



WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

IMBERHORNE SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mr Martin Brown

Compassion
Achievement
Respect
Endeavour

*The cornerstones of our
learning community*

1st April 2020

Dear Parent(s)/carer(s)

I am pleased to inform you we have some information to share which we hope will be a useful addition to our online learning programme.

The first piece of information relates to opportunities for students to participate in video-based lessons with staff. Many of you suggested this might be a useful approach to help engage students, particularly when being introduced to new and complex knowledge. After much careful consideration we have concluded that our preferred platform for conducting video exchanges is Google Hangouts Meet. This platform is accessed through students' google accounts (which requires their school email as part of the log-in process), staff must also use their school email accounts to log-in. We believe this makes the platform the most secure way to conduct exchanges between staff and students.

We must, of course, ensure any such interactions are conducted appropriately and have therefore produced some guidelines for how staff and students should engage in video-based lessons. Please find below two links, the first provides guidance and how to join a scheduled 'meeting' the second provides guidance on conduct and expectations.

<http://www.imberhome.co.uk/sites/default/files/Google%20Hangouts.pdf>

<http://www.imberhome.co.uk/sites/default/files/Online%20Video%20Conference%20Lessons%20-%20Student%20Guidelines.pdf>

My second piece of information provides guidance on how students can submit work to staff. Not all work undertaken will need to be submitted, staff will clarify what does need to be submitted and when. Generally, work can be submitted in two ways, through Google Classroom (guidance on this will be shared) or through Foldr. This is a programme that enables students to access or deposit work on the school system. Guidance on how Foldr can be used to submit work is given below.

<http://www.imberhome.co.uk/sites/default/files/Using%20Foldr%20to%20Submit%20Work.pdf>

We have listened carefully to your feedback with regards to the Easter period, there were many different opinions about what families would like to see. We have decided therefore to run optional enrichment activities over Easter. This means tasks will be available for those who wish to participate. This is likely to be a series of open-ended enrichment opportunities pointing students towards what we believe are valuable and engaging resources that students will enjoy exploring.

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I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support at this time. Online learning is 'work in progress' for students, parents and staff, I hope you can see from this message that we continue to look for ways to further improve and refine what we do.

In this strange and unusual time, I urge you all, if possible, to create some quality time for yourselves and your families over the Easter period. We do not underestimate how disturbing all these changes are for our young people, they need reassurance and calmness. For some students a complete break from online learning is just what they need at this stage. We know that you are best placed to judge what is right for your children.

Yours faithfully

Mr M Brown

Headteacher