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Dear Belper Families,

Belper School June Newsletter

A very warm welcome to all our new Belper families who have recently joined our community.

Last night we welcomed our new Year 6 parents for our Induction Evening, and it was lovely to see so many families in the hall. Today, we welcomed our new Year 6 students into school for their first transition day, and they have been an absolute pleasure to welcome. They have experienced a range of lessons, met new staff and students, and begun to find their way around their new school. I'm sure they'll have plenty to tell you about when they get home this evening, and we look forward to welcoming them back for their second transition day tomorrow.

On Friday, we will also be welcoming our new Year 12 students for their Sixth Form Induction Day. We are particularly looking forward to meeting those students who will be joining us from other schools as they begin the next stage of their education with us.

End of Exam Season

We have now reached the end of what has been a long and demanding exam season for our Year 11 and Year 13 students. For some of our Year 11 students, this meant sitting more than 20 examinations over the course of several weeks. It certainly was an intense and often exhausting schedule.

Throughout it all, our students demonstrated real maturity, resilience and determination. They arrived prepared, stayed focused, and approached each exam with a positive attitude, often encouraging and supporting one another along the way. The way they conducted themselves, both in and out of the exam rooms, was a real credit to them. Several of our invigilators took the time to comment on just how impressed they were with our students' behaviour, courtesy and attitude throughout the exam period.

We know how much hard work has taken place behind the scenes too: revision sessions, early mornings, late nights and plenty of perseverance. Whatever their results in August, our students should feel incredibly proud of the commitment and resilience they have shown during this important stage of their education.

A huge thank you must also go to our Exams Team and our invigilators, whose calm organisation and support ensured everything ran so smoothly. Their hard work often goes unseen, but it is very much appreciated

Prom Celebrations

Following their examinations, both our Year 11 and Year 13 students celebrated these important milestones with their Proms.

Year 11 enjoyed a wonderful evening on a very hot evening, at the beautiful setting of Shottle Hall. Students were welcomed by their families, teachers and support staff, who gathered to watch them arrive and share in the celebration. It was lovely to see the pride on everyone's faces as students stepped out in a wide variety of outfits that reflected their own personalities and style. The evening perfectly captured our vision of *'Be who you are, become who you aspire to be'*, celebrating individuality, achievement and the exciting futures ahead.

For many of our Year 11 students, the prom was not a farewell but the beginning of the next chapter. We are delighted that the majority will be continuing their journey with us in our Sixth Form, and we look forward to welcoming them back this Friday for their Transition Day.

Our Year 13 Prom took place on the same evening at Horsley Lodge and was a fitting celebration of their time at Belper School. For many, this marked the end of a seven-year journey with us, and it was an evening filled with laughter, reflection and enormous pride in everything they have achieved.

We now look forward to welcoming them back on A Level Results Day in August before they head off to universities, apprenticeships, employment and a whole range of exciting opportunities. We wish every one of them the very best for the future.

Year 8 and 9 German Language Trip

Our Year 8 and 9 students returned this week from a memorable German language immersion trip. Rather than simply visiting Germany, students were encouraged to use their German throughout the entire experience. They ordered every meal in German, took part in a high ropes course delivered entirely in German, and explored Cologne Cathedral with German-speaking guides. Although this was challenging at times, students embraced every opportunity to use the language and developed both their confidence and their communication skills.

The trip concluded with a well-earned day at Phantasialand, one of Germany's most popular theme parks.

Our staff commented on how brilliantly the students represented Belper School, demonstrating enthusiasm, curiosity, resilience and kindness throughout the visit.

A huge thank you goes to Sarah, James, Leanne, Laura and Jack, who gave up time with their own families to make this experience possible and to ensure that our students were supported and cared for every step of the way.

Creative Industries Festival

Earlier this month we held our third annual Creative Industries Festival, and once again it was a real celebration of the creativity and talent within our school community.

The afternoon featured an impressive programme of performances, including a preview of performances from our forthcoming production of *Guys and Dolls*, alongside drama performances from our students. Visitors were also able to enjoy our GCSE and A Level Art Exhibition, showcasing an outstanding collection of artwork produced over the past year. The festival also welcomed local community organisations with information stalls. The new doodle wall, which was started on the evening continues to grow as students add their own creative contributions each day.

The festival has become an important part of the Belper calendar and reflects our commitment to celebrating the creative industries and recognising the important role that creativity, the arts and performance play in enriching school life.

As we approach the end of another busy month, I would like to thank you, as always, for your continued support. I would like to thank you in particular, for the support of the new mobile phone procedures. As predicted, our students have taken the change in their stride.

I continue to be incredibly proud of our students, whose achievements, kindness and resilience never fail to impress me. I'd also like to thank our wonderful staff for everything they do each day, and you, our families, for the support and encouragement you provide at home. Together, we continue to make Belper School the welcoming, ambitious and caring community that it is.

With best wishes,



Matilde Warden
Headteacher