



WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

IMBERHORNE SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mr Martin Brown

Compassion
Achievement
Respect
Endeavour

*The cornerstones of our
learning community*

4th March 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

I am sure like me you have been disturbed by events in Ukraine over the last week. I have run assemblies about this all week, talking to the students about a number of factors; the history of this conflict, the place of NATO, learning to critically evaluate information and news we are given and what this aggressive act means for the world and potentially our future. It is shocking to see the devastating effects of war on families and communities, the loss and destruction they are experiencing will stay with them forever. As I have said to the students, this is arguably the most significant world event they will experience in their lifetime and could have lasting consequences. I have concluded my assemblies with thoughts about the bravery of the Ukrainian people, standing up for their freedom against a formidable invading force. It will be a truly frightening experience for them. Reminding them that our values and beliefs matter, most of all when they are threatened by others.

Within our community we have individuals of both Russian and Ukrainian descent. It is important that students do not judge a nation and its people by the actions of a leader, we know that opposition to the war is widespread with public demonstrations taking place around the world, including within Russia. School must be a safe place to consider and question what is happening without fear of censure or threat.

Covid

I am pleased to say there has been a very significant reduction in Covid infections in the school with just three students off school at present with positive cases, these are the lowest figures we have experienced since September 2021. Whilst the statutory guidance to isolate has been removed, Public Health guidance remains in place for schools. If students or staff test positive for Covid they are still, therefore, expected to isolate for a minimum of five days. Individuals can return to school once they have two successive negative LFD tests, the earliest of these taken on day five. All individuals are expected to return after ten days isolation, at the latest. We do not anticipate families will continue to undertake regular weekly LFD tests. We anticipate LFD tests will only be used when someone is clearly unwell and exhibiting symptoms.

Get into Teaching

In conjunction with a number of schools we are running a '**Get into Teaching**' information event for parents, members of the community, ex-students and any other interested individuals. In my unbiased opinion, teaching is an incredibly rewarding career. Being able to train at a school like Imberhorne could bring an added incentive for people in the locality. The event will be held on the morning of **Wednesday 16th March**. Further information is available by following this link - <http://www.imberhorne.co.uk/content/teacher-training>

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Year 11

Mock exams commence for Year 11 students today, Friday 4th March and run for a week. These are important opportunities for students to show us what they are capable of. With the release of information by exam boards on 7th February many subject areas have a clearer idea about topics and areas of study that are likely to be assessed in the summer. These mock exams provide important preparation for this.

Dates

Our next **non-uniform day** is on **Friday 18th March** and is in support of **Comic Relief**. A separate letter will come out next week requesting donations for this event.

Prior to this, on **Thursday 17th March**, we are holding our **Year 12 consultation evening for parents** and this will be an **early closure day of 2.30pm** for the whole school.

WBD

On World Book Day, Thursday 3rd March, myself and many colleagues adopted outfits to reflect literary characters. It is another way to raise the profile of books and reading across the school. It is also a bit of fun, I hope it provided a bit of welcome relief for all. Perhaps slightly foolishly I decided that Professor Dumbledore would be a good character for me to portray. It prompted a mixed reaction from students, mostly they could not quite believe their eyes, Mr Brown with a huge head of hair and a giant purple cloak! Many thanks to my colleagues for their amazing creativity and willingness to dress up for the day.

Yours faithfully

Mr M Brown
Headteacher