



WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

IMBERHORNE SCHOOL

Headteacher: Matthew Whatford

Compassion
Achievement
Respect
Endeavour

*The cornerstones of our
learning community*

6th March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

Uniform Policy

I hope that Year 7-10 parents and carers will have seen my letter on our planned uniform changes for September 2026. These changes are carefully phased, and the full new uniform will be for the incoming Year 7 only, with no changes for Years 10 and 11 (currently Years 9 and 10). Please do take the time to read this if you have not done so already (a copy is attached) - the aim is ultimately to ensure that uniform is cost-effective, that there is choice and that it is comfortable for all students in the long-term.

Middle East Conflict

We understand that the ongoing situation in the Middle East will be affecting some of our families and causing stress and anxiety. Please do communicate with us if this is the case for your family so that we are aware and able to support your children in school. We will continue to provide students with objective information about the conflict and answer their questions as best we can as they arise, challenging all forms of division and prejudice.

World Book Day

A massive thank you to Ms Webb for her excellent coordination of a whole week of events for World Book Day this week. I realise that this is a huge focus for families when children are in primary schools, but it is incumbent on us in secondary schools that we do not lose sight of the significance of this event in raising the profile of reading. We cannot overstate this in relation to the increased demands for reading in GCSE exam papers over recent years, but also for the quality of life of our students in the future. Thank you to all our families for everything you do at home to support this, especially where some of our students face challenges with reading.

Mock Exams - Year 11

Well done to all Year 11 students who have been completing their final round of mock exams this week. We know that this term has been the start of a much more intense period for students and that some of them will be feeling the pressure. We have been extremely impressed with how they have approached their exams and are confident that students will see the gains from the work they have put in. We also understand that some students will be feeling these pressures more than others, so continue to encourage them to communicate with us around this so that we can do our best to support them in school.

Recognition and Reward

We will be closing the second term of our reward and recognition process on Sunday 15th March. This will allow the school time to process the data, issue certificates, and celebrate with students during the final two weeks of term. Students have been shown their weekly standings based on the previous cut-off point of 30th November, so they are aware of where they currently sit within the reward categories. We are therefore giving all students one final week to try and push themselves into the next reward category. We encourage them to continue demonstrating the positive behaviours and effort that contribute towards these rewards.

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INSET days for 2026-27

In case you missed these in last week's letter, we are pleased to now be able to inform you of our INSET days for the next academic year, which are as follows:

- Tuesday 01/09/2026
- Wednesday 02/09/2026
- Friday 27/11/2026
- Friday 02/07/2027
- Monday 05/07/2027

Yours faithfully

Mr Matthew Whatford
Headteacher

Sporting and Arts success

Year 8 Netball v Michael Hall School.

It was a challenging start to the match, with a nervous first half that saw us miss several good scoring opportunities. Despite creating chances, we struggled to convert them and allowed the opposition to take control. At half time, we found ourselves 5–0 down.

After the break, a few positional changes helped settle the team. Confidence began to grow, and we started to find our rhythm. The third quarter showed clear improvement, with sharper passing and much better spacing across the court. Movement off the ball increased and we applied stronger defensive pressure across the court.

The fourth quarter was by far our strongest performance. The team played with real confidence, maintaining high possession and demonstrating excellent teamwork. In the shooting circle, Beth and Hana worked brilliantly together, showing composure, accuracy, and great communication to convert opportunities.

Although the match finished as a 10–7 loss, the second-half performance was outstanding. To come back from 5–0 down and win the second half 7–5 shows real determination, resilience, and growing belief. The improvement across the game was fantastic to see and gives us great momentum going forward.

Players of the Match, voted for by the Michael Hall students, were Livvy and Beth — a well-deserved recognition for their effort, impact and commitment on court.

Words by Mrs Pritchard

U12 Rugby: Imberhorne 15 : 10 Seaford

In a bruising encounter defined by contrasting styles, the Imberhorne U12s secured a 3–2 try victory over a physically imposing Seaford side. While Seaford brought immense power and directness to the contact area, Imberhorne remained composed and firmly in control, neutralising the threat with disciplined defence and superior tactical awareness. The difference-maker was Imberhorne's flair and ingenuity; by consistently finding creative paths through a dense defence with clever offloads and sharp footwork, the team turned grit into points. It was a mature performance that proved their clinical finishing and "rugby IQ" could overcome even the toughest physical challenges.

What pleased me most was our unwavering desire to play 'the right way.' Even under pressure, the boys never stopped looking for the creative pass or the clever line, proving that true skill and a positive spirit will always shine through.

Try Scorers: Bobby (1) Morgan (1) Santi (1)

Player of the Match: Stan



U12 Rugby: Imberhorne 65 : 05 Lewes Priory

The U12 rugby squad reached a significant milestone this week, delivering a dominant performance against Lewes Priory School to claim victory in the Sussex Waterfall Tournament Final. Beyond the scoreline, the match served as a showcase for a team that is rapidly discovering its identity and a sophisticated style of play that left the opposition struggling to keep pace. From the opening whistle, the team's cohesion was evident. Bobby, captaining the side with composure and grit, led by example throughout the match. His leadership ensured the team remained disciplined under pressure, ultimately guiding them to a very healthy margin of victory against a physical Lewes side. At Fullback, Thomas BB was nothing short of outstanding, with yet another Player of the Match display.

It is often said that rugby is a game of constant evolution, and several players showed just how far they have progressed:

- Dexter and Toby displayed a physical presence and tactical awareness that unsettled the Lewes Priory defence.
- Frank, Santi, Jack and Rory showed great intuition in open play, looking more and more like seasoned rugby players with every passing minute.

I am incredibly pleased with the result, but more importantly, with how the boys conducted themselves on and off the pitch. They played with spirit, respect, and a clear sense of purpose.

Words by Mr Byrne

Year 8 Boys Football

A trip over to Burgess Hill for the Year 8 footballers in the county shield produced what could only be described as utterly ridiculous.

The boys played in the absolute blazing sun, shirt sleeves rolled up and sweatbands on. Imberhorne seemed to play for the first 50 minutes like they had never met each other before, let alone being best friends, finding themselves 2 - 0 down. After some stern but honest words from Mr Collyer and a change of formation and personnel, Imberhorne finally started playing as a team and with 15 minutes left Zach W took the game by the scruff of the neck and produced a sensational 12 minute Hattrick to send Imberhorne through to the next round.

POM. Zach W.

Imberhorne winning 3-2 - UNBELIEVABLE!!!

Words by Mr Collyer