



WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

IMBERHORNE SCHOOL

Headteacher: Matthew Whatford

Compassion

Achievement

Respect

Endeavour

*The cornerstones of our
learning community*

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Dear Parents and Carers

The warmest of welcomes back to students who have returned for their first full week this week. I know that staff have been extremely impressed with the ways in which students have returned to school and the extremely positive and determined mindset that they have shown. This was a focus of mine and Mr Fallick's first assemblies, where we spoke a lot about how students can take control of their future by embodying our new Vision and Values. These were written by the community in an iterative process following staff and student feedback before Christmas and I am pleased to be able to share them with you in this letter.

After a listening exercise across the school community, the feedback we received was that our old Vision Statement was over-long and that it did not reflect our everyday ethos and new direction of our school. As a consequence, we entered into a comprehensive period of drafting and redrafting with staff, students and governors across the Spring and Summer of last academic year, where both the Vision and Values statements were redesigned through a careful iterative process. I am pleased to now be able to share this Vision Statement with you:

*At Imberhorne we **strive** to be a **supportive** community that empowers everyone to be **successful**, open-minded and fulfilled.*

The **strive, support, succeed** mantra was written by the student feedback group and was immediately received with positivity by all other stakeholder groups involved in the process. As a consequence, it became the constant through the Vision redrafting process. All contributors felt that as a tagline it clearly underlined both the individual and communal approach that we are aiming for, particularly when contextualised within the fuller Vision statement.

Feedback on our CARE values highlighted that endeavour was not understood or favoured by the wider school community and that our compassion value did not hold as high a currency as achievement and respect. As a consequence, the following five Value Statements were written and agreed upon, retaining achievement and respect from our CARE values (although without the memorable acronym):

Achievement: We challenge everyone to be their best - achievement is for all.

Ambition: We are driven and seek enriching experiences to build confidence and thrive.

Community: We are inclusive. We collaborate, contribute and belong.

Resilience: We are brave and adaptable, embracing the challenges ahead.

Respect: We act with integrity, showing empathy and kindness.

It was agreed that 'we' statements clearly reflected our collective responsibility to connect and work together to live our values and embed them within our culture as a school. It was also felt that so much of what we want to achieve as a school is about being a community and that this should therefore be the central value around which all other values sit.

We are proud of the final definition of both our Vision and Values and will be explicitly referencing these in everything we do from this point forward. They underpin our long-term strategic plan and annual School Improvement Plan, and we feel they provide the simplicity and clarity to our school community to define our culture from this point forward.



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Minibus Appeal

We continue to seek support for our minibus appeal and are incredibly grateful for any support that parents, carers and members of our wider school community can provide to us. You will be aware that school funding has been increasingly stretched by real-terms cuts to our budgets year on year. This has made our decisions over expenditure something that we have to look at more carefully and that there is simply no flexibility for bigger unexpected costs, such as the replacement of two minibuses. Thank you to all parents, carers and partners in the community who have supported us so far.

Attendance Letter

Attached to this letter is a letter from Mr Fallick about attendance and some new developments. You will be aware from the national news that attendance in school is a top priority for the government and this has shifted policy. We know that students are best served in front of us in school and want school to be unmissable for them. Obviously, we appreciate sometimes that students will have absences from school and that these are unavoidable, but we are increasingly unable to authorise absences due to these policy shifts. There are a number of internal policy and reward shifts that are detailed in Mr Fallick's letter, so please do take the time to read it.

Open Evening

Last week I wrote about our Open Evening. Bookings for my speech in the main hall at Imberhorne Lane are now open [here](#) for all parents of Year 6 students. I am afraid that spaces are limited to 270 per speech due to this being our safe capacity in our main hall. We will be asking students in Year 11 and 12/13 to help us with tours on both sites and departments will be also asking for student representatives to help them for the evening. Letters will come home to parents and carers about this over the coming week - please do return the consents for this because we are unable to have any students on site for whom we do not have parental permission to be here. Thank you in advance to all families and students for supporting this event.

Roadworks and School Transport

We have been sorry to hear of and see the difficulties that students and families have had in getting to and from school this week whilst there have been road works on the A22 London Road near Imberhorne Lane. We have been in contact with the local authority over the issues to raise our concerns and hope that there is an improvement in the traffic flow for next week. We have been taking a daily measure of the situation with regard to attendance and late marks to ensure that these are not unreasonably applied, but if you have any concerns or queries about late marks that may have been attributed to your child that are due to the traffic issues, please contact Mrs Hannam directly (shannam@imberhorne.co.uk).

