

Bohunt Horsham Parent Reference Group - You Said, We Did

Our Parent Reference Group meets every term. Their purpose is to support and challenge the school as we grow. Our parent community are our biggest advocates and one of our biggest strengths as a school and this group represent their community in keeping an open channel of communication between the two. After the PRG meets, their Chair meets with Ms Ayling, the head and discusses the feedback. We then share a 'You Said, We Did' statement on the website.

Term 2, 2020

You Said	We Did
You liked that we were sending out the weekly briefings as requested on the MCAS app but that there are still issues with the app - including attachments not always working. There are also issues with communications not always going to the secondary contact.	We researched these issues and made the decision to change our database (MIS) provider - so the MCAS app will be completely replaced over Easter with the Classcharts app that parents already have access to - announcements will move to this app and things like consent and payments for dinners or trips etc. will move to an app called 'School Gateway'. Parent and carer consultation evening booking will move to a website called www.parentseveningbookingsystem.co.uk and we will send out logins to both of these sites towards the end of the Spring term.
You had discussed the plans for the new school as you'd all seen work going on around the site.	We are awaiting an updated progress tracker from the Department for Education and will update families with news of their progress as we have it. The most recent updates are all positive with a contractor now in place to commence works on the existing roundabout and put in the new roundabout to the school's access road. Our contractor, Wates, are working on getting the utilities on site.
You had looked at the new website and liked the more modern layout and the fact that there are more photographs of our own students on it.	We have booked a photographer for later in the Spring to come and take more photographs to update our prospectus with your lovely children's smiling faces too!
You appreciated the Internet Safety Workshop we ran for families in the Autumn term.	We shared the resources from this on the website in the parent presentations section. https://www.bohunthorsham.com/parent-presentations

You are grateful to staff for going above and beyond in ensuring that our extra-curricular offer is broad, but you would like to see more clubs on offer on Wednesdays.	We have surveyed students to glean their interests again (as it wouldn't be financially sound to employ external providers if there's no 'market') and have reached out far and wide to try and find more providers. We would be very happy to hear any suggestions you may have or for details of contacts you may have in areas such as judo, coding, girls' sports.
You've loved the trips we have offered so far this year but would like more notice about expensive trips in future.	We totally agree and will send out next years 'big' trips in the Summer term. We will also endeavour to share more extensive information about the 'rules' for trips such as what students should do with their iPads when on a trip etc.
You were looking forward to the first parent carer consultation evenings and were happy with the timings of the event but would like reminders to be sent out.	We have bought into a system (www.parentseveningbookingsystem.co.uk) that will make booking easier for families and for the school. This will start next academic year. We will also advertise the dates of these earlier next year.
In response to our request for feedback on our transition from primary events, you said you thought separating out the welcome event in April into two events would be preferable and having our current students at the event would help our new families to find out more about the school. You also liked Taylormade uniforms and West Sussex Music being present.	We are holding the event on one day but separating it out into two clear sessions, an early one for parents who want to come and do it straight after the school run and a later session for parents who want to come in the evening. We have also taken on board all of your other helpful suggestions.

Term 1, 2020

You Said	We Did
You are keen to support us with fundraising for some outdoor activities to help make social time more meaningful.	We are happy to host events to support fundraising and would like to talk more about this.
You were appreciative of the work we are doing to support the girls in the year group.	We said we are confident from numbers we've seen at county level that we will have a higher proportion of girls next year.

You like the ERA Chronicle and feel that you are kept updated as to what's going on in school but there are some concerns about whether all emails are correct as some families may not be receiving all mails.	We made it so that you can edit your contact details on MCAS; we haven't sent out a paper version of the contact sheet students' bags.
You were pleased to be able to see attendance and conduct information on the MCAS app but would like to know what constitutes a 'good' number of ERA points.	We uploaded the behaviour and rewards flowchart to MCAS important documents and put it on the new website. A few students achieved the bronze ERA award last term and we have implemented a new program for adding reward and behaviour points so it's easier for staff; this means we anticipate the number of points (in both categories!) to rise more rapidly this half term.
You felt that the announcements on MCAS are useful but it's not consistently used yet. It would be good to have a weekly update email to parents about key things students have been told directly by the school, (e.g. opportunities such as Winter Show auditions).	We agreed! A great idea. We will do this from the start of this term. It will come out on Mondays following whole school assembly so that you can see what we have talked about in assembly too. We also agreed to give Mr Brooks access to the MCAS announcements so he could give live updates on return from PE fixtures etc.
You are experiencing an inconsistent approach to homework across subjects.	We have persevered in trying to get the homework part of MCAS to work for us so that you only need to use that one app for everything but in December we admitted defeat and have bought in a new package for homework - it's called Classcharts and you will be sent your log ins at the start of this term. We have also run staff meetings on homework to clarify that it should be set for all subjects and homework should be awarded an effort grade from A (high) to D (low).
You felt that the lack of storage for students in classrooms/tutor bases, was an issue.	We don't have the space for lockers (our corridors are too narrow in the temporary school, but we have lots ordered for the new school). We have provided hooks in some tutor rooms and have reminded students that they can leave their PE kits in the changing rooms on PE day if that helps.