

— Autumn 1 —

Sixth Form Newsletter

Belper School and Sixth Form Centre



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Welcome from the Head of Sixth Form *Paul Brumby*

As we reach the end of our first half term, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone to the 2026–27 academic year and reflect on what has already been a busy and successful start to the year at Belper Sixth Form.

September always brings a sense of excitement and new beginnings, particularly for our Year 12 students as they adjust to the expectations and opportunities of Sixth Form life. It has been a pleasure to see how positively they have approached this transition, and I would particularly like to acknowledge those who have joined us from other schools. Our Year 13 students have also made an encouraging start, returning with a clear sense of purpose as they embark on their final year with us.

As the academic year gathers pace, I would encourage all students to continue making the most of the opportunities available to them. Sixth Form is, of course, about achieving the qualifications that will open doors to the next stage of



life, but it is also about developing confidence, independence and the skills and experiences that will stay with you long after you leave us. Finding a sensible balance between hard work and time to recharge is equally important, and I would remind students that our Sixth Form team is always on hand to offer advice, encouragement or a listening ear.

I would also like to thank parents and carers for their continued support, as well as our dedicated staff, whose hard work helps make so much of what we do possible.

There is plenty to look forward to over the coming months, and I am confident that the positive start we have made will continue throughout the year. For now, I hope everyone enjoys a well-earned half-term break and returns refreshed and ready for the challenges and opportunities ahead.

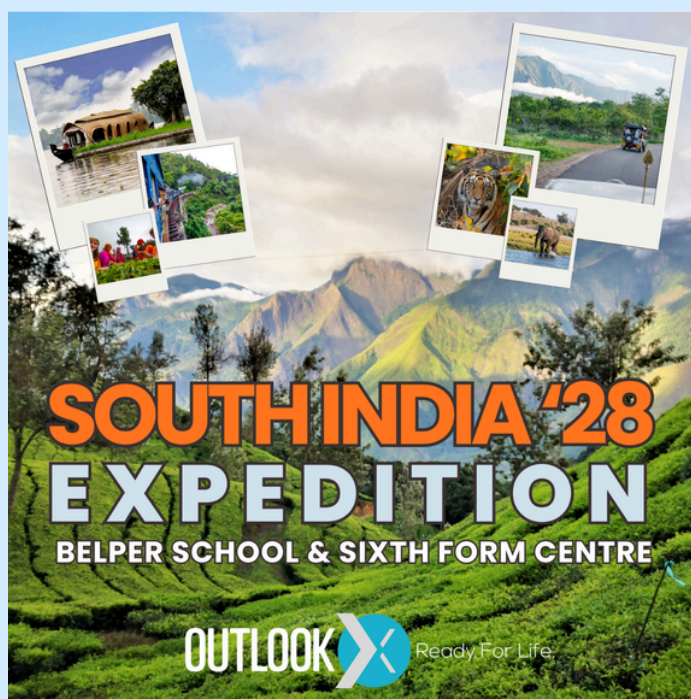
"Sixth Form is about more than qualifications; it is about developing confidence, independence and experiences that will stay with you long after you leave us."

South India Expedition

Summer 2028

An exciting opportunity is now available for our Year 10 and Year 12 students through Outlook Expeditions. Find out more about this incredible experience by visiting: [Outlook Expeditions – Belper School & Sixth Form Centre 2028.](#)

Please look out for future fundraising efforts from our Year 12 students who will spend the next two years raising funds for this trip of a lifetime!



Post-18 Success in 2026

*Congratulations to all
our departing students*

Once again, our departing Year 13 students have made us incredibly proud as they take their exciting next steps beyond Belper Sixth Form. From across the country, here are the university destinations and courses our Class of 2026 have headed to – we wish them all the best in their exciting new ventures!

