



WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

IMBERHORNE SCHOOL

Headteacher: Matthew Whatford

15th May 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

Windmill Lane improvements

We are delighted to inform you of some improvements at our Windmill Lane site that are set to commence over the half-term break. This will see the complete remodelling of the Year 8 and 9 toilets, which will increase capacity, create a vastly improved environment and provide facilities that are fitting with the needs of students in contemporary school settings. The finish will be the same as the new Year 7 toilets and will utilise the available space much better. These toilets will close at half term for initial structural work to begin, with temporary toilets being installed in the adjacent car parking area. The new toilets will be completed for the start of the school year in September.

The second improvement will be the replacement of the Music classroom next to the student entrance. This will be sited where the current Bridge classroom is in one of the quads of the main building, with demolition of the Bridge classroom over the half-term break, subject to planning permission. The new classroom will then be installed in the summer holidays, ready for a September start. The current Music classroom will also be demolished in the summer holidays, ready for a new building that is currently in the design stages, housing the Bridge and other provisions. We will confirm details of this building in due course.

Thorpe Park trips

We recognise that for some families of students who have not qualified there has been some disappointment in the ways in which the criteria have been applied for students to qualify for the Thorpe Park trip. A robust review of this process and criteria is underway and Mr Fallick has written a further letter to families today to outline our response to the feedback and the next steps that we will be taking to address any concerns raised. It is certainly not the school's intention to leave any children and families who are working extremely hard in school to not feel included - our values are such that we seek to ensure that there are opportunities for every student to have new, exciting and rewarding experiences in their time at Imberhorne. Mr Fallick's letter is attached for your attention.

Year 10 Drama performances

Well done to all Year 10 Drama students for their excellent performances across the course of this week. Thank you also to all of their teachers for their support and confidence building. I had the pleasure of attending on Tuesday and was quite taken aback by the sensitivity and maturity that students showed when tackling some highly challenging and emotive contemporary material.

Sensory toys

In recent weeks we have seen an uptick in students bringing sensory toys into school. Many of these are not appropriate for the school environment and do not adhere to health and safety requirements, meaning that some of them have led to materials being spilled, making a mess and causing unnecessary risk. I need to therefore inform parents and carers that **sensory toys must not be brought in from home**. Students should only be in receipt of a sensory toy if this has been provided, logged and assessed by the SEND and Inclusion team. Where students have been provided with these to support their additional needs, this will be properly tracked and communicated to staff so that any toys that are in school are used appropriately and safely by students who need them.

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Road closure postponement

You will remember that two weeks ago I informed you of the plans for the closure of a portion of Imberhorne Lane from Monday 18th May to Saturday 4th July between the junctions of Heathcote Drive and Bluebell Close. This has now been postponed, with no new date set at the time of writing. This is a great relief to all families of students who use this route to get to school, especially students who are currently sitting their GCSE and A-Level exams. We expect a new date to be confirmed before the summer holidays but hope that this will be better planned to reduce disruption for our students and families.

Yours sincerely

Mr Matthew Whatford
Headteacher

Attached - Letter from Mr Fallick – Thorpe Park Trip