

Futures Fair 2020 – A unique event with over 100 exhibitors, see inside for details.



BHASVIC Shortlisted for 'Sixth Form College of the Year' in the TES Further Education Awards

*The winners will be revealed at the awards evening in March 2020.
Full information here*

Useful Links:

www.bhasvic.ac.uk/parents-carers-dashboard
www.twitter.com/studentservs

www.twitter.com/BHASVICLibrary
www.facebook.com/studentsservicesbhasvic

Welcome



James Moncrieff, Deputy Principal

Welcome to our Spring Term edition of the Parents/Carers Newsletter. Our students have successfully navigated the excitements, challenges and new discoveries of moving from school to college, or into their second year of sixth form. I trust that they have settled well into their study, work and social patterns – please do contact your young person’s personal tutor if not. With the Autumn Term behind us, we enter a new term and year, but also a new decade with our students. We are all aware of the incredible qualities, skills and values our students represent (from their generation).

BHASVIC students are motivated, well-informed, inclusive and creative young people and their values and abilities lead me to believe strongly in a very positive future, despite the challenges our global societies face. Our students will go on to take leadership roles in society and we aim to help them with their next, very big steps on that journey and into adulthood. Much in this newsletter highlights the work our students do and the support and opportunities we offer in helping them make decisions and gain successful progression into continued and high quality education and work.

I wanted to also take the opportunity to say a little about our approach to teaching and learning at BHASVIC. As a college, we are really interested in investigating and refining the most effective teaching and learning methods to help our students to achieve great exam and coursework results, and to equip them as confident learners for their future.

As the senior lead for admissions and school liaison, I am often asked about our ‘flipped learning’ approach. Parents and carers, in particular, at schools tell me they have heard rumours or are told by staff in other sixth forms or colleges about students having to teach themselves here. I am sometimes asked what ‘flipped learning’ is, because of some worries about it. I would like to debunk some of those rumours and provide a bit of context to BHASVIC’s approach to teaching our students.

As specialists in A level and BTEC provision, we recognise that these qualifications are rigorous, requiring students not only to understand and recall a large amount of complex information, but also to apply their learning to sophisticated problem solving. We recognise that students need support and skills training to make the challenging intellectual leap from GCSE. This leap

occurs for all students, regardless of where they came from or where they go to sixth form, because A-levels and BTECs are national qualifications – they are not ‘harder’ or ‘easier’ anywhere.

Our approach is probably best described as blended learning, where students learn via electronic and online media as well as traditional face-to-face teaching. Students are routinely set homework in which they prepare for their upcoming lessons, reading, note making and recording questions to take to class. Independent study tasks have to be of high quality and students must also be supported through clear objectives, high quality and accessible content and the development of their study skills over time.

In class, the teacher explores and tests the prior learning, ensures understanding and adds more complex and challenging concepts to it. Students have the time to practice higher-level analysis and problem-solving skills with the teacher present, in the lesson, to assess, support and guide their progress. Of course, this is also not the only approach used by BHASVIC teachers, who employ a wide range of teaching, learning and assessment methods most relevant to the subject, topic, class and stage in the course.

We have found this approach to be far more helpful to students than the conventional lecture format where students spend lessons making notes on a new and unfamiliar topic and then attempt the more complex application skills on their own in homework. I know many of our parents and carers will have been on courses or training themselves, where some prior reading helps make the course even more interesting and productive for them.

Teachers will always be searching for ways to help their students maximise their learning and develop the skills and lifelong learning techniques they need to be successful. We believe that our students benefit from learning how to learn whilst they are here, and that the aspects of pre-preparation for lessons, and provision of high-quality online materials to support learning, that we have taken from the flipped approach really help students to learn. We equally believe that there is nothing that can replace high-quality teacher-student interactions in the classroom, and that these are the key to our students’ achievements.

With very best wishes for the 2020s.

SUPPORT PLANS

What is a Support Plan and what are its implications?

