



WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

IMBERHORNE SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mr Martin Brown

Compassion
Achievement
Respect
Endeavour

*The cornerstones of our
learning community*

4th February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

There are two weeks remaining of this half term. We are currently completing week 20 which means we are exactly half way through this academic year. A timely reminder for staff and students about how precious our time is. Overwhelmingly we are pleased with how students are progressing this year; good attendance is obviously key in this. Virtually everything that students learn is taught just once (although a number of skills do get repeated), if students miss those lessons it is hard to catch up. You will have seen headlines in the media talking about numbers of students out of school. Nationally attendance in maintained secondary schools was just over 85% in January. Attendance at Imberhorne is significantly higher than this (just over 92% for the same period). We are grateful to parents for your support and ask that you continue to promote the very best attendance from your sons and daughters. We do understand and accept there are still many challenges ahead, periods of isolation for those who test positive for Covid must be adhered to.

I recently received messages of thanks from a local care home. At Christmas some of our Year 9 students put together Christmas gifts for the residents. The many replies and messages of thanks from the residents were a joy to read, here is one such message to provide a flavour – *'Thank you so much for thinking of me and going above and beyond for us lot here. I heard that you gave everyone something different and I think that's really special. I shall enjoy my hand cream and know that it came from you lovely lot'*. We talk a great deal in the school about caring for others, being thoughtful and kind. I am extremely grateful to my colleagues for providing such opportunities and taking the time to help organise students and transportation to ensure that we can undertake such wonderful tasks for our community. I appreciate that occasionally the actions of a few can distract us from noticing that the vast majority of our students are wonderful ambassadors for the school and the town.

Key Dates

A reminder about a couple of important dates coming up. **Year 9 Options** must be submitted, electronically, by **Friday 11th February**. We are holding a **Year 11 Parents' Essential Exam Information Evening on Thursday 17th February**. This will be the last briefing for parents prior to exams in the summer, we therefore aim to provide all the information needed for the remainder of the summer term. Sharing information about the next round of mock exams, key revision advice and guidance about the external exams we hope will run in the summer. Parents will have the option to book to attend one of two sessions we are offering.

On our Inset day this week a number of staff commenced a 2 day Mental Health First Aid training course. We hope to provide regular training sessions across the year to help equip more staff with the skills and expertise to support the wellbeing of our students. We continue to see glimpses of the impact of Covid and successive lockdowns on some students and families. A few individuals are struggling to find their resilience and need supportive interventions to build them back up. Developing the awareness of all staff through our rolling training programme will help strengthen our community.

Yours faithfully

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