



WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

IMBERHORNE SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mr Martin Brown

Compassion
Achievement
Respect
Endeavour

*The cornerstones of our
learning community*

14th May 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Mask Wearing

After the government announcement earlier this week, we now know that the country will be taking a further step on the road to recovery from Monday 17th May. I am very pleased to say that from this date students and staff will no longer be required to routinely wear masks in classrooms and corridors. The guidance has been adjusted, if we believe social distancing cannot be maintained, we are advised that masks should continue to be worn. In school, we have identified two occasions where masks will still be required. When students queue for food and are subsequently leaning over food as well as approaching canteen staff, face to face, we will retain the use of masks. We will also continue the use of masks in practical lessons, specifically Art and Technology lessons, when staff might, on occasions, be working closely with students. When staff, in practical lessons, approach students we will ask them to put their masks on for that brief period. Masks remain compulsory on public transport.

Year 11 and Year 13 Students

As previously mentioned Year 11 and Year 13 students have commenced their assessment periods. By half term they will no longer be required to attend school. Year 11 students, returning to the Sixth Form in September, will be expected to complete bridging units, which they will do remotely. These will be available for students to work on from Monday 7th June and will last approximately three weeks.

Year Group Zones and Uniform

From half term onwards, we will only have Year 10 and Year 12 students at the Imberhorne Lane site. This means that from Monday 7th June we will disband teaching zones at this site only (zones remain in place, for the time being, at Windmill Lane). Teachers will return to their normal teaching rooms and students will have half a term of moving about the site more freely. We will continue to ensure spaces are well ventilated and that hand sanitiser is routinely used, students are still expected to remain outside at break and lunchtimes. Year 10 students will be able to use the school changing rooms so will be required to wear full school uniform at all times.

Second-Hand Uniform

We currently have very low second-hand uniform supplies in school. If you have outgrown uniform at home that you don't need anymore, we would be delighted to help re-use this uniform, for the benefit of students, parents and the environment! Please deliver any usable uniform to reception at either site.

Year 9 Assessment Fortnight

Year 9 Assessment Fortnight is due to commence after half term, students will be undertaking in-class assessments during this period. We have asked departments to ensure that these assessments do not start until the end of the first week back to enable students time to prepare appropriately.

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IT Network Security and Remote Access

We are increasingly aware of maintaining high levels of security around our IT network. There have been recent examples where school systems have been compromised, affecting the ability of schools to operate effectively. We are therefore introducing system security multifactor authentication. If you participate in online banking or engage with other secure systems you will be familiar with such matters. In short, what this means is that students and staff attempting to log into the school system remotely will be required to not only enter a username and password, they will also have to use an additional mode of authentication. For staff and Sixth Form students this has been set to be their mobile phone number. For students in KS3 and KS4, for whom we don't have mobile numbers on record, we will be asking them to download an app. If they could install the free 'Microsoft Authenticator' app on their phone/tablet - they won't be able to configure it from home, but by installing it they'll be ready to set it up in school when their class is taken through the process.

This change will only apply to access to the IT network from beyond the school, using the system we call 'Remote Access'. Students are still able to access and save work to the school system via a system called Foldr.

Communication

We value your communication with us, timely communication helps ensure we can work effectively and deal with matters promptly. This must, however, also take account of an appropriate work/life balance for staff. To ensure everyone can work at their optimum level it is important that staff have protected 'down time'. We are therefore publishing communication guidelines soon; these guidelines define what we think are reasonable expectations with regards to communication with the school. Broadly this means, the hours in which staff are expected to receive and send communications and the time period in which communications will be responded to. I hope this is helpful for parents and staff.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Finally, we try and make sure that messages about what we do as a school are routinely shared. If you follow the link below you will find information about extra-curricular activities at the school. Clearly such provision has been significantly impaired this year. We hope over the coming weeks that we can experience a return to normal for some of the things we do.

www.imberhorne.co.uk/sites/default/files/Clubs%20and%20Activities%20Article%20May%202021.pdf

My apologies for such a long and detailed letter, clearly, as circumstances change it is important that we keep you updated as best we can.

Yours faithfully

Mr M Brown
Headteacher