



WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

IMBERHORNE SCHOOL

Headteacher: Matthew Whatford

Compassion

Achievement

Respect

Endeavour

*The cornerstones of our
learning community*

10th October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

Windmill Lane Lockdown

I would like to reiterate my praise for staff and students for the excellent way in which they managed our lockdown at Windmill Lane on Thursday. There will be extra presence at the front of school in the mornings and after school in the coming weeks and we feel that our practice and subsequent reviews of processes and procedures means that this event has made us more confident in the unlikely, although unfortunately not impossible, event of another lockdown in the future.

Sixth Form Volunteering

We had some fantastic feedback shared with us after a number of our Year 13 students volunteered their time to support the flu clinic in East Grinstead last Sunday. Students involved showed the highest levels of respect, integrity and humility in giving up their time and we are extremely grateful. They supported the successful immunisation of an incredible 2224 patients in total!

Parents' Consultation Evenings

A reminder that we have Year 13 Parents' Consultation Evening next Thursday 16th October and that this will be a face-to-face event, running from 4-7pm. There are still appointments available if you have not yet managed to book in with your child's teachers. In the main, there are no compressed days for Parents' Consultation Evenings this year, apart from Year 7 Parents' Consultation Evening in June as this will be an extended session, running for longer than all other evenings. We do still have compressed days for Year 7 Meet the Tutor evening and Sixth Form Open Evening after the October half term break and will share details of these events in due course. After feedback and reflection, we have also introduced an extra evening for each of Years 11 and 13 to support them with the challenges of these two demanding years of study. We will send out further details of each event as they come up in the calendar.

Year 11

You may remember that three weeks' ago, Elevate Education (<https://uk.elevateeducation.com/home>) were in school to work with Year 11 students on how to hone their study skills, revise and prepare for exams. They also offer some highly valuable input and support for parents and carers and have a live webinar entitled *How You Can Help Your Child Set Up Success in Exams* taking place next Tuesday (14/10) from 6-7pm. Registration can be accessed [here](#) and will also give parents and carers access to future webinars on resilience, memory and stress. We have found the work that Elevate has done to be really effective in the past and they will be giving lots of information that reinforces the messages students were given in school. It is highly recommended that you attend if you can!

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The next two weeks are a very busy time for Year 11, with trips to the National Portrait Gallery, Geography Field Trips and Music NEA performances. We also have the first Maths mock exam on Tuesday 21st October, before the Support Your Child Through Year 11 event on the evening of Thursday 23rd October - we hope to see all Year 11 parents and carers at this event and bookings can be made [here](#). The full first round of mock exams will not take place until the start of December and we will be seeing all students for their Futures interviews and at Parents' Evening on Tuesday 11th November to ensure that they are as ready and prepared as they can be for these.

Mid-Sussex Federation of Schools

You may have read in my letters of last year about our strong working partnership with the Mid-Sussex Federation of schools, which includes Sackville, Oathall, Downlands and Imberhorne. This soft federation was set up several years ago by the Headteachers and Chairs of Governors of each of these schools before the current Heads came into post. Over the years, our partnership has strengthened and our collaborative work has paid dividends to each of our school communities. As a consequence, at the end of last academic year we all signed up to a three-year agreement with each of the other schools to allow this strong work to continue and be explored further. This allows us to explore ways in which we can be stronger together as four schools, whilst maintaining each school's autonomy through their own vision, strategic plan and culture.

We have subsequently defined the following ambition and values for the Federation:

Our ambition is for our Federation to collaboratively achieve our shared values as trusted and open-minded partners in school improvement.

Our values:

- An emphasis on continual growth and development - we are all learners; we are all leaders
- Mutual support and collaboration
- A culture of kindness and care
- Promoting well-being
- Championing inclusion

You will see that this is highly complimentary to the new vision and values for Imberhorne School that I shared with you in my letter of last month. We have also determined some three-year objectives for our work together, all of which have targeted aims for this year:

1. Prioritise the development of a full offer of collaborative opportunities for students.
2. Build a comprehensive CPD offer that provides opportunity for governors and staff in all roles.
3. Develop staffing and governance sustainability and capacity across all teams to ensure readiness for practical, legal and policy changes.
4. Collaborate and develop our curriculum breadth to provide an inclusive offer to support and challenge all students.
5. Build a full offer of shared school improvement support mechanisms.

There are a number of exciting developments and initiatives ahead under this year's plan and I will continue to share updates on this work with you as we progress through the academic year.

Yours faithfully

Mr Matthew Whatford
Headteacher



Sporting and Arts Success

BALLET

Congratulations to Ella Mills in Year 7 who has been selected to perform in the English Youth Ballet production of Swan Lake in November. This is an exceptional achievement and we are extremely proud of Ella.

U12 RUGBY

LINGFIELD COLLEGE 10 : 25 IMBERHORNE

There was a big improvement in performance from the Imberhorne year 7s, in only their second ever game. Beau started at 10 and made a big impact on the game structure, whilst Zach looked like he had been playing at fullback for years, despite appearing in only his second ever match. Strong carries from Morgan (hat trick of tries), Owen and Bobby laid the foundations for the backs to play some running rugby, with a player of the match performance from Stan, who had a superb attacking and defensive game. Well done boys, a great performance.

TRY SCORER: Bobby x1, Stan x1 & Morgan x3

Player of the match: Stan

Words by Mr Byrne