



Admissions Frequently Asked Questions

2020-2021

1. **Our most frequently asked question about admissions is, 'How can I ensure that my child gets a place at Bohunt Horsham?'** Our admissions criteria are on our website www.bohunthorsham.com but, if oversubscribed, places are allocated in this order: children with a severe special educational need (they will usually have an education health and care plan, those who are classified as 'looked after' (previously called 'in care'), children of staff members, children with siblings already in the school, and then by distance from the permanent school site. However, for September 2021 we are able to offer twice as many places as in the previous two years and have **240 year 7 spaces to allocate**. This means we are likely to take children from all over Horsham and **putting us as your first preference is your best chance of getting a place**.
2. **What's different about Bohunt Horsham?** We live our ethos of enjoy, respect, achieve every day; our school is a place where children are happy and enjoy learning, where respect and kindness are embedded values and where our culture of having the highest expectations of our students means excellent levels of achievement. We think our current families communicate this most effectively so take a look at our reviews on Facebook here: https://www.facebook.com/BohuntH/reviews/?ref=page_internal
As part of a growing family of schools we have a foundation of support and infrastructure from the Bohunt Education Trust that enables us to focus on delivering the highest quality teaching and learning, to ensure our students' experience extends beyond the classroom and to measure our standards against the standards of students in some of the highest performing schools in the country.
3. **Why do you use iPads & how do we get one?** As part of our commitment to innovative teaching and learning, several schools across the Bohunt Education Trust have an iPad 121 scheme. We use our iPads to transform learning, to personalise it and to bring breadth and depth to our curriculum. There is more information about iPads, and about how we can support you in getting an iPad ready for September 2021, on our website. Over the lockdown period our students consistently achieved over 90% engagement in a full, live timetable of lessons and the already embedded habits we had gained through our iPad 121 scheme played a huge part in that success. Families can choose to bring their own device or they can purchase an iPad through our portal paying up front or in installments. We also offer support to families who are in receipt of free school meals.
4. **What GCSE subjects do your students study?** Our oldest year group is currently in year 8 and will take their GCSE options later this year. We are in the enviable position of being able to design our GCSE options around our students; alongside subjects such as English, Maths, Sciences, Languages, Arts, Sports, Humanities and Technologies, we expect to be able to offer a range of additional specialisms to suit our students' interests and aspirations.
5. **How are classes and sets made?** Our tutor groups are made using the friendships and familiar faces provided by families as part of the transition process; we do not place most students with all their named peers but with at least one of them. We teach groups with a mix of prior attainment levels across all subjects in key stage 3 so there are no 'sets' but students are taught in at least three different groupings so will they get to mix with other students in the year group.
6. **What facilities do you have in the new school site?** Head over to the new school site room on our virtual open evening home page for a tour of our new school, including Mac suites for Music, Graphics and Media Production, a Robotics STEM lab, an amazing library filled with brand new books and much more.
7. **Are there delays to the new school site?** We did have some COVID and newt related delays but work is now well underway and on track for a move in December 2021, we have also secured an extension of the temporary site for the first term of the academic year 2021/22. We will share plans and an updated timeline for this extension on our website.

