



17 September 2021

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

Welcome to those new and returning as we start the academic year. Firstly, I'd like to congratulate all our students for a very successful first few days of term. This week is the first time that BHASVIC has operated at full capacity onsite since before the pandemic – so even for our second-year students it will have felt busy. From what I have observed, students are settling in quickly, and whilst we know there are still a few issues to be resolved, it is great to see the college in full swing. We aim to give students a really good start and it is clear they are making the most of that.

### **Enrolment**

People often ask why we don't start teaching until a week after the schools return. The answer is that we never quite know who we are going to get and what they will want to do. Despite detailed pre-planning, it takes us about a week after enrolment to sort timetabling and resources out. In terms of enrolment, we remain incredibly popular but have been able to honour all places, which, given the variables and disruption the pandemic has presented, is a fantastic position to be in. Not only have been able to accommodate everyone who wanted to come here, we've also been able to provide places in all the subjects that were requested at interview. In addition, we have been able to provide most of the changes to courses requested prior to and at enrolment, whilst also maintaining class sizes at 22 or below.

### **Course changes**

For those who have requested a subject and are on a waiting list, or wish to change a subject they have started, we always have a 'course change' period in the first few weeks of term. Whilst there is enough space in the system to allow for this 'churn' it can take time to action. Full details of this process can be found in the [FAQ section](#) of the website which will direct students to a virtual helpdesk in the first instance. This is the most efficient way of triaging matters and ensuring the best person responds to an individual issue or request. Please be patient as we work through these and please also understand that we can't guarantee we'll be able to accommodate every request, but we will endeavour to do so, as happy students make successful students!

### **Communication**

Parents and carers of second-year students will know that we often – but not always – provide an update on Fridays. Last year there was a lot to communicate! We will communicate with you when we feel it is needed and aim to ensure you are kept abreast of key information (without overloading you). Next week we will be in touch with details of Parent Advantage log-ins and Meet the Tutor New Parents' event. We also copy students into these messages in order for them to know what information has been shared. There is also a [Parent and Care Dashboard](#) where you will find useful information about the college and events. Do take a look.

We hope students are excited and energised by the start of term (as we are!) and we hope everyone has a very successful year. With thanks for your continued support at home.

Best wishes,

William Baldwin  
Principal