

BHASVIC

BRIGHTON HOVE AND SUSSEX SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

Annual Report 2020-21



Introduction

The impact of and response to Covid-19 again dominated nearly every aspect of college life for the academic year. In September 2020 we were back on-site en-masse but with rota systems and strict mitigation measures in place, making it far from a 'normal' experience. Our staff worked fearlessly and tirelessly to try and provide students with a good college experience, both onsite and online, but nothing can truly replace the buzz of social interactions between young people that was replaced with the sterility of mitigations like social distancing, mask-wearing and eventually online learning during another lockdown in January 2021, leaving the college open only to our more vulnerable students.

We returned to site in March 2021 via a mass testing regime which saw the Sports Hall set up as a field hospital where we undertook over 7,000 rapid lateral flow Covid tests. This was a significant exercise in logistics and helped to build the confidence

to return safely to site. Another significant logistical exercise was managing the contact tracing of confirmed cases of Coronavirus – which became a full-time job in itself.

Following another year of cancelled exams, students still achieved outstanding results, each one having been carefully constructed by teachers and departments in accordance with the government's guidelines. A breakdown of results can be seen on page 4.

Despite the operational demands of managing Covid, we were still able to develop a new Strategic Plan. Co-created by students, staff and governors and focused around four words, it aims for BHASIC to be a 'Contemporary-Creative-Learning-Community'. Although setting the direction for the next 4 years, this plan is firmly anchored to our heritage.

Being contemporary is about being a modern college that is prioritising





sustainability, digital transformation, the learner journey and providing first-class accommodation. As far as the latter point is concerned, our new Elms Building opened for business in November 2020 and with a theatre, science labs and specialist facilities for music, media and film. It is a great addition to our estate and provides students with excellent facilities to match our outstanding results.

In terms of the Climate Crisis, 2020-21 was a significant year that saw us collectively adopt our 2030 Net Zero pledge together with Varndean and GBMet colleges, as part of our commitment to the then newly published FE Climate Roadmap. Significantly, the roadmap also prioritises education for sustainable development, and in the summer term, we were one of the first colleges to launch a Carbon Literacy qualification for students.

Our city-wide commitment to working together to tackle climate change expanded into the work of FE Sussex (the partnership of Sussex's colleges) with a successful bid to the Governments Skills Development Fund with a focus on developing and investing in Green technology and skills and with an umbrella project on Carbon Literacy led by BHASVIC.



We conducted an important restructure of our Student Services provision, having seen over the past few years that student need was outstripping demand in this area. We created three clear channels of provision focused on student support, student guidance and student experience, each with a newly appointed manager and with expanded staff capacity to help deal with unprecedented increases in safeguarding and welfare referrals.

Above all, the success of BHASVIC during 2020-21 was down to the flexibility and hard work of staff to make things work, despite the constantly changing back-drop of provision and to the resilience and determination of students to make the best of their experiences. Despite it all, 'between the Downs and the Sea we flourish'.

