



WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

IMBERHORNE SCHOOL

Headteacher: Matthew Whatford

Compassion
Achievement
Respect
Endeavour

The cornerstones of our learning community

13th February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

End of half term

Thank you to all of our parents, carers and students for the way in which you have worked with us this half term. The weather has been highly challenging, with water the theme since Christmas and something that caused some further concern with last night's burst water main around Imberhorne Lane. In spite of these challenges, we continue to be impressed with student engagement and the way in which they are rising to the high challenge, high support mantra.

Unbelievably, we are now over the halfway point for the academic year, and two thirds of the way for Year 11 and 13. If you are a parent or carer to these year groups, kudos to you and your continued support for your children. Year 11 will start their final round of mocks very shortly after the half term break, so any further encouragement for revision, including a longer-term revision timetable is really important, especially as the next half term is so short at five weeks. A further plug for Mrs Abingdon's Revision HQ classroom - please ask your children to sign up if they haven't done so already. Please also return to the Elevate website for additional parent/carer support.

Year 9 Options

Well done to all Year 9 students for the submission of their Options today and thank you to all families who turned out for the Options Information Evening in the rain on Tuesday of this week. It was a fantastic evening of excitement and constructive discussion, focusing students on what's next for them. We will now be processing their submissions and hoping to confirm final options next half term.

Parent Forum

Thank you to the parents and carers who attended our Parent Forum at Windmill Lane this week. The discussion focused on the school's planned approach to legislation changes around school uniform, communication and the establishment of a PTA, giving us some extremely valuable feedback and insight. There was a clear appetite in the group to establish a PTA in particular and we are keen to engage more with our parent and carer community to support this. We are very conscious that secondary parents can feel slightly more distant in their relationship with the school than at primary (and conscious that this is often the preference of your children), but are extremely keen to work more closely with you to involve you in school life much more often. If you have an interest in working with other parents and carers in the setup of a new Imberhorne School PTA or if you'd like to join the next Parent Forum, please let Miss Jackson know (HJackson@imberhorne.co.uk). I will be writing to all parents and carers with an update on our plans for uniform after the half term break.

Key Stage 3 Students - Wired Ear/Headphones

A reminder that all students in Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9 are required to have wired ear/headphones (with a standard headphone jack) as part of their equipment list. This item is an essential item of required equipment for Music lessons but may also be needed for Languages and Computer Science.

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Parent/carer support - identifying and challenging extremist ideologies and narratives

West Sussex County Council have commissioned some online training for parents and carers around the dangers of online radicalisation. This training is provided by a specialist training company called Small Steps and will cover the following:

- What factors can make young people susceptible to extremist ideas
- How to support others and where to get help
- Understand the dangers of certain platforms used by extremists
- What disinformation and misinformation are and the dangers of both
- Signs of radicalisation, how to have difficult conversations and what to do if approached by an extremist online
- Interactive gaming activities that showcase strategies used by extremists on virtual platforms

Sessions will take place on

- Tuesday 24 February 2026, 19:00 - 20:00
- Thursday 26 February 2026, 19:00 - 20:00

Please click [here](#) to register your interest. For more information, please email ask@smallsteps.ltd, or prevent.training@westsussex.gov.uk.

Yours faithfully

Mr Matthew Whatford
Headteacher

Sporting and Arts success

Cheerleading

Heidi Carless, Pheobe Nash and Summer Hill in Year 9 competed in the prestigious Legacy cheerleading competition at Wembley Arena last weekend.

They placed 1st in the under 16's level 3 and were awarded Grand Champions, before then taking 2nd place in the under 16's level 4 achieving silver medal!

We are extremely proud of this group of dedicated athletes, who train on numerous evenings and weekends. Their hard work has clearly paid off with such incredible success in their first competition of the year.

U12 RUGBY - SUSSEX COUNTY CUP IMBERHORNE 15 : 15 WARDEN PARK

In a display of grit and growing tactical maturity, the Year 7 rugby squad secured a well-deserved draw against a physical Warden Park side this week. The match was a true "game of two halves," showcasing both Imberhorne's attacking flair and their defensive resilience.

Imberhorne started the brighter of the two sides, clinical in the opening exchanges and crossing the line early to take the lead. However, Warden Park soon found their rhythm. A penalty try shifted the momentum, leaving Imberhorne on the back foot for much of the first half. The scoreline could have slipped away if not for a stoic defensive effort. The team showed immense discipline to weather the storm, regrouping at half-time to address the pressure.

The second half saw Imberhorne rediscover their dangerous edge in possession: Thomas B-B was instrumental throughout, proving to be a constant threat both with and without the ball, Morgan B led the charge with powerful carries, consistently breaking the gain line and keeping the opposition defense guessing. And Stanley M provided the highlight of the match, breaking through the line on several occasions and capping off a brilliant try with a celebratory swan dive. While the attacking play was eye-catching, the foundation of the performance was work rate.

Bobby G put in a "machine-like" performance, leading by example with tireless tackling and leadership that earned him the Player of the Match honors.



Against a very strong opposition, a draw felt like the fair and right result. This team continues to grow and develop with every outing. Well done, Year 7!

Words by Mr Byrne

Y7 and 8 athletics

Year 7 and 8 students recently competed at Sackville School in the Sports Hall Athletics Mid Sussex Active competition, it was a great afternoon of running, throwing, and jumping, with all students showing excellent effort, determination, and team spirit.

We are especially proud of our Year 7 and Year 8 girls' teams who both performed brilliantly and were rewarded with bronze medals. Well done to everyone who took part and represented the school so positively.

Words by Ms Pritchard