



WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

IMBERHORNE SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mr Martin Brown

Compassion
Achievement
Respect
Endeavour

*The cornerstones of our
learning community*

22nd January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

We have completed three weeks of remote learning and are at the mid-way point in this half term. We continue to hope that students will return to lessons at some stage after the half term break, but as of yet have received no indication as to whether this is likely or not. It was announced yesterday that schools will be given at least two weeks' notice of an intended return date, we will keep you informed of any news we receive.

OFQUAL have released a consultation document outlining proposals for how grades might be awarded to students in Year 11 and Year 13 this summer. The consultation document suggests the potential use of 'mini-tests' to help assess students. The tests, we believe, are to be administered and marked by school staff with guidance from exam boards. Outcomes from such tests would be used alongside school data to help award grades. We hope such decisions are confirmed in the near future to provide more certainty for students and staff. It is fair to conclude that students in Year 11 and Year 13 should anticipate some form of assessment once they return, it is right to believe that the grades they will be awarded can still be shaped and improved by the work they are currently doing.

We held a virtual Student Council meeting earlier this week in order to discuss a range of matters. I was reassured by the response of our students to the re-introduction of DEAR in Key Stage 3. Students reflected upon the challenge of working on a computer for 25 hours a week and the subsequent impact of that on their health and wellbeing. I was pleased to hear that an opportunity, per day, to have a break from this was well received by them. The students then raised other matters with me such as the feedback they receive from teachers during online learning. They encouraged the use of interactive resources such as a digital whiteboard where work can be shared, and instant feedback provided. They also reflected on the lack of interaction with friends and wanted to raise awareness about internet safety and the importance of reporting concerns such as cyberbullying. We are currently looking at how we can run tutor time with form groups and whether student 'drop-in' sessions might be useful for anyone wanting to raise matters with the Student Council.

The month of January can often be a challenging time, long nights and poor weather typify this time of year. With the experience of lockdown added to the equation we worry about the wellbeing of everyone; students, staff and families. I am grateful to my colleagues for the support they are providing certain students. Regular communication is taking place and those finding matters particularly challenging are often invited into school. It is more important than ever to show kindness, care and compassion. Emotions can overwhelm us with little advance warning. If you have concerns about your son or daughter please let us know. Sometimes a brief chat or a chance to share feelings can make a big difference. We are here to help and support.

Yours faithfully

Mr M Brown
Headteacher

Imberhorne Lane
East Grinstead
West Sussex
RH19 1QY

Tel: 01342 323562

E-Mail: info@imberhorne.co.uk

www.imberhorne.co.uk

