

## Parent Newsletter 27 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for your ongoing support and the communications you have sent in through our survey, emails and by more personal contact with the office. I am particularly grateful that over a third of you completed our home learning survey this week and will share some of the outcomes with you in this newsletter.

With a community the size of ours it is important we are able to clearly set out general broad principles for how we are offering education and support at these difficult times. The first week of home learning has gone well for the vast majority of our students. However we of course recognise that individual circumstances vary, and therefore beneath this we are working hard to give personal responses and support where appropriate. I ask that you please take into account, when contacting the school, that practically all of us are now working from home, in many cases with our families, and this as you have experienced presents its own set of challenges.

We have seen some fantastic engagement and high quality work from students, supported by parents, in our first week. It is important to reassure you that where people have struggled and we have tried to be in touch personally or electronically, we are not in any way drawing negative conclusions with regards to individuals. Whilst it remains important that learning continues during this time, everybody is adjusting to home working and what is achievable under their own personal circumstances

The safety and wellbeing of our students remains our number one priority and we just expect students to do the best they can. We have needed to set up extra recording categories on class charts so that we can track and monitor where we are with home learning and where we need to offer help. **Please continue to reassure students that behaviour point records that might have changed this week will be reset once we are back at school.** Clearly our systems were not designed for our current circumstances so we are adapting them as best we can. In the small number of cases where you might receive information or contact from us that seems incorrect please do not get annoyed, but send us an explanation which we can take into account. In most cases this should be to the relevant subject teacher or your child's tutor. The school office can pass on anything that is wider than this.

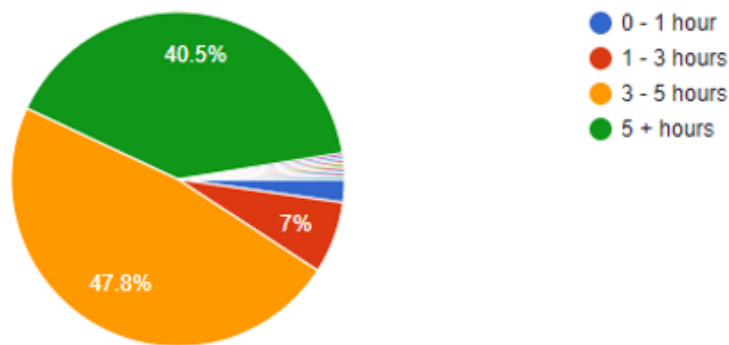
### Survey outcomes:

Thank you to all parents who completed the survey. We have had over 300 responses and a good representative distribution across our different year groups. It is no surprise that the vast majority of students are using their iPads to complete work particularly as we anticipate many home computers are being used by parents who are home working or siblings not attending Bohunt. We have reiterated this information with staff so they consider it when setting work.

The weekend will provide a further opportunity to read through your written comments, to consider solutions for what might need to change to better improve the home learning experience, but headline outcomes from the survey are shown below:

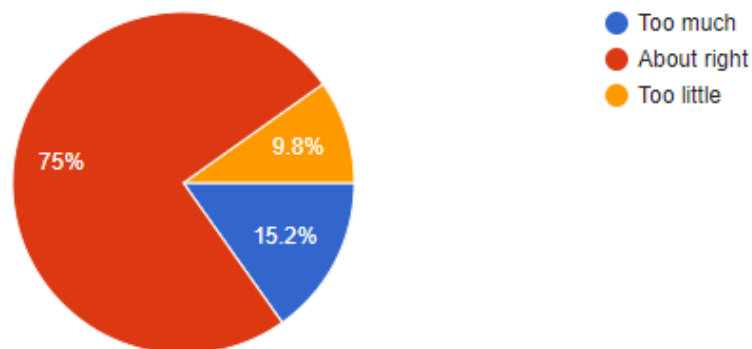
On average, how many hours a day is your child spending on home learning tasks set by school?

316 responses



Overall, how would you rate the amount of work set by teachers for the lesson time ?