- Actor Musicianship
- Aerospace Engineering
- Architectural Technology
- Artificial Intelligence and Data Science
- Biochemistry
- Biology
- Biomedical Science
- Communication and Media
- Ecology and Conservation
- Economics and Finance
- Education Studies
- English and Film
- English Language and Linguistics
- Environmental Science
- Environmental Science and Sustainability
- Events Management
- Film & TV and History
- Financial Mathematics
- Forensic Psychology
- Forensic Science
- Geography
- Geology (Volcanology)
- Graphic Design
- History
- International Relations and Law
- Law
- Law and Criminology
- Marketing
- Marketing, PR and Advertising
- Mathematics
- Physics with Study in Europe
- Politics
- Popular Music
- Psychology (Sport and Exercise)
- Speech and Language Therapy
- Sport and Exercise Science
- Sport Business Management
- Sport Marketing
- Sport Therapy and Rehabilitation





Year 13

Year 13 have made a really positive start to their final year at Belper Sixth Form and are already looking ahead to the important months to come. With courses now well underway, students are being encouraged to stay focused, make the most of their study time and begin building strong revision habits early.

Planning for life beyond Sixth Form is also a key focus. Many students are currently working on their UCAS applications, while others are exploring apprenticeships, employment and other pathways.

Students have access to one-to-one guidance from our Careers Team, support from tutors and a wide range of resources through Unifrog to

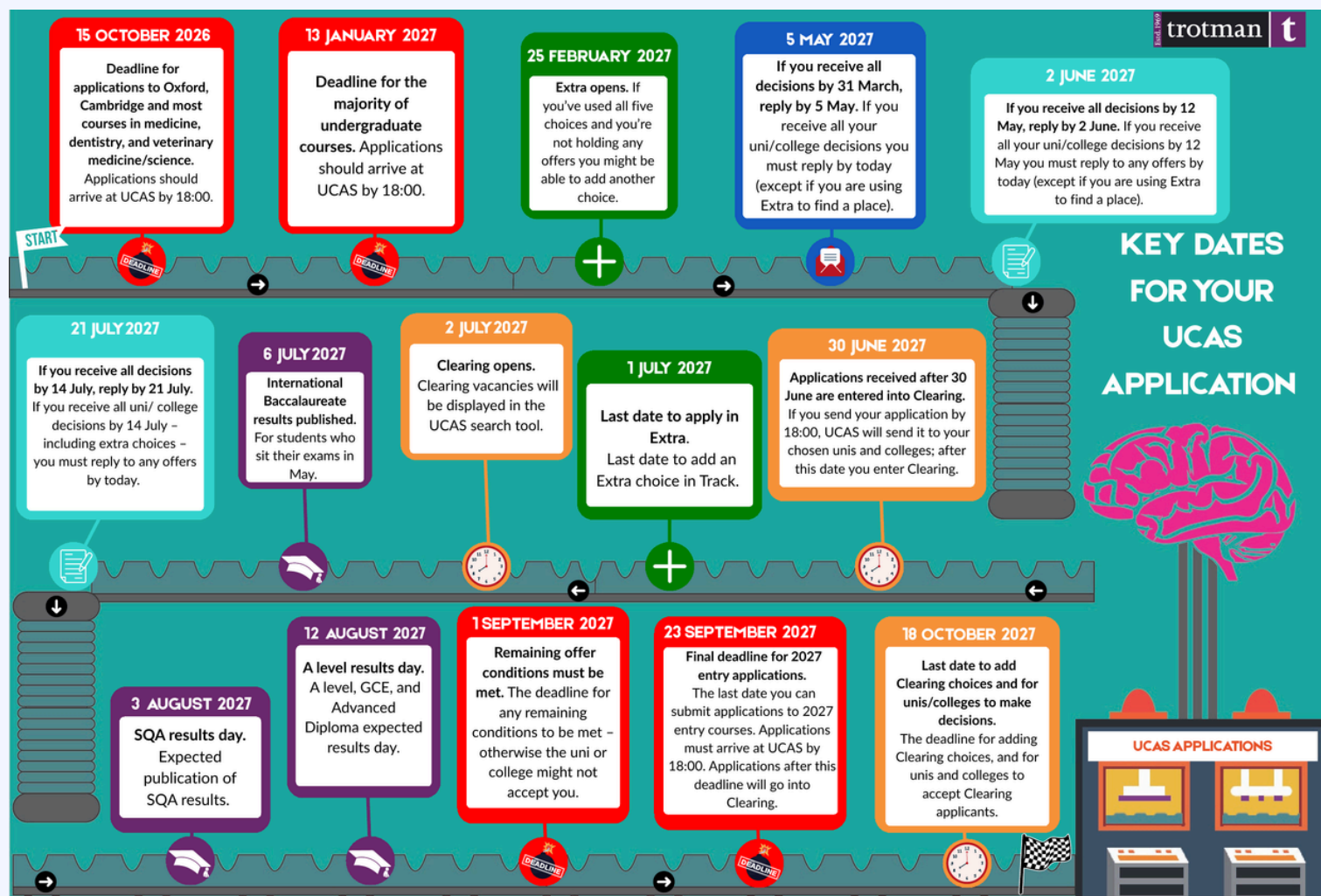
help them research their options and make informed decisions.

