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Bohunt Horsham Headteacher: Ms G Ayling BA (Hons)

Friday 22 October 2021

## Re: End of Half Term 1 Updates

Dear families,

This half term has been a very busy one; we welcomed 200 new Year 7 students and 14 new colleagues in September and after induction we jumped straight into the student recruitment season. For families in Horsham this year, looking at Bohunt Horsham as a potential secondary school preference has been complicated as the school that they have visited is not the same building that their child would attend in September 2022. Our culture and our amazing students though have shone through and we have had lovely **feedback from our many visitors**. Over 700 people visited our open mornings which have been running throughout the half term, 630 visited our virtual open evening and 500 came to our open day presentations on Saturday 2 November. Your children have done an amazing job of representing our school and here are some of the lovely things our visitors have said about them:

- 'We received a very warm welcome and I was impressed by the two year 7 boys who showed us round, they were fabulous tour guides and a great example for your school.'
- 'The year 8 students were brilliant guides and they answered all our questions eloquently.'
- 'A well-run school with confident students and friendly, knowledgeable teachers.'
- 'Wonderful year 8 tour guides. They were very informative, proud and enthusiastic about Bohunt!'

As I mentioned in our weekly bulletin, our **COVID case numbers** continue to be high in comparison with previous periods. We have taken advice from Public Health and West Sussex and we do not need to implement additional measures just yet but we have revisited our processes this week and I urge you to continue twice weekly lateral flow testing over half term and on Sunday 31 October before the new half term starts. Your diligence in carrying out lateral flow tests is what has kept our numbers, and therefore our student and staff absence, proportionally lower than in so many other schools. I am so grateful to you all for that support and care.

Over the last three weeks we have made excellent progress with our solution to the delays in delivering the much-needed bridge across the A264. After half term I am confident I will be in a position to write to all families and clarify the **processes for getting to school in January**. We have a solution that is almost signed and sealed and it is one I think families will find safe and effective as a way to avoid delays to the bridge meaning delays to the move. I do not want to send out a solution before it is in contract and risk having to retract the information but I do recognise the urgency of the situation and appreciate your patience. I promise to write as soon as I have those much needed signatures.

This term, with supply and staffing issues as well as the expansion of numbers in a very small catering space, I think it is fair to say that our **canteen has had some challenges** to contend with. We are working very closely with Accent to address any issues that are within their control and to improve the service next half term. Concurrently, we are also working with them to prepare for a smooth start to term in January where the facilities will be more than sufficient!

Our **new school site** was [officially 'named'](#) this term and we continue to be on track for a handover in December. I have attached the latest update from Wates our contractor for your information and you will undoubtedly notice the amazing progress on the external works as it begins to look more and more complete. We are holding a virtual information evening on Thursday 18 November with details about the move to the

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new school site, you can register for the event here (it will also be recorded):

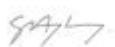
[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_fCwU-pRtSbyDFGkf\\_Q7WWQ](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_fCwU-pRtSbyDFGkf_Q7WWQ)

This event will include information for Bohunt Horsham families about the move to the new school site:

- Transport (including pick up and drop off)
- Term dates
- Clubs
- Catering
- PE
- Maps and timetables
- Student induction
- Parent and carer tours

Although our site is constrained and the infrastructure is only just managing to contain us all effectively, I must thank my staff team for their continued positivity and energy. The atmosphere in school remains focused and caring. I wish them, our students and our families a positive and restful half term break.

With best wishes,



Ms Ayling

**Key dates:**

- Monday 1 November - first day back after half term
- Tuesday 2 November - KS3 Assessment information seminar (Year 7 & 8)
- Thursday 18 November – Webinar for all families with information about the move to the new school site (registration link above)
- Tuesday 30 November - KS4 information evening (Year 9)
- Friday 17 December - end of term, school closes at 1.40pm
- Monday 3rd January 2022 - Bank Holiday
- Tuesday 4 January 2022 - INSET Day, school closed to students
- Wednesday 5 January - Friday 7 January 2022 - statutory staff induction in new building, school closed to students but remote learning provided
- Monday 10 January - all students start on the new school site, normal school day times, more details to follow later in the term.