



WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

# IMBERHORNE SCHOOL

Headteacher: Matthew Whatford

**Compassion**

**Achievement**

**Respect**

**Endeavour**

*The cornerstones of our  
learning community*

28<sup>th</sup> March 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

This week, a group of Year 8 students took part in the IET Faraday Challenge Day at the Gatwick Stem Centre and we are delighted to announce that one of our teams won this stage of the competition! This is an annual competition made up of one day STEM activities, with the winning team from each day being added to the national leaderboard. The top teams from this leaderboard are then invited to take part in the national final to compete for a cash prize of £1,000 for their school. The students were given a brief from a client which they then had to research, design, and make prototype solutions which were then presented at the end of the day. All of the students represented the school exceptionally well, demonstrating numerous employability skills such as teamwork, communication, creativity, time management, and, of course, problem solving. We are very proud of them and look forward to sharing the outcome of the national final.

All Year 9 students participated in an excellent day programme for the Young Green Briton Challenge, where they worked in small teams with their peers to develop solutions to local environmental issues. We were so incredibly impressed with the ingenuity and collaboration, with students identifying very specific issues within our local context. Class winners are now due to be chosen, before a 'Dragons Den' event in early June where these winners will compete to be chosen for the National Final at City Hall in London on 1st July. We look forward to sharing the details of the winners with you, as well as the details of the Dragons Den event. A huge thank you must go to Mr Turner, Mr Nichols and Mr Monckton for organising, and to all Year 9 teachers and tutors for their support.

After this week's fantastic Spring Music Concert, we look forward to seeing you at the iDance event on Wednesday evening of next week (2<sup>nd</sup> April). Mrs Brinkhurst and team have been working hard with students who have put in hours of practice to be ready for this. We are so proud of the growing profile of the arts in the school and thankful for the staff who are leading this. We hope to begin work towards the Artsmark award in the near future and are excited by the interim findings of the DFE's Curriculum and Assessment review as it clearly suggests a greater profile for the Arts in the future.



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I recognise that many of you will have watched and been shocked by 'Adolescence' on Netflix in the last couple of weeks. This programme has obviously caused some national discussion around young people, their online presence and the material that ends up in their algorithms. This was further highlighted by Sir Gareth Southgate in his Richard Dimbleby Lecture last week (the full version can be found here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m00293l5/the-richard-dimbleby-lecture-sir-gareth-southgate>). You will remember that I recently wrote to you explaining our views on the importance of open dialogue with your children and how you can safeguard them in their use of mobile and internet-connected devices. This is important for all students and, as a parent of two boys, really resonates with me, particularly in the harmful discriminatory content that is aimed at them. We aim to be an anti-discrimination school and have recently spoken to all students about this in assembly. There are a useful series of short videos from the BBC here (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/articles/zmxsnrd>) should you wish to open up this dialogue with your child. A fuller letter with some more detailed advice and guidance will follow from Mrs Best in the next week and we are planning further work in school to equip students to manage these communications and seek support as necessary.

Next week we have an early finish on Friday 4th April for the Easter break. Students will be dismissed at 12.20pm. We will then return on Tuesday 22nd April because Monday 21st April is the Easter Monday Bank Holiday. I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all parents and carers for the ways in which you have worked with us and supported us this term and wish you and your children a restful Easter break.

Metrobus will be operating the following services at 12.20pm on our last day of term:  
281, 624, 638, 643, 648

The 903 and E579 Turbostyle services, Lingfield Minibus, 905 minibus and taxis etc are all also operating currently.

The 84 to Sharpthorne and West Hoathly - will not call at Imberhorne Lane, but can be boarded at East Grinstead Station 12.39pm - if your son/daughter needs to get this service please speak to their Head of Year as they will need to leave a little earlier.

The services to Lingfield and Dormansland are as follows:

The 281 – leaves 13.05 from Felbridge Hotel heading towards East Grinstead and 13.14 at East Grinstead Station

The 409 – leaves at 12.47 from Baldwins Hill heading towards Lingfield only

A reminder for Year 11 parents and carers that on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> April the photographers are in school to take the final Year 11 group photograph. Please can all Year 11 students be in correct school uniform and to have either a school jumper or school hoodie with them.