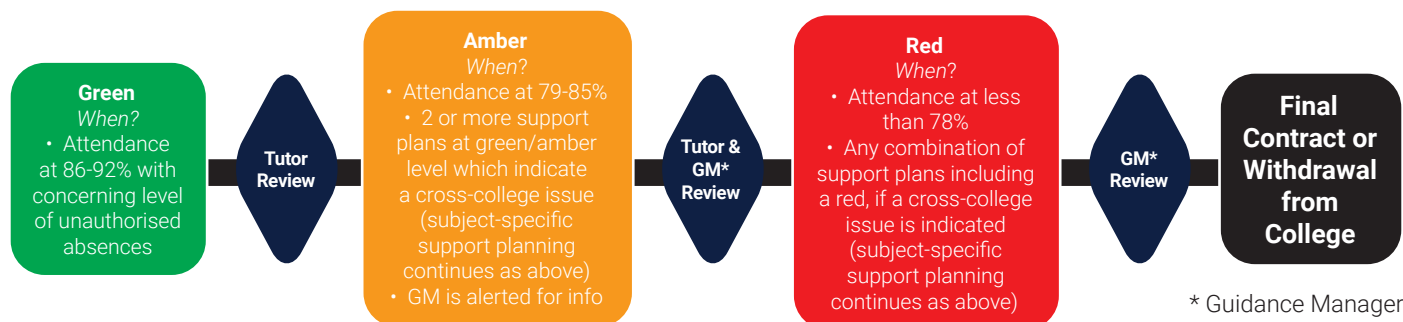
During their time at BHASVIC, many students will have a discussion with a member of staff resulting in a set of targets. The Support Plan is the college's system documenting progress towards these targets.

The plan will outline additional support available such as subject extensions and additional learning resources to help the student achieve their targets.

The Support Planning system is not designed to be a 'report' system or to be punitive but to encourage students to take responsibility for their own learning and progress.

To assist in this, **the plans are available to parents via Parent Advantage on our website bhasvic.ac.uk on the Parents and Carers Dashboard.**

We hope that through good communication we can enable students to assume responsibility for their success whilst also providing a supportive environment for this to take place.



PROGRESS REVIEWS (TERMLY) FOR ALL STUDENTS

Once a term you receive information about your young person's progress through Progress Reviews. The next publication date is:



At the end of the summer term, progression exam results will also be available to A1 parents and carers via Parent Advantage. Please see our website for full information:



Progress Reviews

For Information:

A2 mock exam week will take place from Monday 10 to Friday 14 February 2020.

In preparation for final A level exams this summer, students will greatly benefit from experiencing a formal exam for each of their A levels in February.

To enable mock exams to take place during one week, there will be an adjustment to the college timetable for **all students**. Students will be informed of this in tutorial and, two weeks

beforehand, we will be taking all students through the planning of their individual lesson schedule for mock exam. Lessons will be at slightly different times for the week, with one double lesson of 3 hours and one normal lesson of 90 minutes, instead of the usual three 90 minute lessons. **Communication with full details has been emailed to all students, parents and carers in advance.**

Save The Date...

Celebrating the achievements of our second-year students... with a little help from the first years.

**Information will be sent in due course.*

B-FEST

Thursday 30 April 2020

Between The Downs and Sea We Flourish

EMOTIONAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

by James Barton, Guidance Manager (Emotional Health and Wellbeing) and Personal Tutor



Sleep Focus Group

Following on from an Emotional Health and Wellbeing survey last year, BHASVIC students identified sleep as being one of the things that had the biggest negative affect on their wellbeing. In response to this, we organised a focus group session that was open to any students who identified as having

a significant issue with sleep. The session consisted of a discussion around sleep led by an Educational Psychologist that was audio recorded and will be used to inform the college and local authority on how we can help to improve the support for good sleep for young people (all contributions are anonymous).



Raising Teens Radio Discussion

Parents and carers maybe interested to hear about a series **Raising Teens**, created by BBC Sussex & Surrey and Making Good Trouble as they have produced a warm-hearted and honest round-table discussion about parenting teenagers and teen mental health. It is hosted by presenter Guy Lloyd and includes teens' own stories from Make (Good) Trouble's young reporter Lola Ray. Her teen stories are surprising, thought provoking and often delightful. The show aims to bring those involved in raising teens together to dispel myths around teen mental health and offer practical help and tips. Please go to our website on the parents and carers dashboard to listen to Raising Teens.

