



WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

IMBERHORNE SCHOOL

Headteacher: Matthew Whatford

Compassion

Achievement

Respect

Endeavour

*The cornerstones of our
learning community*

26th September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

Open Evening

Thank you to all students and their families for your support for our Open Evening this week. It was an excellent event that really showcased our school and highlighted why this is such a special place. Our Strive, Support, Succeed mantra from the new school Vision Statement was in action across both sites and staff were delighted with the mature and articulate ways in which students were able to express themselves. Next week we will be welcoming families in for our Open Morning tours at each site, so students can expect to see more visitors seeing just how well they are taught and how brilliant our school is on a normal school day.

Year 11

Last week we had an extremely successful and highly focused revision and study skills session for all Year 11 students delivered by Elevate - you will find the link to their parent information page and some useful resources [here](#). We will be continuing to work on these skills in the coming weeks as we approach mock exams and as we continue through the year to ensure that students build on their study habits in readiness for the summer (which comes around surprisingly fast every year!) Further information will be provided on this in the Year 11-specific newsletter from Ms Marlborough and Mrs Abingdon. We will also speak about this and how we can work together to navigate Year 11 at the 'Support Your Child Through Year 11' event on Thursday 23rd October. We understand that it can be challenging for some families to attend evening engagements in school, but we would like all students to have one family representative present at this event, as well as every student represented at Year 11 Parents' Evening on Tuesday 11th November. Please put these dates in your diary now - if we are all pulling in the same direction, we will give students the very best chance of success.

Year 7

A huge well done to Year 7 students this week on the completion of the CATs (Cognitive Ability Tests). We have been really impressed with the maturity with which they have approached these and would like to be clear with all parents and carers that this is not something they should have worried about or have tried to prepare for. It simply gives a benchmark for what students can achieve in a given time in each test on the day. This is compared to a national standard and then comes back to us as a full cohort report so that we can further target our teaching and learning and triangulate this with every other bit of information that we have about students. Year 7 students will have also started receiving more homework as of this week, so please monitor this and speak with tutors if there are any issues at all.

Sixth Form

Congratulations to Sixth Form early applicants, who have this week worked extremely hard to finalise their applications to study Medicine and to Oxford and Cambridge. Thank you also to Mrs Warburton for the excellent job she has done in supporting students throughout this process. We have received some excellent feedback about this cohort of students from visitors and are rooting for all of them to be accepted to the course of their choice. Year 13 have also had a busy week of curricular and extra-curricular activities, completing their A-Level Geography field

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work around Stratford in London, with BTEC Scientists also visiting Wakehurst Place. Thank you to Mr Monckton and Dr Eveleigh for organising these experiences and all staff helpers for their support.

Key Stage 3 Music

A reminder to all parents of students at Key Stage 3 that it is beneficial for them to have some plugin headphones for their Music lessons. We do have some spares, but these do not always stretch to covering the whole class. Therefore, it is incredibly helpful when they are able to bring in their own for these lessons.

Pick up, drop off and parking at both sites

A polite reminder also to parents and carers dropping students off at both sites:

- At the Windmill Lane site, please respect the yellow KEEP CLEAR lines as these are in place to ensure student safety entering the school site. Please also park away from Windmill Lane where possible due to the numbers of students both from Imberhorne and surrounding schools crossing the roads. The road also becomes more unsafe due to congestion as buses are arriving and leaving.
- At the Imberhorne Lane site, please do not drive onto the school site to drop students off. We are limited in parking space and need to ensure that staff who are commuting can move their cars and park. We also need to ensure that students and our school buses can safely enter the site. Please instead pick up and drop off in the surrounding roads unless there is a specific mobility or health reason that prevents you from doing so.

Sporting events

Good luck to all students participating at the 'Friday Night Lights' rugby event at East Grinstead Rugby Club this evening. I know that Mr Byrne has worked hard on this event and is excited to see students giving an excellent account of themselves, representing the school. Next week we have the annual Adam Dabell Memorial match at East Grinstead Football Club on Thursday evening. There will first be a match between Imberhorne and Sackville U15 girls' teams at 5pm, both of which had an extremely impressive record last year, before a match between Imberhorne and Sackville Sixth Form students at 7pm. Both matches are in memory of both Adam Dabell and Oliver Shelley and we look forward to seeing families there.

Twin Town Art exhibition

Congratulations to Matilda, Samuel, Réwin, Phoenix, Blossom, Rosa and Phoebe in Year 9, all of whom have had their art work sent for display in East Grinstead's twin town, Mindelheim in Germany. They will be hung in what is described as 'possibly the smallest art gallery in the world', which is an old British red telephone box provided by the people of East Grinstead as a gift. We are delighted that the brilliant work of these students will receive this recognition and hope to share more details with you soon over social media. We are also very thankful to Ms Mitchell for her organisation and to the art department for continuing to provide students with such great exposure to art-based opportunities. The website for the initiative can be found [here](#) and translated into English as necessary for non-German speakers

Tanbridge Teaching Training

Thinking about a career in teaching, please find attached details of an information event held by Tanbridge Teacher Training on Monday 6th October at 4pm. [Here](#) is a link to their website for more information and future events.

Yours faithfully

Mr Matthew Whatford
Headteacher



Sporting Success

Kickboxing

Enormous congratulations to Javison Davidsripala who won his category at the European Youth Kickboxing Championship in Venice last week. This follows success at the same event last year and marks Javison as one of the emerging European talents in kickboxing. We will keep an eye out and share any future success!

Windsurfing

We were delighted to hear of further success in the UK Junior IQ Foil Championship for William Heath after he won the championship last weekend. William is on an elite pathway for windsurfing, having competed internationally over the summer and has Olympic aspirations. We wish him the very best of luck in his future competitions and will update you in these letters.