



WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

IMBERHORNE SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mr Martin Brown

Compassion

Achievement

Respect

Endeavour

*The cornerstones of our
learning community*

16th July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

We are just about to enter the last week of this academic year. Our journey since September 2020 has undoubtedly been a roller coaster experience for all, with so much uncertainty at every turn. I do not underestimate the huge challenges you have faced as families, the worry and stress that has accompanied online learning and time away from the classroom. You have seen first-hand the challenges students have faced. Whilst I recognise the impact this year has had on many individuals, I also have nothing but admiration for the tremendous resilience, good humour and care students display. In the face of much adversity and challenge they have got on with things and found their way. They are wonderful young people and a credit to their community.

At times, in the past few months, many of you have received phone calls and messages from us asking your children to isolate. I know how deeply frustrating this has been and the upset it has caused. In spite of this, staff at the school have encountered nothing but support and positivity. I would therefore also like to extend my grateful thanks to you, for all you do, and the tremendous support you provide the school. It feels as though we have faced these challenges together, particularly when things have appeared to be quite bleak and uncertain.

LAST WEEK OF TERM

Years 7, 8 & 9

Next week will be slightly different. Students in Year 7 and Year 8 will have a menu of activities woven into their normal timetable. We hope this provides a stimulating and enriching end to their year. Students in Year 9 are engaged in their Key Stage 4 courses and settling well at the Imberhorne Lane site. Years 7, 8 and 9 all have **Sports Day** on Wednesday 21st July, details about this have been shared however I would like to highlight the following:

- **Sports Day** is held at the Imberhorne Lane site. All of our usual buses will drop students at the site apart from the 648 which will drop students on the main road (by the Felbridge Hotel). Staff will escort the students from the bus stop to the site. Those who usually travel on the 236 service will be dropped on the Lingfield Road. This is unfortunately a longer walk to the Imberhorne Lane site.
- Students must come in their PE kit and are advised to bring a water container as well as sun cream. We advise that one of the regular, weekly, lateral flow tests is taken the evening before **Sports Day** as a precaution.
- Our canteen will be open, all students will be able to access the canteen, if they wish. I believe the 'infamous' chicken in a bun may be the breaktime snack!



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Year 10

Year 10 students have a slightly different experience in the last week. Normal lessons will run on Monday and Tuesday. On Wednesday 21st July we are running three different activities, according to student preference. A visit to Sussex University, a skills work shop run by Brighton and Hove Albion (in the community) and a visit to Plumpton College. On Thursday 22nd July, all Year 10 students are taking part in three 'futures' workshops attending school for just over 2 hours. In addition to this they will be given some independent work to do, preparing for their speaking and listening assessment in September. Year 10 students finish school on Thursday 22nd July.

Masks and Contact Tracing

Monday 19th July marks an end to a number of restrictions we have experienced over the last year. As you are aware we intend to retain the use of masks when queuing for the canteen and for buses, during this last week of term. We have been advised by WSCC and the bus companies that the wearing of masks remains an expectation on school transport at this time. We also intend to continue to contact trace and liaise with families about possible risks and the requirement to isolate. Such actions feel sensible at present.

Transport

Term ends for students in Years 7,8 and 9 on Friday 23rd July at 12.20pm. All of our usual buses will be available at that time apart from the 624, students who live in Crawley Down and Copthorne are advised to board the 291 service which is available from the London Road bus stop. Students who live beyond Copthorne Village will need to make alternative arrangements. Students travelling to Dormansland and Lingfield, from Lower school, need to board the 236 at the usual stop at 13.38.

Farewell to Colleagues

We are saying goodbye to a number of colleagues this summer. Some long-standing support staff are leaving us; Mrs White, Mrs Tonge, Miss Kaleido, Mrs Taylor and Mrs Wynn. In addition to these five members of teaching staff are also leaving; Mrs Hadlow, Miss McCusker, Mrs Seuret, Mr Friend and Mr Conroy. Whilst it is always sad to lose colleagues you have worked closely with, particularly when they have given so much to the school, it brings an inevitable sense of renewal and refreshment. Whilst continuity and consistency with our values and ethos is important, new staff bring a fresh perspective and reinvigorate what we do.

START OF TERM

Phased Return and Testing

The new Term starts on Friday 3rd September. My previous letter informed you that we will have a phased return, to allow the gradual testing of students before lessons commence. Students are therefore tested the day before they are expected to return to school and start their timetable. All testing will take place at the Imberhorne Lane site, as follows:

- Year 7 and Year 11 are tested on Friday 3rd September (commencing lessons on Monday 6th September)
- Year 9 and Year 10 are tested on Monday 6th September (commencing lessons on Tuesday 7th September)
- Year 8 and Year 13 students are tested on Tuesday 7th September (Year 8 commence lessons on Wednesday 8th September, Year 13 commence lessons on Thursday 9th September)
- Year 12 students may choose to be tested on Monday 6th or Tuesday 7th September, working around other commitments, they commence lessons on Friday 10th September

To provide the most flexibility we ask that parents book a time, on the identified date for their son/daughter to be tested. Please use this link to register and book a slot

<https://imberhorne.schoolcloud.co.uk/>



Please remember to book an appropriate slot for the year group your child will be in from September 2021. The booking system will open at 9.00am on Monday 19th July. We have provided a brief guide (attached) to help manage the process.

I wish you all a relaxing summer and hope you find time to spend together as families, I am anticipating days of endless sunshine and outdoor living, I think we deserve it! I will encourage my colleagues to take a complete break, at least for some of the summer, to recharge their batteries and prepare for our return in the Autumn.

Yours faithfully

Mr M Brown
Headteacher