Wellbeing Peer Mentoring Group



As part of the second year portfolio course options, we offered students the chance to sign up to a **Wellbeing Peer Mentoring Group** for the first time this year. We were delighted by the interest in the course and the 12 students who signed up to take part began in October with a day's worth of Youth Mental Health First Aid training helping them to build their knowledge and skills. Since then they have helped an Educational Psychologist to workshop

Parent & Student Seminar – How to be An A Level Neuro-Ninja

On Monday 3 February we were delighted to offer an engaging, insightful and innovative seminar designed to support our wonderful students in making the best preparation for their A level exams this summer. Wellbeing expert Andrew Wright presented a seminar with the latest information from neuroscience and psychology in an engaging, inspirational and accessible way for young people (and their parents). The core focus of the seminar was to inspire young people about their brain's incredible capacities, explaining how these can be truly unleashed when we fully understand what our brain needs us to do every day to look after it. The seminar explored what the neuroscience of wellbeing and anxiety tells us about how we need to respond every day to get the very best out of our brains. There was lots of advice and daily strategies students could apply immediately to improve wellbeing, anxiety and stress management as well as loads of advice on the most effective way to study. The audience also heard about the daily practices we want our "study athletes" to develop to ensure they not only survive their A levels, but actually enjoy them. A level exams are like preparing for running a marathon; once we understand our incredible brain and how to get the most out of it, we can transform both our performance and our engagement and enjoyment of our day-to-day lives. If you missed this, we hope to hold similar events in the future. Please see our parents and carers website page here: bhasvic.ac.uk for further information.

BHASVIC 'Refreshers Fair' held on Wednesday 29 January

The Student Union and EDI/Welfare Coordinator host the **'Refreshers Fair'** each year for students, (following the 'Freshers' and Enrichment Fair' in September 2019), to continue to promote; student societies, positive health, safety and wellbeing messages, and opportunities to get involved in activities, volunteering and community participation, whilst signposting organisations that can offer support.

This event is an opportunity for BHASVIC students and staff, to raise awareness of any student enrichment activities such as; groups, clubs, educational trips, or even host a fundraising stall. Full enrichment information can be found on the parents and carers page here: bhasvic.ac.uk

the Emotional Health & Wellbeing Survey and begun work with **YMCA Right Here** as **#IAMWHOLE ambassadors** looking at how young people can support each other to reduce stigma towards mental health. The students use weekly sessions to explore how the college can support BHASVIC students' wellbeing as well as engaging with wider issues including World Mental Health Day and awareness campaigns. In the coming weeks Sussex University will be visiting the group to workshop and develop resources as part of a national project to support young people's mental health and wellbeing in the transition between further education and higher education/work/further training. A big thank you from BHASVIC to these students continued hard work and commitment.



Wellbeing in Tutorial

For both our A1 and A2 students we continue to deliver practical emotional health and wellbeing resources in tutorial sessions. Over the last term, this has included sessions on how to improve the length and quality of students' sleep, active listening skills and how to support friends who are dealing with mental health issues, and the importance of self-care.

The wellbeing resources have been refreshed in response to students' feedback on last year's college-wide Emotional Health & Wellbeing survey and our current A1 and A2 students have had the chance to complete this again in January to ensure we have the most up-to-date information.



