



WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

IMBERHORNE SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mr Martin Brown

Compassion
Achievement
Respect
Endeavour

*The cornerstones of our
learning community*

17th December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you all manage to have a restful Christmas period with family and friends. I appreciate the wider concerns regarding rising Covid infection rates will impact on what you either choose to do or are able to do. Nevertheless, time together as a family is invaluable and will, I hope, bring joy and happiness to you all.

We have spent time over the last week saying farewell to departing colleagues and thanking them for all they have done, over many years, to support the school. It has been wonderful to hear and read accolades from former students citing inspirational moments and experiences they have had. Staff sometimes lose sight of how they shape and change the lives of students. What is particularly nice to read is how the care and support given to students has helped build their confidence and self-belief. This has resulted in some astonishing achievements from a number of our former students.

I am grateful to my colleagues for their incredible hard work and commitment this term. Students and staff alike are exhausted and need this break. There have been times, in recent weeks, when high levels of absence have provided us with real challenges. I cannot predict what may be in store for us in January but can say that we will do our best to deal with whatever challenges come our way.

Return to School, On-Site Lateral Flow Testing

When we return in January we are, as previously advised, undertaking two days of testing for all students. I have copied the information from last week's letter below, as a reminder.

*Testing for all Upper School students in **Years 10, 11, 12 and 13** will be held on **Tuesday 4th January in the Sports Hall at Imberhorne Lane**. Students in these year groups only will return to normal lessons on **Wednesday 5th January**.*

*Tests for Lower School students in **Years 7, 8 and 9** will be on **Wednesday 5th January in the Sports Hall at Windmill Lane**, students should enter the building via the car park to the right of the main building. Students in these year groups will return to normal lessons on **Thursday 6th January**.*

Test slots can be booked using our Parents Evening Booking System. You will be given a range of 30-minute slots to choose from. Your child can arrive at any time during that 30-minute window. We hope this gives you maximum flexibility, whilst minimising queue times.

To book a slot for your son/daughter please click here <https://imberhorne.schoolcloud.co.uk/> to login to the booking system use your son's/daughter's 'legal' first name and surname that matches our records, together with their date of birth. Alternatively, you can visit the Parents/Online Services area of our school website: <http://www.imberhorne.co.uk/online-services-parents> where you can login and also find answers to some frequently asked questions about the booking system. If you have any queries about bookings please contact tmonaghan@imberhorne.co.uk

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Facemasks

Students will be expected to continue to wear face coverings in communal areas, unless exempt. This also applies to students travelling by bus.

January External Examinations

We have been notified that external January examinations will go ahead as planned. This will be for vocational and technical qualifications. Students who are due to sit these exams should be given every opportunity to demonstrate what they have learnt.

Identified Contacts – NHS Test & Trace

I am also confirming the most recent change for students or fully vaccinated adults identified as a 'contact' (i.e. contacted by NHS Test and Trace directly). Anyone identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 – whether Omicron or not – should take a lateral flow device (LFD) test every day for 7 days instead of self-isolating. Daily testing by close contacts will help to slow the spread of COVID-19.

If notified by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact, all eligible staff, pupils and students should take an LFD each day for 7 days and report the results through the [Online Reporting System](#) and to the school. If they test negative, they can continue to attend their education setting. If they test positive, they should self-isolate and [order a PCR test](#) to confirm the result. If the PCR is positive, they must self-isolate for 10 days. If the PCR test is negative, they no longer need to self-isolate but should continue to carry out the remainder of the daily tests, and only need to isolate if it is positive.

Flu and COVID-19 Vaccinations

Finally, in keeping with the ongoing focus on vaccinations we have once again been asked to share information about flu vaccinations. Any student who missed the recent vaccinations in school are invited to attend a local clinic to receive their flu vaccination. The attached letter provides details for how to access and book this service.

We are also anticipating a second round of COVID-19 vaccinations for students, starting at the Imberhorne Lane site on **Monday 10th January**. Further details will be provided in due course.

Year 9 Options Briefing and other events

January is usually a busy month in school. It is when we launch our Year 9 Options Process, hold mock exams for Year 13 students and Consultation Evenings for Year 9 and Year 11 parents. Details about key dates for the Spring term will be shared in January. Because of rising infection rates, we are unlikely to be holding an Options Briefing for Year 9 parents in school, instead we will share virtual presentations. Before then, I encourage rest and recuperation for all.

Happy Christmas.

Yours faithfully

Mr M Brown
Headteacher