

BHASVIC

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Principal: Christopher Thomson MA

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE COLLEGE

BHASVIC (short for Brighton, Hove and Sussex Sixth Form College) was formed in 1975 following reorganisation of secondary education in Brighton. There are two sixth form colleges (BHASVIC and Varndean College) serving five 11-16 comprehensive schools in Brighton, while there are four schools in the Hove and Portslade conurbation with their own sixth forms. There is also a large general further education college in the town (City College Brighton and Hove) and a sixth form centre (Sussex Downs College) in Lewes only 8 miles away.

About 60% of our students come from Brighton and Hove, but many come from other state and independent schools throughout Sussex. The same variety of backgrounds, cultures and interests that make the Brighton area unique, also makes the College a lively, stimulating place to work.

There are approximately 1740 students in college, of whom approximately 90% follow GCE or AVCE Advanced courses, with the other students following a variety of one year courses. Most of the latter are following Vocational Intermediate level or GCSE programmes. In addition, up to 40 students come from overseas. The vast majority of our students are in the 16-19 age range, and following full-time courses. We have a strong local reputation for the academic success of our students and for our focus on individuals' needs.

The College is situated close to Brighton city centre, just within the Hove border. The main buildings date from 1913 and retain their period character. In recent years, building adaptations have provided improved accommodation across a number of curriculum areas - including Biology, Physics, Visual Arts, Business & Economics, Computing & IT, Media & Communications. The main building houses a canteen and social areas, together with a well-resourced careers suite and study area. There are four main IT suites used for teaching and three further suites which are open access to students and staff. Improvements to the reception area and to office spaces have created a better working environment for many support staff as well as enabling us to cater better for the needs of students, parents and visitors. A new Sports Centre was opened in April 2003. Planning permission and in-principle approval have been granted for the redevelopment of the College on the existing site and we hope to begin building work in the course of 2008-09.

About 70% of our advanced level students go on to a degree course at university or a specialist course at a college of further education. In August 2008, our GCE AS level pass rate was 92.7% At A2 the pass rate was 98.9%. At GCSE the A*- C rate was 79%. BHASVIC students regularly record top marks nationally in a range of A level and AS subjects.

The College was last inspected by Ofsted during the Autumn Term 2007. The Inspection Team identified Key Strengths as:

- Outstanding student achievement
- Outstanding leadership and management fully engaging all staff in the College mission

- Strong culture of quality improvement focusing on students' achievement
- Carefully designed and inclusive curriculum
- Strong support for individual students
- Rigorous monitoring of students' performance
- Outstanding governance

The Inspectors identified as Areas for Improvement

- Structure and content of group tutorials
- Enrichment of the curriculum through wider employment links
- Co-ordination of actions to promote equality and diversity across the curriculum

Following the publication of the Ofsted Report, BHASVIC was awarded Beacon Status in July 2008.

The College's Mission is to transform lives through learning by:

- meeting the individual learning needs of students within the curriculum
- supporting learners to achieve via the guidance programme
- working in partnership with other organizations, especially SLSC and other educational providers

To achieve these aims, the College offers a wide range of examination courses, together with a range of broader vocational courses; an established and flexible system of individual guidance and assessment and a programme of short courses (including arts, recreational and sporting activities, community service and vocational experience). We enrich our curriculum support for students by running a range of 'subject extensions' to underpin the informal network of support for learning. The College is committed to differentiated learning in order that the individual learning needs of our students can be met.

We aim to give our students more than just an academic education. We encourage them to have consideration for themselves and for others and support this through our 'Education for Life' philosophy.

BHASVIC operates within an Equality and Diversity framework that recognises that all people are of equal worth and are entitled to be treated fairly and without prejudice in every aspect of college life. The College believes that prejudice and discrimination in any form are incompatible with meeting the needs of its students and staff and works to raise awareness of Equality and Diversity issues among all members of the College community.

All staff, both teachers and support staff, are committed to the College aims and work together to give our students the best possible deal from their time with us. All staff are appointed with the above aims and provision in mind.

Christopher Thomson
Principal

September 2008