



WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

IMBERHORNE SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mr Martin Brown

Compassion

Achievement

Respect

Endeavour

*The cornerstones of our
learning community*

9th July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Covid-19

We are getting very close to the end of term and, unfortunately, seeing a rise in positive cases of Covid-19 in the school. At present it continues to be the case that infections seem to come from beyond school. Whilst it remains a very small number compared with the national picture it is of course a concern. Lateral flow tests are helping identify asymptomatic individuals, however our subsequent contact tracing then results in much larger numbers of students having to self-isolate. I appreciate how frustrating this is for students and families returning to online learning again. You may be aware that we also have a number of staff self-isolating due to being identified as designated contacts. I am one of that number. We are monitoring these numbers carefully and will of course advise you if this grows significantly. Clearly if we lose too many teachers and are unable to cover lessons we may have to consider how to manage the school safely in the remaining days.

Easing of Restrictions in Schools - September 2021

You will also have seen and heard about plans for schools from September 2021. I have provided a link to some of the information that has been shared by the government.

<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2021/07/06/parents-pupils-teachers-and-students-find-out-what-step-4-of-the-covid-roadmap-means-for-you/>

In short, from 19th July, schools are no longer required to keep students in 'bubbles' or apply other restrictions. We will continue with our existing arrangements until the end of term. At the Imberhorne Lane site, students will remain in zones for form time and social time. Students move freely between classrooms for lessons unless their room is upstairs. All upstairs lessons require students to queue outside and be escorted to their rooms, this prevents any unnecessary crowding on our stairwells. Students will continue to wear masks when entering the canteen. At the Windmill Lane site, we will retain zones for form time, social time and lessons. Students will continue to gather outside and be escorted to and from lessons. Masks will also be worn in the canteen.

From September we will retain zones, on both sites, for form time and social time. We have seen real benefits from such measures and wish to retain this practice. All lessons though will be taught in subject rooms meaning that students will move freely across the sites. At present we are advised that, from September, schools will no longer be required to contact trace and that students will not be required to self-isolate if they are considered a close contact of an infected individual. Until then the current regulations remain in place.

End of Term

Term ends on Friday 23rd July at 12.20pm.



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Covid-19 Testing and the Start of the New Academic Year

The new academic year commences on Friday 3rd September. As you may be aware schools are required to test all students prior to their return to school, we are therefore slightly extending our staggered start to the term to enable this to happen. I am sure you appreciate testing the whole school community in this way is a considerable undertaking, taking many hours of staff time. Parents are asked to book a test time for students, on the days indicated below. We will make 30-minute windows available to hopefully make the testing as convenient as possible. Details about how to book a test time will be shared next week.

Year 7 and Year 11

On Friday 3rd September a small number of Year 7 students will be invited into school (Windmill Lane site) to be tested and undertake some induction. All remaining Year 7 students and Year 11 students will be asked to attend the Imberhorne Lane site in order to take a lateral flow test, once the test has been taken they will leave the site. Lessons for all Year 7 and Year 11 students commence from Monday 6th September.

Year 9 and Year 10

Year 9 and Year 10 students will attend the Imberhorne Lane site on Monday 6th September for their lateral flow test and then leave. Lessons for Year 9 and Year 10 students commence from Tuesday 7th September.

Year 8 and Year 13

Year 8 and Year 13 students then follow suit on Tuesday 7th September, attending the Imberhorne Lane site for their lateral flow test and then returning home. Lessons for Year 8 students commence on Wednesday 8th September. Year 13 students have slightly different arrangements, they will be participating in a 'personal statement day' on the 8th September. Lessons for Year 13 students therefore commence from Thursday 9th September.

Year 12

Year 12 students have a more complicated start to term. They will initially have to enrol either virtually or in person depending on their choices and results. They then participate in a team 'building day' at Blacklands, the Year group is divided in two for this, identified students may also be invited to sit some early assessments as well. Across the first few days Year 12 students will therefore be able to choose the most appropriate time to be tested in school, there is more flexibility regarding when this might be. Lessons for Year 12 students will commence on Friday 10th September.

As some uncertainty starts to swirl around us again, I hope that you are managing to stay well. My own circumstances mirror those of many people I know. A family member tests positive and, as a contact, one then has to isolate. I am pleased to say that there has been no significant illness arising as a consequence. Having been vaccinated, we believe that we may have therefore escaped infection. I hope this is the pattern being experienced more widely.

We are looking forward to September and hope that it heralds a renewed positivity after the very many challenges we have all experienced. We crave a return to normal and are planning our calendar to include trips and enrichment activities across the school. Such experiences and opportunities underpin a happy and fulfilling educational experience.

Yours faithfully

Mr M Brown
Headteacher