



WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

IMBERHORNE SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mr Martin Brown

Compassion
Achievement
Respect
Endeavour

*The cornerstones of our
learning community*

24th March 2020

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s)

I hope you are well and managing in these difficult times. I am writing to provide a brief update on decisions regarding Year 11 students and to also provide a copy of an email I have sent all Year 11 students.

Firstly, I am writing to clarify what actions we are hoping to take with regards to some of the anticipated events for Year 11 students. The students were informed on Friday 20th March in a short assembly, that their two, key end of Year 11 events, Graduation and Prom will not be going ahead as we had originally planned. We are of course really disappointed by this as are the students and yourselves. These events are significant occasions that mark important transition points in their lives. It seems very unfair that they are just removed in this way.

We are determined to find a way to mark both of these occasions but cannot yet say how or when this will be. Currently there is no indication from the government about how long restrictions will stay in place and what will or will not be permissible when restrictions start to be eased.

As soon as we can, we will communicate with you about these matters with some potential ideas for how and when alternative arrangements can be made. We invite your thoughts along with the thoughts and ideas of your sons and daughters too, please feel that you can email myself or Mr Jones directly with any suggestions or reflections you have.

Secondly, we are concerned that Year 11 students are currently in a strange period where they may feel a bit lost and directionless. It is important that they are looking to the future and do not lose focus. Whatever direction they are heading in September they need to see their time at present as important preparation for their next step. I have therefore sent them all this message:

Year 11 students

The exam boards are committed to providing you with grades for all your subjects, these grades will, we are told, carry exactly the same value as those awarded in other years. They are yet to finalise details about how your grades will be awarded, however, they have clearly indicated this will involve a range of different elements.

In essence you will be awarded grades for the qualifications you are currently entered for based on a blend of school forecast grades, your KS2 attainment, completed coursework (where relevant) and Key Stage 4 performance data. It is not yet clear how these different elements will be weighted. They are planning to issue the final grades at the end of July, there will be an appeal process and the option of sitting the real exams later in the year if you are unhappy with the grade given to you.



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This does of course raise a number of questions, most of which are answered at the site here

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2020/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2020>

So, what should you be doing?

1. Staying safe and well whilst also staying in and looking after friends and family
2. Your courses were approaching the end of taught content when we had to close. Coursework/NEA (non-examined assessments) needs to be your priority as this gives evidence for forecast grades we will need to ensure it is completed to the best of your ability and submitted to your teachers
3. In non-coursework subjects you need to cover the remaining content by doing the work set by your teachers. This will give you the best chance of preparing for an exam in the autumn (if your grade given is below what you want or need). We are considering what work we set after Easter, this could be some exam style questions that help embed your learning. You need to be mindful of the fact that you will be embarking on further study from September, a great number of you in the Sixth Form at Imberhorne. You need to ensure you are starting those courses from a position of strength, that means you must continue to learn content and reinforce prior learning in order to be 'Sixth Form ready'
4. For those of you going to other institutions from September be aware they too will have expectations about your prior learning. Learning is for life, not just exams. Try to make sure you are continuing to challenge yourselves and are developing your thinking
5. Please **do not** email your teachers directly to start conversations regarding your forecast grades. There is a clear process linked to establishing forecast grades, these will reflect exam and test performance to date along with work you have completed in class and your target grades. We know this is an unsettling time for everyone and you want answers, but at this stage things are not confirmed and we simply do not know for sure.
6. Feel free to have email conversations with teachers regarding the set work/other things to be doing. Try to treat this as an opportunity rather than a problem

I hope this is helpful information, as more detail emerges we will share it with you. As I am sure you appreciate this is uncharted territory and decisions are being made on a daily basis. Ultimately, we will always do what we think is right for our students.

Yours faithfully

Mr M Brown, Headteacher