



WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

IMBERHORNE SCHOOL

Headteacher: Matthew Whatford

Compassion

Achievement

Respect

Endeavour

*The cornerstones of our
learning community*

3rd October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

Music Summer(ish) Concert

Thank you to all parents and carers who attended our belated Music Summer Concert on Monday of this week. Our students were delighted to be able to showcase their brilliant musical skills in a more temperate early-autumn climate (although the sunshine certainly reminded us of the summer) - you will remember that the extremely high temperatures before the summer break caused us to postpone due to health and safety concerns. We are extremely proud of them. Thank you also to our dedicated Music team, who have done a fantastic and important job of revitalising our live music experiences for students. Music is an important part of our curriculum and we value the arts highly at Imberhorne. We now look forward to our festive showcase, which is scheduled for Tuesday 9th December.

Year 7 Transformation Days

Our Year 7s this week have also completed the next stage of their transition to secondary school, participating in their Transformation Days. This gave them an opportunity to spend some structured time getting to know and bonding with their new tutor group, participating in sports, creative and enterprise activities. These days are an important part of their early journey with us, giving them the opportunity to experience some activities that are outside of their normal timetabled curriculum so that they can cement their relationships with their new peers. Thank you to Mrs Cook for her excellent organisation of these activities and to all staff who planned and delivered them.

Student Photographs

Students should have come home with the 'shoot key' details for their recent school photos. The link to order these is here <https://www.photoprinting.co.uk/ordering/access> A reminder that the deadline for free delivery is Monday 6th October.

Sixth Form events and Open Evening

Our Year 12 and 13 Art students this week had an excellent trip to both the Tate Britain and the Tate Modern. This is a highly valued trip for students, enriching their work and providing them with some brilliant first hand experience to progress their understanding of the art world. We are grateful to Ms Sassi and team for continuing to build in these opportunities that provide a richness to the curriculum beyond the classroom. Next week, our annual Year 13 cultural trip to Sweden sets off on Tuesday. We know that Mr Moore and the team are very excited and will report back on their experiences in next week's letter.

Whilst the main Open Evening last week was targeted at prospective students who are currently in Year 6, we also have our Sixth Form Open Evening on the horizon on Thursday 20th November. One of my key ambitions as Headteacher is to have as many students stay on with us for the full seven year journey as possible, so I would urge as many students in Year 11 as possible to put this in the diary so that they can see first hand our brilliant offer. We do, however, recognise that this will not be the right path for all students and will support everyone with their next steps and stages beyond Year 11 as the year progresses. This includes meeting every Year 11 student in the weeks after the October half term break to help us to understand their plans and provide as much information and guidance as they might need to help them with these.

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HerMove Mayor's U15 Girls Cup and Adam Dabell Memorial

Kudos to both our Under-15 girls and Sixth Form boys teams for the brilliant way in which they represented the school at the HerMove Mayor's Cup and Adam Dabell Memorial matches at East Grinstead FC on Thursday night. Both teams were highly competitive, working extremely hard in every area of the pitch, with the most sporting behaviour on display. In spite of the results not quite going our way, we were all extremely proud of them. I know that the plan going forwards is to maintain this as a double-header of matches between Imberhorne and Sackville and this is something we wholeheartedly support. Thank you to the numerous families, friends and students who turned out to support them.

Lockdown drills

This week we have practised our lockdown drills at both sites. Having proper lockdown procedures and practising these regularly throughout the school year is now a statutory duty for schools of our size under Martyn's Law. This came into force in April of this year. This is something we talk to students about in order to carefully manage any stressors or anxieties associated with these procedures, as we understand that these can be more difficult for some members of our school community. The drills have now become part of our routines in the same way that fire drills have always been. We were incredibly impressed with how well students followed the procedures and we were able to quickly and efficiently do all of the necessary checks to ensure everyone's safety.

Dorset Avenue Gate - Windmill Lane site

Further to my communications around pick up and drop off last week, please note that the Dorset Avenue gate at our Windmill Lane site remains a walk to school route only. This is designated by West Sussex County Council. I appreciate that it can be challenging to easily pick up and drop off at the Windmill Lane site, but need to ask that no picking up and dropping off takes place by this entrance. Thank you for your understanding.

Praise, Recognition and Rewards

Finally, attached to this letter is a letter from Mr Fallick that outlines our new Praise, Recognition and Reward practices. Please take the time to read this letter so that you can understand the changes that have been made in response to student, staff and parent/carers voice.

Yours faithfully

Mr Matthew Whatford
Headteacher