



WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

IMBERHORNE SCHOOL

Headteacher: Matthew Whatford

Compassion
Achievement
Respect
Endeavour

*The cornerstones of our
learning community*

27th February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

INSET days for 2026-27

We are pleased to now be able to inform you of our INSET days for the next academic year, which are as follows:

- Tuesday 01/09/2026
- Wednesday 02/09/2026
- Friday 27/11/2026
- Friday 02/07/2027
- Monday 05/07/2027

These will be updated on our website so that all parents and carers have a clear reference point going forwards.

Designated Safeguarding Lead

We have had to make some changes to the organisation of our Safeguarding Team this term, meaning that **Mr Fallick will assume the role of Designated Safeguarding Lead until at least the Easter Break**. Mr Fallick will be supported by Mrs Best, who will oversee Key Stage 3 Safeguarding, Mrs Abingdon, who will oversee Key Stage 4 Safeguarding, and Mr Crees, who will oversee Key Stage 5 Safeguarding. They will all be ably assisted by Mrs Beeney, Ms Jackson and Mrs Evans, who are all part of the team. Any concerns can be shared directly with these named staff but can also be emailed to dsl@imberhorne.co.uk.

Year 11 - NEA and Mocks

Well done to Year 11 for all of their hard work on the Non-Exam Assessment (NEA) and Languages oral assessments this week. We also wish them the very best of luck in their final round of mock exams next week. I am sure that half term was used well for revision after all of the input students have been given across the course of this year and this will be reflected in their outcomes. We will be using this as a final benchmark to see where we need to target teaching and any specific intervention to support students in the final run-in. This half term is a short one and will go quickly, with exams starting fairly swiftly after the Easter holidays, so time is of the essence. We will ensure that students are not only appropriately challenged to be their best, but that they are also supported to feel empowered to do so.

Year 13 Consultation Evening

Thank you to all parents and carers of students in Year 13 for a series of highly constructive conversations about the progress of your young people in preparing for their final exams. This, along with the second Year 11 Parents' Evening before the break, are new additions to the calendar, put in because we felt that it was valuable to have a further catch up after initial discussions and to ensure that any concerns had been ironed out. We are also conscious that students may not be the most forthcoming with their parents and carers, so wanted to ensure that the dialogue is open and clear for all parties in the best interests of their outcomes.

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Year 9 Police Lessons

A huge thank you to Mrs Warburton who expertly planned and organised sessions for Year 9 students led by specially trained youth police officers on misogyny. You will remember us writing about this in the past and also the communication I sent before the holiday on the online training sessions hosted by West Sussex County Council to challenge online extremism. Sadly, we are all too aware of the insidious nature of content from producers who are targeting young people online and these workshops are part of our targeted curriculum approach within the statutory Relationships Sex and Health Education elements of the LIFE curriculum. Further work is planned across the school on this, ensuring that we tackle these challenging issues through the lenses of anti-discrimination and safeguarding. If you feel equipped to do so, please do discuss this with your children because safe, open dialogue is key to challenging these issues and helping young people to take a conscious anti-misogyny stance.

Spring Concert 2026

We would like to invite you to our Spring Concert which will be held on Tuesday 24th March, 6pm to 8pm in the Di Gasson, Imberhorne School, Imberhorne Lane RH19 1QY. The concert will feature performances from students across the year groups reflecting the commitment and hard work of both the students and staff. Please do come along and join us; the link to book tickets is here <https://imberhorne-school.sumupstore.com/product/spring-concert>

Education Reform White Paper

You will have probably seen the white paper released by the DFE on Monday of this week that outlines some significant and far-reaching changes planned in the education system in the coming years. This comes after and echoes many of the changes outlined in the new Ofsted framework and the recently published curriculum review. The Local Authority is still taking time to formulate their response, and these reforms will need to be fully defined, understood and mapped. We expect changes to be carefully planned and implemented over the course of the coming years as per the timelines set out by the government once the white paper becomes legislation. There are still many points to be clarified and interpreted, supported by a number of other documents that are currently planned or under production.