Parents and carers can also access Unifrog to explore the platform and see the resources available to support their young person. You can sign up [here](#).

For those applying to university, we strongly encourage students to complete and submit their UCAS applications well ahead of the January equal consideration deadline. Getting applications completed early allows plenty of time for final checks and means students can turn their attention back to their studies as we move further into Year 13.

We have also put together a Year 13 Support Overview, bringing together useful information about revision sessions, subject support, resources and key deadlines. This can be accessed here: [Year 13 Support Overview](#).

There is a busy and exciting year ahead for our Year 13 students, and we are already proud of the focus and maturity they are showing as they work towards their final qualifications and prepare for their next steps.





Year 12

Year 12 have continued to make an excellent start to Sixth Form life and are now well established in the routines and expectations of Level 3 study.

Alongside their academic courses, students are getting fully involved in their core enrichment choices, including the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, Arts Leaders, Sports Leaders Awards, EPQ and (new for this year) Oracy and Global Sustainability. We are excited to see how these opportunities develop over the coming months and hope to build on last year's fantastic achievements, which included an incredible 2444 hours of volunteering from our fantastic Duke of Edinburgh participants (this has a social value of £18451)!

It has also been fantastic to see so many students taking on Sixth Form Ambassador roles and becoming increasingly involved in the wider life of the school. These roles give students the opportunity to develop their confidence, leadership and social action skills, while building valuable experiences that will strengthen future university, apprenticeship and employment applications.

Our Sixth Formers are already making a real contribution across the school community. Students are supporting neurodiverse learners, assisting in Modern Languages lessons and the Enhanced Learning Support Centre, taking part in Buddy Reading with Year 7 pupils, and getting involved in a wide range of other activities. A full list of opportunities is on the right of this page and more details about each one can be found [here](#).

Buddy Reading
Year 11 Mentors
PE and Sport Support
Languages Ambassador
Sports Leadership – Key Stage 3
PE Lessons
Duke of Edinburgh Award
Ambassador
Supporting Maths Lessons
Forest School & School Garden
Autism Ambassadors
More Than Robots
Science Ambassadors
Student Support KS3 French
Year 7 Food Assistant
Library Assistant
Maths Homework Support
SEND Reading Mentors
Social Media Team
Tutor Reads
Literacy Newsletter
General Literacy Support
Year 7 Pastoral Support
Open Evenings/Options Evenings
Support
Journalist Opportunity
Creative Writing Club
Creative Industries Ambassadors
Photography & Digital Skills
Ambassadors
Art Ambassadors
Art Display Support Ambassadors
Peer Education through the Mental
Health Foundation

“These roles give students the opportunity to develop their confidence, leadership and social action skills.”