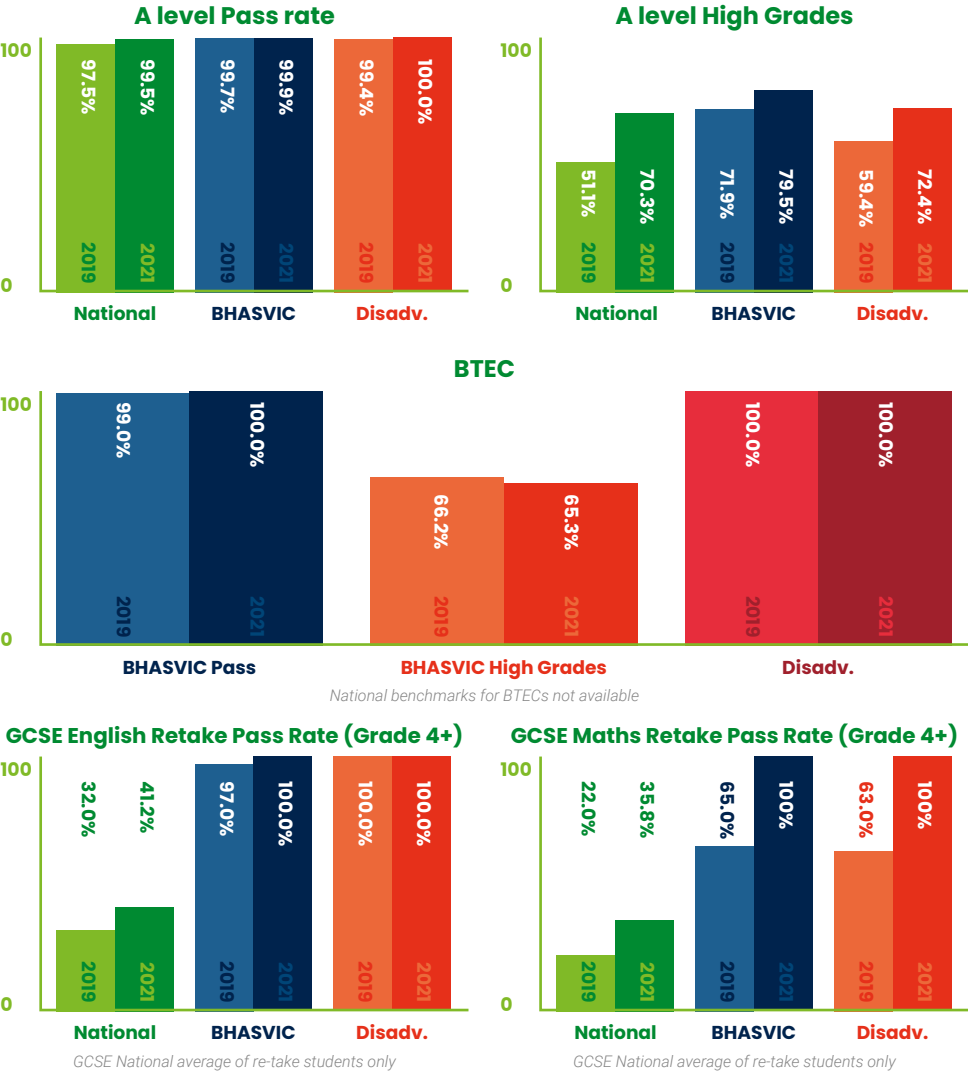
William Baldwin
Principal

Sandra Prail
Chair of Governors

Results and Performance

'Exam' Results

Teacher Assessed Grades replaced exams for Summer 2021. We include 2019 data here for reference.

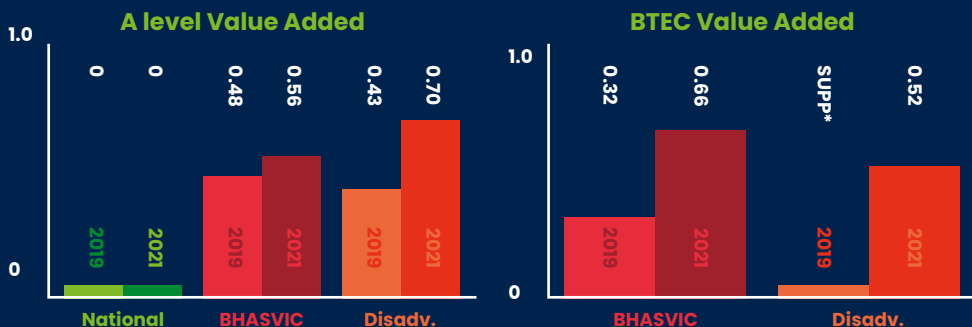


Disadvantaged students are those who attract pupil premium funding at the end of key stage 4, meaning students claiming free school meals at any point in the previous six years, students in care, and those who left care through adoption or another formal route.

BHASVIC usually appears at the top of the Department for Education post-16 performance tables for both progress and performance at A level – due to Covid-19 these performance tables have been paused.

