



WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

IMBERHORNE SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mr Martin Brown

Compassion
Achievement
Respect
Endeavour

*The cornerstones of our
learning community*

5th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

This week is Children's Mental Health Week, a very appropriate focus considering the pressures and anxieties some students and parents may be experiencing at this time. I have provided links, below, that will enable you to access resources and information that may be useful.

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/parents-and-carers/>

mental health resources

We take such matters very seriously at school and welcome the profile these issues are given in the media. Students learn best when they are in a positive frame of mind, being in touch with one's feelings and understanding how to manage negative thoughts and impulses is an important part of our emotional toolkit.

The re-introduction of DEAR in Key Stage 3 (Years 7,8 and 9) seems to have brought greater balance to the online learning experience of students. I am increasingly conscious of the pressure Year 10 students are experiencing at present and worry about their wellbeing with reports of excessive hours in front of the screen. I am advising teachers to limit lessons to 45 or 50 minutes for Year 10 students to ensure there is a breathing space between classes. We need to achieve a healthy balance between live lessons and opportunities for independent work, where students can pace their work appropriately.

We are looking ahead with positivity and trying to plan for the latter half of this year, although it is hard to make definite commitments without knowing the timescale on developments. We have a number of significant events coming up in the summer term which matter a great deal to students and their families. For Year 11 students our Graduation event and Year 11 Prom mark the end of an important part of their educational journey. Both of these events are traditionally held at external venues, at present such venues are unable to make firm commitments with regards to accommodating guests. We are working hard to ensure we can run key events for our students but advise parents against making any significant purchases or bookings at this stage with so much uncertainty. We will continue to monitor the situation and keep parents and students informed of developments. The same factors also affect Year 13 students. We hope to run our end of year events for them too and will keep everyone informed over the coming weeks.

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I am pleased to say that we have, over the last few weeks, been able to distribute 78 laptops to some of our students who were having difficulties accessing online lessons. Due to the ongoing generosity of our community we have a number of laptops we can still distribute and invite requests from any families who may be experiencing difficulties with managing online learning. This may be due to having limited or no access because the technology available is shared between a few individuals in the household. We have devised a simple form - <https://forms.gle/iq9RjMY1qe6cguh38> which families can use to request additional support.

Please note that it is half term from Monday 15th February – Friday 19th February. There will be no lessons that week and we are not expecting the students who currently attend school to be present. School resumes on Monday 22nd February.

I cautiously note that snow appears to be forecast over the weekend! This may bring a bit of light relief for us, particularly if you enjoy snowballs or snowy scenes!

Yours faithfully

Mr M Brown
Headteacher