



WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

# IMBERHORNE SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mr Martin Brown

**Compassion**  
**Achievement**  
**Respect**  
**Endeavour**

*The cornerstones of our  
learning community*

11<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

We are writing about the return to school for your sons and daughters and the need to share some key information with you about the year ahead.

We hoped that by this stage we may be able to hold a briefing meeting for you in school. Unfortunately, this is not yet possible, instead we will share this information with you in writing.

Your sons and daughters are a priority for us, they are commencing their final year in Key Stage 4 and are potentially just over two terms away from external examinations. As yet decisions about how they will be assessed next summer have not been agreed. There is some discussion about reducing curriculum content and delaying exams. Once this information has been confirmed we will contact you directly.

Over the next few weeks we will be assessing what possible gaps in knowledge exist and will make decisions about how such shortfalls will be addressed. I am sure you appreciate that it will vary, some students have completed a great deal of work, others less so. We also need to gauge how well students have learnt information covered through online learning. Whilst tasks may have been completed, we may find that the understanding is not yet there and content needs to be revisited.

We need to consider what learning is essential for future examinations, we are also mindful that learning is more than preparing for exams. The knowledge and skills that students have prepare them for future study, and for life. It is important that they have a rounded and fully developed set of skills.

We also cannot exclude the possibility that centre assessed grades may yet be required. Centre assessed grades were awarded by teachers to all Year 11 and Year 13 students in May/June 2020 and, in the end, were the final grades they received from the exam boards. Our centre assessed grades were based on internal test and examination data. Students this year must ensure that are fully prepared for such internal assessments, recognising they are very good indicators of likely examination performance but may actually be the data we have to use for final grades.

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I have listed the following key dates for the first part of this academic year, this includes formal internal examination points:

- Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October - identified as a possible parents' consultation evening (it will not be possible to run this evening in the usual way, we are considering alternative ways to share information with you)
- Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October – English mock exams (in classrooms)
- From Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October – Maths and Science mock exams (in classrooms)
- Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup>, Thursday 15<sup>th</sup>, Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October – Drama devised performances (examined)
- From Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November– Year 11 students will have a 'futures' interview with an appropriate person at the school. This is an occasion when we help students formulate plans for post-16 study
- Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November – GCSE PE practical assessment day (for targeted students)
- From Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November – Modern Foreign Language oral examinations (provisional – we are awaiting further guidance from the exam boards)
- Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November – Year 11 progress reports are published and we are holding our Imberhorne Sixth Form Open Evening (we will decide on the format for this evening nearer the time)
- Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December – Year 11 mock exams commence (for all subjects), at present our plans are that students commence study leave from this date and only attend when they have exams
- Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December – GCSE Music Performance Exams

There are further important dates in the new year. We hope to write to you again in the near future with updates regarding assessment next summer. In this letter we will detail further assessment points along with any other plans that have emerged in response to our diagnosis of students learning.

Some parents may be considering the perceived benefits of your son or daughter dropping a subject in the hope that this provides time for them to revisit and relearn content in other subjects that they may have missed. Our experience tells us that if students have a reduced curriculum they do not always make full use of any released time. Lessons are structured and provide direction. Independent study for students, attempting to fill holes in their knowledge, is rarely successful. Many students will be unsure of where their strengths lie and where they have missed key learning. Different subjects approached online learning in different ways with many avoiding introducing new content. Our own analysis of progress is



therefore key and will take a little time. If we believe that being removed from a subject, at this stage, is of clear benefit to any individual we will initiate those discussions.

Rest assured we will do our very best to make sure our students are as fully prepared as possible for whatever assessments lie ahead of them.

If you have concerns, I encourage you to talk to us. We are limiting face to face meetings but can of course talk by telephone. We need to work closely together and agree and appropriate steps for all students.

Yours faithfully

Mr M Brown

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