A level Progress

A 'progress' score measures the 'value added' as a fraction of a grade and is based on predictions using GCSE outcomes. Therefore 0.50 represents half a grade better than expected. The distance travelled by students whilst at BHASVIC at 0.56 is over half a grade per A level qualification and two-thirds at BTEC! Pleasingly, our Disadvantage A level students made more progress than our main cohort.



2019 BTEC Disadvantaged score is suppressed as there are too few students covered by the measure.

↑ TOP 1% OF ALL STATE SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES IN ENGLAND
'WELL ABOVE AVERAGE'

*According to 2019 DfE Performance Tables

Retention 97.2%

The percentage of funded students in Sept 2021 retained to the end of the academic year

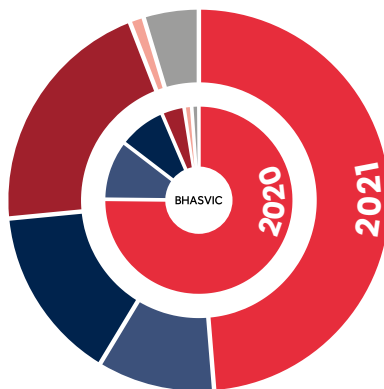
Destinations

The majority of BHASVIC students continue with their education after leaving us, either at University or through Further Education courses like Art Foundation. Increasingly students are entering employment; be it full or part time or even to become self-employed and are well supported towards this through our Employability and Enterprise tutorial pathway. The spring term of our first-year tutorial programme is dedicated to exploring all the options

available before individuals transition into specialist pathway tutor groups matched to their choice of destination.

Our destinations data below is presented by looking at what both 2020 and 2021 leavers are doing right now (January 2022). Students may take a gap year before entering University and so this longitudinal approach gives a more reliable picture of their sustained destination.

Category	'20 Leavers	'21 Leavers
Higher Education	75.16%	48.72%
Continued Education (inc. FE, apprenticeships)	10.25%	10.14%
Employment	8.16%	16.74%
Other (inc. Gap Year)	3.90%	20.71%
Not in Education, Employment or Training	1.30%	1.42%
Unknown	1.23%	2.27%



As a result of the pandemic it has been harder to 'chase' our students whose destination is not known. We continue to work to reduce this.

Higher Education Statistics Agency data for those who completed degrees in 2019-20 shows that the outcomes of our students who progress on to University are significantly above national benchmarks for both Independent and State providers. This is testament to the learning culture that is

fostered at BHASVIC and the nurturing of skills needed for successful lifelong learning. BHASVIC students from areas with low HE participation and those whose parents do not have HE qualifications perform exceptionally well.

Degree Classification	1st Class	1st or 2:1
BHASVIC	45.1%	93.3%
Independent Providers	38.0%	91.0%
Sixth Form Colleges	35.6%	85.2%
All State Providers	35.1%	84.2%

It is really important that departments know what their students go on to do after BHASVIC and every department receives a summary infographic of this.

To give you an idea of the volume of UCAS applications we process, by the end of January 2021, we processed 1,379 applications which included 283 ex-students!

This year 53 students received an offer to study at Oxford or Cambridge (remarkable given that there was a reported 20% in reduction of offers) making it 213 offers over the last 4 years. The students are drawn from 24 different schools with 18 coming from our Widening Participation cohort. BHASIC featured in a Telegraph article '*Revealed: The best state schools for getting a place at Oxbridge*' where we come third (behind Hills Rd and Peter Symonds Sixth Form Colleges).



Guidance & Student Services

As mentioned in the introduction, we completed a significant re-organisation of Guidance and Student Services in the Summer Term, creating three distinct teams under a new line management chain to add capacity and cohesion to our wider enrichment, careers and pastoral offer across the college. Our three channels of Student Support, Student Guidance and Student Experience have helped to define, add to and develop our breadth of provision to students.

During the January-March 2021 lockdown closure period, Tutors conducted regular online check-ins for over 600 **vulnerable learners** and we kept an **independent study space** open in the library for 103 'priority-access' students. We also continued with our roll-out of **laptops**, issuing 43 for home use; and provided 45 **SIM cards** with 90

days free data. Whilst the food bank was suspended in January, students who are eligible for **free college meals** received £15 per week during lockdown, with an additional 'Covid-crisis' weekly payment of £10 for all **16-19 bursary students**. During Christmas and February half term, 292 bursary students also received supermarket vouchers worth £55 from Brighton & Hove City Council.

