



WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

IMBERHORNE SCHOOL

Headteacher: Matthew Whatford

Compassion
Achievement
Respect
Endeavour

*The cornerstones of our
learning community*

10th January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

A very warm welcome back. We have hit the ground running on a very busy half term this week and are acutely aware of the exciting opportunities and challenges ahead. It's important to therefore highlight that we have Year 11 mock results on the horizon next week with a careful individualised review for each student to support them to understand their gaps and focus for revision and practice going forwards. I would urge all parents and carers to engage in this dialogue with their children and speak with us if there is anything you are at all unclear on - we know that this year group has a huge amount of potential and that there will be bumps in the road that can be mitigated with our combined safety net of support so that every student is as prepared as they can be for success in their next steps.

I should also make Year 11 parents and carers aware that there is a change to our provisional Prom date in the summer term. This is because our original venue double-booked and were unable to fulfil their commitment. **The new planned date for Year 11 Prom is Tuesday 24th June.** Further detail will follow in due course.

Year 9 students will also begin the first steps in defining their curriculum for Key Stage 4, with the start of the Options process in the coming weeks. With this in mind, we would like to highlight some key dates in the calendar where we would like as much student and family engagement as possible, separate letters with more detail regarding these events will follow:

- **Wednesday 29th Jan** is the whole-school Futures Fair, with a wide variety of stalls from businesses, colleges and universities.
- **Wednesday 5th Feb** is the Year 9 Options Subject Fair, where all key questions about the curriculum, options process and key advice and guidance will be covered.
- **Thursday 13th Feb** is Year 9 Parent Consultation evening - this will be the final opportunity to ensure that your child is ready for the courses they want to study and that these are the most appropriate for them.
- **Monday 24th Feb** is the deadline for all Options forms to be completed, ensuring that students have selected the subjects they want to study in Years 10 and 11.

Early next week you will be receiving a letter from Miss Jackson about Parent Forums and gathering your voice in advance of arranging these for the rest of the year. Please take the opportunity to complete the survey that will be sent with the letter if you have the time to do so. Our first issue of the school magazine was published this week and can be found [here](#). This has been an enormous piece of work by students in the Sixth Form, supported by Mrs Cheong and Mrs Jones, and we are extremely proud of what they have achieved. In my letter before the holiday you will have seen the long list of over 30 clubs and weekly activities that are running this term, some of which are highlighted in the magazine. Please do encourage your children to engage with these opportunities - we are extremely lucky at Imberhorne School to have staff who are willing to offer so much of their time above and beyond the normal curriculum and know how much this contributes to our sense of community identity and belonging. [Here](#) is a link to the Extra-Curricular activities for the Spring Term. It can also be found as a separate document attached to this letter.

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This week we have seen a bit of confusion with the buses at our Windmill Lane site. I have therefore been asked by the bus companies to remind parents and carers to check that your child has their bus pass, seeking a replacement if not. Students also need to ensure that they get on the correct bus so that there is definitely enough space for all normal users. Thank you for your support with this matter. On the subject of transport, as per my message earlier in the year, can I please politely remind parents and carers not to pick up or drop off in our school car parks, instead stopping on nearby roads so that students walk the final leg of their journey. This is in the interests of safety for all staff, students and families.

Finally, I would like to wish a very Happy New Year to all students and families. I hope you have all had a restful break and look forward to our continuing work together across the course of this academic year and beyond. I am not personally one for New Year's resolutions because I often think of them as tokenistic and too short-termist, but I have this week been talking to students in assembly about widening their Window of Tolerance (or what they can cope with) as a long-term change that they can control. I have suggested to them that they can do this by challenging themselves to attempt things that make them slightly (safely) anxious and by gradually removing things that they perceive they rely on so that they can use this as a platform to further challenge themselves and continue to widen their Window. I also suggested that they can do this by being positive in their daily approach to everyday challenges, seeking to be solution-focused and by celebrating their own and others' milestones. If we can work together to reinforce this messaging with a focus on long-term, self-directed and positive change I hope we can further build the resilience and success in our community.

Yours faithfully

Mr Matthew Whatford
Headteacher

Attached: Extra-Curricular Activities Spring Term
 Imberhorne School Young Enterprise Initiative – Car Boot Sale