

**Bohunt Horsham**

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Re: Start of Term Updates

3 September 2024

Dear Families

I write to you all with a few updates and reminders before we welcome our new Year 7 & returning Year 11 on Wednesday (8.30-1.45) and welcome back our returning Years 8, 9 & 10 (8.30-3.20) on Thursday and then the new Reception class starts next week. Please note that for the first term at least, Year 7 students will leave school 10 minutes early at 3.10 so that they may have a quieter exit from school. They also leave for break and lunch slightly earlier than the other year groups until further notice.

Celebrating Year 11's Exam Success:

As you may have seen on our social media, our website and in the local news, over the summer our Founding Students collected the very first full set of GCSE results for Bohunt Horsham. We were incredibly proud of their success as they set the bar high for the year groups that will follow them. The 2024 cohort have achieved incredible results, having demonstrated great resilience, commitment and determination. Despite delays to the school build, a global pandemic and the impacts that both of those have had on the education, the accomplishments of students were celebrated across the board. Of particular importance for students' acceptance onto post 16 courses are their English and Maths GCSEs so we were exceptionally thrilled with 84% of students achieving a grade 4 (a strong pass) in each subject. We shared just a few of the stories of note on our website, [here](#).

The opening of our primary phase:

Our Reception class, the Ducklings, are enjoying their home visits this week and will begin their phased starts from Monday 9 September. Their school day is slightly staggered from that of the secondary phase and their dining times are also staggered and so the opening of the primary phase isn't expected to impact the busiest moments in secondary - pick up and drop off and social time. Primary phase opens from 8.30 by which time all secondary students are already in their tutor bases, the primary phase ends at 3pm every day.

Car park:

A return to school letter wouldn't be complete without a desperate plea from me to please consider avoiding picking up and dropping off by car if you possibly can. Last year we had 300 families using the car park from the secondary phase and this created a huge amount of congestion and delay. We know from our surveys that a lot of these families do live within one or two miles of the school and if your child/children can walk or cycle to school please arrange for them to do so. We also received an increased number of complaints from residents in the local Mowbray housing estate last term about parents parking close to junctions or across access roads so please do be mindful of this when picking up or dropping off your child/children from school.

Early notice of ERA Week 2025 and Duke of Edinburgh Silver and Bronze:

Early notice that ERA Week 2025 choices will go out even earlier this year and you will receive them this half term; this is so that we can set up payments even earlier and make residential accessible to even more

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families. Our new PE teacher, Mr Thompson, is taking on the mantle of Duke of Edinburgh lead across the school and we've engaged an external company to run the expeditions as other local schools also do now we have larger year groups coming through. This means that students in Years 9 and 10 will also be hearing from Mr Thompson about their expeditions and programs.

Updated timetables/lessons:

Students' timetables are now available to view on Classcharts; please be mindful of the fact that in many subjects, your child's classes and class teachers are likely to change. This is common and will have been part of a thoughtful process involving a team of staff members. If any issues arise with new classes once students have had some time to settle in we will revisit and review as necessary.

Changes on site:

There haven't been a great many changes on site over the summer this year; on the secondary side we've added additional seating in the dining hall and there was already shelter added to our outside social time spaces last time to create even more seated dining capacity in all weather conditions. Otherwise we've just been busy painting and decorating, servicing and updating and also getting our primary phase ready for its new occupants. We've also continued the work to improve our pitches.

Priorities

Although there is much to celebrate with regards to our first set of exam results, one thing we are reflecting on is the impact of participation and belonging on the success of some of our students. Students whose attendance stayed above 95% made half a grade more progress on average across all of their subjects than was expected. Students whose attendance was below 90% made half a grade less progress than expected. This really highlights the importance of being in school in order to be successful and so this year, we are pushing our focus on participation and our expectations on students participating in school will be greater than ever.

We will expect to see all of our students:

- Attend school and lessons every day
- Attend school and lessons on time
- Try their best in lessons every day
- Participate in school life beyond lessons - try clubs, leadership opportunities, trips and competitions etc.

We will be tracking this and communicating with you about this more routinely as we can see a direct correlation between the students who participate in school and the success they feel at school each day as well as the success they experience in exam results at the end of their schooling. Participation, belonging and success are our three priorities for this academic year and you'll hear more about them in our weekly bulletins and the events we hold throughout the year.

With best wishes for an even more successful new academic year.



Ms Ayling