Our **Virtual Careers Week and Futures Fair** took place in February providing students, parents and carers with an impressive amount of information on university options, student finance, subject-linked careers webinars, apprenticeships, employment, gap years and volunteering. We followed this up with online HE Information and Specialist Applications evenings in March and May, which also included advice from **alumni and**



employers on managing wellbeing during life-choices and transitions.

During **Progression Week**, most activity took place remotely and we were able to deliver a wide range of content to large and diverse groups of students – far more than could fit into ‘rooms’ – and where students have been able to tailor their sessions to fit their needs.

We continued with our extensive **wellbeing programme**, with a range of options for students, parents, carers and staff. Students have been able to opt into weekly ‘**guided relaxation**’ sessions. About 60 students

joined our rolling 6-week **Mindfulness** or **Mind and Movement** short courses; and Andrew Wright, from Action Your Potential ran weekly **#NeuroNinja webinars** for parents and carers as well as students, to promote better understanding of the ‘12 rocks of wellbeing’.

Carefully navigating government guidance, we managed to give our second years a good send off with a **Leavers’ Event** at the end of May. Good weather along with free pizza, ice cream and a photobooth provided a backdrop for goodbyes in the fantastic new courtyard space provided by the Elms Building.

Curriculum

The main challenges for curriculum delivery in 2020-21 were to adapt teaching to our 2/3rds model – a rota system, which meant each student attended two out of three onsite lessons each week. As we couldn't create 'bubbles' we created space - the aim of this model was to reduce class sizes to allow for some social distancing in the classroom. It was far from ideal from an educational perspective but it did mean that we recorded no onwards transmission of Coronavirus onsite. The model also enabled our students to experience onsite lessons across the week, every week, as opposed to whole weeks at a time of remote learning.

The second challenge was to deliver remote learning from January to March – having learnt much during the first lockdown – and with increasingly improved tools from MS Teams and other apps – we continued to refine teaching online. That said, nothing can replicate the rich social experience of learning face to face and we were glad to resume that in March.

A final key challenge was to ensure that Teacher Assessed Grades were completed with diligence and integrity. Teachers did not find it easy but through careful analysis and moderation we firmly believe we gave fair and balanced grades to students, setting them up to succeed in their chosen destination.





Community

Working with Morrison's, Pelican Parcels and Fare Share, the BHASVIC **Food Bank** continued to supply a number of vulnerable students and their families throughout the year, including during the Spring lockdown.

The BAME Leadership Project at BHASVIC was launched in the Autumn Term and run in conjunction with Citizens UK. It is part of the Brighton BME initiative to create young leaders through the development of skills that will build confidence and enable students to make a positive change on issues of race and racism.

Students at BHASVIC engage in the 5-6 months programme, developing key leadership skills leading to the effective running of a campaign or campaigns close to their hearts.

Wilhelmenia Etoga Ngono, Guidance Manager said "As the lead at BHASVIC, I am excited to provide our BAME students, who come from a range of diverse backgrounds, the opportunity to utilise their voices to promote and bring social change by highlighting the challenges and issues facing them".



Enrichment

Clubs and societies continued as best they could during the year – here are some highlights:

- All students had access to attend the **AoC's CollegesLive!** event which brought thousands of students together to listen to a host of inspirational speakers from astronaut to activist.
- **Young Enterprise** concluded virtually this year with two teams making full entries to the Area Finals. They had to submit company reports, video presentations and trade stand pictures. One team developed and marketed a healthy eating cook book and the other sourced and marketed biodegradable straws. Healthy Eating won the area finals and Final Straw were runners up. Healthy Eating went through to the County final but sadly did not progress any further.
- Alex Marshall and his team 'JAMDynamics' won the annual **European Student Robotics** competition which challenges 16-18 year olds to assemble an autonomous robot that completes a set challenge. Impressively Alex set up an independent team of two BHASVIC and two Hurst College students and they took victory in a tie-breaker final match.