Student Experiences

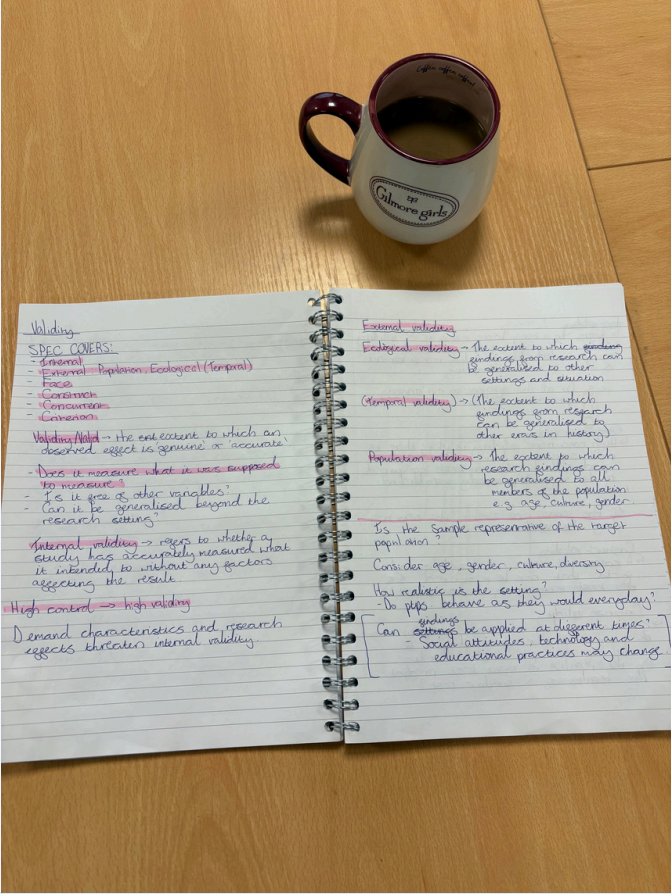
Sarah in Year 12 reflects on her first few weeks in Sixth Form, sharing her experiences of settling into A Levels and embracing new opportunities.

At the start of the new academic year, I returned to Belper School as a member of the Sixth Form. Having been a student here since year 7, I had a reasonable idea of what to expect, and friends I was looking forward to seeing again after the summer holidays. Although, despite being somewhat prepared, I had a lingering apprehension. What would the new year bring? What would year 12 really be like? Would I be happy with the subjects I chose to study? So when the 8th of September finally arrived, I was pleasantly surprised by how unfamiliar but refreshing my first experience of Sixth Form was.

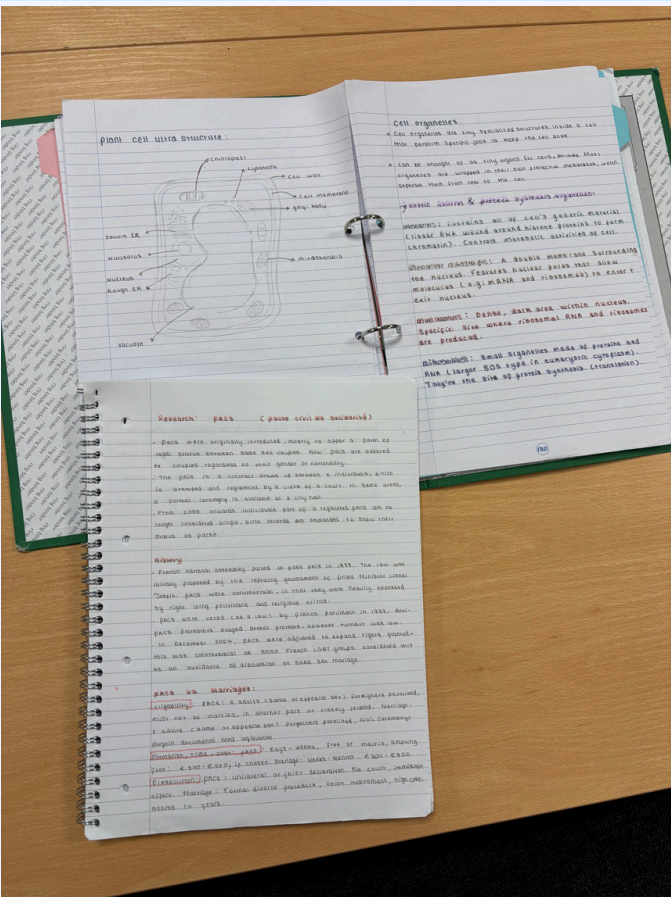
Having picked English Literature, French and Biology, I found the content of my courses to be more immersive than GCSE, with a heavier workload (which wasn't unexpected) but the added independence of being a Sixth Former and managing the larger commitment to my subjects was something I found took a little while to settle into.

