



WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

IMBERHORNE SCHOOL

Headteacher: Matthew Whatford

5th June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

Uniform - September 2026

You will remember my letter from the start of March outlining the changes to the uniform policy from September 2026. This is in line with Government legislation that came into force in April and gives an expectation for a maximum of three 'school branded' items and to reduce the cost as far as possible for parents.

To ensure the changeover is manageable for all families, we are introducing the updated uniform gradually. Year 7 Students starting in September 2026 will wear the full new uniform and PE kit. Students currently in Years 7-10 will transition to new items, ensuring no unnecessary expense. All uniform will be available to buy directly from the school:

- **New Year 7 starters (from September 2026)** will wear the full new uniform, including the new logo sweatshirt and the updated PE kit.
- **Years 8 and 9 (students currently in Years 7 and 8)** can wear either the current grey knitted jumper and hoodie or the new sweatshirt while they remain in lower school. **They will move into the new sweatshirt when they move to Imberhorne Lane.**
- **Years 10 and 11 (students currently in Years 9 and 10) will continue with their existing school uniform.** However, current grey jumpers will be sold at the same price as the new sweatshirt, to ensure families do not pay more during the transition.

Federation Dance Show

It was an utter joy to attend the Federation Dance Show at Chequer Mead Theatre on Monday of this week. The showcase of talent from across our four schools was quite exceptional and I was extremely proud of all students involved. Huge thanks to Mrs Brinkhurst and Mrs Swan for their hard work in supporting students who were so incredibly well prepared and rehearsed. An enormous well done to Alisha, Emmi, Abigail, Lucinda, Amelia, Anja, Lena, Izzy, Matilda, Olivia, Lilly, Sophie and Phoebe who showcased some real talent, representing themselves and the school so brilliantly.

Thank a Teacher Day

National Thank a Teacher Day is on Wednesday 17th June this year. If you feel inclined to do so, please take the time to complete an e-card for a brilliant teacher or member of support staff [here](#). Last year staff across the school received a number of messages and were incredibly grateful for the time that was put into giving them the recognition they so deserve.

Worth Less? Fair Funding Campaign

The West Sussex Secondary Heads Association *Worth Less?* campaign has gained some traction since our letters were sent two weeks ago, and we intend to build on this in the coming weeks and months. Your support for our letter and position is greatly appreciated as we seek to secure a fair funding settlement for children and young people in West Sussex. I will continue to keep you updated through these letters about our next steps.

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Windmill Lane Improvements

Site improvements at Windmill Lane have started apace over the holiday and first week back, with temporary toilets now in place for Year 8 and 9 students. We have also had the building that was housing The Bridge demolished, with groundworks underway at weekends for the installation of the new Music classroom over the summer holidays. The current Music modular classroom will be demolished over the summer, along with the replacement of all of our old and very tired windows. This means that the site will be looking fantastic for students and staff when they return in September.

Message from the Children's Commissioner - Dame Rachel de Souza

As Children's Commissioner, I'm writing to ask for children at your school to take part in my national survey, The Big Future.

Students can take part here: <http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigfuture>

Years 7-9 will do so in their Computing lessons, Year 10 in their LIFE lessons and Year 12 in their PSHE lessons before the end of term. If your child is in Year 11 or 13, please also encourage them to complete the survey.

As schools and colleges return for the final weeks of the academic year, this is a valuable opportunity for children and young people to reflect on their experiences, share what matters most to them, and tell us about their hopes and ambitions for the future in their own words.

I want to hear from children and young people aged 0–18 from every background, in every part of the country. The survey asks about the things they enjoy, the challenges they face, the changes they would like to see in their communities, and what they believe a good childhood should look like today.

Participation in The Big Future also provides schools with an opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to civic engagement. The findings will help inform national conversations and decision-making about children's lives and futures at the highest levels.

Schools and colleges with the highest response levels will receive formal recognition and will be invited to attend my final Festival of Childhood, celebrating the voices and contributions of children and young people from across England.

To support you, I have created a pack of resources, including an introductory video, lesson materials and FAQs, all available on [my website](#).

I will publish the findings next year, and they will help shape the conversations and decisions being made about children's lives and futures for years to come.

As ever, thank you so much for your support.

