



14 May 2021

## Dear Parents and Carers

A fair amount to update you with this week – headlines follow, details below:

### Summary

**End-point assessments (EPAs)** have gone smoothly and come to an end on Monday. On **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May** we have an **INSET day** to allow us to standardise marking and grade awarding. The end of EPAs marks the end of A2 formal attendance, and we want to say an informal goodbye at our **A2 Leavers Event** on **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May**.

**Lockdown easing** sees remaining classes revert to **100% capacity** from **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> May** moving away from our 2/3rds model. We have revised our expectations around **face coverings**:

- Classrooms, corridors and the library: **Face coverings required**
- Large indoor communal eating areas and outside settings **Face coverings optional**

More details outlining our stance are provided below.

Details of our **Specialist Application Virtual Evening** are outlined below and this will take place on **Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> May**.

**Mental Health and Wellbeing** events and details of a **Creative collaboration** are also provided towards the end of this update.

### End point assessments

These are nearly concluded, with the last batch occurring on Monday, which marks the last day of attendance for A2 students. I'd like to congratulate all students for preparing for and completing these assessments with maturity and purpose. The process was very smooth and went according to plan. We hope that students feel they have had the opportunity to show us what they can do in the light of the cancellation of exams.

### A2 Leavers Event

On Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May between 10am-2pm we'd like to say an informal goodbye to our second-year students and for them to say goodbye to each other and us. There will be free pizza and ice cream, music and a photobooth. I will be posting a video message to coincide with this event, reflecting on our students' time here and their perseverance and resilience over the last two years.

### Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May: INSET day

The Grade Awarding process is now well under way and to ensure we give this appropriate time and attention please remember that **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May is an INSET day**. The day is aimed to allow departments to moderate EPA marking and work together on the grade awarding process.

### Full class capacity

The Prime Minister has confirmed that the country will move to step 3 of the Covid unlocking roadmap from Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May. There are a number of implications for BHASVIC. As planned, we will end the use of our 2/3rds timetable model from Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> May when remaining classes will revert to 100% capacity and students are expected to attend all timetabled lessons in person.

### Face Coverings

At BHASVIC we have revised our guidance on face coverings. We will continue to expect staff and students to wear face coverings in classrooms, corridors and the library. In large indoor communal eating areas and outside settings, face coverings are worn at the discretion of individuals.

We will review this position at the next stage of lockdown easing (21<sup>st</sup> June).

Why have we decided that the use of face coverings is to be continued in the classroom when the DfE has recommended that they are no longer expected in class?

- In wider society, adults are still expected to wear face coverings inside
- In classrooms there are up to 22 students, a teacher and sometimes a learning support assistant together in close proximity, indoors for 90 minutes
- We do not have bubbles that limit mixing
- We have just reverted to 100% capacity and don't want to drop two mitigating factors at the same time
- The unions have requested that face coverings continue to be worn to protect staff (especially staff who are yet to be vaccinated)
- We want to protect students who remain unvaccinated and by extension protect their families
- There is still enough concern over variants to warrant precaution
- Unlike secondary schools, students are not in lessons for six hours a day
- Exemptions still apply for those who are unable to wear a face covering.

Please remember social distancing rules still apply outside of lessons and face masks must still be worn on public transport and in shops. Thank you for your understanding.

### **Reminder: Specialist Application Virtual Evening – Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> May – 7pm-8.30pm**

We are hosting a Specialist Application Evening on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> May, 7pm-8.30pm. **This event is only for the parents/carers of students** who have selected one of the following A2 tutorial pathways, or are studying a subject within our Media & Performing Arts department:

- Employability & Enterprise
- Medical Careers
- Oxbridge
- Visual Arts

In addition to the above, our Media & Performing Arts department will also be present as we have a small number of students each year who apply to a UK conservatoire to study music, dance or drama.

The event will provide important information and advice regarding applications in these areas, and we strongly recommend you attend. The event will be virtual via the Springpod online platform so your young person is more than welcome to also attend. **Invitations to relevant parents/carers will be sent by email before the end of the day on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> May.**

If you didn't manage to attend the Progression and Higher Education event in April please see the recording on our website [HERE](#); it will provide you with full details of the BHASVIC progression programme.

### **Mental Health Awareness week and Wellbeing Support**

Students have been sent details of various workshops and wellbeing sessions, including a reminder of our weekly relaxation and mindfulness classes, free yoga sessions and a sleep workshop to which parents are also invited. Our wellbeing partner, Andrew Wright, from Action Your Potential (AYP) will be hosting a 30 minute "*Getting Great Sleep*" webinar On Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> May at 6pm. If you would like to sign up [click here](#).

### **The Exchange, Brighton Festival Project involving BHASVIC students**

As part of BHASVIC's ongoing work with Arts Mentoring organisation LOOKOUT some of our students are taking part in an event for this year's Brighton Festival along with other students in the region. They have spent the last couple of months collaborating on a one to one basis with internationally acclaimed artists to explore their creative passions and create new work. The project has generated images, films, music, monologues, fashion and more, which will be showcased on **Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> May, 7pm-7:45pm.**

The event will be live streamed from The Old Market in Hove. You can book your free ticket here: <https://brightonfestival.org/whats-on/the-exchange-1316/>

Best wishes,



William Baldwin  
Principal