



WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

IMBERHORNE SCHOOL

Headteacher: Matthew Whatford

22nd May 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

Worth Less? Fair Funding Letter

You will have seen my letter on Monday of this week around the Worth Less? Campaign and the need for fair funding for schools across West Sussex. This has now been sent to all of our local MPs, the DFE and Treasury. I hope you also saw the coverage on the BBC and BBC Radio Sussex, with the voices of the West Sussex Secondary Heads Association well represented. As a group, we feel it is completely unjust that our schools are funded less per pupil than neighbouring counties and much less than the national average. This places a significant strain on our resources and the overall provision that we can offer, and is ultimately harmful to children. These pressures have increased year-on-year, with rising costs and unfunded initiatives being met from existing funding that is not rising in line with these demands. We would welcome your support to further this campaign and hope to soon have a response to our letters. We are also considering our next steps and will keep you posted. It is important that the government is asked whether they feel our children in West Sussex are Worth Less? Our blunt response to this is that they are not.

Good luck, Year 11

Today we said farewell to Year 11, who will now end their formal in-school timetable and be able to study from home for the remaining exams after the half term break. We would like to congratulate them for getting to this point with such high levels of engagement and some incredibly hard work. We look forward to celebrating with them at their Prom on Friday 26th June and to seeing them reap the fruits of their labour on results day on Thursday 20th August. There will be some ongoing revision sessions in school after the break, which will be advertised by individual departments and teachers. We will also be operating a quiet study room in school for those who find it easier to revise here, and for those who want to study quietly between exams.

Windmill Lane Improvements

A reminder that we will be starting our improvements at our Windmill Lane site over the half-term break. This will see the complete remodelling of the Year 8 and 9 toilets, which will increase capacity, create a vastly improved environment and provide facilities that are fitting with the needs of students in contemporary school settings. The finish will be the same as the new Year 7 toilets and will utilise the available space much better. These toilets will close at half-term for initial structural work to begin, with temporary toilets being installed in the adjacent car parking area. The new toilets will be completed for the start of the school year in September.

The second improvement will be the replacement of the Music classroom next to the student entrance. This will be sited where the current Bridge classroom is in one of the quads of the main building, with demolition of the Bridge classroom over the half-term break, subject to planning permission. The new classroom will then be installed in the summer holidays, ready for a September start. The current Music classroom will also be demolished in the summer holidays, ready for a new building that is currently in the design stages, housing the Bridge and other provisions. We will confirm details of this building in due course.

Imberhorne Lane

East Grinstead

West Sussex

RH19 1QY

Tel: 01342 323562

E-Mail: info@imberhorne.co.uk

www.imberhorne.co.uk





We will also be having the remainder of our old and very tired single-glazed windows on both sites replaced over the summer. These works will not commence until students have left for the summer holidays and are managed by West Sussex County Council. We have been assured that the aim is to also complete these works by the end of the summer break.

National Consultation on growing up in the Online World

This national consultation explores how we can better support children to stay safe online in an increasingly digital world. It looks at the following topics:

- Setting a minimum age for children to access social media - and what age would be right
- Restricting risky functionalities and design features that encourage excessive use, such as infinite scrolling and autoplay
- Whether the digital age of consent should be raised
- How age verification and age assurance technologies can support effective implementation
- Whether the guidance on the use of mobile phones in schools should be put on a statutory footing
- Better support for parents, including clearer guidance and simpler parental controls

West Sussex County Council have asked that we share this consultation with our school communities, as the Government is seeking views from children and young people, parents and carers, teachers, and professionals working with young people to help shape future policy and protections. The consultation is open **until 26 May 2026** and further details, including links to the surveys, are available [here](#).

Sensory toys

A reminder of my communication from last week that **sensory toys must not be brought in from home**. This is due to health and safety issues that we are seeing presenting in school from the recent increase in these items being brought in. Students should only be in receipt of a sensory toy if this has been provided, logged and assessed by the SEND and Inclusion team. Where students have been provided with these to support their additional needs, this will be properly tracked and communicated to staff so that any toys that are in school are used appropriately and safely by students who need them.

Year 7 Parent Consultation Evening – Thursday 4th June - Early Closure

A reminder that is the on-line Year 7 Parent Consultation Evening on Thursday 4th June and the school day will finish for all students at 2.30pm. Registration that morning will be cancelled and all lessons on both sites will start at 8.40am. The school day will therefore finish for all students at 2.30pm.

Travel arrangements have been made as follows for students who catch school coaches/buses and taxis:

- School coach service 903, E579 and all taxis/minibuses are able to collect students at their relevant sites at 2.30pm.
- The following Metrobus services will also run their usual route: E579, 636, 638, 642, 643, 648, 281 at this time. Please note that the 624 service cannot operate at 2.30pm and will therefore run as a normal school day finish.
- Metrobus service 236 service will run at its normal scheduled time at 3.15pm as there is not an earlier service available to Lingfield/Dormansland.

Yours sincerely
Mr Matthew Whatford
Headteacher



Sporting and Arts Success

Taekwondo

Well done to Khloe Smith in Year 10 who last weekend she took part in her first Taekwondo inter-club competition, achieving two gold and one silver medal - a huge achievement!

Y7 Cricket

On a pitch that resembled something from Lords, the year 7s had their first game together vs Bohunt. Winning the toss and batting wickets started to tumble quicker than Mr Collyer could write it down, Bohunt, reaching 63 off of their 16 overs.

In next to near winter conditions and with rain coming from the Arctic, Imberhorne set about the total and within 5 overs achieved game set and match, Imberhorne won by 9 wickets with Leland not out on 35.

A great way to start their Imberhorne cricket season!

Player of Match: Leland

Massive thanks to @crawleydowncc for getting the pitch ready.

Words by Mr Collyer

Mid-Sussex Athletics Trials

Well done to the students who represented the school so well last week at the Mid Sussex Athletics Trials, at K2 in Crawley. We experienced all types of weather — sun, rain and even hail — but despite the changeable conditions, there were some excellent performances throughout the event.

Congratulations to Gemma Brissett (100m), Lauren Reynard (200m), Maribelle La Cock (Javelin), Dan Solomon (Discus) and Tommy Webster (Triple Jump), who have all qualified to represent Mid Sussex in their events at the Sussex Schools Championships next month – Good luck to you all!

Words by Mrs Pritchard