



11 June 2021

A1 Parent/Carer/Student Update

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

I hope you managed to get a break over the Bank holiday and/or half-term and enjoyed the good weather.

As you will know, this week has been **Progression Week** which has occurred remotely. I know this is less than ideal after periods of lockdown but it has allowed us 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. Please see the **Progression Week padlet** [HERE](#) which gives a flavour of the activities on offer: the first two columns give info on webinars and short courses which will remain available after this week. Students will also have further updates on a planned follow-up, called “**Hello Future!**”, in the week beginning Monday 12th July, which is run in association with the Careers & Enterprise Company . There is a Parent/Carer event at 6pm on Monday 12th July which you can sign up to now, [HERE](#)

Having a remote week ‘off timetable’ has allowed our teaching staff teams to get together and spend significant time moderating and **determining grades**. With around 8,000 grades to determine, this has been no mean feat and staff are feeling the weight of responsibility of this. In addition to that, we have provided some traditional INSET as we upskill staff with SharePoint, provide GDPR and Safeguarding training as well as plan ahead for the next term and academic year.

One disappointing incident during Progression Week was the behaviour of a handful of students who sabotaged the **UCAS Information** session with inappropriate use of the chat channel. To stop this, we had to end the session, much to the detriment of the majority who were keen to find out more. Our ‘Acceptable use of IT’ policy and our internal IT systems are tightly controlled, so it was easy to identify those involved (and I’m surprised the students themselves didn’t realise this). What I’m more surprised about is how unusual this is for BHASVIC students. We will work with those students to help them learn and mature from this. The UCAS talk itself has been re-filmed and posted, and the week as a whole has been really successful, with lots of daily opportunities for workshops and virtual tours/activities. However, this links into progression guidance around behaviour in the workplace and professional and responsible online behaviour. There are a number of sessions on this at the “**Hello Future!**” event, and all students will be signposted to “[Professional Networking on Social Media](#)” “[Creating a Personal Brand](#)” and “[Authenticity in the Workplace](#)”

There is one other landmark to highlight this half term. From 21st – 30th June we have **A1 Summer Exams**. As previously stated these are low stakes and are intended as a learning opportunity to get some exam practice and experience. These are centralised exams so we will be off timetable for this period. Some lessons may still take place, such as the Visual Arts A Levels and the relevant teachers have told their students the details. Exam timetables can be viewed on Student Advantage and seating plans will be issued on Tuesday 15th/Wednesday 16th June 10am-2pm outside the Copper café in the Piazza. The last day of the summer term for students is Tuesday 13th July.

Linked to this, we will be ensuring there is **wellbeing support for students during Study Leave**. On **Monday 21st June (8-9pm)** we are pleased to offer our A1 students a wellbeing webinar with our partner Andrew Wright. The Webinar will include information on managing exam stress and making a positive transition into your second year, introduced by a member of our Guidance & Student Services team. A link will follow next week. We will also offer two **Guided Relaxation sessions: Wednesday 23rd & 30th June, 7.30pm**. Led by trained Hypnotherapist Lindsay Hardman via Zoom these are perfect for any student who is feeling particularly unsettled or anxious, all that is required is a quiet, comfortable space and good internet connection. Any student interested just needs to message wellbeing@bhasvic.ac.uk to request a place and be sent the link to join.

On the subject of wellbeing, BHASVIC is working with an organisation called Citizens UK to help create positive changes around the support for young people's mental health in Brighton & Hove.

On **Monday 14th June we are asking all students to complete this [Mental Health survey](#)** so we can gain an understanding of students' current experiences in this area. Our Wellbeing Student Ambassadors will also be speaking to students on the day about their experiences with mental health and support, and presenting their findings from this along with the survey to Citizens UK and other partner organisations on Thursday 17th June. Don't forget we have a range of support services within BHASVIC to help students with their Emotional Health & Wellbeing. You can read more about these via the wellbeing page of our website here <https://www.bhasvic.ac.uk/wellbeing>

An update can't go by without mention of **Coronavirus**. Over half-term we were made aware of three positive cases of students which led to the quarantine of a number of close contacts. We have subsequently been made aware by Public Health England that these cases have been identified as the 'Delta' variant of concern. This is unsurprising given that it is now the dominant variant in the country. Public Health Teams are requesting that all students who have been close contacts of a Delta variant take a PCR test. There is an increase in cases amongst teenagers in our area and with a more transmissible variant, I expect there to be more cases at BHASVIC. It remains to be seen whether the Government hold back on easing restrictions for 21st June and/or whether the approach is to tolerate cases in the younger population so long as hospital admissions and deaths do not increase. In the meantime, we will require students to wear face coverings in lessons and inside (apart from café/canteen) and encourage students to make the most of good weather by spending their free time outside.

If a student does have Covid, please do let us know by emailing outofcollege@bhasvic.ac.uk. I know it is frustrating for those subsequently quarantined, but we are obliged by the Government to track and isolate close contacts.

Students should continue to **self-test** twice weekly and particularly before returning to site please. The annual BHASVIC Creative Arts Festival will start later this month where we showcase and celebrate our students' achievements and creativity in the visual and performing arts, media and English. Look out for invitations and notifications from us, as well as promotions via our [News webpage](#).

The [Apps For Good](#) competition has chosen two BHASVIC student teams from our BTEC Computing class to go through to their final 15 apps, from thousands of entries. The two BHASVIC entries are both brilliant concepts [Anti-Fashion Clothing](#) and [ReFood](#). It would be wonderful if you voted for your choice of winner as part of the 'people's vote' competition and if either of the BHASVIC entries won your vote... well, that would be wonderful!

Best wishes,



William Baldwin
Principal