



22 April 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you managed to get some rest over the holiday period. Here is our weekly update which, as usual, will normally be published on a Friday.

EPA timetables

Timetables for End Point Assessments are available via Student Advantage. The exception are non-A level courses (like BTECs) where individual teachers will communicate directly with classes due to the variety of approaches needed with these qualifications. EPAs will take place between Tuesday 4th May and Tuesday 18th May.

Covid Testing

We encourage all our students to continue to self-test at home. Test kits can be picked-up at Main Reception or Student Services Reception.

2/3rds model

The 2/3rds model will continue until the end of the EPAs and we aim to resume full class attendance from Wednesday 19th May. From this date A1 students will have three lessons onsite per week. We need to prioritise EPAs and our classrooms will be configured for 16 students per room; moving furniture between each session isn't viable. Reverting to full classes once second years have left will allow us to manage site capacity with confidence. This date also coincides with the next step on the government roadmap of lifting restrictions. DfE guidance for colleges states that we must either bubble or distance our students. We cannot do the former therefore we will continue to do the latter. It's a balancing act and I know from the Survey comments that some of you think we will be acting too fast, whilst others think that we are acting too slowly.

Survey results

With that in mind, many thanks to the 695 of you who completed the Survey before Easter. Of the six questions asked, the average score was 8.15 out of 10 which suggests we are doing a number of things well notably keeping people safe, providing a good learning experience onsite and communicating clearly. I note the areas to consider which tended to revolve around variability in remote and independent learning experiences, understanding details of the grade awarding process and speed of returning to full capacity. We will endeavor to keep communicating transparently around all these issues.

A1 Progression and Higher Education Information Evening for Parents and Carers – Reminder bookings are open [HERE](#).

This event is for A1 Parents and Carers (students are welcome to join in with you) - Tuesday 27 April - First Session: 17:00 – 18:30 and Second Session: 19:00 – 20:30, please see full details [HERE](#). There are some really helpful resources for students/parents and carers on our [Higher Education](#) page. A zoom link will be sent prior to the event.

University Applications

Widening Participation (WP) is a government initiative aimed at supporting social mobility and fair access to higher education for all, helping students to make informed decisions about their future. Our Widening Participation summer newsletter has just been updated with a wealth of information on applying to University open days and summer schools, as well as offering advice about many different career pathways. It is available to view [HERE](#). First year students have also been encouraged to complete an online survey in tutorial to help identify whether they are eligible for any WP scheme, and the deadline has now been extended until the end of April. Further information on eligibility can be found [HERE](#) or by e-mailing wp@bhasvic.ac.uk.

Guided Relaxation and Mindfulness sessions – support with assessment stress & anxiety

Students have been sent the details of two weekly sessions available to them. Guided Relaxation will be delivered at 19.30 on Wednesday evenings by trained hypnotherapist Lindsay Hardman via Zoom. We are also continuing to provide weekly Mindfulness sessions for students run via TEAMS. To join the sessions, students should e-mail wellbeing@bhasvic.ac.uk stating which session they wish to attend and we will forward a Zoom meeting link.

With best wishes for the term ahead,

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