



WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

IMBERHORNE SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mr Martin Brown

Compassion
Achievement
Respect
Endeavour

*The cornerstones of our
learning community*

26th June 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you are managing with these extreme temperatures at the moment. We seem to have coped, largely I suspect because we still have a small number of students, all based in our biggest classrooms. Schools tend not to cope with extremes of temperature very well; busy buildings overheat quickly.

Our Year 10 students have continued with their taught sessions this week and are working very well. Approximately 80% of the expected numbers have attended to date (although this can vary from group to group). Year 12 lessons commenced this week and have been very well received, attendance in the Sixth Form has been outstanding, all week.

We are now entering the last three weeks of the summer term and wish to put in place a few experiences for our students. Over the next fortnight, commencing on Monday 29th June, all Year 9 students are invited, in form groups, to participate in a transition briefing and tour of the Imberhorne Lane site. All students, and parents, should have received a detailed letter providing a date and time for attendance. We are running morning and afternoon sessions to ensure no more than 15 students attend at any one time.

We are also pleased to say that we now have plans to ensure all Year 7 and Year 8 students also have an opportunity to return to school for a one-off visit. These visits will commence on Monday 6th July, students will attend with their form group for a 90-minute session at the Windmill Lane site. Once in school, form groups will be sub-divided and participate in some activities, a Q&A session and a brief assembly. Students will be able to use these visits to empty their lockers and collect a library book if needed, before the end of term.

This means that all students, apart from our exam groups, will have time in school prior to the summer break. This is very important to us and something we hope sustains the students over the summer before their return in September.

Government guidance at the moment advises us that all students are expected to attend in September. We are cautiously pleased by this news. Everyone wants to see school back to normal but understand that we need to put in place precautions to ensure such a return is safe. We anticipate more detailed information next week but are beginning to plan for what a safe return might look like.

It is very likely, based on emerging guidance, that lessons will run with full classes. The precautions we are therefore looking to take are to do with social time and movement between lessons. We must find a way to significantly reduce crowding, in our existing buildings this will be a challenge, and is likely to involve staggered starts and ends to lessons along with enforced hygiene routines. Before the end of this term we will provide parents with a plan for how we will keep the school environment as safe as possible in September and beyond.



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We are also aware that the government have promised a significant sum of money to cover additional tuition and catch-up sessions for students who need it. We welcome this news and will be planning for how best to deploy such resources. This is not a quick job and is certainly not something to rush to put in place over the summer. We need time with our students to correctly identify who needs support and what form this support should take. Targeted intervention delivered in the right way by the right teachers can have considerable impact.

As the end of term approaches we are now all busily preparing for next year, subject teams are meeting to plan lessons and compile resources. Whilst our experience of lockdown and online learning has had many challenges, we believe we have also learnt a great deal and developed many new skills. All of this should have an impact on students over the coming months and years. I wonder what the legacy of this 'covid' period will be and what will be different for us all, personally and socially. I strongly suspect a number of seeds of change have been sown.

Yours faithfully

Mr M Brown

Headteacher