



WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

IMBERHORNE SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mr Martin Brown

Compassion
Achievement
Respect
Endeavour

*The cornerstones of our
learning community*

22nd May 2020

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s)

I am writing this on the last day of this half term, it seems remarkable that a whole half term has passed under these current restrictions. It is a tribute to everyone that learning has been maintained so effectively during this period, such learning will of course be different for different students, success is personal and may be measured in small steps on occasions.

Teaching staff had a very successful day planning on Monday. Our different teams felt as though they made good progress, restructuring lessons and preparing for the next academic year. Having time to discuss and share ideas with their colleagues was extremely beneficial, it generated a great deal of enthusiasm and positivity.

The senior leadership team spent the day in school planning for provision after half term. I would now like to share with you some of our plans.

We have, to date, accommodated small numbers of students in school and believe this number will continue to grow for a variety of reasons. Online learning can be very challenging for some, the support therefore that comes with time in school can be invaluable. Identified students in Years 7, 8 and 9 who we feel would benefit from support in school will, after half term, be based at the Windmill Lane site. We are also extending provision for Year 10 students in a staged manner, inviting small numbers to the Imberhorne Lane site over a period of time. Please be aware the debate about when Year 10 students may return to school is ongoing, the Headteachers' unions are stating that this is unlikely to be managed quickly and are advising schools to be very cautious. Further details will be shared with Year 10 Parents after half term. Provision for Year 12 students will be similar and be phased, over time, starting with meetings with some students.

To ensure both students and staff are kept as safe as possible we are introducing a number of procedures which I think it is important to share with you. We absolutely understand the reticence and concern you may have about your sons and daughters returning to school and the potential risks associated with this.

Students who will be coming into school will be allocated to a 'pod' this is a small self-contained group, they will be carefully managed both on and off the school site. Each 'pod' will be made up of 8-10 students and have a set allocation of teachers with access to some support staff. Each 'pod' will be located in a dedicated room with access to toilets and outdoor recreation space. Movement in and around the school will be extremely limited, the different 'pods' will be kept separate from each other. The kitchen and canteen are not operational at the moment so all students attending school will need to bring packed lunches.



Imberhorne Lane
East Grinstead
West Sussex
RH19 1QY



Social distancing will of course be enforced with carefully managed seating arrangements in the rooms, students will be required to wash their hands and use sanitiser at regular points. Rooms will be thoroughly cleaned, and the use of computer equipment will be managed through strict personal hygiene controls.

The majority of students in Year 7, 8 and 9 will continue with their online learning programme. Students in Year 10 and Year 12 will increasingly move towards an online learning programme supported by some in school provision.

School will resume and ultimately return to normal, we recognise that we are on a journey towards this goal and need your support to achieve this, I assure you the safety of everyone on site is our absolute priority. I hope you get a sense of this from the information I have shared with you.

Work will not be set over half term, I hope students and staff have a relaxing break ready to resume studies on Monday 1st June. I shared a video 'assembly' with students this week in which I talked about some of these future plans but also referenced how much we missed seeing them all in school. I am grateful to my colleagues who have generated the attached video which conveys this message in a very evocative way. I must admit to feeling quite emotional when watching it. School thrives on the energy and vibrancy of our students, without them the site can feel like an empty shell, we are really looking forward to a return to normal and seeing everyone again.

Video link - <https://youtu.be/515StXoSjB8>

Please also see important information from the DfE copied below. I have also provided a link to advice from Metrobus regarding travel.

Yours faithfully

Mr M Brown

Headteacher

Metrobus link - <https://www.metrobus.co.uk/managing-your-health-and-safety-board/>

DfE guidance - The following principles will apply to this phase of wider opening by settings:

- children and young people in eligible year groups are strongly encouraged to attend (where there are no shielding concerns for the child or their household), so that they can gain the educational and wellbeing benefits of attending
- children, young people and staff who have been classed as clinically extremely vulnerable due to pre-existing medical conditions have been advised to shield. We do not expect people in this category to be attending school or college, and they should continue to be supported to learn or work at home as much as possible. Clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable) people are those considered to be at a higher risk of severe

illness from coronavirus. Few if any children will fall into this category, but parents should follow medical advice if their child is in this category



- a child/young person or a member of staff who lives with someone who is clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable), including those who are pregnant, can attend their education or childcare setting
- if a child/young person or staff member lives in a household with someone who is extremely clinically vulnerable, as set out in the [guidance on shielding](#), it is advised they only attend an education or childcare setting if stringent social distancing can be adhered to and, in the case of children, if they are able to understand and follow those instructions.
- staff and children or young people should not attend if they have symptoms or are self-isolating due to symptoms in their household