



WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

IMBERHORNE SCHOOL

Headteacher: Matthew Whatford

Compassion

Achievement

Respect

Endeavour

*The cornerstones of our
learning community*

27th November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

Year 11

It has been a pleasure to see so many parents and carers in school over the past few weeks for parents' evening and Sixth Form Open Evening. This week has continued to be a busy week for them as they have participated in taster lessons for the Sixth Form, visited colleges or engaged in other activities in school to prepare them for their next steps. The application for Imberhorne Sixth Form has also opened as of yesterday and will close on Thursday 11th December. You can find it [here](#) if your child needs your support to complete it.

Next week, students in Year 11 will start their first round of mock exams, which will give them and us a good sense of how things are going, as well as a really good opportunity to practice exam conditions and technique. It will also mean that once papers are marked and analysed we will have the ability to put in place some personalised support in their lessons, and more globally as necessary. We wish all Year 11 students the very best of luck and have every faith that they will do well.

The most recent Year 11 newsletter has been sent out to families this week. Thank you to Mrs Abingdon for continuing to pull together this extremely important overview of all of the key information that parents and carers need in order to support your children. Please do read it carefully if you have not done so yet. You can find it by clicking [here](#).

Sixth Form Performing Arts

I had the pleasure of watching our brilliant Sixth Form Performing Arts students in their community performance at Turners Hill Primary on Friday afternoon of last week. The humour, audience participation and confidence in the performance made me feel very proud - students in the crowd will have left for their weekend having seen a real showcase of the excellent arts offer at Imberhorne and with great anecdotes to tell their friends and families. This was the final performance of the week, following visits to Stildon Care Home, Copthorne Juniors, St. Mary's, Knole House and Crawley Down School. An enormous thank you to Mr Watson, Mrs Coffey and Ms Donoghue for all of their hard work to support our brilliant students.

Greenaway Foundation Christmas Wishes

Every Christmas at Imberhorne School we support the Greenaway Foundation Christmas Wishes appeal which aims to provide gifts to children and young people across the area where they might otherwise not receive one. Staff have been generously committing to buying gifts for this appeal and if any of our families also feel that this is something that they might also be able to support, please go to the Greenaway Foundation website [here](#), where you can make a donation. Thank you in advance for your kindness at this time of year.

The Big Reveal - Greenaway Christmas Window

Last week I wrote to you about the window that was installed by our Sixth Form artists at Greenaway Estate Agents. I am delighted to inform you that after the votes have been counted, this year's display came 4th out of 60 entries. This is a massive improvement on last year's 22nd and a real testament to the students' brilliant work.

UK Parliament Week



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This week was UK Parliament week, which was the focus for the assemblies I delivered to students. The core message I aimed to get across was for students to cut through the superficial noise in politics and to become more politically literate. I explained specifically about the need to not just accept the simple populist rhetoric and argument that has come to dominate much of the media and algorithms that they will be consuming, needing to look further into the detail and who it affects to make up their own minds. We obviously always ensure balance in our discussion of politics and that there is no favour given to any political party or perspective, but as a school we believe it is increasingly important that students are able to question argument and evidence, and to critically think about what they are presented with. This will be a further focus in the new national curriculum as it is redesigned, with more information to follow from the government on this in due course.

Youth Speaks Rotary Competition

On Tuesday 25th November Dylan (Year 11), Iva (Year 11) and Naomi (Year 12) participated in an inter-school Youth Speaks Rotary Competition in East Grinstead, proposing the debate of 'Should serial killers be profited from?'. The students demonstrated excellent insight into this controversial topic and carried themselves with courage and dignity, representing Imberthorpe to the highest standard. To get to this stage, they dedicated lunch and after school time to independently produce their speeches, all while maintaining high academic standards. This is the first event for our Public Speaking club, which has been newly established this year by Miss Webb. We are incredibly proud of the way in which students have engaged with this and would welcome other students joining to develop their oracy, advocacy and leadership skills. Thanks also to Miss Webb for her brilliant work in setting up this club and supporting students.

Festive lunch gathering - Thursday 18th December 2025

In the interests of continuing to over-communicate, a further reminder that we will be providing festive lunch for all students this year on Thursday 18th December. To support us to do so, please firstly complete the form [here](#) to specify any dietary requirements and allergies. **If you are able to do so, we would also appreciate any donations of £3.50 in order to support the cost of this event via ParentPay.**

There will be no other food available for students to purchase on this day at either site. It is therefore advisable for students to bring in extra snacks if they would usually rely on the Canteen for these on this day only. Students will come together and sit with their tutor groups for their lunch session and enjoy what will now be an annual school community tradition.

Achievement and Recognition

As we approach December and the final weeks of term, we will be reviewing achievement points and holding our first Achievement assemblies for all year groups. The cut-off date for this term's points will be Sunday 30th November. This ensures we have time to prepare certificates and distribute all rewards based on the points earned before we break for Christmas. A reminder of our full recognition and reward model can be found via the link [here](#). From 1st December, achievement points will begin counting towards our next celebration event at the end of Term 2. Alongside this, we will also be recognising our Imberstar winners, celebrating students who consistently demonstrate our core values.

Yours faithfully

Mr Matthew Whatford
Headteacher