

Dear Belper Families,

Belper School April Newsletter

Due to the Easter holidays, we have only had three weeks in school since the last newsletter; however, we have certainly squeezed a lot in, with a wide range of activities, visits and achievements already taking place.

Music Department – Battle of the Bands and School Production

In the first week back, we were delighted to host our second Battle of the Bands competition here at Belper School. Six bands from schools across Derbyshire came together to perform, creating a fantastic atmosphere and an enjoyable evening for everyone involved. Congratulations to West Park School, Derby, who took the top prize, and to St Mary's, Chesterfield, who won the audience award. We are already looking forward to the next event where hopefully, we will take home the golden drumsticks!

It was a truly joyous event and a wonderful celebration of the musical talent across our local schools.

The next day, auditions were held for our next show, *Guys and Dolls*. Sarah and Anna now have the difficult job of deciding who will be who! The cast will be performing at our annual Creative Industries Arts Festival and Celebration Evenings this summer. Details to follow in next month's newsletter.

Young Enterprise Company Programme Competition

This week, our talented Year 12 Young Enterprise team, *Peak Appetites*, attended the Company Programme Derbyshire County Final at the SMH Group Stadium in Chesterfield. Up against some incredibly energetic competition from other schools across Derbyshire, our team emerged victorious as the winner for Derbyshire for the second year in a row! The team also picked up an additional trophy as winner for the "Innovation" category.

As Derbyshire winners, we will now go on to represent our county at the Regional Finals at De Montfort University on Wednesday 20 May.



Our Students Shine at the Derbyshire Makes Advanced Manufacturing Conference

Students from Belper School recently had the exciting opportunity to attend the Derbyshire Makes Advanced Manufacturing Conference at Masson Mills.

During the event, our students were invited to speak in front of an audience of CEOs, business owners, and managers to share their experiences of the STEAM-themed workshop they had recently completed in school. The audience were highly impressed by the students' maturity and enthusiasm. The positive feedback continued as students spoke with delegates afterwards, many of whom were extremely complimentary about both the work completed in school and the way our students conducted themselves throughout the day.



Thorpe Park Resort Visit

As part of our Business curriculum, Year 10 and Year 13 students visited the Thorpe Park Resort in Surrey on Tuesday 21 April. Students got to experience the different aspects the park offers in terms of providing entertainment to the paying public. On a very sunny and pleasant day, our students got to ride Hyperia, the tallest rollercoaster in the UK, plus attractions such as Nemesis Inferno and The Swarm. Our students were exceptionally well behaved, polite and pleasant. They exemplified all the Be Belper values to a tee! It was so nice to see all the smiling faces at the end of the day, and a good time was had by all.

Duke of Edinburgh Update

For their practice walk, 117 Year 10 students, split into 20 teams walked a circular route from Belper through Denby Village, Codnor Breach, Marehay and Boothgate.

Students all made it around in one piece, although unfortunately their equipment didn't fare quite as well! There were a few pairs of boots lost in a very muddy patch in Denby Village that had to be retrieved over the weekend.

The students finished in high spirits and are now looking ahead to their final expedition on Thursday 22 and Friday 23 of May, where they will be camping overnight at in Matlock.

Maths Department University Study Day

A group of 12 Year 11 students recently visited the University of Derby for their second higher-level maths study day, aimed at helping them achieve the next grade in their upcoming exams. During the visit, students took part in three focused revision sessions covering vectors, compound measures, and histograms. They also enjoyed a guided tour of the university campus. The day proved highly beneficial, with students gaining valuable knowledge and confidence to support their exam preparation.

Derby Theatre Visit – Macbeth

Students from Years 9, 10 and 11 attended the Derby Theatre on two evenings earlier this term to watch *Macbeth*. The performance will support Year 11 students with their upcoming GCSE examinations. It was thoroughly enjoyed by both staff and students, and we were particularly proud to receive compliments from other audience members on the conduct of our students, who, as always, made us very proud.

PE Department – District Champions

I am delighted to share that our combined Year 10 and Year 11 boys' football team have been crowned District Champions. They have enjoyed an outstanding season, conceding just two goals all year.



It has also been wonderful to see new players joining the squad this year, with some students representing the school team for the very first time, reflecting the inclusive and welcoming approach within the PE department. They have clearly been a fantastic group of students, and I know colleagues in the PE department have thoroughly enjoyed working with them.

