



WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

# IMBERHORNE SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mr Martin Brown

**Compassion**  
**Achievement**  
**Respect**  
**Endeavour**

*The cornerstones of our  
learning community*

4<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I am sending this letter on the first full day of term. We have worked hard to ensure we are ready to receive our students and staff safely back to school.

It has been a busy period over the summer. We were delighted to see our outgoing Year 13 and Year 11 students on their respective results days coming to school to collect their results slips. We were very pleased about the decision to award students their centre assessed grades, our own rigorous internal processes mean that we believe these grades are very accurate. Our students have worked hard throughout the duration of their courses showing us what committed individuals they are. Their excellent grades were well deserved.

At A level our results were as follows:

**31%** of A level grades at A/A\*

**60%** of A level grades at A\*-B

**86%** of A level grades at A\*-C

These results reflect our upward trajectory in the Sixth Form. We have seen year on year increases over the last five years meaning that performance in the Sixth Form is amongst the very strongest in West Sussex. At the time of writing 93% of our university applicants have secured places. We are delighted to have successful placements at Oxford, Bristol, Kings, Warwick, Sheffield, Leeds, Nottingham and a number of other Russell Group universities. Students are studying a diverse range of courses from Biochemistry, to Theoretical Physics, Medicine, Dentistry, Computing, Maths, Politics and Engineering. As always, we are excited for our students as they embark on the next phase in their lives, whatever this may entail.

In Key Stage 4, results remain very strong. Our internal tracking suggested that we would see an increase in attainment, particularly amongst the higher grades. Our GCSE results were as follows:

**81%** of all grades were 4 or above

**29%** of grades were 7 or above

We had **131** grade 9s (5.7% of all results)

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These measures show a small increase from previous years, matching our projections and reflecting what we know about the year group. Our congratulations go to all students. We hope to welcome a significant number back to our Sixth Form and for those going elsewhere we wish them the very best of luck.

We spent our staff training day on Thursday preparing for the year ahead. A significant part of this was spent sharing plans about how the site will be managed in the coming weeks. We expect students and staff to routinely be cleaning their hands, every time they enter buildings. Students are mostly contained within year group 'bubbles'. In shared specialist spaces students will be required to clean workspaces at the beginning and end of lessons. At the end of each day the whole site will be cleaned thoroughly with a special focus on any shared spaces.

Our catering team have prepared carefully for the return of students. Hot and cold food will be available as 'grab and go' dishes. They are available in self-contained packages, students will be able to select from a limited range of dishes to purchase and take to their designated spaces to eat.

I have been contacted by a few parents about arrangements for PE, there is some concern about the wearing of PE kit, specifically shorts, throughout the day. We have therefore decided that students may wear **plain black or navy** tracksuit trousers during the school day, over their shorts. As the weather gets colder this seems like an appropriate adaptation of our plans.

As with all such planning, arrangements remain fluid. We will have to watch and see how things work and be prepared to make appropriate changes if necessary.

Part of our training day also involved planning our improvement initiatives. Despite all the challenges we face we do not believe we can sit still as a school. We have high aspirations and continue to look for areas of improvement. Our improvement initiatives build on the work we started last year and are as follows:

- Communication – developing students as readers and equipping them with particular reading skills that help them become more effective learners. We also wish to develop the idea of pre-learning complex or specialist vocabulary (understanding terminology prior to utilising it in lessons)
- Character – continuing to focus on character education and the idea of developing cultural capital
- Challenge - continuing to look at ways to engage all learners, particularly some boys who could make better progress. We are an inclusive school and must serve our whole community as well as we can

Finally, I want to make you aware of updated guidance released to schools at the end of last week. In this guidance the government shared with us their coding for areas with regards to infection rates. They are using the following system:



Tier 1 – schools are fully open

Tier 2 – schools operate a rota system, ideally with year groups spending 2 weeks in school and 2 weeks at home, this is likely to entail having a number of year groups in school, across both sites, whilst others are engaged with online learning away from school. This would then alternate with those who have been in school commencing online learning and those at home returning to the classroom for lessons

Tier 3 – schools are only open for selected year groups (we will be advised of these) and for vulnerable students

Tier 4 – schools are only open for limited numbers of vulnerable students

I would hope, in this part of the country, that we are not at risk of high rates of infection and will remain in Tier 1. I think it important however that you are aware of the official advice that we will have to follow if things change significantly. We will continue to keep you informed of any possible changes.

Yours faithfully

Mr M Brown

Headteacher