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Bohunt Horsham Headteacher: Ms G Ayling BA (Hons)

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Dear Bohunt Horsham Families

RE: Welcome to 2023/24

There can be no doubt that the coming year is going to be one of the most important for our school. This will be our first year with a full secondary phase from year 7 to year 11; our first full set of exam results with our founding cohort; the year we open our doors to prospective parents of reception age children for next September and, most likely, the year of our first Ofsted inspection. I write to you today to share my excitement as this momentous year begins and to share some updates for the new term ahead. Over the summer lots of work was ongoing to keep our school looking new and shiny, redecoration in busy communal areas and more artwork and student photographs displayed in our corridors. We also had a company on site building a fantastic outdoor play area for the reception classes of our primary school. You can see some photographs on our social media [here](#).

Staff:

Our school continues to grow and we are delighted to welcome twenty-nine new members of staff this term, they came in for a new staff day on Thursday of last week to orient themselves and find answers to any questions they had. All staff were in on Friday and today to spend precious time planning for delivery of our curriculum and pastoral systems. On Tuesday, we will welcome 240 new students into year 7, our fifth cohort and we welcome back students in year 11 to launch the final year of their time with us. Then, on Wednesday, we welcome back students in years 8, 9 and 10. Lessons begin on Thursday so no specific kit beyond full school uniform and equipment is needed on those days.

Catering:

Students in Year 7 will be given time to register their biometrics (thumb print) to access the canteen and all families may now top up school catering accounts at <https://login.schoolgateway.com> Our catering offer has expanded to accommodate the increased student numbers with an additional service point installed over the summer. Any student who doesn't have money on their account at the start of term will be allowed to go 'overdrawn' so there's no need to worry, no one will go hungry. Please do however, talk to your child about what is and is not acceptable to spend money on. Some students get excited at the prospect of free choice and purchase unnecessary items like drinks and cakes and run out of money early!

The separate cold 'grab and go' snack shack by the activity zone has been installed to ensure queuing time is kept to a minimum – all students will be shown how to use this facility during their induction on Wednesday. We have also installed a 'balance checker'. This is located by the student entrance. Students in Year 7 will be released slightly earlier than their peers to break and lunch this first half term to give them time to get used to the process of choosing their food and where to sit. They will also be released from period 6 slightly earlier to help them get used to making their journeys home independently.

Improving Communications:

I am delighted to inform you that, as part of our continuing drive to improve our communications, we have appointed an experienced Communications Officer, the first person to take this post at our school. Ms Slater-Beadell will join us next week and begin seeking your voice on ways in which we can improve in this area. In addition to this appointment, this year we are holding a 'Welcome To...' event for each year group. These events will be in person, face-to-face events, held in school in the evening. Their purpose will be to share the

year's calendar, discuss important priorities and share vital information with families from each year group. Dates and information about booking will follow shortly.

Parking and Queuing:

At the start of term in particular, many families like to drop off and pick up their child from school just to help them get back into the rhythm of a school day. This, alongside the increasing number of students we have in school – we grow from 730 to 970 in number – means inevitably that there will be even more pressure on our car park. Here are some things you can do to help:

1. Consider whether your child could walk or cycle to school, please remember that students who cycle to school must have helmet and, as evenings draw in, lights on their bicycles.
2. Consider whether you are able to pick your child up slightly later – the car park is very quiet at 3.30 but very busy at 3.20.
3. If using the car park to pick up, please note you may not use the drop off bay at the front of reception or the disabled parking spaces just before this bay. This drop off bay is not for use in the afternoons, only in the morning. This means cars that enter the car park in the afternoon for pick up must park in a parking space.
4. Our neighbours in the new development of Mowbray have also asked us to remind families that there is still building work ongoing in the development and so it is not a safe place to pick
5. Remember that students crossing the road to be collected by car outside of the school car park must use a designated crossing, Rusper Road has a speed limit of 40 mph and it is not safe to cross on foot.
6. Our premises team will be on hand in high visibility jackets at the start of term to remind families of these requirements, please do treat them with respect if they ask something of you.

Warm Weather:

This week the wind and rain of August seems to have disappeared and bright sunshine has taken its place, we will monitor the weather as always in case of unseasonable or extreme temperatures but as things currently stand, uniform expectations remain as normal and students are expected to come to school with their blazers. The blazer can be removed if students are warm in school. Jumpers are, of course, optional.

Timetables and Clubs:

During these two INSET days, now the school's database has rolled over to the new academic year, there is work ongoing with the timetable in school. This means that what you see on classcharts currently may not be your child's final timetable and may just reflect changes happening as that work continues. Timetables will be finalised for students in years 7 & 11 on Tuesday and 8, 9 and 10 on Wednesday. The after school clubs timetable is under construction and is likely to begin on Monday 18 September but homework club, after school on Wednesdays starts this week with provision until 3.30pm for anyone that needs it.

Exam Result Celebration:

As you may have seen reported in local news over the summer, an intrepid group of year 10 students sat the first ever external exams for Bohunt Horsham and, in August, they received their results. We were absolutely brimming with pride to see these students collect fantastic grade, 100% of them passed with a grade 4-9, over half achieved a level 7 or higher, the equivalent of an A, A* or A**. You can see some of the highlights [here](#). A taste of success to come next year, I am sure!

Yours faithfully,



Ms G Ayling
Headteacher