HIGER EDUCATION, CAREERS & EMPLOYABILITY



Higher Education



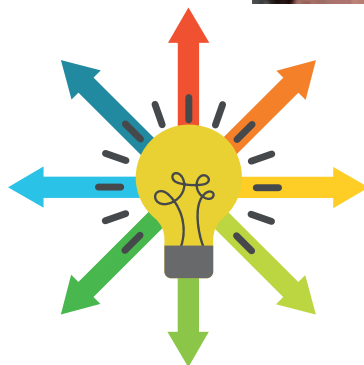
Careers & Employability



Adele Fox
Careers Adviser
and Personal Tutor



Lynne Trower
Careers Adviser and
Widening Participation
Coordinator



Futures Fair – Explore the Possibilities

We had over 100 exhibitors attending our annual Futures Fair, representing higher education, further education, apprenticeships, gap year providers, volunteering and employment. BHASVIC are unique in the city for organising a careers event in college, on this scale, which is dedicated for our students; parents and carers were also welcome to visit. The universities that attended included not just our three local providers, **but also many of the top 15 destinations for our students**, such as Manchester, Bristol, Sheffield, Southampton, Portsmouth, Exeter, Kent and Imperial. We had multinational and local businesses also in attendance. Further resources and information on the event are here on the **Careers and Employability** section of the website. Our

specialist careers advisers promote and organise a range of opportunities that are advertised for students regularly in the Student Bulletin and on the Student VLE.

Twelve workshops also took place during the fair; the full list are can be found here: **bhasvic.ac.uk**, please see links **Futures Fair Talks** and **New Additional Talks**. A full list of exhibitors are also available here: **Exhibitor List**. For the first time we are able to show live footage of the workshops coming soon on our website. This incredible event was organised by our **Careers Advisers (Adele Fox and Lynne Trower)** and the **Student Services Team**. All the above links can be found on our website **bhasvic.ac.uk**.



Widening Participation Launch

BHASVIC held its annual Widening Participation launches during October 2019, these were held at BHASVIC and at the University of Sussex. Students and their parents/carers were invited if they had been identified as being eligible, which was established following completion of the summer survey.

We had approximately 80 - 100 BHASVIC attendees alongside Widening Participation students from other local colleges. The evening was a great success with many parents and students speaking to BHASVIC advisors who were available following the

presentations. If you are interested in finding more about **Widening Participation** please see **bhasvic.ac.uk** for further information on our support services and the **WP Newsletter Winter Edition**

All students should now have completed the summer survey and will have been informed if they are eligible. If any students have not completed the survey, please go to the survey link which can be found on our website above and you will receive information about upcoming events.

A1 PARENT EVENTS COMING UP – MARCH AND MAY

At BHASVIC, we are aware that the variety of options available for post-18 study and/or employment can be confusing and overwhelming to navigate for students and their parents. The cost to the individual of studying a degree, and the impact this is having on admissions policies at universities, means that it is increasingly important to be confident about the facts and the choices your young person is making. To help support you in your discussions with your young person about their decisions we will be inviting A1 Parents to the following evenings:-



Nikki Fabry,
Guidance Manager
(Higher Education)
& Personal Tutor

Thursday 5 March & Tuesday 10 March

Progression and Higher Education (HE) A1 Parents Information Evenings

Each evening starts with a brief introductory talk giving an overview of the variety of options now available post-18, and the support that is available at BHASVIC. We then outline what studying a degree involves and focus on the important decision-making process. We will also outline the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) application process and provide an overview of student finance.

This is a parent only event as students are guided through this process in tutorial.

Dedicated A2 Pathways

Students have the option, for their second year, to choose a specialist tutor group which focusses on the application process for their next steps after BHASVIC, whether this be **university, employment, apprenticeships, art foundation, Oxbridge or medical careers.** This choice is made during the **A1-A2 transfer** process, which commences in late February 2020 and runs until mid-March. As parents and carers, you will receive more information about the A1-A2 transfer process during the Progression & HE Information Evenings, please also see our website **hasvic.ac.uk** for further information.

Tuesday 5 May

Specialist Application Evenings

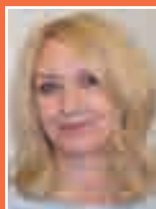
Further to the evenings outlined we are also hosting a Specialist Applications Evening. This event will provide important information and advice about the routes that many of our students apply through which have different deadlines or additional processes to the standard UCAS system:

- Applications for an Apprenticeship or Employment
- Applications to study Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science
- Applications to Oxford or Cambridge university
- Applications for those students wishing to study a Visual Arts foundation course or who wish to apply directly to a Visual Arts degree course (such as Art and Design, Photography, Textiles, Fashion, Graphic Design, Illustration, etc.)
- Applications to Music Conservatoires.