316 responses



Other questions:

- **Overall I feel teachers have been supportive of my child's home learning** – 93% of parents agree and strongly agree
- **My child is coping well with home learning** – 83% agree and strongly agree
- **As parents, we are coping well with home learning** – 86% agree and strong agree

A couple of Parental Quotes

*"I think that the first few days have gone very well in view of this being such a big step for everyone involved. The process that the school has managed to implement in such a short space of time has been exceptional"*

*"It's a chance for him to show his self-motivation and self-direction. We are very proud of him for his work ethic and grateful to the school for setting such a rigorous package of work."*

We have a wonderfully diverse community and therefore cannot get it right for everybody all of the time. However the outcomes above clearly show we appear to be getting it mostly right and it is really good to see so many students keeping to their timetables each day and getting their work done. Establishing the right habits and routines from the start was really important and we will continue the current arrangements next week.

As time goes on we recognise that student motivation will vary. There will be NO work set over the Easter

holiday. Everybody deserves a break and we will review and adjust our current structures to check they remain appropriate post Easter.

### Home learning next week

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued efforts to support the school in the delivery of our curriculum through remote learning. Feedback from parents and carers has been overwhelmingly positive, however, we also recognise that some parents and students may be coming up against the same barriers to learning. We will continue to follow the same format next week, with students following their regular school timetable.

Common Concerns and our response:

| Parent Concerns                                                                                                     | Our Response / Potential Solutions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Students are struggling to open videos set on google classroom                                                   | <p>Students could be trying to log into to google classroom via a personal google account, therefore permissions won't allow them access. Please use your school account.</p> <p>Their iPads do not have enough working memory to download them (this could be due to too many games/ non-educational apps installed).</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 2. Too much work is being set for my child to complete                                                              | <p>Teachers have been asked to reflect on the amount of work being set, and students' ability to complete the work in a home environment away from specialist teachers. Please submit work completed within the 55 minute lesson time and do not feel pressured to complete work beyond the allocated lesson time. Remember you can access the work and complete it after the scheduled lesson has finished.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 3. Student work is not being recognised as submitted.                                                               | <p>This is a common problem and is most likely due to students editing PDF's rather than opening the set work in google docs or the G-Drive. The video link below explains how to do this, which will lead to successful submission of work.</p> <p><a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1O8xLLJeyHVSyzGn6tm_jGszJZKyVzI_q/view?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1O8xLLJeyHVSyzGn6tm_jGszJZKyVzI_q/view?usp=sharing</a></p> <p>Work also need to be '<b>turned in</b>' by the student (they must press this button in the google classroom), otherwise it shows as missing to the teacher in charge of the lesson</p> |
| 4. My child is receiving negatives for work they have completed or cannot complete due to illness or helping others | <p>Please be assured that all behaviour points for missed remote lessons will be removed when students return. They are vital to allow us to run analytics to highlight any students missing the majority of lessons, so we can offer support and advice.</p> <p>Please ignore any automated messages regarding missed lessons if you are happy they are completing the work. It is likely to be a submission error as outlined on row 3 of this table.</p>                                                                                                                                                                           |

### Home contact:

Our pastoral team continues to contact students and families that might need extra support at this time. We know that there will be good and bad days for everybody. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with us if you

would like somebody to talk to and we will endeavour to get back to you to listen, offer advice and support.

### **Student Wellbeing:**

We understand home learning can be an unsettling time for many of our students. There are many support services available for students to access at home. Please remind students they can continue to email our Pastoral Team at Bohunt: [help@bohuntworthing.co.uk](mailto:help@bohuntworthing.co.uk) for any support and advice within the school day.

There are also some useful links below which will take you to websites offering advice and support for young people's mental health and wellbeing, from daily articles about a range of topics, to 1:1 online support with trained professionals.

- <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-we-do/about-us/contact-us/>
- <https://www.themix.org.uk/>
- <https://youngminds.org.uk/>
- <https://www.childline.org.uk/>
- <https://www.beateatingdisorders.org.uk/>
- Chat Health (School Nurse text messaging service) 07480 635424 (8:30-4:30 Mon - Fri)

### **Supporting at Home**

To support all our families we shared on our school website 'A Parent's Guide to Coping with School Closure' this guide has been created by The Parents' Guide to support all parents and schools during the coronavirus outbreak. <https://www.bohuntworthing.com/announcement/parents-guide-to-coping-with-school-closures/>

### **Supporting Key workers, vulnerable students and the community:**

The school has remained partially open this week, through volunteers from our staff, in order that we can support the children of key workers or those who get extra support in school. We will continue to do so next week and over Easter if needed. Those students attending have been brilliant at completing their home learning from school and giving us on the spot personal feedback as to what is working and what isn't.

