



WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

# IMBERHORNE SCHOOL

Headteacher: Matthew Whatford

Compassion

Achievement

Respect

Endeavour

*The cornerstones of our  
learning community*

9th January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

### Welcome back

A very happy new year to all of our students and families. I hope the festive break was full of the family time and R&R that you all deserved. We were excited to welcome students back to both sites on Monday of this week and for all of the excellent opportunities that are ahead of them. Our expectations continue to be high and we will continue to both push and support students with a high challenge and high support approach in school, which is warm-strict. Everyone at Imberhorne has been so impressed with the way in which our students have stepped up to this raising of the bar and we know that they will reap the long-term benefits of this. I am sure that a number of them have made New Year's resolutions that are about school and we look forward to supporting them to achieve their goals.

### School Uniform - skirt consultation

On Wednesday of this week I wrote to you about the government's plans around school uniform and what this means for us as a school. We are currently working on our position, with a view to significantly reducing the cost of our uniform as the key consideration and I will write to you about this in full very soon. To support our final position, it would be very much appreciated if you could complete our school skirt consultation [here](#), choosing your preference from one of two options. We will then use this consultation feedback alongside all of the feedback we have gathered to support us with finalising our policy decisions.

### Behaviour & Attendance Update Letter

Attached is a letter from Mr Fallick with an attendance and rewards update, it contains important detail so please take your time to read it.

### School Allotment Project - Waitrose collection

We were delighted to have had our School Allotment Project selected as one of the featured community projects for the Waitrose Spring Charity Award. If you or anyone you know shops in Waitrose in East Grinstead, please ask them to drop their green tokens into our collection pot. We continue to seek support for this project and Mr Celani is keen to speak to anyone in our community who may be able to help us with fundraising or with the skillset and time to help us to develop this space.

### School Minibuses

As a result of the generous donations from our community of parents, carers and partners, we were extremely grateful to be able to purchase outright two minibuses to replace those that were stolen over the summer break. These buses are now in use and we have been able to resume the away sporting fixtures and transportation for students for our many other extra-curricular activities and clubs. Thank you to everyone who has supported us to be able to achieve this and make up the shortfall from the insurance payouts - additional unplanned costs such as these are impossible for schools to account for and manage due to a highly challenging financial climate in education, so we feel incredibly lucky to have had such fantastic support.

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### Extra-Curricular Activities

Our Spring Term Extra-Curricular activities start week commencing Monday 12th January, please take a look at the wide range of clubs and activities the school offer and encourage your children to take part <http://www.imberhorne.co.uk/content/clubs-and-activities>

### Sackville Pre-Loved Prom Dress & Suit Sale

Sackville School are hosting a Pre-Loved Prom Dress and Suit Sale on Friday 30 January 2026 from 3.30pm – 5.30pm in their school hall and this is open to our Imberhorne families too.

The event aims to provide an affordable and sustainable way for students to find their prom outfits, while also supporting a local charity.

All £5 seller fees will be deducted and donated to the local Food Bank when the item is sold. Students and families can:

- Sell a prom dress or suit (£5 fee the rest of the sale will go back to you)
- Browse and buy affordable pre-loved outfits
- Visit stalls from local hair stylists, makeup artists, tailors and more (£10 stalls)

To register as a seller or book a stall, please complete this [Google Form](#).

A flyer for the event is also attached.

### Upcoming events - term 2a

Before the break I shared some key dates for this half term and have repeated these below for your reference - please do check them against your diary:

- Tues 6th-Fri 16th Jan - Y12 and 13 External Vocational Exams
- Friday 16th Jan - Y11 Mock Results Day
- Monday 19th Jan - Y9 Options Process launches with tutors
- Mon 19th-Fri 23rd Jan - Y13 Mock Exam week
- Tuesday 20th Jan - Y7 Reward Trip
- Thursday 22nd Jan - Y8 Reward Trip
- Friday 23rd Jan - Y9 Reward Trip
- Wednesday 28th Jan - Y9 Parent Consultation Evening (online)
- Friday 30th Jan - Non-uniform day
- Mon 2nd Feb - Fri 6th Feb - Y12 Assessment Week
- Mon 2nd Feb- Fri 13th Feb- Y11 Sixth Form follow-up interviews
- Thursday 5th Feb - Y11 Parent Consultation Evening (online)
- Tuesday 10th Feb - Y9 Options Information Evening
- Friday 13th Feb - Y9 Options choices deadline

Yours faithfully

Mr Matthew Whatford  
Headteacher