

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 1, 2020

You said	We did
You were excited to see the progress with the new school site and had questions around the following areas: • Moving in date • Mixing of year groups	Confirmed that we are still on course to move into our new school over Christmas 2021 and that all progress reports so far show we are meeting all key milestones on the way to achieving this. We also confirmed that in the first term, whilst we are still in temporary accommodation the year 7 cohort who join in September 2021 are likely to have a different lunch and break time to the older two year groups so that there is enough space and capacity for refreshments and exercise.
You understood the reasons behind sending out the comment based rather than progress based reports in June of 2020 during school closures but year 8 families were keen for subject specific progress reports this half term.	We confirmed that progress reports based on recent BET assessments, participation in classwork and progress in low stakes testing within every subject would be sent out this term.
You felt that the weekly communication bulletin was useful but noted that issues disappear after a week and it would be useful to look back at them.	We changed the settings so that the bulletin stays available on classcharts all term.
You agreed that the classcharts parent app was more useful than	We contacted classcharts to work out why the attendance module is not working and hope to be able to enable this

the bromcom parent app that we trialled last year but would like to see attendance on the app.	quickly. However, because it synchronizes to our database overnight, you will not be able to see today's attendance; you will be able to see up to yesterday's attendance. For information, our target is for all students to achieve 97%+ attendance.
You were pleased we had found a new caterer who is able to offer more choice as well as a break time offer now and asked if there could be an automated reminder when the balance falls below a certain amount.	We contacted the company that provides the payment system to check this for families but unfortunately, it is not possible. Students can see their balances on the till though. So instead, we support you to encourage them to keep an eye on it and to have a bit of responsibility to let their parents know when they fall below something like £5. We will also have 'check your balance' machines in the new school.
You discussed PE and, given that Collyer's College have stopped lettings this term as part of their COVID risk assessment you were pleased that we had quickly managed to secure a lease of the basketball courts at the Youth Club next door and that we had invested in leaf blowers and maintenance to keep that site clean and safe. You would like to know: Can we have netball hoops over on the courts? Can students have balls to play with over on the courts at lunch?	We thought it would be useful to see what the PE curriculum would have been like this year if we had not had to make significant changes to be able to continue to run sports and PE safely as per our COVID risk assessment. We agreed to share this. We clarified that, on PE days, students may wear plain black base layers if they do not have the long sleeved tops and jogging bottoms with the school logo on but that they may not wear hooded jumpers and must wear the item with the school logo on the top for health and safety reasons. Hooded jumpers can represent a risk in sports and the logoed items must be worn on top for identification. We agreed to look into the possibility of purchasing some netball hoops for the basketball courts but are also awaiting DfE funding to re-surface and upgrade the space.
You would like to see more clubs on offer.	We are pleased to be able to offer after school clubs, as so many schools have had to cancel them altogether. We clarified that we have 24 different after school clubs and only 16 members of teaching staff and some are already run by external providers who have to provide very robust risk assessments to be able to work during lockdown. We do expect to be able to host more external providers for after school clubs once the current COVID precautions are relaxed.

You raised some useful and understandable concerns over the extension to the temporary accommodation.	We agreed that we would need support from Horsham District Council, West Sussex County Council and The Highways Agency in preparation for September 2021 in terms of the demands on the local area of increased traffic/pick up and drop off. We confirmed there is likely to be additional staggering to the start and end times of the day and that as soon as National Offer Day is here in March we will have data to take to those organisations in order to get support with that demand.
You asked about the planned bridge over the A264 to the new school site.	We were pleased to report that we have had confirmation from the planners that the bridge will provide safe passage across the road for both pedestrians and cyclists and that it will be placed very close to the opening of Rusper Road so perfectly place for the school. We will share further updates as we have them.
You asked for additional bike storage.	We agreed that we need more and we have additional facilities on order through the extension to the temporary school so we will request early delivery of this if possible.
You highlighted the need for continuing education around road safety for our students and indicated that families understand the key role they have to play in this too.	We absolutely agree that this is a priority, we have run tutor time sessions and assemblies on the importance of road safety with our students already this term and will continue to do so. In particular, we agree that students should not wear headphones whilst walking along the road, certainly not whilst crossing the road. All of our students who travel to and from school wear a helmet. We would like to remind parents to use the park and stride locations on the other side of Hurst Rd to the school rather than dropping off and picking up from the Post Office or the Youth Club, which creates additional risk for our students as they walk to school.
You appreciated the work we had done to enable virtual parents' evenings to run during the pandemic and asked whether there is a facility for parents who live, or are based, apart to join meetings from more than one location.	We said our current program does not allow it but that we are trialling an alternative and enlisted the help of the PRG to try this technology out, watch this space!
You asked for an update on options for students in year 8.	We confirmed that we are sending a letter home this week to parents of students in year 8 that explains the timeline and the process.

You mentioned that you would really like some more members from the current year 7 parent and carer community.	If year 7 parents or carers would like to get involved please just email our lovely and very approachable chair, Gill Christensen on parentreferencegroup@bohunthorsham.com
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