



WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

# IMBERHORNE SCHOOL

Headteacher: Matthew Whatford

Compassion  
Achievement  
Respect  
Endeavour

*The cornerstones of our  
learning community*

24<sup>th</sup> October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

## Year 11

Thank you to all families in attendance last night. The information shared covered what you need to know about English, Maths and Science, outlining the path ahead for students in these subjects. Mrs Abingdon also shared the details for the year ahead, including parents' evenings, mock exams, college applications and the key pinch points. Clichéd as it is, Year 11 is a marathon, not a sprint, and we have been really impressed with the way in which they have started this year. They will need us to work in partnership as families and professionals to keep their energy, positivity and application up as the year goes on. The better informed you are and the more we communicate with each other around this, the more likely we are to help them to help themselves towards success and having as many options as possible for their next steps.

Congratulations also to Year 11 on the completion of their first mock exam for Maths this week. This exam is being used as a marker before their full mock period at the start of December - we were very impressed with the maturity that they showed in approaching this.

## Festive Lunch Gathering - Thursday 18th December 2025

This year for our Festive Lunch gathering on the penultimate day of term, we would like every student to participate. We introduced this for the first time last year and felt that it was an important marker in bringing our school together, where we were able to celebrate as a whole-school community and feel a shared sense of belonging. You will be aware that Community is now one of our school values - we are focused on developing our sense of community and working closely with our community as a central priority in our long-term plan. With that in mind, we feel that we should look for every opportunity to join together and we have decided that this year's lunch will be provided for all students, with platters for each table so that everyone can eat together and enjoy the festivities. We are asking for a suggested £3.50 contribution for those who can afford to so that we can ensure no one is left out. Students will sit together with their tutors and tutor groups and last year we had much fun with a raffle, singing and activities led by Heads of Year. We will release details about how to pay and share any dietary requirements in the first week back after the half term break.

## Non-Uniform Day and Minibus Appeal

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all parents, carers and students who have contributed to our non-uniform day appeal. **Through your generosity, we have raised an impressive £8,010 so far.**

We are now approaching the point where we will be able to purchase two vehicles to replace the minibuses that were stolen earlier this year. **If all those who are able to do so make their £10 contribution for our non-uniform days via ParentPay, we are confident that we will reach our target and be in a position to proceed with the purchase over the half-term break.** We are extremely grateful for the ongoing support shown by our school community and local partners, which continues to make a genuine difference to our students' opportunities and experiences.

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## ImberFarm

Over the past two years, Mr Celani has done an incredible job of progressing his ImberFarm project, having created raised beds, planted hedgerow, cleared scrubland and established chickens. This has been a real labour of love and something we, as a school, are highly supportive of as part of our long-term plans for curricular, extra-curricular and therapeutic activities. To help this project to become more of a community endeavour, we would love to have some further engagement from families and friends in the community. If you or anyone you know might be able to offer some support, labour, expertise or indeed materials to help Mr Celani, please do get in touch via email at [dcelani@imberhorne.co.uk](mailto:dcelani@imberhorne.co.uk).

## Youth Ambassadors

You may remember last year that I shared with you that some of our Key Stage 3 students had been selected for a project with the Breck Foundation. They completed the first stages of their training last year and will now be undertaking the next steps, with the aim of being key voices to support reclaiming the internet as a safe space for young people. We are extremely proud of them and how they are engaging with this project which is aimed at them being empowered in supporting others. Internet safety is a priority for us as a school and online spaces will only become safer if we continue to work together as schools and families to monitor, challenge and report as necessary. These ambassadors can play a key role in this work.