Dame Rachel de Souza
Children's Commissioner for England

Key dates for the half term ahead

Although there is a misconception that this half term is quieter with Year 11 and 13 primarily in only for exams, there are actually a significant number of events across all year groups coming up, which I have outlined below for your convenience:

- Mon 8th-Weds 10th June: Year 8 Geography Field Trips
- Weds 10th June: Year 12 Chemistry Trip to Sussex University
- Thurs 11th June: Year 7 Celebration Evening (by invite)
- Fri 12th-Mon 15th June: DofE Bronze Assessed Expedition



- Mon 15th-Fri 19th June: Year 10 Art and Photography Mock Exams and Year 12 Mock Exams
- Tues 16th and Weds 17th June: Summer Stage Performances
- Thurs 18th June: Year 8 Celebration evening (by invite)
- Fri 19th June: End of GCSE and A-Level Exams
- Mon 22nd-Fri 26th June: Year 10 Mock Exam Week
- Mon 22nd June: Year 12 Personal Statement and CV Writing Workshops
- Tues 23rd June: Year 12 Sports Day
- Tues 23rd, Thurs 24th and Fri 26th June: Year 7 Geography Field Trips
- Weds 24th June: **Music Summer Concert (TBC)** and Year 12 Criminology Trip to The Old Bailey
- Thurs 25th June: Sixth Form Transition Evening
- Fri 26th June: Year 11 Prom
- Mon 29th and Tues 30th June: INSET DAYS
- Weds 1st July: Year 6 Induction Day and Evening, Year 12 Art and Photography RA Trip, Year 12 Volunteering in the Community, Year 8 Futures Day (At Imberhorne Lane), Year 7 Take Your Child to Work Day
- Weds 1st July-Fri 3rd July: Year 10 MFL Orals and Year 12 Geography Field Trips
- Thurs 2nd, Fri 3rd and Mon 6th July: Year 9 Assessments and Induction at IL
- Thurs 2nd July: Year 10 Work Experience Preparation Day, Year 13 Prom. Year 7 STEM Theatre Performance
- Mon 6th-Fri 10th July: Years 10 and 12 Work Experience, Year 12 Sweden Trip
- Tues 7th July: Key Stage Three Sports Day at Imberhorne Lane
- Weds 8th-Fri 10th July: Year 9 Camp
- Weds 8th July: Year 8 Hands On History Experience
- Thurs 9th July: Year 7 Hands On History Experience, Art and Photography Exhibition at Imberhorne Lane
- Mon 13th July: Year 10 CV and Letter Writing Workshops
- Weds 15th July: Year 10 Celebration Evening (by invite)
- Thurs 16th July: Year 10 Futures Mock Interview Day, Year 9 Celebration Evening (by invite), Year 9 Transition Evening (all families)
- Tues 21st July: Year 10 Sixth Form Taster or Challenge Troop Day, Year 12 Volunteering Day
- Weds 22nd July: Last day of term - finish at 12.30pm

Yours sincerely

Mr Matthew Whatford
Headteacher

Sporting and Arts Success

Anthea Bell Prize

Congratulations to Darcey Hughes in Year 11 who has been awarded a commendation for her translation from Italian to English. Darcey's excellent work was judged from 5400 entries and so this is a massive achievement.

Reg Clark Games – 3rd June 2026

Well done to all of our Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 students who represented the school at the Reg Clark Games at K2 Crawley.

The event brought together students from 14 schools across the district, providing a fantastic opportunity for our athletes to compete against some of the strongest competitors in the area.

The weather conditions were extremely challenging throughout the day. It rained continuously from the moment we arrived until the event finished, and the cold conditions made for a long



day in the stands. Despite this, our students conducted themselves exceptionally well, showing resilience, determination and a positive attitude throughout the competition.

The students were a credit to the school, representing us with pride both on and off the track. Their behaviour, sportsmanship and support for one another were excellent and did not go unnoticed.

There were a number of impressive performances across the different year groups, including:

- Maribelle La Cock – 2nd in the Inter Girls Javelin
- Beth Mitchell – 3rd in the Junior Girls 100m
- Chloe Crowley – 3rd in the Junior Girls 1500m
- Zach Wright – 2nd in the Junior Boys 800m
- Tommy Webster – 3rd in the Inter Boys Triple Jump

It was fantastic to see so many students competing with enthusiasm despite the difficult conditions. Thank you to everyone who took part and contributed to a successful day of athletics.