



WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

**IMBERHORNE SCHOOL**

Headteacher: Mr Martin Brown

**Compassion**

**Achievement**

**Respect**

**Endeavour**

*The cornerstones of our  
learning community*

12<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I am delighted to say that the return to school this week has gone very well. Students have resumed work in the classroom and seem pleased to be back! I know they value the social contact with their peers, I think they also value the routine and systems of school. They are overwhelmingly good humoured and have settled quickly. It is a pleasure to feel an energetic buzz around our school sites again.

Many thanks to you all for your support with our testing schedule. It ran remarkably smoothly, although I understand there were a few hiccups with consent forms that required some patience. I am very grateful to my colleagues who undertook many hours of training and preparation to run the tests so successfully. It is a credit to them all that with very little prior experience we have been able to provide such a thorough and professional testing regime.

After students have had their third test in school, completed next week, they will be supplied with home test kits and are expected to test themselves twice a week at home. We anticipate a delivery of home test kits to distribute to students. This link provides guidance on how to conduct home testing - [instructions for coronavirus \(COVID-19\) self-testing](#)

We are very mindful that we may well encounter, over the coming weeks and months, a greater proportion of students needing emotional support. We have therefore carefully planned our wellbeing and mental health provision. Identified students will initially receive support from our pastoral teams, learning mentors and SEND team. If an individual's needs are beyond what our teams can provide support for we will increasingly work with external agencies, including counsellors, to best support students. One such organisation is a company called Your Space who provide a counselling service; from Easter a counsellor will be available at the school once a week, per site. A diagram showing how the different strands of our provision inter-relate, along with a referral form that can be used by students, parents or teacher will be available on our website.

We are currently working hard with subject areas to finalise plans for the awarding of grades in the summer. Our emerging assessment plans, which we will share, identify key assessments for both Year 11 and Year 13 students that will inform their final grades. Many subjects are likely to have at least one further assessment prior to Easter. More extensive, formal assessments will happen in the latter part of the following half term, in mid to late May, these ongoing assessments provide an opportunity for students to show us what progress they have made.

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I am conscious of two important factors, firstly such assessments will generate a huge marking load for subject staff at a time when they are also correlating a number of previous assessments as part of our overall plan. Secondly subject staff must then undertake extensive standardisation processes in order to 'quality assure' these assessments. Plans for this may well be scrutinised by exam boards. All of this, of course, takes place in a very short period of time, final grades must be submitted to exam boards by mid-June. For this reason, we are therefore following the pattern of some other schools by relocating our last remaining Inset day. It will move from Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June to Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May, the last day before the half term break. Positioning the Inset day here means that staff can spend the day working in teams to finalise marks and grades prior to further scrutiny. I understand that any such changes can be unsettling for families and ask that you notify me of any problems this may cause you.

Finally, I would like to alert you to the fact that it is Comic Relief day on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March. This will be a non-uniform day for students and the money raised will go towards Comic Relief. We will publish our usual letter outlining the details of this day and our expectations for students in due course.

Yours faithfully

Mr M Brown  
Headteacher