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20 October 2023

Dear Bohunt Horsham Families

RE: ERA Week 2024

Last night marked the fifth and final 'Welcome to...' event and I am interested to hear your feedback: what was useful about them, whether you'd like to see them repeated and if there are any changes you would like to see made to the events. To that end, I have included a short feedback section for the 'Welcome to...' events in the ERA Week form (Initial Preferences Form) below. All events were filmed (if rather shakily!) and the films alongside all packs will be posted on Classcharts for each year group.

As mentioned at each event, communication forms part of our school's priorities for this year and getting information out early and in detail wherever possible is key to achieving that priority. I am writing to you today to share and gather initial information about ERA Week 2024 which takes place 26, 27 & 28 June. In planning this ERA Week, we have taken cost to families and to the school into even greater account than in previous years and so, although there's a lot that is familiar about the event, there are some key changes (see table below for a list of what has changed). If you'd like to be reminded of the letter that details trips outside ERA Week over your child's time with us, that can be found [here](#) in our letters archive. Here are the most important things families need to know:

What is the same?	What has changed?
ERA week takes place in the last half term of the year, in June 2024 and the week's activities are all focused on our ethos of enjoy, respect, achieve	ERA Week is reduced to just three days this year to make it more affordable for families and to enable the school to be able to better financially support families who need that help
Year 7 still have a programme of day trips Year 8 still have an international residential Year 9 still have a Bushcraft residential Year 10 still have a program of post-16 experiences followed by a celebration day	For Years 8 & 9, where we have residential trips which are more expensive, there are alternative pathways that cost less but involve similar activities
There is financial support for families who are in receipt of free school meals and we are committed to supporting families as much as is possible to ensure finance isn't an obstacle to participation	There is no need to provide in school activities as we will work with you to ensure that all students can participate in at least one pathway

Why the changes?

Our previous approach to ERA Week has offered more choice and less financial support. This has had two consequences we would like to avoid; it has meant we've had to wait until too late in the year to book activities and trips and this has led to changes too late in the process which in turn led to too many students opting out of ERA Week activities and feeling left out. A more prescribed approach means every student has an ERA Week pathway and fewer days of activities means more financial support can be offered to ensure finance is less of an obstacle for our students.

What does ERA week look like for each year group?

ERA WEEK 2024, AN OVERVIEW		
<u>Costs are an estimate</u> at this stage and will be secured at the time of booking once all deposits are received		
Year 7	All students on <u>one</u> pathway: All students will go on the same three day trips. Day trips are planned to include: Trip 1: water sports activity day or similar Trip 2: Warner Bros studios or similar Trip 3: London museums day All of the above is dependent on availability once deposits are secured. Year 7 students will be divided into three groups, each of which will work through the above trips on a rotation so that the trip group sizes do not exceed 80 on each day.	Total: £90
Year 8	All students on <u>one of these three</u> pathways: Pathway A - 3 days and 2 nights of a residential in France Pathway B – 3 days and 2 nights at an adventure residential in the UK Pathway C – 3 day trips to participate in activities at a local adventure centre	A - £400 B - £250 C - £100
Year 9	All students on <u>one of these three</u> pathways: Pathway A - 3 days and 2 nights of a wilderness survival/Bushcraft type residential in the UK Pathway B – 3 day trips to local rewilding and biodiversity sites Pathway C – 3 days of rewilding and biodiversity activities based on school site	A - £350 B - £100 C - £30
Year 10	All students on <u>one</u> pathway: Weds - taster day at Collyer's Sixth Form College Thurs - taster day at The Weald School and Sixth form Fri - celebration day trip to a theme park	Total: £60

What are the next steps?

Next we'd like to gather initial preferences / confirmation of understanding. This stage does not give consent for your child to attend any trip or activity or guarantee your child's place on a trip. Following this information gathering stage we can contact providers and get trips booked; we will then write to you again with finalised details of for your child's ERA Week experience. All year groups will be offered a webinar in which we will share much more detail about each trip once the activities are confirmed.

Action: please complete the [Initial Preferences](#) form for each child at Bohunt Horsham, **deadline Friday 3 November**. Once we have these preferences we will use them to place students in Years 8 and 9 on pathways and will write to you again to inform you of your child's finalised pathway for ERA Week.

Please note: if we don't receive preferences for ERA Week from families, we will place students on activities so that we can get trips booked in earlier this year than in previous years. Therefore, it is vital that you complete this form once for each child you have at Bohunt Horsham.

I do hope families can see that we've worked hard this year to make ERA Week more accessible for families without compromising the breadth of experience for students. ERA Week is a part of our curriculum offer – in this way it is different to the optional trips that are offered in school holidays like the ski and Florida trips. The purpose of ERA Week is to embed our ethos of **enjoy, respect, achieve** but with a strong emphasis on enjoyment.

Yours faithfully



Ms G Ayling
Headteacher