Sport

It was a frustrating year for **Sport** with very little competition. Training continued when it could, as did friendly matches, but much of the normal competitive action was suspended for the year.



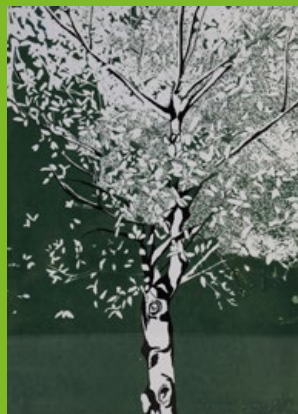
Drama and Dance

Drama students produced two pieces for **Black History Month** focusing on **#BlackLivesMatter** which can be viewed here. **Drama students** also produced this **radio play** 'Today is a Good Day'. They began from a starting point of looking out of the window and worked with the title, 'watching & waiting' – very apt given the lockdown period.

Music

There were a series of concerts throughout the year – many live-streamed to a virtual audience in lieu of a real one. One live-streamed concert from the new Elms Building can be viewed here featuring jazz trio, acoustic pop, string quartet...and more. Our live outdoor concert in the summer featured our larger ensembles playing to an in-person audience and be viewed here.



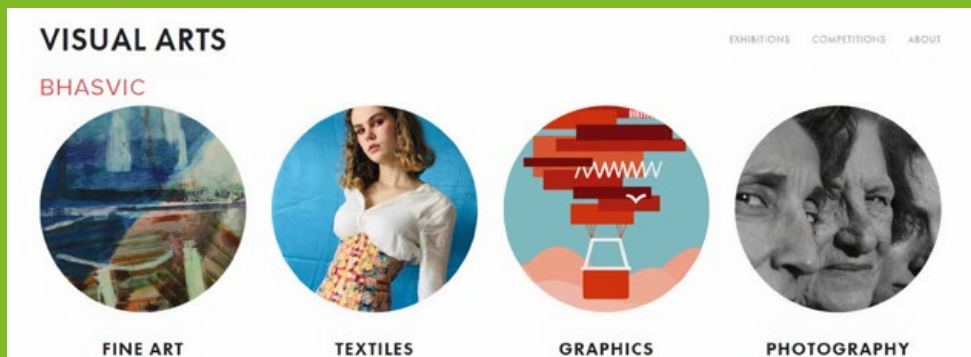


Visual and Creative Arts

The **Digital Visual Art exhibition** can be viewed [here](#). It showcases the significant talents of students across Fine Art, Textiles and Graphics.

Visual Arts at BHASIC continued their quest to bring a community of creatives

together with the launch of **'Inside the Box'** in collaboration with GBMet Art Foundation. Encouraging Students, Staff and our wider community to be playful and innovative to create a piece of Art using a matchbox.



Six of BHASVIC's photography students were included in an exhibition at the Pavilion Atrium on Worthing Pier as part of this year's **Photo Fringe festival**. More details here.

Annelise Furniss was highly commended for her screenplay 'Birdsong' in WJEC's **Moving Image Awards**. She submitted her screenplay to the Awards which are open to anyone studying WJEC Film or Media. Annelise said: 'Birdsong' is a short-film screenplay that I initially wrote for my A1 Film Studies class. It's a sci-fantasy about a young girl living in a not-so-distant dystopian future where her only access to nature and

true 'life' as we know it is through the pages of an old book.

First year Media student Evie Harman, edits and helps design **Bright Minds magazine** which deals with issues around mental health and gives a voice and platform to young creatives in Brighton and Hove. The magazine is run by young people for young people with the help of Brighton and Hove City Libraries and is a platform for sharing art, creative writing, photos and graphic design skills from young people in secondary schools and colleges. View here.



