

EXAM
SUCCESS

PROGRESSION

CAREERS
INFORMATION





Principal, William Baldwin, said: 'These results remain some of the best in the country even in comparison to selective and independent schools. Both teachers and students should be rightly praised, especially given that to achieve such results they had to navigate new specifications and assessment frameworks in some subjects. Parents and our partner schools must also get credit and thanks for their input into these results. They are testament to the learning culture that has been created here at BHASVIC and are evidence that students who come here have every opportunity to fulfil their potential.'

EXAM SUCCESS

Students and staff at BHASVIC are celebrating another set of outstanding results this year. From the 3,296 A level exams taken, nearly two-thirds of all grades were awarded A*-B (64%). These results reflect outcomes from the first year of new 'linear' A levels in some subjects (with all exams taken at the end of two years), so to see the high grade (A*-B) rate improve by over 1% on last year is a remarkable achievement and 11% higher than national average. Pass rates also remain resolutely high at 98.5% - which is 0.5% above national average, where every tenth of a percent is significant. A* grades made up an

incredible 13.3% of the results – again over 1% higher than the previous year and nearly 5% above national average. Results for vocational qualifications are equally impressive. These courses achieved a 96.5% pass rate, with a phenomenal 82.0% at Distinction or above.

These results cement BHASVIC's position as one of the best performing sixth-form colleges in the country, which on similar outcomes from the previous year saw the college ranked in the top five sixth form colleges nationally on both raw results and value added data.





EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS

Here are some of our most important expectations for BHASVIC students. As parents and carers, we would also like you to be aware of these:

WE EXPECT OUR STUDENTS TO:

- Act as positive ambassadors for the college and to treat all members of the community considerately. We expect their language, attitude and behaviour to reflect this.
- Respect their environment and to take responsibility for their own behaviour both on and off-site.
- Attend all timetabled commitments, including tutorials, Subject Review appointments and careers or other enrichment days/activities.
- Follow the correct procedure if they are absent (guidelines have been provided to students and are on the Parents and Carers' section of our website <https://www.bhasvic.ac.uk/parents-and-carers/attendance-and-absence/>) and be mindful of security on-site by wearing their college ID at all times.
- Arrive on time to lessons and meet deadlines for homework and coursework.
- Be active in their studies and seek out opportunities to deepen their understanding through wider reading and research, practice and experimentation.
- Put in at least four and a half hours of independent study per single subject per week (i.e., as many hours a week on homework as they have lessons per week in that subject). Independent study is an essential part of learning at this level: for students to achieve their potential, it is crucial for them to plan and organise their time effectively, including using their 'study periods' at college wisely.
- Make the most of their time at college by participating in enrichment opportunities such as music, drama, sport, college trips, talks, visits, clubs and societies, Student Union and Student Council events, social events, etc.

CAUSE FOR CONCERN

Contact the college by email, telephone or letter. Our email addresses work on the basis of the first letter of the forename followed by a dot and the full last name with bhasvic.ac.uk as the suffix. For example: j.smith@bhasvic.ac.uk In the case of a phone call, Reception will try to direct you to the appropriate Personal Tutor or Guidance Manager. If neither is available, they will take a message and someone will return your call, or put you through to leave a message on the Personal Tutor or Guidance Manager's telephone.

REPORTING & ASSESSMENT

Subject Teachers and Personal Tutors will discuss progress with students throughout their course. Subject Reviews take place at termly intervals through the year, where students have one-to-one meetings with staff and we report, formally, on progress to date via the online portal, Advantage, which both students and parents can access. Guidelines on setting up your Parent Advantage login will be sent

via e-mail early in the Autumn term, and you can monitor attendance and Support Plans via this portal. The focus of Subject Reviews is on assessment and grading by teachers, accompanied by self-reflection from the student. Further information is available on the Parent and Carers' page of the main BHASVIC website, <https://www.bhasvic.ac.uk/parents-and-carers/>

STUDENT SERVICES & SUPPORT

We hope that you will support the college by encouraging your young person to form good study habits and to let us know if there are reasons why they might be having problems.

The college offers a range of support mechanisms, including:

- Subject Extensions, in which teachers are timetabled to support students who need help with particular aspects of a subject;
- Subject Mentors, where second-year students support new students with subject content;
- Additional Learning Support, with specialised staff to provide a wide range of focused support for students with specific learning needs, as well as drop-in support for general study help;
- Personal Tutors and Guidance Managers (similar to a form tutor and head of year or house at school) are members of staff who provide holistic pastoral support to your young person;
- Student Services, a department providing highly specialised support including careers, counselling, welfare, work experience and financial advice.



