

**Bohunt Horsham**

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Bohunt Horsham Headteacher: Ms G Ayling BA (Hons)

Friday 24 May 2024

Dear Families

Re: End of Summer Half Term 2024

As we approach the last half term of the academic year I wanted to write and thank you for your support with some of the obstacles we have faced, the changes we have made and new initiatives we have brought in this year. In this letter I will also celebrate some individual student's achievements. In particular, some of the amazing things our students have been up to outside school.

Internet issues

As you will be aware, to stay in line with the updates to government guidance, we have had to make two huge changes to our use of the internet this year. The first was to roll out a new management system for iPads - JAMF. That is underway and brings us in line with new safety measures expected for schools who have a one to one device scheme such as ours. I know lots of families have found the system to be very helpful in ensuring they have boundaries at home as well as at school for their child's online access and I thank you for your patience if you've experienced any teething problems with the changes. For those Year groups who have not yet had JAMF installed on their iPads this will happen next half term.

In addition to this, all Bohunt Education Trust schools also had to update their 'firewall' service. That's the service we have in school that stops students from being able to access inappropriate online content and reports to us if they attempt to do so. We have always had a firewall in school but our existing provider didn't meet the new requirements so we had to update to a new provider. Unfortunately, that update caused prolonged internet outages, first to both staff and students and latterly to just students. We're confident that the internet is now up and running safely with all filtering and monitoring systems in place, tested and checked so we will be running as usual after half term. Thank you once again for your patience whilst we've battled these outages and have had to revert to teaching in a more traditional way.

Changes to prepare for the primary phase:

I wrote to you at the end of the spring term to explain that we were making some changes to our behaviour processes before our primary phase opens, in order to address a slight rise in some behaviours. I wanted to write again and remind families of those changes because increasing the sanctions in these areas has proven to be an effective deterrent. There were two main changes, reminders below.

1) Prohibited Items: vapes, alcohol, anything to do with smoking, drugs (including derivatives of) and anything linked to the possession of any of these prohibited items. Any student found in possession of any one of these items will face suspension and will be required to undergo a reintegration process involving parents and in many cases referrals to outside agencies. During this process, the student will be removed from social time until we are satisfied that they will not bring prohibited items into the school.

2) Hands off policy: instigating or being involved in physical assault (when it could have been avoided).

Consequences: students involved in any occurrence of physical assault will face a five-day suspension. Should this occur again, the student will be permanently excluded from the school.

Our founding reception class, the Ducklings, start attending their first welcome events next half term and we cannot wait for them to join us. Their teacher has been recruited and their space is all ready for them. Staff are visiting them in their nurseries and they will soon be coming along for a 'teddy bear's picnic' and 'stay and plays' in their new classroom. Our secondary students in current Year 7 have had an assembly on the buddy scheme as they will be the first year group to work with the Ducklings and help them to settle in. There will be lots more opportunities to work alongside the primary phase children for students who are interested and I will write to you again about this once the Ducklings have settled in and feel at home.

Launch of Bohunt Horsham Communities:

Most excitingly, this half term we have launched our Community system. Bohunt Horsham's Communities Griffin, Pegasus, Noctua and Phoenix launched to students with much fanfare and excitement and the rollout continues next half term with competitions, events and of course our key stage three and key stage four sports days to look forward to. My thanks to Ms Harrison, Miss Dunkley, Miss May and Ms McEvansoneya for all of their work in setting up, launching and running the four communities. There is so much more fun to come.

Celebrating individual achievements:

This year our end of term celebration assemblies will start to look a little different, with Community Cups and trophies being awarded alongside our usual ERA bronze, silver, gold and platinum awards. At the start of next half term I will be sharing with students exactly what those cups are being awarded for, but at the end of this half term I would like to recognise some of the amazing accomplishments our students have made outside school. In addition to their academic achievements, participation in co-curricular activities, clubs, trips and visits, many of our students also compete, perform or play in teams locally or even nationally and our new Communities will be a great way to recognise that. I wanted to draw your attention to just a few of the game-changing students who have impressed me this term. I am sure you will join me in feeling incredibly proud of their achievements:

- One of our founding year 11 students, Rafa, who is a brilliant mathematician, has won a Maths scholarship to Farlington for his post 16 studies.
- Aidan in Year 8 coaching for Horsham Sparrows Mini Kickers; he actually briefs the adult coaches there and leads the sessions himself and the little Sparrows absolutely thrive under his leadership apparently.
- Ellena in Year 11 was awarded 'Cadet of the Year Horsham Unit' at St John Ambulance. This involved a day of competition where cadets had to demonstrate first aid skills and knowledge, teamwork, uniform turnout and be interviewed by a panel. She will now represent the Unit and compete in the Sussex District Cadet of the Year competition in the autumn, with the winner going on to the national competition.
- Hamish in Year 10 is competing in the British Kart Championships in only his second year of karting.
- Max in Year 10 has been selected to play for his country in the The Gothia Cup. The Gothia Cup is an international youth association football tournament organised by professional football club BK Häcken, which has been held annually since 1975 in Gothenburg, Sweden.

And finally... a huge thank you to all of our students and staff for their participation in the **annual sponsored walk**. We raised well over three thousand pounds and feedback from the local community was incredibly positive throughout the day. Here's a lovely email we received from a local business owner who encountered our 800 strong procession!

'We have just seen your students walking past on their trip this morning and I would like you to know how polite and kind they were. They were waving at our children and smiling at them whilst walking past, the nursery children were very intrigued by why there were so many of them and the preschool children were trying to count them all. You should be very proud to have such lovely, kind, and polite students.'

I am very proud indeed.

With best wishes

Ms Ayling

Key dates:

3 June - return for second half of summer term
6 June - Year 10 students in Year 11 launch event after school
8 June - Sussex Schools track and field event at K2 Crawley
12 June - BET Book Awards Author Visit
12 June - Year 11 Leavers Assembly (with shirt signing!)
14 June - Year 11 Founders BBQ after school (last day of lessons for students in year 11)
19 June - Year 9 vaccinations
20 June - Year 8+9 Carnegie Book Awards Trip - London
21 June - The Reluctant Dragon: Drama Club Performance
25 June - BET INSET Day, school closed to students
26-28 June - ERA Week for Years 7-10
28 June - Year 11 Prom
1 July - REWARDS DAY ERA POINTS CUT OFF DATE
3 July - Year 6 into 7 Transition Day
4 July - Year 10 Geography field trip
8 July - Bohunt Horsham Summer Concert
9 July - Transition Evening
10 July - KS3 Sports Day (Years 7 & 8)
12 July - KS4 Sports Day (Years 9 & 10)
18 July - Rewards Day
19 July - End of summer term, school closes at 1.45
24-26 July - Year 6 Summer Experience