



WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

IMBERHORNE SCHOOL

Headteacher: Matthew Whatford

20th March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

PTA - your help needed!

As per my letter of last half term and Ms Jackson's communications, we remain very keen to establish a PTA at Imberhorne School and to work even more closely with our families. We discussed this at our last parent forum and hope that there are some experienced parents and carers out there who will be keen to collaborate with us to look at establishing a PTA towards the end of this year, before we further progress this together in the new school year. If you feel that this is something that you might be able to contribute to in any way, please complete Ms Jackson's Google Form to express your interest [here](#).

Water at Imberhorne Lane

We were extremely frustrated to again have to write to you on Monday about our temporary water outage at Imberhorne Lane. This has been a source of mass disruption to the whole community and it is completely unacceptable that issues continue to beset our supply in and around the East Grinstead area. The school remains in contact with South East Water and West Sussex County Council to express our concerns over the fragility of our water infrastructure.

Federation Oracy event

This afternoon, Imberhorne hosted the second annual Mid-Sussex Federation Oracy event at the Imberhorne Lane site. This included students from our partner schools Downlands in Hassocks, Oathall in Haywards Heath and Sackville. Students impressed us with their confident oratory on a variety of subjects in a highly organised event, hosted by Ms Webb. It was a pleasure to be in attendance and hear what will doubtless be some of our great speakers of tomorrow.

Maths Challenge

On Tuesday of this week, Imberhorne hosted our first Soft Federation Maths Challenge involving Oathall, Sackville and Imberhorne. 44 talented mathematicians took part in three challenging rounds of maths questions, focusing on problem solving and teamwork. The overall winners were Sackville, with Oathall and Imberhorne coming joint second. A huge congratulations and thank you to all those involved. This was another successful event for our Federation, further strengthening our relationships and collaboration, with a bit of healthy competition.

Bodiam Castle trip

A huge thank you to the History Department for their hard work to organise for all of Year 7 to visit Bodiam Castle this week. All nine tutor groups attended over the first three days of the week, bringing their learning about castles and their development over time to life. Experiences such as these brilliantly enrich the classroom experience, and we are enormously grateful for the work that staff put into this.

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DofE Silver Expedition

Good luck to all Silver DofE students on their assessed expedition today. I look forward to joining them this afternoon to congratulate them on their first day's progress and hear about the undoubted pleasures and challenges of the journey.

GCSE Art & Photography Exams and Dance Assessed Performances

Kudos to Year 11 students for their ongoing focused hard work in the final few months of Key Stage 4. They have continued to stay focused this week in their Art & Photography exams, and their Dance Assessed performances. We have been extremely impressed with their attitude over the past weeks in school as they gear up towards exams. Students are also in communication with us where they are struggling - please continue to signpost to their tutors, Mrs Wells, Mrs Longhurst, Mrs Galloway, Mrs Abingdon and any members of the SLT if they are in any way in need of additional support and guidance.

Health Security and Public Health

You will have seen my communication on Wednesday from the UK Health Security Agency on the outbreak of invasive meningococcal disease in Kent and London. The link to the UK Health Security Agency guidance can be found again here: [Cases of invasive meningococcal disease notified in Kent - GOV.UK](#). Further information from the NHS can also be found [here](#).

West Sussex County Council have also asked that I share the following [link](#) with you, providing centralised Public Health information.

Last day of term arrangements

Students will be dismissed from school at 12.20pm on Friday 27th March. Bus services will be operating from 12.30pm on this day; please find the details listed below:

Metrobus will be operating the following services at 12.30pm on our last day of term:
281, 624, 638, 643, 648

The 903 and E579 Turbostyle services, Lingfield Minibus, 905 minibus and taxis etc are all also operating currently.

The 84 to Sharpthorne and West Hoathly - will not call at Imberhome Lane, but can be boarded at East Grinstead Station 12.39pm - if your son/daughter needs to get this service please speak to their Head of Year as they will need to leave a little earlier.

The services to Lingfield and Dormansland are as follows:

The 281 – leaves 13.05 from Felbridge Hotel heading towards East Grinstead and 13.14 at East Grinstead Station

The 409 – leaves at 12.47 from Baldwins Hill heading towards Lingfield only

Yours faithfully

Mr Matthew Whatford
Headteacher

Sporting and Arts success

East Grinstead Bonfire Society Badge Design

Enormous congratulations to Tom Palmer-Hoffmeyer in Year 7 who won the competition to design a badge for the East Grinstead Community Bonfire association. You can see his winning entry on our social media feeds and at all of the bonfire processions across Sussex in the autumn.



U12 RUGBY IMBERHORNE U12s MAKE IT TO 2 FINALS!

THE RATANA 7s - Old Whitgiftians RFC, Croydon

Matt Ratana (Matiu Ratana) was a highly respected Metropolitan Police Sergeant and a beloved figure in the rugby community. He was tragically killed in the line of duty on September 25, 2020.

Beyond his police work, Matt was the head coach at East Grinstead RFC and was known for his infectious energy and commitment to mentoring young players.

After his death, the Matt Ratana Rugby Foundation was established to support community rugby initiatives and help young people through the sport he loved. The Matt Ratana 7s is one such initiative.

The Ratana Cup Competition

Imberhorne faced a very strong Sackville side in the final and, despite playing some very good rugby, were unable to get the result they so desperately wanted, finishing second overall.

Imberhorne 35 : 20 Oxted

Imberhorne 50 : 00 Harris Purley

Imberhorne 00 : 20 Sackville

Tries: Tom BB (6) Bobby (1) Frank (1) Louie MB (4) Beau (3) Jack (1) Jackson (1)

Player of the tournament: Tom BB

The Ratana Plate Competition

Despite losing to Sackville in the early rounds, Imberhorne were able to reverse the result by beating them 15 : 05 in the final. Well done boys!

Imberhorne 10 : 15 Sackville

Imberhorne 20 : 05 Oxted

Imberhorne 15 : 05 Sackville

Tries: Rory (5) Jackson (1) Santi (1) Owen (1) Jackson (1)

Player of the tournament: Rory

A great day, and a great way to celebrate Matt Ratana. Well done to everyone involved.

Words by Mr Byrne