Invitations for both events will follow soon from our Student Services team. Please look on our website hasvic.ac.uk in our Higher Education and Careers & Employability sections where you will find a wealth of information for parents and carers to help guide you through these areas.

We frequently host **Employability and Enterprise** visitors to our **E&E Tutor Groups**, past and future visitors include a local business owner and entrepreneur, and representatives from the following organisations:

Mandy Brindle, ►
Guidance Manager
(Employability & Enterprise) & Personal Tutor



- Morrisons
- Sussex Council of Training Providers
- University of Chichester
- Neilson Holidays
- Oyster Worldwide
- Skerrits Chartered Financial Planners
- The NHS

HIGHER EDUCATION NEWS

Our general office team have been extremely busy processing over...



BHASVIC NEWS

It is not possible to mention all our news in here so please look at our website: [BHASVIC News](#)

Election Fever gripped BHASVIC in December 2019; we encouraged students who are over 18 to vote in the Election, information was given in Tutorial and via the Student Union. We welcomed many of the local MPs and Candidates who came in during lunchtimes in November and December including: **Peter Kyle, Labour, Hove; Ben Thomas, Liberal Democrats, Kemptown; Caroline Lucas, Green Party, Brighton Pavilion and Joe Miller, Conservative, Kemptown.** The event organised by the BHASVIC **Politics team and the Student Union Political Societies.** All events were open to students and staff, and began on Monday 25 November with the very well attended **Student Union Question Time** in the Main Hall followed in December by **Student Mock General Elections.**



DfE Compare Schools and Colleges Performance Tables

The government's education performance tables are a little-publicised tool for students, parents and carers to compare key performance indicators. Although 'league tables' do not tell you anything like the full story about a school or college, they do have a place in helping to compare student outcomes between providers. Please see link here: **School Performance - Compare schools and colleges.** The Principal has provided some headlines from these tables in his Annual Report, available to you shortly. However, I wanted to draw the attention of the tables to those of you who like to have a look out the raw data. Some key points about how Senior Managers and Governors use these tables for continual improvement at BHASVIC:

- **Number of students** = we compare our performance to other, similarly sized providers. BHASVIC is the sixth largest A level provider in the country, but schools and colleges with as few

as 3 students in their sixth forms are listed.

- **Type of provider** = we try not to compare ourselves with selective or independent providers. Entry requirements for such school sixth forms and academies can be exceptionally high.
- **Progress Score** = this is by far the most important measure in the tables and tells you how much progress students who studied at the school or college made between the end of key stage 4 and the end of their sixth form, compared to similar students across England. These scores are also known as 'value added' scores.

Happy data mining! James Moncrieff, Deputy Principal.

Advanced Teaching Practitioner

A new high in teaching excellence. Lesley Clarke is nationally one of the first to qualify as an **Advanced Teaching Practitioner**, which means she is now qualified to continue to lead and mentor other staff in the latest research-based methods of teaching and learning.



◀ **Lesley Clark,**
Sociology teacher
and Flourish Mentor

Chartered Teacher Award

Recognising the expertise of teachers and celebrating their accomplishments, we are pleased to share that Sandra Clinton was awarded **Chartered Teacher status** in 2019. This status has a hugely positive impact on practice and highlights the importance of teaching expertise in supporting future generations.



◀ **Sandra Clinton,**
Head of Chemistry
and Physics

LOOKOUT

Last year BHASVIC worked with creative mentoring project LOOKOUT to match 10 A2 students with a creative mentor and to deliver a series of workshops and creative trips across the whole college. LOOKOUT also worked with year five students at Benfield Primary School and brought everyone together in a showcase at The Old Market in July to celebrate all the work over the year. LOOKOUT connects young people, artists and businesses through creativity and will be working with BHASVIC again for 2019/20. You can see their amazing work on their website: projectlookout.org

Dance - Three students have joined the National Youth Dance Company of England (NYDC), having been selected from over 400 dancers from across the country. With only 30 contracts available in the company, each year competition for places is great. These students are three of 20 female dancers and 20 male dancers chosen to join the 2019/2020 cohort.



