



22 September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer/Student

We wanted to write to parents and carers of our new first year students to welcome you to the college and to let you know about the main ways we aim to keep you up-to-date and informed with key events across the college year, as well as individual student progress.

Parent/Carer Dashboard and FAQs on the website

We hope that you will find most of the information you need on our parent/carer page of the main BHASVIC website [HERE](#). This has information about a range of college activity and provision including [guides to attendance and absence](#), [online payments and course charges](#), [key college events and calendars](#), as well as [higher education](#) applications, [careers and apprenticeship](#) advice, and support for [young people's emotional health & wellbeing](#). Our most up-to-date information is usually at the top, on the Noticeboard section of this Parent/Carer page, or on the [FAQs](#) page. We are adding to our information all the time, so do please e-mail info@bhasvic.ac.uk if you see anything which is missing or have suggestions or additions.

Parent Advantage online account – tracking individual student progress

We will be in touch shortly with instructions on how to access your online Parent Advantage account. This is a secure account which shows you up-to-date attendance, timetable, support plans, exam entries and other information. Once activated, Parent Advantage will be available by clicking the link on the [Parent and Carer Dashboard](#). We will send two emails to this address*. One will have an authentication code to activate your account and instructions to access the system and the second will allow you to link your account to your student's account. Please look out for this email in the next few days.

***Changes to parent/carer email address** - If this is not the best email address to use, please ensure we are informed of the correct contact details so that we can update our records. The best way to do this is for the student to email us on CIS@bhasvic.ac.uk by **Monday 27 September** from their BHASVIC email account. If the email comes from a non-BHASVIC account, please ensure it includes name and date of birth of the student within the subject line. Please note any requests from a non-BHASVIC account will have to be confirmed by the student.

Progress Reviews (termly)

Once a term, you will receive information about your young person's progress through Progress Reviews. Current planned publication dates are round one **Wednesday 17 November 2021** and round two **Wednesday 23 March 2022**. At the end of the summer term, A1 exam results ('Progression Exams') will also be available via Parent Advantage. Please check the Parent/Carer Dashboard for full information on Progress Reviews [HERE](#).

Meet the Tutor evenings are on **Wednesday 13 October** and **Thursday 21 October**. You will have the opportunity to book a short online video appointment to speak to your young person's Personal Tutor. More information will be sent nearer the time, together with tutor availability for each evening.

A1 (first year) subject-based parent evenings are scheduled for **Thursday 13 January** and **Wednesday 19 January**, when you will have the opportunity to book online appointments with subject teachers. We also hold virtual information evenings about Higher Education, specialist applications, careers and progression pathways later in the Spring Term (March & May), which are always very popular and well attended.

Course Change requests

As mentioned in last week's update from the Principal, we always have a course change 'window' over the first two weeks of term: the deadline is Friday 1 October. This year, we are asking students to think very carefully before requesting a change, as many subjects are already full and have waiting lists. We always aim to be honest with students and have realistic conversations about what may be possible, linked to their ultimate career aims as well as wider skills and interests. Students considering a change request should read our [FAQs](#) under A1 (first year) Start of Term Arrangements and we ask them to be patient. We have a specialist Help Desk team and we will communicate with all those who post a request, but we may not be able to meet the demand in many subjects. For this reason, students need to attend the lessons on their timetable on Student Advantage unless or until it updates, which will only happen following a conversation with a Help Desk adviser.

Freshers and Enrichment Fair – Wednesday 29 September

We are delighted to begin the new term with our first student enrichment event of the year. Our Freshers' Fair runs from 10am-2pm and we hope to showcase enrichment across the college campus. There will be exhibitions and stalls in the Main Hall, Elms Theatre and in both the Courtyard and Piazza (weather permitting) where students can find out more about a host of student clubs and societies, trips and opportunities to get involved in the college and wider community. Normal timetable continues on this day.

Parents' and Carers' Newsletter (termly)

Finally, after October half term, you will receive the Autumn Term edition of Parent & Carers' News, via e-mail, which is our termly update on events, activities and enrichment. Once again, we hope you find this useful and informative, and do please take time to feedback to us if you feel there is anything else you would like to see included in future editions. You can see previous editions and view information on all our events and communication [HERE](#). Please do also follow us through our online BHASVIC community on social media [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#).

We hope that students are already enjoying the college experience and you feel informed about what is planned over the coming weeks and months. Please do not hesitate to contact your young person's Personal Tutor or any one of the Student Support, Student Experience or Student Guidance teams ([Our Support Service](#)) if you have any further questions.

Best wishes,



Alison Cousens
Assistant Principal (Student Services)