## Events next Half Term

A reminder of some of the key events that we have coming up next Half Term:

- Year 7 Meet the Tutor Evening on Wednesday 5th November. **There will be an early closure of 2.30pm for this event, please see transport details below**
- Year 11 Parent Consultation Evening (face-to-face) on Tuesday 11th November.
- Sixth Form Open Evening on Thursday 20th November. **There will be an early closure of 2.30pm for this event, please see transport details below**
- Non-Uniform Day on Friday 21st November.
- Year 11 Sixth Form and College Taster Day on Thursday 27th November.
- INSET Day on Friday 28th November.
- Year 11 Mock Exams from Mon 1st-Fri 12th December.
- Music Christmas Concert on Tues 9th December.
- Christmas jumper and Christmas lunch day on Thursday 18th December.
- Early closure for Christmas break at 12.20 on Friday 19th December.

## Early Closure Details

For 2.30pm early closures, registration 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.

## AI and Homework

We are all aware of the emerging use of AI in the workplace and education and both its value and issues - we are currently reviewing the school's position on this and will write to you in more



detail to outline our approach soon. It is important, however, that I sound a note of caution in your children's use of AI for their homework. We know that sometimes the responses given by AI are not entirely reliable and need some careful quality checking as sources of information to support the work being produced. We also need to be clear that AI must not be used to complete homework on your child's behalf. Clearly this takes away the thinking and problem-solving skills that we need students to engage with, particularly in subjects like Maths. If students don't get the independent practice that their homework is designed to achieve then they will not benefit from the aims of the work, which is typically acquiring/testing knowledge and vocabulary, and developing skills.

### **Construction Department – Donations Welcome**

Our GCSE Construction students make fantastic use of a wide range of materials in their practical work and are currently in need of supplies. If you have any spare bricks, tiles (wall or floor), wood, screws, nails or fixings that could be donated, we would be extremely grateful.

Please email [jtaw@imberhome.co.uk](mailto:jtaw@imberhome.co.uk) with any materials that you might have on offer. Thank you for your support.

### **Half Term**

Thank you to all students and families for an excellent first half term. We have been so impressed with the way in which students have approached school and how they have engaged with everything we have to offer. Attendance at school has increased again this year and we are working closely with the other East Grinstead schools so that we can continue to have consistent approaches to supporting and celebrating attendance in school. We know that we have the most impact on their progress when they're in front of us and that being here builds their resilience and long-term chances of success and wellbeing.

We have also spent a lot of time in lessons over the last few weeks and can see that the challenge has indeed increased and that it will continue to do so, along with the appropriate targeted support where it is needed. School is tiring and as we are having higher expectations for students in school; it is important that they also balance this hard work with time to themselves to rest and enjoy their interests and hobbies outside of their time with us. I hope that all of our students and families have a deservedly restful break and come back energised and ready to engage with all of the exciting curriculum and extra-curricular activities in the following half term.

Yours faithfully

Mr Matthew Whatford  
Headteacher

### **Sporting and Arts Success**

#### **Karate**

Huge congratulations to Christopher Embleton in Year 8, who won three gold, one silver and one bronze medal at the Bristol Open Karate Competition at Bath University last weekend.

Christopher competed in 5 categories across the course of the day - Creative Weapons Forms (Older Cadet and Junior categories) with Bo staff, Musical Weapons Forms (Older Cadet and Juniors) with Bo staff and Traditional Forms against other competitors from the UK and across the world. We are extremely proud of Christopher and his outstanding achievements.

#### **U19 football**

The U19 footballers finally got their cup campaign underway against a strong Seaford side, playing in conditions that could only be described as a 'quagmire! Imberhome started brightly and soon found themselves 2 -0 up, with both goals coming from Wallace.



With the weather getting worse, passing football became an impossibility with the pitch now resembling a 1960s game. Seaford came back into the game just after the break, with an equaliser following minutes later in a goal-mouth scramble.

Full time 2-2.

With no chance of extra time the match went straight to penalties, with 'Big Fred' pulling off one of the best saves we have seen! These heroics saw Imberhorne winning 4-3 in the shootout! A real team effort.

**Goals:** Wallace x 2

**POTM:** Gibbons

**Words by Mr Collyer**