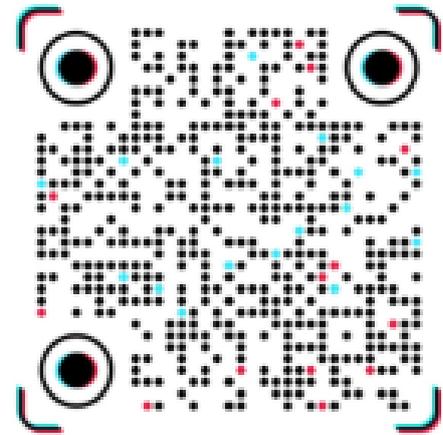
Planned Events for the Future

- Monday 23rd March - Student Finance application window opens
- Friday 17th April - Year 12 trip to Uni of Derby 2026 Fair
- Friday 8th May - Year 13 leavers lunch (and last day in lessons)
- Friday 15th May - Deadline for Year 13 Prom payments
- Monday 15th June to Friday 24th June - Year 12 mock exam period
- Wednesday 24th June - Year 13 Prom
- Wednesday 24th June - Year 12 Work Experience deadline
- Thursday 25th & Friday 26th June - INSET days
- Friday 3rd July - Year 12 (current year 11) transition day
- Monday 13th to Friday 17th July - Year 12 work experience
- Monday 20th July - Royal Literary Fund Year 12 essay skills day



Belpersixth

@belpersixthform



TikTok



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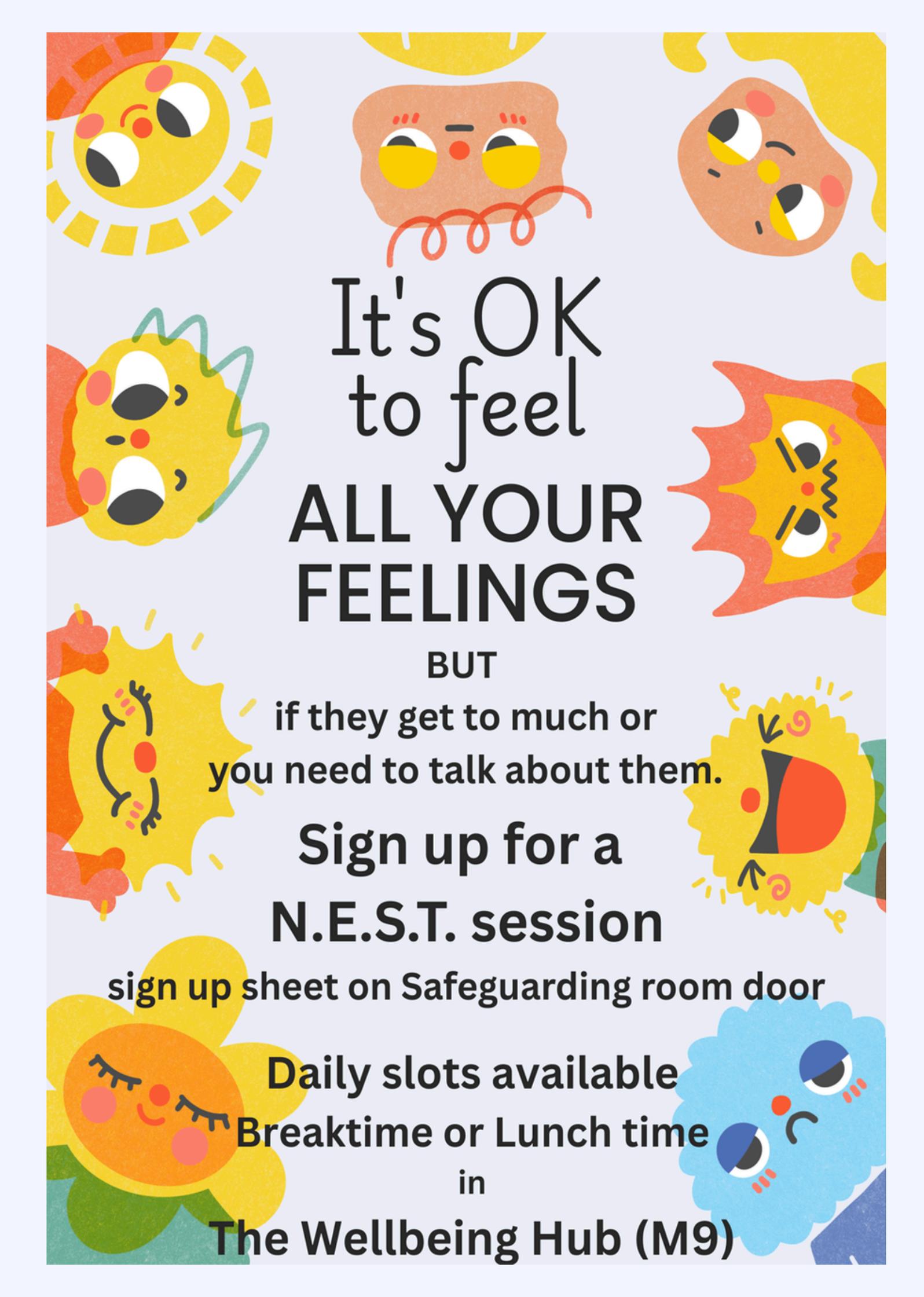
Share link

Important Notice



Please remember we need a parent / guardian to inform us of a student's absence (even if your child is over the age of 18).

This can be done using the school absence line on 01773 825281 or email sixthform@belperschool.co.uk



It's OK
to feel
**ALL YOUR
FEELINGS**

BUT

if they get to much or
you need to talk about them.

**Sign up for a
N.E.S.T. session**

sign up sheet on Safeguarding room door

**Daily slots available
Breaktime or Lunch time
in**

The Wellbeing Hub (M9)