



WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

IMBERHORNE SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mr Martin Brown

Compassion
Achievement
Respect
Endeavour

*The cornerstones of our
learning community*

19th June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

We welcomed back our Year 10 students this week. They all experienced three hours of tuition in English, maths and science, their first lessons in a classroom, in the school, since mid-March. Whilst these are tentative first steps we were delighted to see them all, I would like to think the feeling was mutual. Certainly, the response from students and staff was very positive with good attendance all through the week (attendance of Year 10 students this week has averaged almost 80%). Whilst online learning remains the central plank of our education provision, these face to face sessions make a big difference. Students have all been set work to do in response to the work they covered in class.

Year 12 students resume some lessons next week, they should all have received a personalised letter detailing what lessons they are expected to attend. Again, the face to face teaching they receive will supplement their online learning programme.

DfE guidance issued at the start of this week clarified that where possible schools could consider bringing students in other years in for one off meetings or activities. We were really pleased to see this. The possibility of no contact with students in Year 7, 8 and 9 until September has been a concern for us. We are therefore looking at what might be the most effective way to use this limited time. We must adhere to the guidance we have been given about ensuring social distancing and the careful management of personal hygiene, whilst also ensuring that we are not bringing different groups into contact with each other. Our initial proposal is as follows:

To provide students in Year 9 with a transition experience and briefing, we intend to run this at the Imberhorne Lane site, inviting one form group to attend, per day. The form groups will be sub-divided with half attending in the morning and the other half in the afternoon. These sessions will last approximately 90 minutes and include a carefully managed tour, a Q & A session and a briefing. Once students have finished their transition experience we encourage them to travel directly to the Windmill Lane site to empty their lockers and hand their keys in. We will allow students onto the Windmill Lane site, one or two at a time, in the period immediately following their time at Imberhorne Lane. They will be asked to queue and enter the building through the main Windmill Lane reception.

Year 9 students will receive a more detailed letter outlining what day and time they are invited to attend their transition experience.

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We are also hoping to offer to students in Years 7 and 8 an opportunity to attend a short activity at the Windmill Lane site and are looking to schedule something before the end of the summer term. We need time to discuss and plan what this might look like so further details will be available next week. We feel that all students need some form of closure to this academic year.

I appreciate that some students will be unable to attend because they, or a member of their family, are vulnerable. We hope though that most students are able to attend and value having an opportunity to see friends and teachers, albeit briefly, before the school year ends.

It feels as though the school is gradually reawakening. More staff and students are in the buildings and the noise and energy of school is starting to return. It has been really gratifying to hear our Year 10 students talk about how good it is to be back and receiving face to face tuition. For staff it is a return to what they know and love about their jobs, the opportunity to impart knowledge and understanding. When school is not there (in the way we know it to be) we feel unfulfilled, our focus is on developing our students as best we can, we recognise that technology can aid but never replace the classroom. Learning is about many things but primarily it is a social activity.

Yours faithfully

Mr M Brown

Headteacher