



10 February 2023

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

We are looking forward to the February half-term break and wanted to reflect on some recent successes, as well as draw your attention to some important dates and activities in the second half of the Spring Term. Please always check the [College Calendar](#) for more information.

A1 to A2 Transfer

After half term our first-year students will start making decisions about their longer-term career progression and selecting an appropriate second year tutorial pathway (UCAS, Employability, Visual Arts, Oxbridge or Medics). Parents and carers can find information about the [A1-A2 Transfer](#) on our website and can also sign up to one of the Higher Education webinars for further information, please see below:

Online Webinars [Higher Education](#)

Thursday 2 March - A1 Parents UCAS Information Evening online

Tuesday 7 March - A2 Parents HE Finance Information Evening online

* Full information and booking links will be sent via email from our Events Department very soon.

Progress Reviews

The second round of Progress Reviews for all students will be introduced in tutorial in the first week back following half term, starting with an opportunity to reflect on progress in all subjects. These will be published to parents and carers towards the end of March, so do please check the Parent Portal then. Further information and reminders about [Progress Reviews are available on our website](#).

A1 Personal Development Days – Tuesday 14 and Wednesday 15 March

This term's A1 Personal Development days are scheduled onsite on 14 and 15 March. Students will receive more information after half term, but all first years will need to book to attend workshops as part of their tutorial programme for one morning or afternoon during these days. We are delighted that the confirmed facilitators are [Brighton and Hove Anti-Racist Strategy Group](#) who will provide Racial Literacy training and [Allsorts Youth Project](#) providing a workshop focusing on gender/sexuality awareness. There will be a separate follow-up activity that students will need to complete. **Please note all A1 students are required to attend.**

Further details on the content of the workshops will be provided at the beginning of March from events@bhasvic.ac.uk and have been organised in response to our students expressing a need for advice and training in these areas. These are being developed in partnership with young people and are bespoke to the students of BHASVIC.

Careers Update - [Careers and Employability](#)

BHASVIC's first ever **Green Careers Week** will take place from 6-10 March to coincide with [National Careers Week](#). We have a range of fantastic local organisations and businesses visiting across the week to talk with students about sustainability in the workplace and jobs in the green economy. There will be a workshop which students can book onto, and employers will be available at lunchtimes for students to have an informal chat about future careers and developing employment trends. This is a great opportunity for students to learn more about the world of work and to develop their networking skills.

[National Apprenticeship Week](#) takes place from 6-12 February. We have been promoting Apprenticeship options through tutorial activities, for live updates please visit our [Careers Events and Activities Padlet](#).

We have previously communicated about **BHASVIC Skills Week** taking place in July; full details are available [here](#) as a reminder.

Attendance and Absence Procedures Updated

For information our Attendance team have reviewed and updated our [Attendance and Absence Procedures](#). The [Parent Portal](#) is now our ONLY method for reporting student absences and will guarantee that the absence is added to the registers immediately. If you require help setting up a [Parent Portal](#) account, please contact CIS@bhasvic.ac.uk. Please also see [WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE ABSENT FROM COLLEGE](#). Full details are on our [website page](#).

Action Your Potential Wellbeing Webinars every Thursday from 2 March

Following on from the Procrastination Workshops earlier this term, Action Your Potential are offering students, parents and carers unique support throughout this exam season. Exam #NeuroNinja webinars take place every Thursday from the 2 March through to 8 June, and are focused on building the daily behaviours to support excellent achievement in GCSEs, A Levels and BTECs.

Dates and details are below, you can also find them [using this link](#). Every Thursday at 8pm Andrew from AYP and colleagues will present powerful daily strategies to manage revision, wellbeing, learning and manage worries. At the end of each 20 min session there will be time for parents, carers and students to ask questions. [Here's Andrew explaining what Exam #NeuroNinja is all about](#). To sign up to these webinars please [click on this link](#). We will send you a link to the webinar once you have registered via this Google Form.

Please also find a recording of the [Exam #NeuroNinja webinar that took place on Wednesday 1 February 2023](#).

Pets for Therapy

We were delighted to welcome volunteers from Pets for Therapy during Mock Exam week and have been really pleased with the feedback from students. This was a pilot but is likely to feature again as we move towards the key summer exam season. Please keep an eye on our [Wellbeing](#) page for more details.

Wellbeing during Half-Term

The BHASVIC Student Support Team do not work outside term time, but if you have a concern regarding a student's emotional health and wellbeing, you are invited to contact the Schools Wellbeing Service to speak to a Primary Mental Health worker. Please e-mail SWSConsultationLine@brighton-hove.goc.uk or call 01273 293481. For further information on different services available, please visit <https://e-wellbeing.co.uk/>. Please also see a range of resources on our website pages, [Young People's Support](#) and [Wellbeing](#).

Reception Closure during half-term

Main Reception is closed during half-term, Monday 13 to Friday 17 February. Many staff will not be available but if you need to make contact and do not know the extension number, try emailing using the Contact lists here: [Contact Us](#)

National Education Union Teacher Strikes

A reminder of the three remaining strike days in March, which are on Thursday 2, Wednesday 15 and Thursday 16 March. No lessons will run onsite, although Personal Development Day on 15 March will run as normal for first year students. The teacher will tell their class if they are running a remote lesson on strike days.

In addition, to accommodate A1 Personal Development Workshops on Tuesday 14 March, A2 lessons will all be delivered online. Students will be reminded of this by their teachers nearer the time.

Exams in the Summer 2023 - contingency days

Headline:

Do not book holidays or other plans until after Wednesday 28 June. If you do this, you may need to cancel those arrangements to be able to sit an exam on that day and gain the qualification.

National Exam Contingency Days are in the event of national or significant local disruption to exams in the United Kingdom.

The standard contingency day remains at the end of the national exams timetable on **Wednesday 28 June 2023**. Following the Covid-19 pandemic, further resilience was needed within the exam timetables. A single contingency day was not felt to be sufficient by Ofqual and the exam boards if a national event or incident had a significant effect on the exam timetable. For example, summer exams could be affected by extremely high temperatures.

For the June 2023 exams, the awarding bodies have therefore introduced two additional half-day contingency sessions. These are on **Thursday 8 June 2023** and **Thursday 15 June 2023**.

If there is any indication that these days would be needed for BHASVIC students, we will communicate at the first opportunity. Please note that the government has stipulated that candidates should remain available until Wednesday 28 June 2023 should examinations need to be rescheduled.

Despite it being unlikely, the government may need to use the contingency days, and if you miss an exam on a contingency day you will be awarded an 'X' for that paper.

And finally... We've had a busy half term across the College Community with plenty of guests, enrichment and reasons for celebration. Please visit the [news page](#) of our website to relive some of the highlights and [B-mag](#) for a range of student authored articles, stories and reviews. We hope that students are able to have some down-time over half-term.

Yours sincerely,



William Baldwin
Principal