



WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

IMBERHORNE SCHOOL

Headteacher: Matthew Whatford

17th April 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

Improvements at Windmill Lane

We are currently in the planning stages of some improvements to the Windmill Lane site that we hope will be achieved by the end of the summer break. These improvements will be funded through Section 106 monies that have been committed to the school through development over the past decade. You may remember that a not insignificant sum of these monies was agreed last year and paid for the complete remodelling of the Year 7 toilets. Although the finer details are being drawn up, going through the necessary scrutiny, planning and governance, we are aiming to have completely remodelled the Year 8 and 9 toilets and to have replaced the very dilapidated Music modular classroom that is well past its life and use cycle.

These new facilities will be a significant upgrade, investing in and improving provision for students in Key Stage Three for many years to come. We are also hoping to confirm further funds to support a wider programme of works to improve other facilities at both sites, but these are still at too early a stage to confirm details with you at this point. I will further update you on the toilets and music classroom as further details come available - the planning application for the music classroom is in the public domain should parents and carers wish to view it.

Aspire Magazine

We are delighted to share issue number 4 of Aspire Magazine with you. This is written and designed by students at Imberhorne Sixth Form, ably supported by a few fantastic staff in their Wednesday enrichment sessions. Please do take the time to read it [here](#).

Young Green Briton Award

An enormous congratulations to Jack, Tristan, Reiwin and Tommy who won the Young Green Briton Award school competition after an impressive presentation of their innovative project *Water Warriors* to the YGB founder Kat Crisp; the East Grinstead Town Mayor Cllr John Belsey; Christina Coleman, Green Councillor for Danehill & Fletching in Wealden District council; and Grace Garland from the Green Briton Foundation. This project focuses on harnessing rainwater and wind to create clean energy, with an emphasis on charity and shared community resource.

Commiserations, but also enormous kudos, to Jess, Beth, Athena, Izzy, Amelia, Phoebe, Christian, Jacob, Mehan, Edward, Benjamin and Archie who presented fantastic project ideas focusing on recycling textiles for toys, biodegradable straws with seeds embedded and cycling competitions. The winning group will now go to present their ideas at the regional final in London in July after a little more work to develop their brilliant prototype drainpipe turbine system.

Waitrose Green tokens

Thank you to all friends and families of the school who selected the Imberhorne School Allotment Project when choosing which of the green token pots to contribute to in Waitrose, East Grinstead. This community support has meant that the school will be awarded £1000 to contribute to the project, further supporting all of the excellent ongoing work that is being done by Mr Celani and helpers. We intend to continue to develop the space and any community support to do so is welcome. Please contact Mr Celani directly if you can help at dcelani@imberhorne.co.uk.

Imberhorne Lane

East Grinstead

West Sussex

RH19 1QY

Tel: 01342 323562

E-Mail: info@imberhorne.co.uk

www.imberhorne.co.uk





Metrobus price increases and changes to ticketing options

I regret to inform parents and carers that this week we learned of a price rise and change to ticketing options on Metrobus services, as of 30th March 2026. All return ticket options have been discontinued, and all fares have seen a 5p increase for under 16s and 10p increase for adults. These changes will primarily affect students who attend the Imberhorne Lane site. To work out the best cost effective options open to your family, please visit the Metrobus website or call the office on 01293 449191.

Fostering in West Sussex

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 new Crisis and Resilience Fund 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:

- Tues 21st April: Y8 Consultation Evening at Windmill Lane
- Thurs 23rd April: Y11 Graduation Evening
- Mon 27th April-Fri 1st May: Y11 GCSE MFL Oral Exams
- Weds 29th April-Fri 1st May: Y12 A-Level Art Exams
- Mon 4th May: May Bank Holiday
- Tues 5th May-Fri 8th May: Y13 A-Level Photography Exams
- Thurs 7th May: Y11 GCSE Exams commence. Y10 Consultation Evening at Imberhorne Lane



- 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 9 trip to Thorpe Park
- Fri 15th May: Y7, 10 and 12 trip to Thorpe Park
- Fri 22nd May: Y11 final day

Yours faithfully
Mr Matthew Whatford
Headteacher

Sporting and Arts success

2026 Judo Northern Ireland Championships

Congratulations to Lily Ramcharan for her fantastic achievements at the 2026 Judo Northern Ireland Open Championships this past weekend. Lily competed across three age categories achieved an outstanding set of results, winning Gold in the Cadet (U18) category, Silver in the Junior (U21) category, and Bronze in the Senior (Adult) category. This was a Level 4 competition, where Lily faced highly ranked and seeded judoka from across the UK. As a seeded player who continues to climb the UK rankings, her results across all three categories are especially impressive. We are incredibly proud of her resilience and determination.