My teachers and form tutor are incredibly patient and understanding, I know that if I was struggling with any content within lessons or homework, they would be supportive and helpful. However, I realise my start to A - levels was easier compared to other members of Sixth Form, as many of my peers were given the opportunity to try other courses and quickly switch between subjects, if they found their choice of course didn't suit them.

The community within Sixth Form here is incredibly welcoming and kind, and to anybody actively considering Belper School's Sixth Form, I would highly recommend talking to current students, alongside staff at the Sixth Form Open Evening, as I'm sure they'd be happy to answer any questions, and be able to provide a realistic idea of what day to day Sixth Form is like.



“The community within Sixth Form here is incredibly welcoming and kind.”



Student Experiences

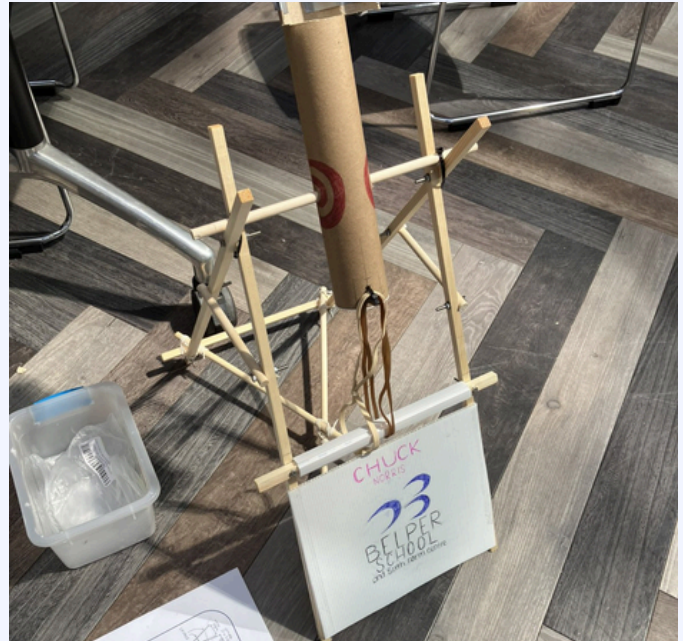
Maddie and Zac share their experience of winning this year's Young Engineers for Science and Design (YESD) competition.

This year our Sixth Form YESD team won the post-16 category. The challenge, in theme with the FIFA World Cup, was to design and make a machine to get a ball around defenders and goalkeepers into a goal. We were given a budget which we had to use to buy our materials and experience the real world design process by making small prototypes to test our idea.

We made a catapult out of wooden dowels, nuts & bolts, and rubber bands. We were given most of the day to build and test our catapult, then when it came to the judging, we had four shots at the goal (we got all four in). We were judged on the success of our catapult, aesthetics and how creative we were.

We all found the day very fun and interesting, learning about time management and budgeting.

Our team would highly recommend taking part in the competition if given the opportunity, it was really useful and exciting for anyone interested in design, engineering or physics



“It was really useful and exciting for anyone interested in design, engineering or physics.”



Work Experience

Year 13 students Josh, Lily and Joe share their work experience stories and what they learned from their time in the workplace.