Finally, you may remember that I wrote to you in January about the Artbytes competition for Year 9 students. Imberhorne School's winning entries are in and have been uploaded here: <https://artbytes.co.uk/schools/imberhorne-school-395/>. From 3rd April you will be able to vote on the website for your favourite piece, with the winner going forwards to the regional and then potentially national competitions. The themes for this year's competitions were 'Flora and Fauna' or 'Humans' and I am sure you will agree that the pieces that are on display are incredibly impressive and all worthy winners. A huge congratulations to all students who have their work on display and thanks to Ms Mitchell, Ms Sassi and the Art department for their support and organisation.

Yours faithfully  
Mr Matthew Whatford  
Headteacher



<b>Year 7</b>	Mr D Moore, Head of Year 7 <a href="mailto:dmoore@imberhorne.co.uk">dmoore@imberhorne.co.uk</a>	Mrs T Holley (Temporary) Pastoral Support, Year 7 <a href="mailto:tholley@imberhorne.co.uk">tholley@imberhorne.co.uk</a>
<b>Year 8</b>	Mr D Celani, Head of Year 8 <a href="mailto:dcelani@imberhorne.co.uk">dcelani@imberhorne.co.uk</a>	Mrs N O'Connor Pastoral Support, Year 8 <a href="mailto:noconnor@imberhorne.co.uk">noconnor@imberhorne.co.uk</a>
<b>Year 9</b>	Mr S Hill, Head of Year 9 <a href="mailto:shill@imberhorne.co.uk">shill@imberhorne.co.uk</a>	Mrs S Wood Pastoral Support, Year 9 <a href="mailto:swood@imberhorne.co.uk">swood@imberhorne.co.uk</a>
<b>Year 10</b>	Mrs J Wells, Head of Year 10 <a href="mailto:jwells@imberhorne.co.uk">jwells@imberhorne.co.uk</a>	Mrs I Longhurst Pastoral Support, Year 10 <a href="mailto:ilonghurst@imberhorne.co.uk">ilonghurst@imberhorne.co.uk</a>
<b>Year 11</b>	Mrs C Cook, Head of Year 11 <a href="mailto:ccook@imberhorne.co.uk">ccook@imberhorne.co.uk</a>	Mrs M Malone Pastoral Support, Year 11 <a href="mailto:mmalone@imberhorne.co.uk">mmalone@imberhorne.co.uk</a>
<b>Year 12</b>	Mr A Ibrahim, Head of Year 12 <a href="mailto:aibrahim@imberhorne.co.uk">aibrahim@imberhorne.co.uk</a>	Mrs J Cooper Pastoral Support, Sixth Form <a href="mailto:jcooper2@imberhorne.co.uk">jcooper2@imberhorne.co.uk</a>
<b>Year 13</b>	Mr C Dunn, Head of Year 13 <a href="mailto:cdunn@imberhorne.co.uk">cdunn@imberhorne.co.uk</a>	



## Heads of Year and Pastoral Support

Mrs T Holley, Assistant Head of Year, Key Stage 3 <a href="mailto:tholley@imberhome.co.uk">tholley@imberhome.co.uk</a>	Mrs L Galloway, Assistant Head of Year, Key Stage 4 <a href="mailto:lgalloway@imberhome.co.uk">lgalloway@imberhome.co.uk</a>
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## SEND

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## Safeguarding

Mrs E Best Designated Safeguarding Lead <a href="mailto:ebest@imberhome.co.uk">ebest@imberhome.co.uk</a>	Mr C Fallick Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead <a href="mailto:cfallick@imberhome.co.uk">cfallick@imberhome.co.uk</a>	Mr G Crees Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead <a href="mailto:gcrees@imberhome.co.uk">gcrees@imberhome.co.uk</a>
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## Senior Assistant Headteachers

Mrs E Best Head of Key Stage 3 <a href="mailto:ebest@imberhome.co.uk">ebest@imberhome.co.uk</a>	Mrs K Abingdon Head of Key Stage 4 <a href="mailto:kabingdon@imberhome.co.uk">kabingdon@imberhome.co.uk</a>	Mr G Crees Head of Sixth Form <a href="mailto:gcrees@imberhome.co.uk">gcrees@imberhome.co.uk</a>
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