KEEPING IN TOUCH

The college uses a text-messaging service to alert parents to their young person's unauthorised absence and to contact students regarding important meetings they have with staff. Please ask your young person to ensure that their personal details are up-to-date on Student Advantage, and that we have been notified of any changes to mobile phone numbers or other essential contact details. You can do this via Reception or by e-mailing your young person's Personal Tutor.

PARENTS' EVENINGS & KEY COLLEGE DATES

A1 Parents' Evenings with all subject teachers are scheduled for Wednesday 29 November and Monday 4 December 2017. If you have a cause for concern before this date regarding any aspect of your young person's progress at college, please contact the Personal Tutor in the first instance, as outlined above. There are also Meet The Tutor Parents' Evenings scheduled for Wednesday 4 October and Thursday 12 October: further information will be forthcoming, but we anticipate that appointments will be prioritised for those parents who have particular concerns which they wish to discuss. Please also see the Key College Dates section on the home page of the BHASVIC website for the times and dates of other events throughout the year <https://www.bhasvic.ac.uk/home/>

PART TIME WORK

Our experience shows that some paid employment can be of huge benefit to young people, especially at this stage in their development. However, it is important to be aware that students who do more than around 10 hours of paid work a week are likely to impede their chances of success in their studies. Any paid work must never prevent a student from attending all their commitments at college, and we advise that students should not work late shifts Sunday to Thursday nights.



ATTENDANCE

We expect 100% attendance from students and all absences are pursued vigorously. Students should be available for individual appointments, given appropriate notice, with members of staff throughout the college day. Holidays in term-time are always treated as unauthorised absences. We ask you to take particular notice of the BHASVIC term dates and arrange family holidays or other occasions so as to avoid absence during term-time and disruption to your young person's learning.

It is a requirement for students who wish to progress into a second year at BHASVIC to have full attendance in the period after first year progression exams (the second half of the summer term). Please note that any holiday

taken during this time may jeopardise progression and may mean a student is not allowed to return to BHASVIC. If attendance at lessons or tutor periods falls below 90% without good reason, students may be charged £50 towards the costs of assessment and risk being asked to leave the college.

The college must be formally notified of the reasons for any absence. There is an Absence Hotline 01273 559966 or you can e-mail outofcollege@bhasvic.ac.uk. For full details of what to do in case of absence, please refer to the document on the Parents and Carers' section of our website: "What to do if you are absent from College" <https://www.bhasvic.ac.uk/parents-and-carers/attendance-and-absence/>



CAREERS INFORMATION, ADVICE AND GUIDANCE (IAG)

Students will discuss their career plans with their Personal Tutor during tutorial periods. We have a Careers Library situated in the Student Services Centre, to which students have free access, and a Student Services Assistant who will help students with their queries. We also have two qualified Careers Advisers, and all students can request a careers interview by making an appointment in the Student Services Centre or e-mailing careers@bhasvic.ac.uk

There is a suite of self-access resources available online via the 'Careers & Next Steps' page of BHASVIC's Virtual Learning Environment (BHASVLE), which each student can use to help them with their research and explore their options. It is advisable that a student makes use of these resources, and spends some time reflecting on their interests, skills and abilities, before attending a careers appointment as this will help them to make the best possible use of their time with the adviser.

If you are interested in accessing resources you can use to support your young person to explore their options, there is a 'Parents and Carers Guide to Careers Information' on

the Parents & Carers section of the website <https://www.bhasvic.ac.uk/parents-and-carers/careers-information/>. The Parental Guidance site may also be helpful, <http://www.parentalguidance.org.uk> and if you have any further questions, please get in touch via careers@bhasvic.ac.uk.

Student Services also organises an annual Futures Fair where students can interact with local apprenticeship providers, businesses, voluntary organisations and universities. Last year, over 90 organisations attended. Parents and carers are welcome to attend this event on Thursday 25th January from 11:00, in our Sports Centre.

Over the coming year, we are hoping to build on our programme of careers and employability by strengthening our links with local businesses. This will enable us to offer more opportunities for students to hear about the realities of specific careers and perhaps to undertake work-experience placements. If you know a business that would be interested in taking part in this, or would consider offering work-experience placements, we would be very grateful you could let us know at careers@bhasvic.ac.uk

PROGRESSION TO SECOND YEAR

Please check this information carefully to ensure that you understand these criteria and can support your young person in successful progression.

At BHASVIC students sit exams towards the end of their A1 year. These take place at the end of May and are called 'Progression Exams'. These important exams meet the following educational needs:

- Formal assessment of each student's level of attainment, which informs predicted grades for university and other applications;
- Practice of examination conditions and analysis of performance to support achievement in the A2 year and final examinations;

- Assessment of suitability and continuation into the second year of a subject or a second year at the college.

