



WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

IMBERHORNE SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mr Martin Brown

Compassion
Achievement
Respect
Endeavour

*The cornerstones of our
learning community*

15th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I wanted to share our thanks to the whole community for the overwhelming generosity we have experienced. We put out a request for laptops/desktops that could be reconditioned for students to use at home. In response we have been inundated with equipment or funds to purchase equipment for our students. When added to our Department of Education allocation of 37 laptops we may now be in a position to provide laptops/desktops to 70 or more students currently trying to work remotely without the use of a computer, this will undoubtedly make a huge difference to them and their families. We are extremely grateful for the support we have received.

Anecdotal feedback from students suggests that our live lessons are going well. Students comment on how much better it is to hear and see their teachers teach through video technology. We are conscious though that it is very difficult to sustain five live lessons, each of up to an hour in duration. Online learning is intensive. We are currently discussing what a varied diet of online learning activities might look like. In general, we think this should be a mix of live, interactive sessions in conjunction with work students can complete independently. Subjects are considering a pattern of lessons that provide teacher input, independent work, opportunities for consolidation and opportunities to reflect collectively. We continue to look for the most effective models and welcome feedback from you.

We are concerned about the potential harm of prolonged computer work, particularly for younger students (Years 7,8 and 9). We therefore wish to introduce a change. We believe a scheduled break from computer-based learning is healthy and will help students persevere with their learning over the coming weeks. From Monday 18th January students in Key Stage 3 will have a reduced curriculum. We intend to re-launch DEAR (Drop Everything And Read), this means that for one hour a day we would like students to turn away from their computers to read. In addition to this we would also like to promote physical exercise, encouraging them to run (Drop Everything and Run!) or take part in an activity that provides an appropriate break. The following link might provide some useful ideas or starting points -

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/55151792>.

DEAR will rotate around the timetable (for students in Years 7,8 and 9) to ensure that no subjects are unduly impacted upon across the half term. From next week, Monday to Friday, DEAR will take place during period 3 (11.20 – 12.20pm), no work will be set for Key Stage 3 classes at this time. Then in the following week 25th – 29th Jan, it will move to period 4 (12.20 – 1.20pm).



Imberhorne Lane
East Grinstead
West Sussex
RH19 1QY

Tel: 01342 323562

E-Mail: info@imberhorne.co.uk

www.imberhorne.co.uk



We have two virtual parents' consultation evenings coming up in the next few weeks. Year 11 students and their parents can make appointments to meet teachers on Thursday 28th January. Year 9 students and parents will have a consultation evening on Thursday 4th February.

We are concerned that the demands of four hours of video meetings with parents (as part of a consultation evening) after a full day of 'live' lessons will be unmanageable for staff. This means that we will be advising the staff participating in those consultation evenings not to run 'live' lessons on those days. Instead we propose that work is set in Google Classroom and students will be asked to access this independently. I am sure you appreciate the importance of this.

Finally, I would like to advise you that our scheduled INSET day, on Friday 29th January, will go ahead as planned. At the end of four weeks of online learning, this will provide a welcome break for all. Staff will use this day to plan for the weeks ahead. We hope there may be greater clarity over a possible return to school by this stage.

Yours faithfully

Mr M Brown
Headteacher