



WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

IMBERHORNE SCHOOL

Headteacher: Matthew Whatford

Compassion
Achievement
Respect
Endeavour

The cornerstones of our learning community

19th December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

Festive lunches and doors

Congratulations to 7S/NMA, 10Z/HWE and 13NQU who were the winners of our Festive Door competition! You can see their excellent entries on our social media as well as the full range of entries. Thank you to everyone who took part - they have really brightened up our school community for the month of December.

Yesterday's Festive Lunch was an outstanding community celebration. We introduced this last year in a 'Hogwarts style' with students sitting at long tables with their tutor group. This year exceeded our expectations and topped last year's event. Students were fully immersed in the festive spirit, singing, eating together and enjoying the company of their peers. Thank you to our Kitchen Team in particular for their gargantuan efforts to cater for over 800 students, in spite of their ongoing capacity issues.

Sixth Form Events

Thank you to Mr Crees, Mr Dunn, Mrs Cooper and Ms Monk for their extremely busy week of Sixth Form events. It was a great pleasure to see so many returning faces from last year's Year 13 cohort at our Certificates Evening and Celebration on Wednesday night. I also know that much fun was had at the Sixth Form Quiz on Thursday night, where students and staff competed with each other to be crowned 2025 champions.

School Capital Funding

You may have seen the news this week that we have been successful in securing some additional Section 106 funding from the local authority. These funds can only be spent on capital projects (buildings and facilities) to meet the needs of its school community. We have worked hard with colleagues at the local authority and with Councillor Jacquie Russell to secure these funds over the past year and they are much needed to support improvements that will hugely benefit the school community over the coming years. There is some additional governance that is to be completed before they are able to be released and we will update you on this, as well as any planned works, in due course.

Year 9 Options Process

Mrs Best will be writing to all parents and carers of Year 9 students shortly after the festive break to outline the Options process and the key dates for this (some of which are listed below). This is a really exciting time for Year 9 students, where they will be able to choose the courses they will study in Years 10 and 11, giving them a chance to really think about what it is they want to do in the future. There will be lots of support for them throughout this process, which will no doubt be ably supplemented by all of the discussions they will be having at home.



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Upcoming events - term 2a

Below is a quick overview of the events that are coming up in the next half term for you to check against your diary:

- Tues 6th-Fri 16th Jan - Y12 and 13 External Vocational Exams
- Friday 16th Jan - Y11 Mock Results Day
- Monday 19th Jan - Y9 Options Process launches with tutors
- Mon 19th-Fri 23rd Jan - Y13 Mock Exam week
- Tuesday 20th Jan - Y7 Reward Trip
- Thursday 22nd Jan - Y8 Reward Trip
- Friday 23rd Jan - Y9 Reward Trip
- Wednesday 28th Jan - Y9 Parent Consultation Evening (online)
- Friday 30th Jan - Non-uniform day
- Mon 2nd Feb - Fri 6th Feb - Y12 Assessment Week
- Mon 2nd Feb- Fri 13th Feb- Y11 Sixth Form follow-up interviews
- Thursday 5th Feb - Y11 Parent Consultation Evening (online)
- Tuesday 10th Feb - Y9 Options Information Evening
- Friday 13th Feb - Y9 Options choices deadline

Aspire Magazine

The third issue of the school magazine has been published and can be found [here](#). This has been an enormous piece of work by students in the Sixth Form, supported by Mrs Cheong and Mrs Jones, and we are extremely proud of what they have achieved.

Festive greetings and thanks

Thank you to all of our families for your ongoing support this term, both for your children and for the school. It has been an excellent first third of the academic year and students have worked incredibly hard to be positive contributors to our school community, building strong connections and empathy. We are very proud of them. I hope you and your family have an incredibly restful festive break, celebrating in whatever way you do. A very happy New Year to you all - we will look forward to welcoming you back on Monday 5th January 2026.

Yours faithfully

Mr Matthew Whatford
Headteacher