Continuation into the A2 year at BHASVIC is not automatic and students must pass their progression exams in at least two single or one double Level 3 subject (A Levels or BTECs) to progress. There is detailed information about criteria to continue into the A2 year on the Parents and Carers' part of the college's website entitled "A1 to A2 Transfer Progression Criteria for the A2 year" <https://www.bhasvic.ac.uk/parents-and-carers/calendars-and-guides/progression-criteria-from-a1-into-the-a2-year/>.

The process to help your young person with decisions and plans once they leave BHASVIC begins early in the Spring term, in tutorial. We also hold Higher Education Information Evenings for parents and carers, scheduled for Tuesday 13 and 20 March 2018; and a Specialist Applications Evening (for Apprenticeships, Oxbridge, Visual Arts & Medical Careers) on Tuesday 8 May

2018. Students attend a Progression Day in June and are given further help with their applications during tutor periods in the Summer Term and throughout the Autumn Term of the second year. Increasingly, we are producing 'Guides for Parents' on careers, apprenticeship and HE pathways and these are available on the Parents & Carers' section of the website.

NEXT STEPS AFTER BHASVIC

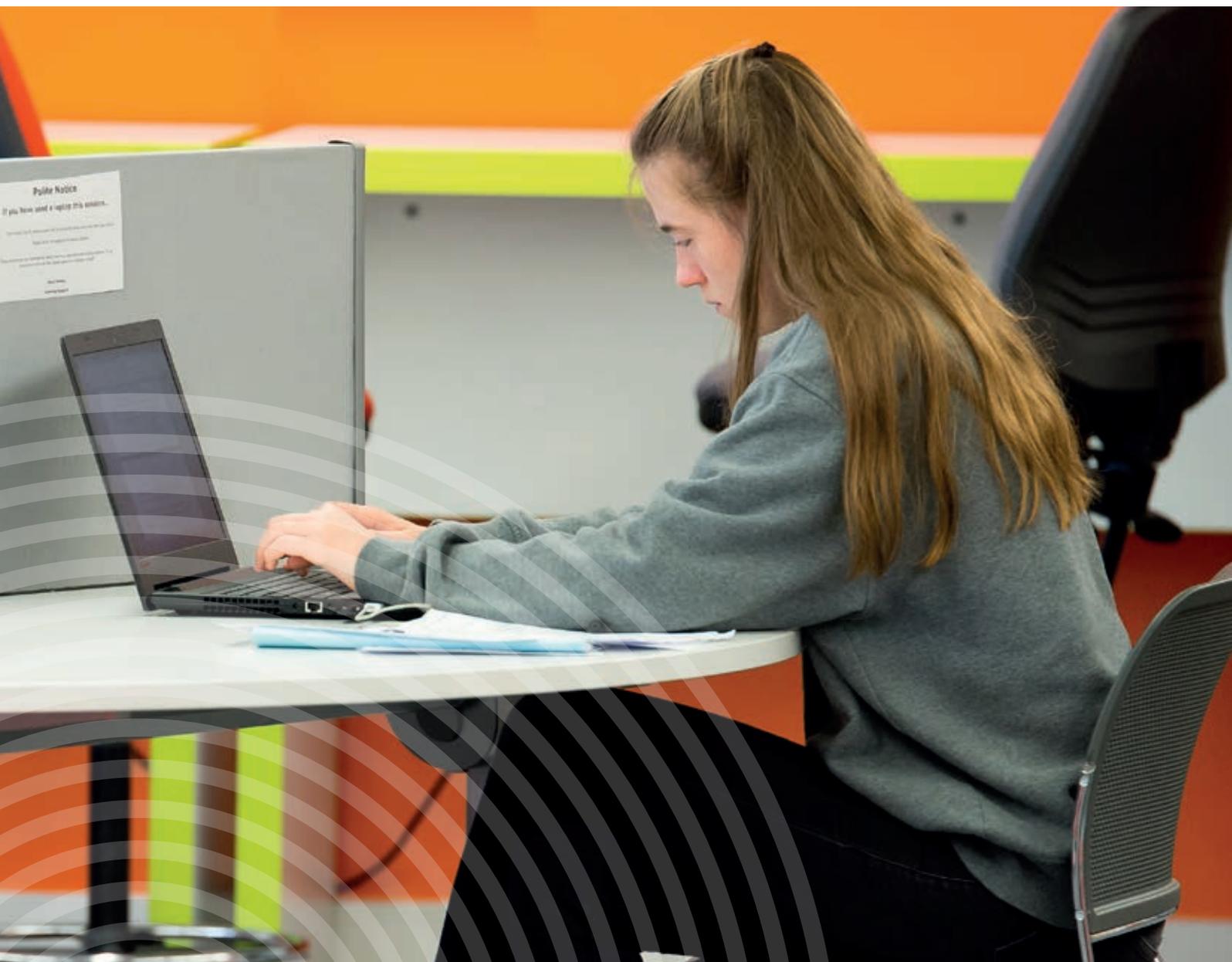
PARENTS' NETWORKS ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Don't forget you can follow up-to-date information about the college on social media; via Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/bhasvic.ac.uk> and Twitter [@BHASVIC](https://twitter.com/bhasvic). There are also 'Student Services' and 'Parent/Alumni' social media accounts, which will enable you to keep updated on general college and educational or welfare issues; and, for students, many subject areas now have their own social media presence.