8. **How will students travel to the new school site?** We are very pleased to announce that the planned footbridge across the A264 will be in place before we move next Christmas so safe passage across the road can be ensured.
9. **What is catering like at the temporary school?** We have a new caterer from September 2020 and you can see sample menus on our website. We have a break and lunchtime offer that is healthy, appealing and affordable.
10. **My child is likely to struggle with transition, how can you help?** If your child does not know or is not familiar with anyone else coming to Bohunt in September, or is vulnerable for another reason, we can identify them as requiring additional transition support. This may include additional visits, some wilderness workshops in our outdoor classroom and one to one meetings.
11. **How much homework do students in year 7 get?** English, Maths and Science complete one piece per week of up to 40 minutes each. Other subjects set one every two weeks. We do not have a homework calendar as homework is fluid and linked to learning. Homework is set on an app called Classcharts and can be seen by students and parents. In the first term there is a gentle build up to regular homework to help students to settle in.
12. **When will the primary and nursery open?** We expect both to open by September 2023 at the latest but are able to open earlier if there is a local need in the area. The primary school in particular will offer an unparalleled opportunity for our secondary age students to learn leadership skills and to become role models for younger children.
13. **Your oldest year group will be year 9 when my child starts, how will they get leadership/role modelling opportunities?** We are enormously proud of both our first cohorts of students and are very confident that they are already excellent role models for the next year group to join us. In addition, as a Trust we open up a range of opportunities for students to work with other peers both in older/younger years e.g. STEM/Arts competitions, theatre trips, etc. In school we also have a range of leadership positions such as digital leaders, student librarians, reading champions, sports leaders, language leaders, as well as guinea pig wardens of course!
14. **What is your 'outdoor classroom' for?** Bohunt Education Trust champions an extensive outdoor education and outdoor learning programme for all its students, providing opportunities both inside and outside the classroom. We have built an outdoor classroom on our temporary school site that we will take to our permanent school when we move, we use that space to teach Bushcraft skills and to build confidence and resilience in our students. Bohunt's Director Of Learning, Phil Avery, said of our outdoor education program, including trips and expeditions, "They help their self-development, communication and resilience, and instil a sense of adventure and challenge which prepares students for success in life. Additionally, external studies and our own data show there is a strong link between academic attainment and outdoor education."
15. **What are your processes for behaviour and rewards?** We believe in unconditional positive regard and recognise that alongside high expectations around conduct and a clear process for responding to disruptive or unacceptable behaviour, a system of reward and recognition for those that meet or exceed our expectations is the most useful element of any behaviour system. We consistently award approximately 95 reward points to every 5 behaviour incidents logged. You can see more on our website, here: <https://www.bohunthorsham.com/students/code-of-conduct/>
16. **Where do we get uniform?** All the details are on our website www.bohunthorsham.com, you will also get further information after national offer day via our useful transition booklet - TaylorMade Uniforms is our supplier.
17. **How does assessment work at Bohunt Horsham?** We believe in championing progress, we recognise that all of our students come to us from different starting points with different strengths and obstacles in their paths. We use a range of prior attainment data from primary schools, our own baseline assessments in things such as reading and spelling to help us work out a starting point and then we report levels of progress our students have made in each subject across the curriculum at key stage three. More details can be found here: <https://www.bohunthorsham.com/parent-presentations/>
18. **What languages do students learn?** Languages and culture are very much at the heart of our school and a key part of embracing our core value of respect. All our current year 7 students are learning Mandarin and one other language, this year that is either Spanish or French.
19. **Do students have to take a language at GCSE?** Although we encourage students and their families to take at least one language on at GCSE because we believe in the value of learning about other cultures.

- 20. My child excels at school, how do you support high prior attaining students?** Our educational philosophy is based on a culture of the highest expectations, our staff plan for the student in the class who needs the highest level of challenge and then plan to support the others to be able access that level of work. We treat our high prior attainers as a vulnerable group, we track and monitor their progress and we also have a program of careers and aspirational activities including visits to universities, talks and experiences from a range of different industries and much more.
- 21. My child has a special educational need, how will you support them?** All SEND information is passed on by families and primary schools as part of our transition process so we are ready to support students' learning right from day one. We offer in lesson and small group support that is bespoke to our students' needs and will meet with families and experts to tailor that support to your child.
- 22. What clubs and trips do you offer?** You can see an example of this year's clubs timetable on our website: <https://www.bohunthorsham.com/curriculum/co-curricular-activities/> Next year, as we grow, our offer will grow but we invest in external coaches and teachers to ensure our students' experience is not disadvantaged by our size and so there is a wide range of opportunities available and has been from our first year. Trips are more of an ambiguous question with the current COVID 19 crisis but we hope to be able to reinstate our exciting program of residentials, trips abroad, expeditions and experiences.
- 23. What if I have special circumstances surrounding my application or live out of county?** You still apply in the normal way through your home county and select us as your first preference. If we don't appear on your drop down list you can contact the council and ask for it to be manually added, if you have special circumstances you can also select this as an option on the form and add details.
- 24. Why do you close early on a Wednesday?** Research (including that from the Education Endowment Foundation) tells us that the most effective way to ensure excellent outcomes for young people is high quality teaching. We invest two non-teaching periods a week to teacher development, that might be subject knowledge enhancement, curriculum development, work on delivery of teaching or methods to support a range of learners but it means we recognise and support high quality teaching every single week. Where most schools have just five INSET days a year, totalling 30 teacher development hours, we have an additional 78 hours, over 100 hours spent making sure we are the best we can be and therefore, your child has the best possible chance of success.
- 25. Do you do a two or three year GCSE course?** We do a three year GCSE, this is because the content included in the current GCSE courses is extensive and we believe it is important to that our students get the time to look at their subjects in depth and to have the time to participate in meaningful experiences around the courses rather than simply racing through content to get finished in time for exams. We do not narrow our curriculum by offering a three year KS4 because our culture of high expectations means that students study at least eight GCSE subjects, one of which is double or triple award science. In addition, our extra-curricular program means that any subject a student does not take forward into GCSE is still available to them as an after school club, trip or activity.
- 26. What details do you have about the footbridge over the A264?** We now know the footbridge will be built in time for our move to the new school site next Christmas and that its primary purpose is to ensure safe passage to and from school for our students/community. We don't yet know its exact location or details of its design but members of the community can contact the development team via their website to have their say, it is here: www.landnorthofhorsham.com