Work experience is an important part of our Year 12 programme, giving students the opportunity to explore potential careers, develop valuable skills and gain first-hand experience of the world of work. Each student completes at least one week in a workplace relevant to their interests and aspirations. Below, Josh, Lily and Joe share their experiences at Rolls-Royce, Slimming World Magazine and Pottery Primary School in July, offering an insight into the exciting opportunities our students have enjoyed.

Lily:

For Work Experience, I got the opportunity to visit Slimming World magazine.

I began by observing the daily morning production meeting where they discussed progress on the current issue as well as forward planning for future magazines. Next, I was shown around the building by a welcoming member of the team where I was able to see exciting photoshoot areas and large meeting rooms. I was then able to spend time with each of the four magazine teams: Features; Art; Sub-Editors, and Publishing, Production and Advertisement. By being able to see the varied roles and processes it has given me a much deeper insight into the detail needed to create a top-quality national magazine and how to create the most aesthetically pleasing, engaging L+D.

Finally, I was given a task of collecting over 50 recipes recommended by previous features that should be promoted in the January release.

Overall, this experience has inspired me for my future career path within the media through learning new skills such as communication from interacting with the team and the meticulous attention to detail and creative execution in producing high- quality content.

I learned about the magazine's huge impact on the health community's physical and mental wellbeing through the features and weight loss success stories and how it can truly change lives which inspired me to want to make a difference.

Joe:

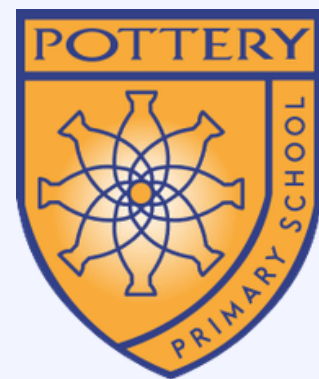
I completed my work placement at Pottery Primary School, where I stayed with the same Year 6 class for the whole week.

During my placement, I observed lessons, saw how the teacher organised the classroom and watched how pupils worked together. Staying with the same class all week helped me understand their daily routines and how the school day works.

I particularly enjoyed spending time with the pupils and seeing how they learned new things. I was surprised by how much patience and organisation teaching requires!

Throughout the week, I developed my communication and teamwork skills and learned more about the responsibilities of working with children.

Overall, my placement was a valuable experience that gave me a better understanding of what it is like to work in a primary school and helped me think about future career options.



“Overall, this experience has inspired me for my future career path within the media.”

**Slimming
World
magazine**

Work Experience

Year 13 students Josh, Lily and Joe share their work experience stories and what they learned from their time in the workplace.

Josh:

I did my work experience at Rolls-Royce in Derby, its biggest site across the Globe.

For me a typical day consisted of numerous activities such as lectures on aero engines and how they work, doing hands-on work such as Lock wiring and safety cable wiring.

Personally, Wednesday the 15th was my favourite aspect of the whole experience. We went to East Midlands airport - Flight Ops Centre where we were given a lecture on Submarines, Small Modular Reactors and Micro Reactors. Following that we were given a tour of Rolls-Royce corporate jet estimated at a value of £89 million used by the CEO Tufan Erginbilgic and were also given a tour of one of Rolls-Royce's hangars where they keep their spitfire jet and I was lucky enough to see it fly for the first time in a year after they had up to 9 months of maintenance and work trying to restore it.

At the end of my placement I had to do a presentation in front of numerous senior leaders at Rolls-Royce such as the Director of Technical and Safety assurance, many chief audit engineers and even employees from Germany (Berlin) and America (Indianapolis). For me this was by far my proudest moment as I am a very quiet and reserved type of person so public speaking has always been a struggle for me so overcoming that fear has been instrumental in boosting my confidence in public speaking skills.