BHASVIC PARENTS' FUND

Our purpose at BHASVIC is to transform students' lives through learning. This isn't only a matter of exam results, it is also about enabling students to grow in confidence, to take control of their own future and achieve their ambitions. Parents and carers play a key role in contributing to this work first and, most importantly, by supporting their young people. Additionally, every year parents and carers also contribute by donating funds to the college. BHASVIC needs this financial support in order to provide the best possible resources and facilities for our students. The money which parents and carers give helps finance activities in sport, music and drama; it helps equip the Library and Sports

Centre, it provides computers and supports Student Union functions. For this reason, we invite you please to assist us in providing the best possible education for your young person by making a voluntary contribution to BHASVIC of £75.00. Depending on your circumstances, you may wish to give more or less than this sum. You will find the 'Parents Fund Payment Form', together with a 'Gift Aid Declaration Form', on the Parents and Carers section of our website: <https://www.bhasvic.ac.uk/parents-and-carers/> Please accept our apologies and contact the PA to the Principal, Netti Buswell n.buswell@bhasvic.ac.uk if you do not wish to make a donation and we shall trouble you no further!



FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Each year the Government allocates a Bursary Fund to colleges. The fund is aimed at helping those young people facing the greatest financial barriers to studying at college and is targeted at students aged 16-19 who:

- are, or have been, in the care of the local authority;

- receive Income Support or Universal Credit in their own name;
- live in a household in receipt of some means-tested benefits or with a gross annual income of below £27,000;
- are Young Parents or Young Carers;
- live in a household which has experienced a redundancy or significant change in financial circumstances in the past six months.

Free College Meals may also be available to students from households in receipt of some means-tested benefits.

If you think your young person may be eligible for support, please see the full guidelines and application form on the Student Services page of the main BHASVIC website at <http://www.bhasvic.ac.uk/students/student-services.aspx>

SUPPORTING TRANSITION FROM SCHOOL TO COLLEGE

We are mindful that the transition from school to college can be both an exciting and daunting time for students and parents/carers. Students all adapt at their own pace and require different levels of support. The challenges are also varied: for some, it is about learning to manage their time and adapting to the workload and intensity of study at this level, whilst for others it is about adjusting to the size of the college, feeling comfortable with new friendship groups, or understanding the boundaries and expectations of a college environment with its emphasis on independence.

A focus of tutorial sessions in the first few weeks will be to assist students in settling in and supporting their individual needs.

It is important to recognise that some level of stress and anxiety is an expected, normal and healthy reaction to the numerous challenges our young people face during their time at college. However, for a number of students, their stress and anxiety can reach levels which start to have a

negative impact on their day to day lives, including their ability to engage with, and participate fully in, their learning.

If this happens we want to reassure you that there are services in place to help support them. Their Personal Tutor is always an excellent first port of call and, for those who may need more intensive or specialist advice, we have a dedicated team of Counsellors and a Welfare Coordinator who specialises in providing practical advice, support and strategies on a huge range of issues, such as peer and family relationships, housing, money worries, relaxation, physical and emotional health, sexual health, motivation, dealing with change, nutrition and exercise.

If you are ever concerned about your young person's emotional health and wellbeing, please contact us. You will also find a 'Young People's Support and Services' guide on the Parents and Carers section of the website <https://www.bhasvic.ac.uk/parents-and-carers/young-people-support-services/>

BHASVIC

 @BHASVIC

 /bhasvic.ac.uk

Our new website is currently under development and some of the web links referred to in this newsletter may not link to the exact information as indicated. All our most up-to-date information is available on the Parent & Carers' section of the main website www.bhasvic.ac.uk

