



18 June 2021

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

**Covid** cases are rising fast amongst 15-19 year olds in the city and doubling every week. This is unsurprising given this group are not vaccinated, in close proximity at school/college and, like the rest of us, are looking to socialise more. At BHASVIC we have had 7 positive student cases and 1 positive staff case this week. This has led to the quarantine of 37 students as close contacts from within lessons. All 7 cases stem from one external social event and the staff case is unrelated to student cases. As far as we are aware there has been no onward transmission onsite.

Quarantining students who have been close contacts is frustrating for them and their families; we understand that. We are obliged to do this under a government directive and aim to ensure that learning is not too disrupted for these students.

**A1 Exams** take place next week and into the start of the following week, meaning students will not be following their normal timetable. Students will be required to wear face coverings in exams and, by their very nature, exams enforce social distancing while students sit them. Please note the council have updated their guidance supporting schools to reinstate the use of face coverings in lessons across the Secondary phase in the city.

Whilst these exams are low stakes in terms of progression to next year, they are a fantastic learning opportunity. There are limited opportunities for students to be assessed in large venue exam conditions, so we do expect students to prepare fully for them and take them seriously. I know the vast majority are! We ask that students please do not block 'Crocodile Walk' footpath while waiting to go into exams and that they spread out and use the Courtyard outside the Elms building.

Please see a reminder of the **wellbeing support for students during Study Leave**:

- **Monday 21<sup>st</sup> 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 James Barton (Guidance Manager within our Guidance & Student Services team). Sign up [HERE](#)
- **Guided Relaxation sessions: Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> June, 7.30pm.** Led by trained Hypnotherapist Lindsay Hardman via Zoom these are perfect for any student who is feeling 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](mailto:wellbeing@bhasvic.ac.uk) to request a place and be sent the link to join.
- **Summer Stretch in the Sunshine – Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June and Monday 28<sup>th</sup> June – 9.00am – 9.45am –** Meet in Reception in the Student Services building. Join Alison Goodier, Personal Tutor, for a gentle stretch routine on either or both of these two mornings to relax and energise you for the week ahead. Focusing on breathing techniques and flowing movements based on yoga and chi gung forms. Any student interested just needs to message [wellbeing@bhasvic.ac.uk](mailto:wellbeing@bhasvic.ac.uk) to request a place but there may be spaces if you just turn up. Weather permitting, we hope this will take place outside.

Following on from our **Progression Week careers-related activities**, you may like to take a look at the following website [UCAS Discovery Week](#) - running online from **22<sup>nd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> June**. It is a week full of inspiration, information, and live events for students, parents and carers during the day and evenings. There is also a month long [virtual careers fair](#), with over 30 exhibitors from our local region running **from now until 16<sup>th</sup> July**. Further information will also be posted on our Parent/Carer webpage about these and other events, shortly.

**Carbon Literacy Course** A reminder that we are piloting a self-study Carbon Literacy Course which will lead to an accredited qualification from The Carbon Literacy Project and Manchester Met University. If students have finished exams and are waiting for lessons to begin then this is something to engage with and should take no more than one day of study. More details for students on BHASVLE [here](#).

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William Baldwin', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

William Baldwin  
Principal