



WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

IMBERHORNE SCHOOL

Headteacher: Matthew Whatford

24th April 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

Further S106 funds confirmed

In my letter last week, I outlined the planned works at Windmill Lane and mentioned that we were awaiting a key decision on further funding from Section 106 allocations. We are delighted to advise that this further funding is now confirmed. The link to the key decision on the West Sussex County Council website can be found [here](#). There has been a lot of work in the background to achieve these funds, with much close working with a number of key stakeholders. We intend for them to be put to very good use in a programme of works over the coming years, leading to some significant improvements to the buildings and premises across both of our school sites.

Smartphone ban in schools

You may have seen the news this week that the government is planning to legislate to ban smartphones in schools. This is due to be tabled as an amendment to the Children's Wellbeing and School's Bill and will likely come into force in the coming year. As a school, we have a clear policy on phones - they are to be off, away and in bags from gate to bell. This means that any phone seen from the time students enter the school gate until they are told by staff that they are allowed them out at 3.10pm will be confiscated. A detention will also be set, and for a second offence in the term, we will hold the phone until it is collected by a parent or carer.

We understand the need for students to have phones on the way to and from school for their safety and communication with parents and carers, but there is no need for them to use their phones during the school day. This is especially important with the functionality of smartphones because these pose an additional safeguarding risk to the users and the wider community of students in school. As a school we would urge parents and carers to also read all of the information around smartphone-free childhood so that you are able to make the most informed and protective choices around your child's mobile phone use and access. The campaign site can be accessed [here](#).

Mr Thompson - English

It is with regret, but also very best wishes to him, that I need to inform you that Mr Thompson has retired from his role as Teacher of English today. His Year 11 class will be taught by the very brilliant Mrs Jones for the remainder of their lessons this half term. Mr Thompson's other classes in Key Stage 3 and 4 will be taught by Ms John and Mr Surtie, who are well known and liked by students in the school. We wish Mr Thompson the very best of luck in his future and will miss him very much.

Instrumental Lessons at Imberhorne

Following on from Year 8 Parents' Evening earlier this week, several parents thought they had missed the opportunity to sign up for lessons this year. The music department would like to remind parents that you are able to sign up for lessons at any point during the year, and teachers will do their best to get students into lessons ASAP, space allowing.

We currently have teachers offering:

[Piano through Open2Music](#)

[Drums, Vocal, Clarinet, Saxophone and Brass through West Sussex Music](#)

Imberhorne Lane

East Grinstead

West Sussex

RH19 1QY

Tel: 01342 323562

E-Mail: info@imberhorne.co.uk

www.imberhorne.co.uk



[Guitar/Bass tuition through Stuart Blight](#), one of our private tutors at school.



Please use the attached links to sign up or please email Mr Williams mwilliams@imberhome.co.uk for further information.

Fostering in West Sussex

To reinforce my message from last week, about the need for fostering in West Sussex, I have included it here again for your reference.

Many children are experiencing instability, loss or difficult home circumstances. Education professionals see first-hand the impact this has on engagement, wellbeing, learning and confidence. A safe, supportive home can transform a child's life - and there is a significant need for more foster placements in West Sussex. There are several types of fostering that fit well around existing work and family commitments, including weekend stayovers, emergency care in school holidays, and supported lodgings for young people aged 16 and over. If you or someone you know might be interested in doing one of the most important jobs of all, please visit the [West Sussex fostering website](#) where you will find more information.

Families facing financial hardship

A reminder of the new Crisis and Resilience Fund that has been set up by the UK Government, replacing the previous Household Support Fund. Under the new programme:

- Support will continue to be available for people facing **immediate financial hardship**, such as a sudden loss of income or an unexpected essential cost
- There will be a greater focus on helping households **stabilise their situation and reduce the risk of repeat financial crisis**, including access to advice, guidance and wider support services
- Support will be **needs-based**, rather than universal, to ensure help reaches households experiencing the greatest financial difficulty

Support available through the Crisis and Resilience Fund in West Sussex may include:

- **Crisis support** to help residents manage urgent financial pressures
- **Help to access advice and longer-term support**, such as income maximisation, budgeting advice or debt support where appropriate

Support will be assessed **based on individual circumstances**, and not all households will be eligible. Families experiencing financial hardship can contact the Community Hub:

- [Online](#)
- By phone: **0330 222 7980**

The Community Hub is open 09:00 - 17:00 seven days a week (except Bank Holidays, when the service operates between 10:00 - 14:00).

Key dates for the half term ahead

There are a number of important dates ahead this term that it is important that we highlight to you:

- Mon 27th April-Fri 1st May: Y11 GCSE MFL Oral Exams
- Weds 29th April-Fri 1st May: Y13 A-Level Art Exams
- Mon 4th May: May Bank Holiday.
- Tues 5th May-Thurs 7th May: Y13 A-Level Photography Exams
- Wed 6th May: Y10 Consultation Evening at Imberhome Lane
- Thurs 7th May: Y11 GCSE Exams commence
- Thurs 7th and Fri 8th May: Y10 Geography Field Trips
- Mon 11th-Weds 13th May: Y10 GCSE Drama rehearsals and performances



- Thurs 14th May: Y8 and Y9 trip to Thorpe Park
- Fri 15th May: Y7, Y10 and Y12 trip to Thorpe Park
- Fri 22nd May: Y11 final day – Y11 only will finish at 12.30pm

Yours sincerely

Mr Matthew Whatford
Headteacher

Sporting and Arts success

U16 Gymnastics

An enormous well done to George Pattison in Year 10, who competed at the South East Regional Championships at the weekend and became the Under 16 National all around Champion. George took the gold medal in rings, parallel bars, vault and high bar - an extraordinary achievement!

Karate

Christopher Embleton in Year 8 competed in two major karate competitions over the past two weekends and did incredibly well winning 2 gold, 2 silver and 2 bronze medals overall.

He competed at the ISKA English Nationals in Gloucester, where he earned two bronze medals in Musical Weapons and Traditional Tang Soo Do, qualifying him to compete in the ISKA World Championships later in the year.

Last weekend he took part in the WAKO Kickboxing GB National Championships in Barnsley and won two gold medals in Musical Weapons and Creative Weapons and two silver medals in Musical Open Hand and Creative Open Hand categories. This also qualifies him to compete in the forthcoming WAKO World Championships, which is extremely exciting. We wish Christopher the very best of luck!

U12 Rugby

Congratulations to Stan, Bobby, Morgan, Beau, Finn and Owen who went on tour to Butlins at Bognor Regis last weekend, coming away as champions!

The Tigers Challenge is the biggest rugby union festival in the UK. The boys played 6 brilliant games of rugby over the weekend alongside their teammates and on Sunday lifted the trophy after winning their pool.