The key headlines in the white paper related specifically to SEND and inclusion and we welcome proposals for reform and additional capacity to support some of our most vulnerable students and families. There will be no immediate change to the school's funding, provision or strategy for SEND and inclusion, but we will continue to ensure that inclusion is a top priority. This means taking a child-centred approach to act in the best interests of all of the children in our care, whilst working collaboratively with families and other organisations involved in the education of students at Imberhorne. We will always ensure that this is under all national and local authority policy positions, using a graduated approach to adaptation, support and adjustments within the local offer. We will also communicate clearly with you any changes that are coming and consult with you where it is possible to do so as the timeline for these reforms progresses.

Rotary Club Colour Run Event

Meridian Rotary in East Grinstead are holding a Community Colour Run on Sunday 19th April at the East Grinstead Sports Club. Participants can walk, jog, run, skip or dance their way round the 5k course and pass four colour stations where coloured cornflour is thrown over them.

This event is to raise funds to provide new Hi-Tech surgical equipment for the new Cancer and Surgical Innovation Centre at the Royal Surrey Hospital, Guildford which serves our area. The new theatres will potentially allow 7000 more operations per year. Participants can of course get sponsored for their own cause for completing the course. Please see the poster on our social media for more information.

Horticulture Help

After Easter, we are starting some horticulture work with a small group of students and would appreciate it if any families can have a look in their sheds and see if you have any spare:



- Hand trowels
- Gardening Gloves
- Watering Cans

Please drop any donations into Reception for the attention of The Hub at either school site.

Equipment List

Finally, we are currently supplying a lot of equipment for students, which is creating a strain on our budget in these areas. As a consequence, I have provided a reminder of the equipment list that students should have with them every day:

- Black or Blue pens
- Pencils
- Colouring pencils
- Green pens
- Ruler
- Rubber
- Pencil sharpener *
- Glue stick
- Scientific calculator **
- Protractor/Set Square
- Highlighters
- Pencil case

*We recommend the Swordfish Combo Pencil Sharpener Eraser.

**We recommend the Casio 83GT CW.

School/College Travel from September 2026 for all students 16+

Attached is a letter from West Sussex County Council with information for parents of Year 11 students with travel options for September.

Yours faithfully

Mr Matthew Whatford
Headteacher

Sporting and Arts success

Gymnastics

George Pattison competed in his first year of the under 16 category at the National Scottish Men's Artistic Gymnastics Championships 2026. He placed 3rd all around and qualified for the finals where he came 3rd in floor and parallel bars. He scored a PB in his all around and will now qualify for the British Championships that will be held at Liverpool arena in March.

U12 RUGBY COUNTY CUP

IMBERHORNE 30 : 00 ANGMERING

The Imberhorne U12s delivered a statement performance this week, securing a commanding 30-0 victory over Angmering School.

From the opening whistle, it was clear that Imberhorne came to play a high-intensity, physical brand of rugby that the opposition struggled to contain. The hallmark of the match was Imberhorne's aggressive approach at the breakdown and in the carry. The team played with a level of assertiveness that dictated the tempo of the game from start to finish.



The victory was built on the shoulders of a hardworking forward pack. The forwards carried the ball with purpose, consistently breaking the gain line and drawing in defenders. This tireless work in the trenches provided the "go-forward" momentum necessary for the game plan to succeed.

Because the forwards dominated the contact area, the backs were gifted the space and time they needed to operate. With a clean platform to work from, the backline showed great vision, exploiting gaps in the Angmering defense to keep the scoreboard ticking over.

The boys are truly beginning to grow as a team, showing not just individual talent, but a cohesive understanding of their roles on the pitch.

TRY SCORERS: Rory (1), Bobby (3), Beau (1), Stanley (1)

IMBERHORNE 05 : 10 St. Phillip Howard

A Battle to the Final Whistle

In a game that truly lived up to the "edge-of-your-seat" cliché, our U12s suffered a narrow, heartbreaking defeat in the final minute of play.

While the result wasn't the one we hoped for, the match was a masterclass in resilience and school spirit. If there is one thing that cannot be questioned after today's performance, it is the commitment of the squad.

Every player on the pitch gave 100%, throwing themselves into tackles and contesting every ruck with total intensity. To lose a game in the dying seconds is always tough to swallow, but these are the matches that define a team's character.

We can't fault the effort today. While the result stings, this is exactly the type of game we can learn a lot from as we move forward in the season.

Words by Mr Byrne