



WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

IMBERHORNE SCHOOL

Headteacher: Matthew Whatford

1st May 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

Imberhorne Farm Development: Imberhorne Lane Closure

We have been seeking further information to share with you and to ensure that the school community's voice is heard about the development on Imberhorne Farm, which is behind our Imberhorne Lane site. As soon as we are able to, we will ensure this information is available to parents and carers.

We have been able to ascertain that a portion of Imberhorne Lane will be completely closed 24 hours-a-day from Monday 18th May to Saturday 4th July between the junctions of Heathcote Drive and Bluebell Close. This is likely to have a significant impact on the traffic around East Grinstead, but especially around the Imberhorne Lane site as a main access point into the town will be completely cut off. If and when we have any further information, I will ensure I share this with you.

DofE Bronze

Well done to all DofE Bronze students for the successful completion of their practice expedition last weekend. The weather was beautiful and sunny (carrying on from the good luck that Silver students had in March), with students responding brilliantly to the challenge. DofE is supported by a number of staff who give up their free time at the weekends to support these expeditions - we are extremely thankful to all of them for giving students this opportunity.

Federation Dance Show

You may have seen the flyer for our Mid-Sussex Federation Dance show that will be taking place on the first Monday after the May half term at Chequer Mead Theatre. All four federation schools will be represented by our talented dancers and we would love to see as many parents, carers and friends there as possible.

Pastoral Leadership Structure and Mr Hill

I hope you will have seen my other letter today about the upcoming changes to the pastoral leadership structure and about Mr Hill's absence from school. Please do read the letter if you haven't already. We sincerely hope that Mr Hill will be able to come in and see Year 10 students again before the end of the school year and we will remain in close contact with him throughout the period of his absence. Upon his return to school next academic year, Mr Hill will start working with the new Year 7 cohort and is very sorry not to see the final part of Year 10 through with his students and teaching classes.

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Mrs Jones - St Mary's

It is with sadness that I need to make families of students who previously attended St Mary's aware that Mrs Karen Jones passed away this week. Many of our students would have worked with Mrs Jones, who was a long-standing and highly respected member of staff at St Mary's. Her role as Learning Mentor inspired and supported a number of young people across the community and she delighted in regular visits from them after they had left. We send our condolences to her family and all of our families who had built up a close relationship with Mrs Jones across the years. Mrs Thorne and the team at St. Mary's will be putting together a book of memories and condolences that can be signed in person at the school. They would welcome contributions from anyone who remembers Mrs Jones.

Yours faithfully

Mr Matthew Whatford

Headteacher

Sporting and Arts success

Performing Arts

Kudos to Orla Phillips in Year 7, who has successfully auditioned for a place at the National Performance Awards. This will mean that she will take part in a day of musical theatre masterclasses run by industry professionals, followed by a performance to an audience of agents, talent scouts etc. A number of participants every year are then offered performance opportunities and training scholarships.

Only 40 young people from each age group are selected each year, so it's an enormous achievement for Orla to have made it this far - we wish her the best of luck!

Sussex Cricket

Huge congratulations to James and Henry Lawson, who have both been selected to play for Sussex this summer. We look forward to hearing about their experience in the future.

London Marathon

Well done to Mr Celani and Mr Fallick, who both completed the London Marathon last weekend!