I definitely know I won't be an engineer as I really don't understand the Science and Maths that comes with it. However, on my first day we had an early careers advice presentation which pointed out how Rolls-Royce offers a level 6/7 degree apprenticeship in Business and Entrepreneurial roles. As I have previously studied Business at GCSE and a further studying it at A level I aspire to one day apply for this role and hopefully get it as I have always had a strong interest in Business.



“For me this was by far my proudest moment as I am a very quiet and reserved type of person so public speaking has always been a struggle for me.”

Josh's work experience at Rolls-Royce was clearly a huge success, and we were delighted to hear such positive feedback from the team following his placement. In a lovely email to Josh, the team praised his enthusiasm and participation throughout the week, particularly congratulating him on the presentation he delivered to senior members of staff:

“Thank you so much for the presentation you gave on the final afternoon – very well done on this!”

It's wonderful to see Josh not only exploring his future career options but also developing the confidence to step outside his comfort zone. Well done, Josh, Lily and Joe and all of the (now) Year 13s on your successful Work Experience placements in July.

UKMT Senior Maths Challenge

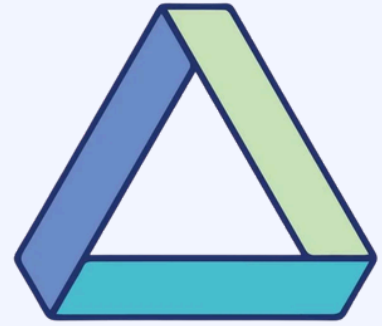
Bobby and Owen share their experiences of taking part in this year's UKMT Senior Maths Challenge and explain why they would encourage others to give it a go.

The Annual Senior Maths Challenge Organised by the UK Mathematics Trust (UKMT) is designed for older secondary school students, particularly those studying A Level Mathematics or Further Mathematics.

The challenge encourages problem-solving beyond the standard syllabus and is intended to stimulate both beginners and experienced problem-solvers. The first round is a 90-minute paper with 22 multiple-choice questions and three new 000–999 digit questions. Students are awarded Bronze, Silver, or Gold certificates based on their performance, with the top 50% receiving certificates in a 3:2:1 ratio.

Having both personally participated in the Maths Challenge this year, we can personally say the senior challenge is a major step up from the junior one, however if you are interested in Maths, are studying Maths or even just want to give it a try, it's a great opportunity to have a try at some problem-solving Maths questions and potentially earn a certificate.

Well done to all those who participated. We can't wait to hear the results!



UK Maths Trust

"It's a great opportunity to have a try at some problem-solving."



Good Luck Millie and Imogen!

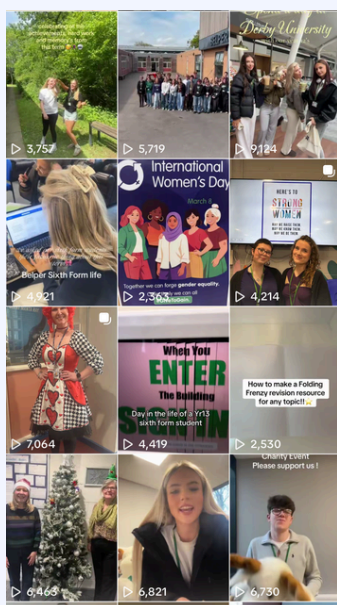
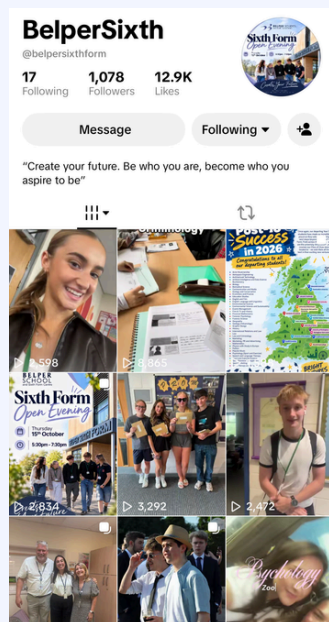
We'd like to wish a huge good luck to two of our talented Sixth Form students who are preparing to compete on the international stage!

