



WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

IMBERHORNE SCHOOL

Headteacher: Matthew Whatford

Compassion

Achievement

Respect

Endeavour

*The cornerstones of our
learning community*

12th December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

Christmas Concert

Thank you to all of our friends and families who attended our Christmas Concert this week. It was an outstanding and eclectic display, showcasing the broad musical church at Imberhorne School. Mr Williams, Mr Moorehouse, Miss Philip and Miss Donoghue have worked incredibly hard to re-establish musical performances at the school over the past few years and we are extremely grateful for all of their efforts to do so. We are also immensely proud of the students who showed such talent and confidence in their performances.

Parking, pick-up and drop-off at both sites

A polite reminder to all parents and carers that parking, drop-off and pick-up is not permitted in the car parking area of either site. This is primarily to protect student safety and is especially pertinent due to some near misses with increased traffic whilst our students are walking into school in the mornings in particular.

A special request also to not drop-off or pick-up on Windmill Lane or Highfield Road if you can possibly help it. We have eight buses and coaches that pick up at our Windmill Lane site and there have been several accidents between members of the public in their cars and buses over the past year. Parking/pick-up/drop-off around these areas is creating a much higher risk of accidents and to our students who are on foot, as well as children attending St Mary's, Baldwin's Hill and the Day Nursery. We will be writing to West Sussex Highways to request that they further look at managing safe access during school pick-up and drop-off hours to reduce this risk.

Young Green Briton Award

On Wednesday of this week, Year 9 took part in the Young Green Briton Challenge. Students worked in teams to create entrepreneurial solutions and campaigns designed to create a greener, more sustainable Britain. This supported the work they have been doing this term on Climate Change and Sustainability in their Geography lessons.

Our visitors from the Young Green Briton organisation said they "loved working with (our) students" and were "left buoyed by their ideas and energy. "Thank you to Mr Monckton and Mr Nichols for their excellent organisation of this important event.

Key Stage 3 Food Bank Drive

Thank you all for your incredibly generous donations for our Key Stage 3 Food Bank drive. Students have outdone themselves with their generosity this year and this will make a huge difference to the lives of families within our community. Thank you especially to Mrs Holley for her excellent coordination of this.

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School allotment project

Mr Celani and Mr Thompson continue to work on the plan for the further development of the school allotment project and have this week been successful in securing a £3000 grant from the Moto-way Foundation at Pease Pottage. This will significantly impact upon the project and Mr Celani's plans to progress towards a more targeted therapeutic offer on the site. We continue to seek support for this project in the community, so should any parents, carers or friends of the school be able to offer their support in terms of time or resourcing, we are most grateful. One of the key plans is to put up a modest learning space on the site in due course, and to furnish this. Any donations or links to organisations who might be able to donate to this are gratefully received and can be made [here](#). Below is also a list of some of the key things that we are seeking to acquire for the site more widely:

- Any tools, including mechanised equipment.
- New wellington boots in various sizes.
- Wet weather clothing - new or good condition.
- Compost.
- Topsoil.
- Sand and cement.
- Bulbs and seeds.
- Railway sleepers.
- Paving stones
- Paving bricks.
- Various plants, seeds, trees and bushes that we can grow.
- Black or green ground membranes to suppress weed growth over the winter.
- Garden canes.

Year 11 and Sixth Form applications

We are delighted to have received so many applications to our Sixth Form from the current Year 11. There is some clear ambition in this year group and we hope to see as many of them as possible gaining the grades they deserve in the summer, before rejoining us for Level 3 courses in September. There is clearly much work to do in the meantime, and teachers will now be doing this work in response to the mock exams they have sat in the past two weeks.

All applications will be processed and looked at again alongside mock exam outcomes in the new year, before any follow up communication and meetings. All students who have applied have a secure place with us so long as minimum entry requirements are met. Students should only expect to hear back from the Sixth Form team in January if an application review meeting is needed. Formal subject confirmation offer letters are issued on 27th March 2026.

House of Lords Visitor - Lord Colgrain

Today we have had our visit from Lord Colgrain, who presented and answered questions from around 150 students from Years 9-13. This was a highly enlightening experience for students, who were able to hear an insider's voice about the workings of Parliament and the role of the Lords. Experiences such as these bring politics to life and we believe strongly that students need to be active in their engagement with politics, thinking critically so that they can make informed judgements.

Greenaway Foundation Christmas Wishes

A final reminder of the Greenaway Foundation Christmas Wishes appeal that I wrote about in my letters of the last two weeks. This most important campaign aims to provide gifts to children and young people where they might otherwise not receive one. If you are able to support them and contribute to the campaign, please go to the Greenaway Foundation website [here](#). Thank you in advance for your kindness at this time of year.

Festive lunch gathering - Thursday 18th December 2025

A final reminder about our festive lunch next Thursday. Students will have a change to the structure of their day for this, with a shortened morning and an extended lunch/tutor time from



11.45 onwards. They will then attend lesson 5 as normal. We will be catering only for those who have ordered through ParentPay - I am afraid it is now too late to order if you have not done so. We will be providing snacks for all students. Students not eating the festive lunch will be able to enjoy their packed lunch with their peers.

A reminder that there will be no other food available for students to purchase on this day at either site.

Christmas jumpers and accessories

Thursday is also our Christmas jumper/accessory day. Students should wear normal school uniform, but are permitted to wear a Christmas jumper or some Christmas accessories on this day only.

Last day of term arrangements

Students will be dismissed from school at 12.20pm on Friday 19th December. Bus services will be operating from 12.30 on this day; please find the details listed below:

Metrobus will be operating the following services at 12.30pm on our last day of term:
281, 624, 638, 643, 648

The 903 and E579 Turbostyle services, Lingfield Minibus, 905 minibus and taxis etc are all also operating currently.

The 84 to Sharpthorne and West Hoathly - will not call at Imberhorne Lane, but can be boarded at East Grinstead Station 12.39pm - if your son/daughter needs to get this service please speak to their Head of Year as they will need to leave a little earlier.

The services to Lingfield and Dormansland are as follows:

The 281 – leaves 13.05 from Felbridge Hotel heading towards East Grinstead and 13.14 at East Grinstead Station

The 409 – leaves at 12.47 from Baldwins Hill heading towards Lingfield only

Yours faithfully

Mr Matthew Whatford
Headteacher

Sporting and Arts Success

U14 Badminton

Congratulations to Santi and Nathaniel in Year 7 who won the inaugural inter-school badminton festival tournament, competing against students from Imberhorne and Sackville on Tuesday of this week. They were amongst five pairs playing up to 4 x 10-minute games against seven Sackville pairings followed by two semi-finals and a final, facing some stiff competition along the way.

After winning, Nathaniel came straight down to the Christmas concert to perform - true festive community spirit!

U12 Rugby

SACKVILLE 01 : 00 IMBERHORNE

After losing heavily in our first game against a very talented Sackville side, hopes were not high for the return match, but The year 7s were outstanding in defence! A very creative Sackville team were able to beat us on the outside on numerous occasions but last-ditch scrambling tackles kept Sackville out again and again. A defeat, but a pleasing one.



Player of the match: Stanley M

LINGFIELD 01 : 03 IMBERHORNE

A very clinical display from the year 7s today in Lingfield. We were a much more confident team going forwards in attack and managed to break the Lingfield defensive line on several occasions. Timmy popped up with his first try for the school, in his first ever school game, after Stanley had muscled his way over the try line earlier in the game.

Bobby captained well and topped his day off with a third try but performance of the game goes to Finn M