

Dear Belper Families,

Belper School – July Newsletter

As another busy and successful school year draws to a close, I wanted to send one final newsletter to thank you for your continued support and to say goodbye to a number of valued colleagues who are leaving us this summer.

There are also several important reminders and key dates for the summer and the start of the new academic year, so please do read on and keep this newsletter handy to refer to over the holidays.

Staff Farewells

As always at this time of year, we say goodbye to colleagues who have made an important contribution to Belper School, and this year we have some particularly significant farewells.

After an incredible 33 years at Belper School, Adrian Daly retires this summer. Over more than three decades, Adrian has made an enormous contribution to the school and to the lives of countless students. His dedication, professionalism and unwavering commitment to Belper School have been exceptional. His retirement truly marks the end of an era and, whilst we will miss him enormously, we wish him every happiness and good health in his retirement.

We also say farewell to Debbie Norman, who retires after 33 years as one of our Specialist Teaching Assistants. Debbie has supported generations of students with kindness, patience and care, quietly making a difference every single day. We thank her sincerely for her remarkable service and wish her a long, happy and well-deserved retirement.

This term we also say goodbye to Josie Bate, who returned to Belper School this year to provide long-term cover in our Humanities Faculty. It has been a pleasure to have her back as part of the team, and we are grateful for everything she has contributed over the past year. We wish her every happiness as she begins her new adventure in Manchester.

Finally, we wish Mark Hadfield every success as he leaves Belper School to take up a new role at Derby UTC. During his two years with us, Mark has made a valuable contribution to our Technology Faculty. We thank him for everything he has done for Belper School and wish him every success in the future.

End of Term and Return to School

School closes for the summer holidays tomorrow, **Thursday 23 July at 1.05pm.**

Students return to school on **Tuesday 8 September** at the usual start time.

The only exception is our new Year 12 students, who will be invited into school on the afternoon of Monday 7 September to complete their lanyard photographs, ParentPay fingerprint registration and other enrolment arrangements.

Results Days

We wish all our Year 11 and Year 13 students the very best of luck as they await their results.

- A Level Results Day: Thursday 13th August
- GCSE Results Day: Thursday 20th August

Year 11 students collecting their GCSE results will also be able to enrol into our Sixth Form on the same day. Please check your emails for the separate correspondence which contain the full details about these days.

Ready for September

Please use the summer holidays to make sure your child is ready for the new school year with everything they need.

Students should have:

- Black or blue pens
- Pencils
- Ruler
- Rubber
- Pencil sharpener
- Scientific calculator
- A sturdy school bag
- A padlock for their locker
- A warm, waterproof coat for the colder months

A reminder that our mobile phone policy remains in place. Students should place their phones in their lockers when they arrive at school and leave them there until the end of the day. This has been a hugely successful change for our school, creating calmer social spaces and allowing students to focus on learning throughout the day. We are looking forward to another smooth start to the new school year.

Please also take a few moments to label PE kit, school jumpers, coats and other items of clothing. Doing so makes it much easier for lost property to be returned to its owner.

PE Kit

Earlier this year we shared details of our new PE kit.

The new kit is now available to purchase from Loop Wear:

<https://www.loopwear.shop/belper-school>

A reminder that students may continue to wear the previous PE kit, so there is no expectation that families replace kit that is still in good condition. However, if you do need to purchase new PE kit over the summer, it is now available to order.

Laptop Scheme

A reminder for our current Year 9 students, who will be moving into Year 10 in September, and for our new Year 7 students.

If you are considering purchasing a laptop through our school scheme, the current prices are guaranteed until 31 July. After this date, prices may change, so please place your order before the end of the month if you wish to take advantage of the current pricing.

ParentPay

Before September, please remember to check your ParentPay account and ensure there are sufficient funds for school meals.

Many families find it helpful to set up automatic weekly top-ups, making it one less thing to think about during the school year.

School Photographs

A little advance warning for our students:

Our annual school photographs will take place on Friday 11 September, during the first week back. I know many students appreciate a little notice!

Piercings

If your child is considering having a new piercing during the summer holidays, please bear our expectations in mind.

New piercings typically take at least six weeks to heal. Students are required to remove all piercings for every PE lesson without exception, so having a piercing towards the end of the holidays is likely to cause difficulties when they return to school.

During the Summer Holidays

Please note that the school office is closed and therefore not staffed during the summer holidays. Emails and enquiries will be responded to as soon as possible once staff return in September.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your incredible support throughout another successful year. The partnership we have with our families is one of Belper School's greatest strengths, and it makes a real difference to the experience our young people have every day.

I hope you all have a restful, safe and enjoyable summer holiday. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in September for another exciting year at Belper School.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Matilde Warden". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Matilde Warden
Headteacher