Millie is heading to Latvia this October to compete in the prestigious Riga International Youth Cup, representing Draycott & Long Eaton Table Tennis Club against some of Europe's top young table tennis players.

Imogen has secured a place at the All Star World Championships in Florida in April 2027, where she'll be competing alongside her cheerleading club!

These are fantastic achievements and we're incredibly proud to see our students pursuing their passions and competing at such a high level. Wishing you both the very best of luck – we'll be cheering you on from Belper!





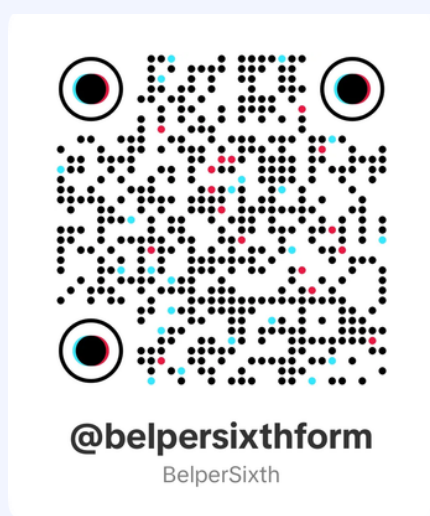
Follow us on TikTok!

Our Sixth Form TikTok, @belpersixthform, has been going from strength to strength, thanks to the creativity and enthusiasm of our fantastic Social Media Ambassadors!

Our student-led team has been busy creating entertaining content, from popular TikTok trends and student interviews to behind-the-scenes glimpses of everyday Sixth Form life. Their hard work is certainly paying off, with our account now boasting over 1,100 followers and 13,000 likes! In just the last two weeks, our videos have attracted an incredible 16,600 views, showing just how far our students' creativity is reaching.

It's wonderful to see our Ambassadors developing their confidence, teamwork and digital media skills while showcasing everything that makes Belper Sixth Form special.

Not following us yet? Head over to [@belpersixthform](https://www.tiktok.com/@belpersixthform) to see what we've been up to!



@belpersixthform

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



Planned Events for the Future

- 8th October - Geography Holderness Coast Trip
- 12th - Friday 23rd October - Year 12 and 13 Assessments
- 15th October - Oxbridge and Medical Uni Application Deadline
- 15th October - Sixth Form Open Evening
- 22nd October - Botswana Film Night
- 26th - Friday 30th October - Half Term
- 12th November - English Trip to see Othello
- 19th November - Year 13 and 13 Parents' Evening
- 20th November - UKMT Maths Challenge
- 2nd - 4th December - Guys and Dolls Performances
- 27th November - School Inset Day
- 17th December - Botswana Film Night
- 18th December School finishes for Christmas
- 4th-15th January - Year 13 Mock period
- 13th January - UCAS final deadline
- 24th June - Year 13 Prom

A Huge Thank You!

As we continue through the autumn term, we want to say an enormous thank you to everyone who makes our Sixth Form community so special.

Firstly, **a huge thank you to all of our wonderful Sixth Form students** who have contributed to this edition of the newsletter! It has been a real pleasure to celebrate your achievements, share your experiences and showcase the incredible range of things you've been getting involved in. We are so proud of your enthusiasm, ambition and willingness to embrace new opportunities.

We also want to recognise **the fantastic staff here at Belper School**, who consistently go above and beyond to make these experiences possible. So many of the opportunities featured in this newsletter happen because colleagues generously give their time, energy and expertise to organise activities, support students and encourage them to try something new. Their dedication makes such a difference, and we are incredibly grateful for everything they do.

And, of course, **thank you to our parents and carers for your continued encouragement and support.**

With plenty more to look forward to this term, we hope our students continue to make the most of every opportunity, challenge themselves and enjoy everything that Sixth Form life has to offer.

Thank you all for making Belper Sixth Form such a brilliant place to be!

Paul, Carolyn, Lizzie and Jo