Satisfaction Survey Results

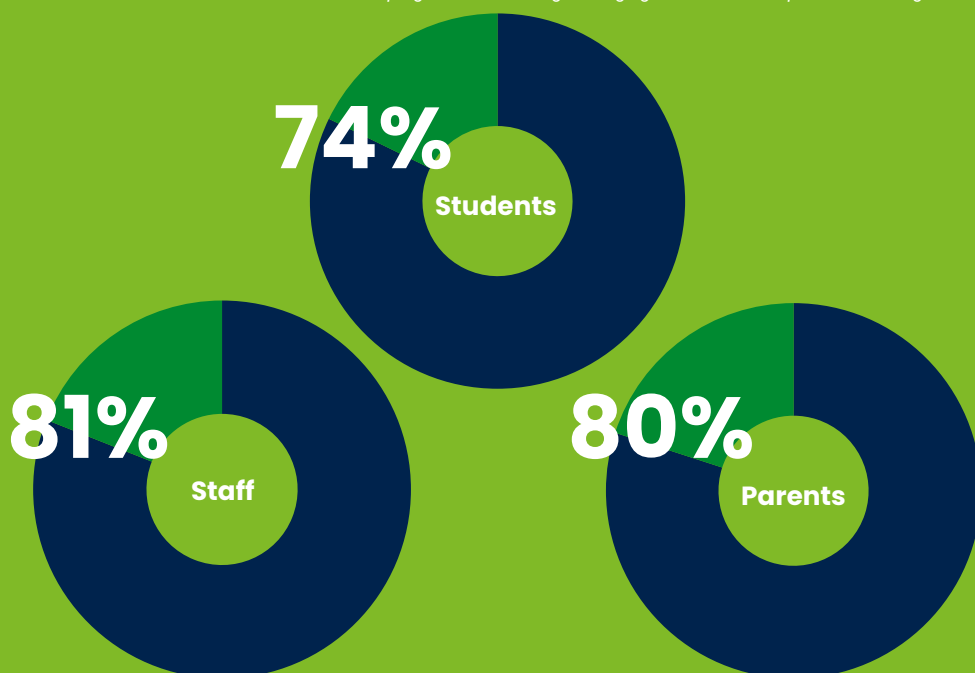
We normally present the findings of one key question of our standard s 'How satisfied are you with your / your young person's experience at BHASVIC?' Because of the pandemic we adjusted our annual survey and ran termly surveys which asked students, parents/carers and staff 6 questions around:

- How safe people felt on site
- The quality of lessons
- Confidence in your own progress
- The accessibility of support
- The effectiveness of communications
- The appropriateness of our Teacher Assessed Grading process

Below we present an average score for each question and each term to provide an overall satisfaction figure for the year.

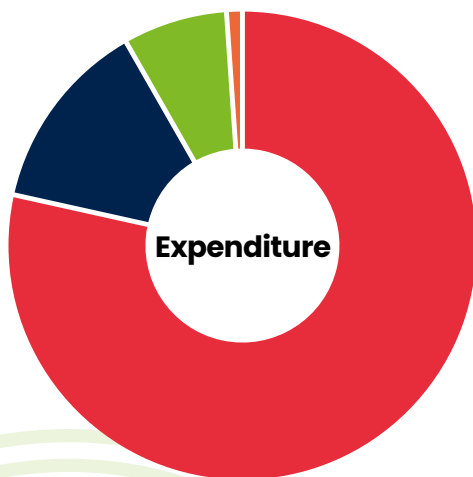
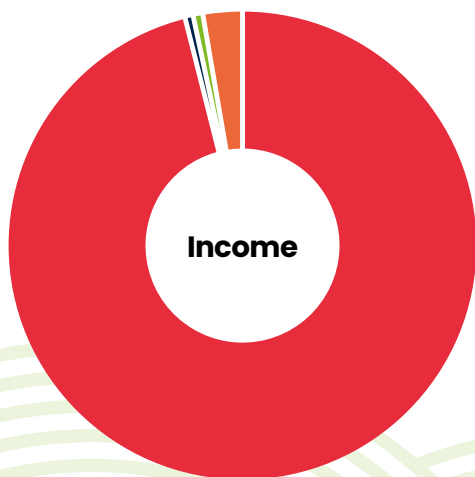
	Students	Parents	Staff
TOTAL	7.4/10	8.0/10	8.1/10
Average No. Respondents	601 students (of 3,175 students)	637 parents/carers (of 3,175 students)	142 staff (of 320 staff)

The highest scores came for feeling safe, quality of lessons and effectiveness of communications. The lower scores were from individual's confidence in their own progress at delivering/managing remote and independent learning.