Food Bank

The East Grinstead Food Bank has seen increased usage over the summer and are currently leading a drive for Harvest donations. This usage will not be limited to people outside of our school community. To show our support for the Food Bank, we will be having a collection drive for them at both sites over the next two weeks. Any donations can be brought straight to Reception or handed to tutors. The list of items most needed is below:

- Tinned meat
- Tinned fish
- Tinned vegetables
- Tinned custard/rice pudding
- Tinned fruit
- Coffee
- Long-life (UHT) milk
- Long-life fruit juice
- Instant mashed potato
- Microwave rice



We will continue to support the Food Bank with further drives throughout the year and also run our usual appeal for the Greenaway Foundation at Christmas. There is also an option for families to donate money directly online by following this link:
eastgrinstead.foodbank.org.uk/harvest-appeal/.

Training to Teach

Finally, at this time of year, it's really important that I again highlight the wonderful and deeply fulfilling teaching profession in the hope that there might be future teachers in our community. We work with a number of local providers who provide different training routes, many of which allow applicants to train at Imberhorne or at other local schools who are also partnered with these providers. Typically, this means being in school four days per week (Monday-Thursday) with one day (Friday) given over to professional and subject studies through the provider or at Brighton University. Many routes are salaried, particularly in shortage subjects. The application process for teacher training with our partners either opens at the end of the month or is open now for pre-application - these are all listed below:

- Tanbridge House Inspiring Future Teacher Hub (Based at Tanbridge House School in Horsham): <https://www.inspiringfutureteachers.org/tanbridge>
- I2i Teaching Partnership (based at Reigate School): <https://teach.i2ipartnership.co.uk/i2i-teaching-partnership-training-centres-reigate-school/>
- Oriel ITT Partnership (based at Oriel School in Crawley): <https://oriel.w-sussex.sch.uk/joining-us/want-to-teach/>

Do also take the time to have a look at their social media channels for a quick insight into their offer. We are very lucky to have successfully recruited teachers from these routes after they have trained here with us at Imberhorne and are committed to continuing to work closely with these providers to bring through new teachers from around our locality and within our community.

If you or someone you know might be interested in training to be a teacher as a new or change of career, but aren't entirely sure, it is also possible to come and have some experience with us in school. This typically means joining us for a day to get a flavour of secondary school teaching by observing lessons. Should you or someone you know be interested in this, please contact Nathan Booth (NBooth@imberhorne.co.uk) who can look at whether this might be possible. Nathan Booth also leads on all aspects of teacher training in the school and will be very happy to speak to potential applicants about the training experience.

Yours faithfully

Mr Matthew Whatford
Headteacher



Sporting Success

Shooting

Zac Webber in Year 13 had a successful week in the GB Junior International 2025 at Bisley. It was a tense and close final and he even received a few tips afterwards from Olympic shooter Yusuf Dikec. He came home with an impressive haul of medals.

Air pistol GP men - Gold
10m Air Pistol men - Silver
10m Air pistol mixed teams - Silver
25m Rapid Fire Pistol - Silver
25m Sport Pistol teams - Bronze

We are extremely proud of Zac and his achievements and wish him the very best of luck in his upcoming competitions.

Swimming

Saskia Spencer in Year 11 has also had an enormously successful summer of swimming and we are delighted to inform you that she is now the English champion for the 15 year old girls 100m backstroke! We look forward to continuing to track Saskia's brilliant achievements going forwards.

Inline Ball Hockey

Congratulations to Alfred Hunt in Year 7 who won the South East and then national tournament with his inline ball hockey team over the summer. Alfred and his teammates will travel to the European Championships next year to put themselves against international competition. Enormous congratulations to Alfred and his teammates!

Imberhorne Equestrian Team

The Imberhorne Equestrian Team continues to find success both locally in the events through the National Schools Equestrian Association (NSEA), as well as national competitions. The team operate from Felbridge and are very keen to have new riders join them - any families interested or wishing to do so should contact the Team Manager, Naomi Deloughery, at naomideloughery@hotmail.co.uk.