National Theatre
Connections
2020

social media
boundaries
money
family
#troll
peer pressure

The It
Vivienne Franzman

BHASVIC Theatre: Wednesday 26th to Saturday 29th February at 7pm & Saturday 29th at 3pm
Tickets – £5 Full Price and £3 Concession – Tickets available on www.ticketsource.co.uk (Search for BHASVIC)



For all our BHASVIC Sporting News please see our website BHASVIC Sport, highlights are listed below:

- First year students Asha Andrews and Izzy Wood have just been selected for the Under 18 England Basketball Squad.
- Second year BHASVIC student Gemma Creamer completed a women's international box cup tournament in December which was broadcasted live on **BBC SPORT**.
- Ladies football have reached the last 16 of the national knock-out cup; 5 players represent Sussex and 3 have won scholarships to play/study in the USA next year.

BHASVIC IN THE COMMUNITY

The Dials Foodbank

Eight million people in the UK struggle to get enough food to eat. Food insecurity can be triggered by a crisis or change in personal circumstances or in many cases, the combination of high living costs and stagnate wages. You may have seen the recent headline - **There are now more foodbanks in the UK than McDonalds!** We have seen the impact of food hunger here at BHASVIC where students who are thriving academically have insecure access to food. We decided to combat this by creating **The Dials Foodbank** set up by our Guidance Manager, Tania Banks. We are working with FareShare who provide us with a weekly delivery of

food that we use for the The Dials Social Club which takes place on a Monday lunchtime and for students to access food to take home for themselves and their families. We are aware that some young people may feel the stigma of living in food poverty, so we are very discreet and we maintain confidentiality. We accept donations of long-life food, sanitary and toiletry products, which can be donated at the Student Services reception. If a student would like to access the food bank they can complete a referral form, available on the student VLE and through Student Services and a suitable collection, time will be offered.



Tania Banks,
Guidance Manager
(Inclusion and Social Mobility)
and Personal Tutor

BHASVIC ROCKED THE RIBBON

To mark **World Aids Day** our student, staff, parents and carers donated money and wore a red ribbon to support people living with HIV and AIDS. The money BHASVIC raised will be donated to **The National AIDS Trust**. Thank you all for your generosity.



MESSAGE FROM OUR CIS DEPARTMENT

The majority of our communication with parents is via email. Your young person gave BHASVIC an email address for you at their interview or enrolment and this is the primary way we will communicate with you. However, we do still have a number of parents without valid email addresses. If you haven't received anything from us then it is likely to mean we don't have the correct email address for you.

It is the responsibility of your young person to provide us with up-to-date and accurate contact information so **if you are not currently receiving emails from BHASVIC please encourage them to come to us with a current working email address for you.**

Parent Advantage enables you to track the progress of your young person and is available on our website here: bhasvic.ac.uk

BHASVIC Parent**Advantage** ▶▶

If you already have a Parent Advantage account and wish to view information about a student already linked to your account please enter your registered email and password below.

Your Email Address

Your Password

A selection of BHASVIC events, including festive fun for students, staff and the community.



The BHASVIC Student Union, who do a fantastic job organising and helping at our many college events including our Parents Evenings.



Just one of many student run stalls at the Refreshers Fair in January.



BHASMAS Christmas Revue & Fayre. Young Enterprise students enjoyed selling products they had made.



Christmas Revue staff choir, featuring William Baldwin on drums, Nik Le Saux on guitar and Victoria Hayter, A level music student, playing saxophone.



Our annual Christmas Concert, take yourselves back to the festivities by watching footage from our website bhasvic.ac.uk



Our fantastic quartet of saxophonists.

KEY DATES



Please always check the College Calendar on our website bhasvic.ac.uk for a detailed schedule of the Academic year.

BHASVIC

 @BHASVIC

 /bhasvic.ac.uk

Further Information and Useful Links:

www.bhasvic.ac.uk/parents-carers-dashboard
www.twitter.com/studentsservs

www.facebook.com/studentsservicesbhasvic
www.twitter.com/BHASVICLibrary