Financial Results

Income and Expenditure – Year ended 31 July 2021



	£000's
ESFA Income	14,148
Catering income	83
Venue hire and evening languages	98
Other income	399
TOTAL INCOME	14,728

	£000's
Pay costs	11,655
Operating expenses	1,968
Depreciation	1,066
Interest payable	162
EXPENDITURE	14,851
DEFICIT	-123



Corporation and Committee Membership

2020-21

Mohammed Ahmed	Solicitor, DMH Stallard	Co-opted Member of Audit Committee - resigned November 2021
Philip Anderson	COO, LGRI (Legal and General)	Audit
Louise Askew	Head of Governance and Compliance, River Learning Trust	Parent Governor. Audit – retired December 2020
William Baldwin	Principal	Quality & Curriculum; Premises Group; Resources; Search & Governance
Sarah Bovill	Director: Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD) Finance and Operations at Sightsavers	Co-opted Member of Audit Committee
Jo Davis	Finance Business Partner, Hastings Direct Insurance	Audit (Chair), Search and Governance, Remuneration
Gillian Hampden-Thompson	Head of the School of Education and Social Work, Professor of Education, University of Sussex	Quality & Curriculum (Chair); Search and Governance; Remuneration
Julia Holgate Turner	BHASVIC Learning Technologist	Support Staff Governor, Resources
Neil Jones	BHASVIC Head of Faculty	Teaching Staff Governor, Quality & Curriculum – Retired March 2021
Amanda Law	Medical PA, Sussex Partnership NHS Trust	Parent Governor. Quality and Curriculum. Retired December 2020.
Jiayue Liang	BHASVIC Student	Student Governor – elected March 2021, Quality & Curriculum
Kathryn MacVarish	BHASVIC Teacher & Personal Tutor	Teaching Staff Governor – elected March 2021, Quality & Curriculum
Michael McLean	Cloud and Collaboration Director, Ideal	Resources, Digital Link Governor.
Chris Newson	Chair, The Student Room	Resources
Lynn O'Meara	Deputy Head, Student Life team, Senior Student Life Advisor, University of Sussex	Quality & Curriculum, Designated Lead Safeguarding Governor – resigned November 2020
Marcus Palmer	CEO, The Student Room	Resources (Chair), Premises Group, Search and Governance, Remuneration
Neil Perry	HR Director, Legal and General	Joint Vice-Chair of Governors; Remuneration (Chair); Search & Governance (Chair); Audit
Chris Piper	Retired: Education and Skills Funding Agency – Head of Intervention London South and Surrey	Quality & Curriculum
Simon Porges	Retired Programme Director within the pharmaceuticals industry.	Parent Governor – elected January 2021, Audit

Sandra Prail	Independent Consultant, Governance Consultant, Mentor and National Leader of Governance	Chair of Corporation; Remuneration; Premises Group (Chair); Search & Governance; Resources
Jacque Punter	BHASVIC Director of Digital Strategy	Co-opted Staff Member of Quality & Curriculum
Jo Redfern	Managing Director - Education Cubed	Quality & Curriculum
Louise Serpell	Professor of Biochemistry and Director of Sussex Neuroscience	Parent Governor – elected January 2021, Quality & Curriculum
Mark Snape	Surveyor (MRICS) and consultant	Co-opted Member of Resources and Premises Group
Roxanna Toyne	BHASVIC Student	Quality & Curriculum elected March 2021
Tom Wolfenden	Group Director of Operations, Technopolis Group	Joint Vice-Chair of Governors; Search & Governance; Resources, Premises Group, Remuneration
Andrew Wright	Action Your Potential - CEO	Quality & Curriculum, Designated Lead Safeguarding Governor



Brighton Hove and Sussex Sixth Form College (BHASVIC) is an independent Corporation formed under the Further and Higher Education Act 1992.