Higher Education Fair – Year 12

Last week, Paul and the Sixth Form team took our Year 12 students to the University of Derby for this year's Regional Higher Education Fair. Students explored Post-18 options, asked questions directly to university admissions teams, attended workshops on personal statements, degree apprenticeships, and university funding, and experienced subject tasters. It was a really positive and informative day to help them begin planning their next steps.

Community News and Opportunities

Belper Arts Trail

This year, we are taking part in the Belper Arts Trail for the first time. We will be exhibiting a selection of work from students across all year groups, alongside live music from our talented singers and musicians. Students taking part in the Botswana World Challenge will also be raising funds by selling a variety of cakes.

This year's event is particularly special as it forms part of the celebrations marking the 250th anniversary of Jedidiah Strutt's first water-powered cotton mill, recognising the heritage that helped shape the creativity and community we see in Belper today.

The event will take place at the 4th Belper Scout Hut, behind the Methodist Church, on Sunday 3 and Bank Holiday Monday 4 May, from 10.30am – 4.30pm on both days.

Come and join us. We would love to see you there.

Belper Leisure Centre Offer

As you will be aware, we work very closely with Belper Leisure Centre, and we are delighted that they are kindly offering all our students and staff a reduced membership.

The membership is £21.00 per month with no joining fee.

To sign up as a new member:

Visit the Trilogy Active Belper website [Trilogy Active Belper | Belper Leisure Centre](#)

Select the appropriate membership:

Supergold Single 1 Month – Adult

Student- (14+)

Junior Active- (11–13 years)

Join Now

Enter the promo code **BSCHOOL**

Follow the instructions to complete your registration

To update an existing membership*:

Contact Customer Service Mailbox customerservice@trilogyactive.co.uk

Quote promo code **BSCHOOL**

Complete details (name/DOB/address)

*Please note if an existing member is in a 12-month committed membership, the promo will only work at the end of their contract.

An Evening with Brian and Melvyn Mole

We are incredibly fortunate at Belper School to have built a fabulous partnership in recent years with the Duffield and Belper Rotary. Their ongoing support for our students has been outstanding. From fundraising events and student leadership development, to supporting residential experiences and providing annual awards, the Rotary group has made a genuine and lasting difference to opportunities available for our young people.

We are delighted to share that the Rotary group has arranged a special community event that promises to be a fantastic evening of entertainment. On 8 May, Brian and Melvyn Mole from *Race Across the World* will be appearing at St Peter's Church for an evening of stories from their time on the show.

This is a wonderful opportunity for our wider community to come together, enjoy a memorable evening, and show support for an organisation that gives so much back to our students.

Tickets are available via Eventbrite here:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1985574362368?aff=oddtcreator>

Hot Weather Reminders

As we move into May, it is likely that we will experience some warmer weather over the next few weeks. Please ensure that students bring a water bottle to school to help them stay hydrated. Bottles can be refilled at designated times, before school, at break, and at lunchtime. However, students will not be permitted to leave lessons to refill their bottles.

As always, we ask students to dress appropriately for school, remembering that it is a place of work. Clothing should be suitable for a school environment: tops should cover the midriff, and clothing should not reveal underwear. These expectations apply to all students.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that aerosols are not permitted in school for safety reasons. If students wish to bring deodorants, these should be roll-on products rather than sprays.

If the weather is particularly warm, students spending time outside are encouraged to use sunscreen. There are supervised indoor space available at break and lunchtime for those who would prefer to stay out of the sun.

Looking Ahead – Exams and Key Dates

The exam season is fast approaching for both Year 11 and Year 13 students. These are important milestones, and our students have been working hard in preparation over recent months.

Key upcoming dates include:

- Year 13 Celebration Event – Friday 8 May
- Year 13 Study Leave begins – Monday 11 May
- Year 11 Leavers' Assembly – Friday 15 May
- Year 11 Study Leave begins – Monday 18 May

I am sure you will join me in wishing all our students the very best of luck as they begin their examinations. We are incredibly proud of their efforts and know they will approach this next stage with determination and resilience.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We hope you enjoy the bank holiday weekend.

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Matilde Warden

Headteacher, Belper School and Sixth Form Centre

