



WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

IMBERHORNE SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mr Martin Brown

Compassion
Achievement
Respect
Endeavour

*The cornerstones of our
learning community*

21st April 2020

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s)

I appreciate that this is a very unsettling time for Year 11 students, and that they could very easily feel a bit directionless at the moment. We feel the need to ensure their current learning is 'complete' and that courses are finished but also, perhaps more importantly, that our students feel well prepared for their next step. Whatever that might be. I am therefore writing to inform you about our expectations for all Year 11 students this term.

For the next two weeks (20th April – 1st May) teachers will continue to set work for Year 11 students to complete as part of their GCSE courses. It is important that students complete the GCSE content for two reasons, firstly they will be at a disadvantage educationally if there are aspects of the curriculum they have not learnt. Completing a course and gaining the required knowledge and skills means learning all of the content. Secondly, whilst schools are being asked to submit centre assessed grades for all students there will, we understand, be an opportunity for students to sit GCSE exams at a future date if they wish. If course content has not been covered they will not be able to sit such exams.

From Monday 4th May this will change. At this point we will expect students to do one of two things. The vast majority of students will commence work on Sixth Form bridging units. These are programmes of work designed to prepare students for starting A level courses (or equivalent level 3 courses), either at Imberhorne or elsewhere. The bridging units will involve between 12 – 15 hours work, in total, per subject and will run over at least four school weeks, until Friday 4th June at the earliest. The work completed will form part of the enrolment process for entry into the Sixth Form and will lead to internal school assessments in September. Students are expected to undertake bridging units in the subjects they have been offered in the Sixth Form (for the overwhelming majority this will be three subjects), if a student feels very strongly that they would like to undertake additional bridging projects in order to be considered for other subjects they must request to do so. Information about this will be disseminated shortly. I should make it clear that students will not be able to commence courses in the Sixth Form without completing the relevant bridging units. If there are question marks about having achieved appropriate GCSE grades, the quality of work completed in the bridging units may well be the deciding factor when considering whether students should start particular A level courses.

For students intending to follow level 2 courses, at Imberhorne or elsewhere, we intend to provide a more bespoke package. This is likely to entail some vocational work as well as English and maths content. If students are at risk of not securing a GCSE grade of 4 or above in English and Maths they will need to re-sit these exams in the Autumn term. Time spent securing this knowledge is therefore well-spent.



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Information about both of these programmes will be sent out shortly, bridging unit materials will be made available through Google classrooms.

I hope we have managed to strike an appropriate balance with these plans and that students have a clearer sense of what is expected of them. The vast majority of students in Year 11 will be returning to us in the Sixth Form, in September, it is therefore very important that they feel ready to 'hit the ground running' hence the time and effort we have devoted to preparing the bridging units. Once again, I would like to thank you for your ongoing support at this difficult time.

Yours faithfully

Mr M Brown

Headteacher