This week our minibus delivered pack lunch ingredients meals to over 80 families in the community and next week we have worked with Caterlink, our school caterer, to provide food parcels that will allow more flexible meal planning. We have decided that we will continue to support these families over the Easter holidays and now that the supermarket situation is more stable will be doing this through a weekly voucher system.

We are supporting the local community by loaning some of our iPads to Worthing hospital so that isolated patients can stay in touch with their families and have also been asked to review whether some of our science safety equipment could be used to address shortages of PPE resources in the NHS. Please also consider whether you can help the appeal from Turning Tides as highlighted on our Twitter feed.

### **Y11 update**

There has been little further guidance this week on how exam grades will be awarded and what evidence will be considered in this judgement, so until this is published we expect all our Y11 to access home learning through google classrooms. Once it becomes clear, we will look to alter our provision for Y11 students. We are also talking to local sixth form colleges to understand what they can suggest relevant to their next steps and supporting them in their transition.

Ofqual statement:

*Students understandably want reassurance, and teachers urgently need to know what to do, and when. We expect to publish detailed information about the process and timetable which will apply this summer next week. This will include the steps we would like teachers to follow and more detailed guidance on how to consider the full range of evidence they will have available when submitting their assessment grades.*

### **Y8 Options deadline:**

Thank you to all parents who have submitted their forms. Today's deadline has been extended to next Wednesday 1st March to collect the few remaining forms. If you are yet to complete the form, please follow the link below. You would have been sent a personalised letter via school comms outlining your child's suggested pathway.

Link to options form:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdtByJFE5qScUzb72UvZnYIglSON4yVzqvdyd4gDWmlaji-IA/viewform>

The online form will close at the end of the day on Wednesday 1st – this is not an April fools.

### **Y7 Reports**

We are pleased to share that we will be sending home our Year 7 Spring Report next week, as fortunately our reporting information had been collected by our teachers before the school had closed. The report will reflect your child's academic progress since their Autumn report. As always, if you have any questions or concerns regarding their report please contact your child's teacher in the first instance.

### **Home challenges and other support**

Thank you to all who have participated in our first set of home challenges. We are not just there to support academic learning but also want to provide other ideas and suggestions to fill your time and keep people in touch with each other.

This week our PE Department challenged staff in the Stay At Home Challenge, to see how many could complete the 'keepy uppy' toilet roll challenge. While we can confirm that no toilet rolls were misplaced or discarded in this challenge, we will leave the comment about our staff's coordination ability down to you at home.

The video of staff can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3dJJ3SiL6ls> . The PE department have now challenged students to send in their videos.

There are lots of different ways to stay connected to school updates beyond our letters home.

1. Emails sent to all our Bohunt Worthing students through their school email address.
2. Our school website <https://www.bohuntworthing.com/>
3. Twitter - for those of you that are in tuned with social media you can follow our twitter @bohuntworthing for all the latest tweets and shared news.
4. The Bohunt Times - our very own student led digital newspaper will continue to post news, challenges and other exciting ways to keep students and families engaged and entertained. Please keep sending in your shared pictures and challenges.

Their website is <http://www.thebohunttimes.com/> and to follow their YouTube channel - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC284JCeQ32gsRMYBvNr4-qQ>

We launched Bohunt Challenges this week to all members of our Bohunt community. Challenge one we asked students to share pictures of their home learning, and Challenge two judged how successfully you can juggle. It's fair to say results are mixed! The highlights for both can be seen here: <http://www.thebohunttimes.com/>

To finish, we will try to keep our emails detailed but to a minimum in terms of number. The next few weeks will Thank support and help wherever we can.

Stay at Home, Protect the NHS, Save Lives

Best wishes  
Mr Whitehead