



WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

IMBERHORNE SCHOOL

Headteacher: Matthew Whatford

27th March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

End of Term

Thank you to all parents and carers for your support for your children this term. We appreciate that events in the world may have been unsettling, but have seen students show real resilience and ambition, which are two of our core values. I hope they have a deservedly restful break and come back refreshed for a busy summer term, where we will continue to also focus on our other values of community, respect and achievement.

Regarding achievement, Year 11 and 13 exams will commence very shortly after we return from the break, so please do encourage your children to organise their revision schedule. The best approach to this is to deliberately plan to test knowledge gaps, revisiting this at clear intervals, practising exam papers and to ensure that regular breaks and rewards are built in. It is also important that students build in time for themselves and their wellbeing amongst their studies.

Land Swap at Imberhorne Lane

This morning a key decision from West Sussex County Council regarding the proposed land swap with Vistry Homes was published. The decision has been approved for a 1.6 hectare strip of school land from our field which is adjacent to Imberhorne Lane and stretching across the back, below Ardingly Lane and Newick Way will be swapped for a 5.8 hectare plot that is to the west of our current field and sports facilities. This provides the school with a net gain of 4.2 hectares and the land we are providing must only be used to provide a cycle track and footpath access to the planned Imberhorne Farm development. We are also very excited to share that it will also see the provision of the following facilities for the benefit of the school and the wider community:

- athletics track with floodlighting.
- javelin run-up
- hammer and discus cage
- pavilion with changing facilities, equipment store building with toilets and showers
- car park for 25 vehicles and three maintenance vehicles
- 3G football pitch with floodlighting
- a further senior and two junior football pitches
- a rugby pitch and cricket practice nets
- a cricket and rounders pitch

The facilities are required to be completed in full and to West Sussex County Council's satisfaction before they are transferred to the school. At this point, the land that we are providing will be handed over to Vistry. This will be at a very early point in the development due to the need to have the cycle route and footpath in use for residents in the new homes that are being built. These facilities will significantly improve our PE and sports provision at the school and provide a significant asset for community use. As soon as we have further information about the commencement of works and the potential delivery date of these facilities, we will share this with you. In the meantime, full details of the decision and plans can be found [here](#).

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Music Spring Concert and iDance

An enormous congratulations to all students who participated in the Spring Concert on Tuesday night. It is such a pleasure for us to see the progress that students are making on their musical journey and for them to be able to showcase this. Thank you to Mr Williams and team for all of their hard work to support students and build their confidence.

Further congratulations to all of our talented dancers who performed at the iDance event last night. There are some enormously talented dancers at Imberhome who compete nationally and internationally and we are extremely proud of their efforts. Thank you to Mrs Brinkhurst and team for their work with students to put on such a fantastic event.

Inspiring Future Teachers - applications open!

You will have seen in previous letters that I have highlighted the importance of brilliant teachers entering the profession and that many of these come through the fantastic work of the IFT Hub at Tanbridge House School. We have had many teachers train with us through this route in recent years and have heard the excellent feedback they have given about their experience.

Applications remain open for next year and more information can be found [here](#) and through the social media channels listed below. Please also contact Mr Booth (nbooth@imberhome.co.uk), who oversees teacher training at Imberhome, if you have an interest and would like to visit us for some school experience.

- Instagram - @tanbridge_tth
- X (Twitter) - @tanbridge_tth
- Facebook - @tanbridgeteachertraininghub

PTA

An enormous thank you to parents and carers who have volunteered themselves to support the establishment of our PTA. If you haven't done so already but intended to, there's still time to add your name [here](#).

Summer Clubs & Activities 2026

Please take a look at the clubs and activities we have on offer for the summer term, these will start from the first week back after the Easter break.

<http://www.imberhome.co.uk/content/clubs-and-activities>

Yours faithfully

Mr Matthew Whatford
Headteacher

Sporting and Arts success

Y7 Netball

The Year 7 netball team recently took part in a league competition held at Millais School across two Tuesdays. The team represented the school brilliantly throughout both weeks, demonstrating excellent teamwork, and determination.

In the first week, the team made an outstanding start, winning three out of their four matches. Their performance showed great attacking play, with some particularly strong shooting and effective passing across the court.

The second week proved more challenging, as the team faced some tough opposition. One of the standout matches was a very close game against the Weald, which narrowly ended in a 1-0 loss. Despite this, the team secured a 1-0 victory against Millais and continued to compete with great effort, finishing the week with one win and two losses.



Overall, every student played extremely well and showed clear progress over the course of the year. Their commitment and improvement have been fantastic to see, and the team is already looking forward to building on this success when they return in Year 8 in September.

Final league standings are yet to be confirmed and will be announced by Millais School in due course.

Player of the tournament goes to Zeel for her outstanding performance in defence. She was incredibly consistent throughout, making excellent interceptions and demonstrating a strong ability to read the game.

Words by Mrs Pritchard

Year 7 & 8 Cross Country – Tanbridge House School -Wednesday 25th March

The Year 7 and 8 cross-country event at Tanbridge House School was a fantastic display of determination and resilience, as students competed in truly mixed weather conditions. Throughout the event, runners faced everything from hail and strong winds to bursts of sunshine, making it a challenging course for all involved.

Despite the cold and wet conditions, our students performed exceptionally well and represented the school with great pride and positivity.

The Year 7 boys delivered an outstanding performance, with all three runners finishing in the top 10. William B led the way with an impressive 1st place finish, followed by Ewan M in 5th place and Jack W in 10th. This was a particularly strong showing from the team.

The Year 8 girls also ran brilliantly. Primrose S achieved an excellent 4th place, while Chloe C secured 10th, both demonstrating great effort and determination throughout the race.

In the Year 8 boys' race, Zach Wright stood out with a strong 5th place finish, contributing to another solid performance from the team.

Overall, it was a fantastic effort from all students involved. Their resilience in difficult weather conditions and their positive attitude throughout made us incredibly proud.

Words by Mrs PU15 Ratana 7s: Champions!

A massive congratulations to our U15 Rugby 7s team, who emerged as tournament winners at Old Whitgiftians last Friday.

With many of our players developing their skills at EGRFC, the squad felt a profound connection to the Ratana Foundation. That passion was evident on the pitch; the boys played with exceptional heart and cohesion.

The highlight of the day was a nail-biting encounter where Imberhorne trailed by five points as the referee called "last play." Refusing to back down, the boys dug deep to score a crucial converted try, clinching the victory. It was a privilege to watch the boys today. Both in the way they played, and how they conducted themselves off the field, well done boys.

Imberhorne 40 : 00 Orchard Park

Imberhorne 12 : 10 Harris Purley

Imberhorne 24 : 00 Meridian

Tournament top scorer: Tommy

Player of the tournament: Eddie

Try scorers: Tommy (6) Eddie (2) Logan (1) Oscar (1) Lewis (1) Josh (1)

Conversions: Logan (8)

Words by Mr Byrne