



13 January 2023

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the first full week this term. I hope you were able to enjoy a break at some point over the Christmas period and I would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year.

Attendance

It is pleasing to see that attendance is strong at the start of term, despite seasonal illnesses and the disruption caused by train strikes. We are reviewing our attendance reporting systems to try and reduce administrative processes. Our focus will be to encourage all absence to be reported via the Parent Portal or StudyBugs and we will be providing details of this shortly.

Ofsted

We have seen and approved our draft Ofsted report which we are delighted with. We are now waiting for it to be published before we can share this with you. We can't wait to let you know the outcomes and to share the final report - we expect it to be published in the week of 23 January, although this is yet to be confirmed.

A1 Parents' Evenings – 12 & 18 January

Booking opened last week for our first years' Parents' Evenings and we are aware that slots filled quickly for some staff, although nearly half our teachers do still have availability for next week. We have been running a waiting list and, where possible, we are offering appointments as they become available. If you are holding an appointment for next week which you know you will not be able to attend, we ask that you let us know as soon as possible, by emailing events@bhasvic.ac.uk in order that someone else can take this up. There have been some positive suggestions on how we might be able to manage capacity and communication moving forward, and we will conduct a full review of the Parents' Evenings later this term, considering the feedback we have received.

Futures Fair - Thursday 19 January (Sports Hall and Elms Theatre – 10.00am-2.30pm)

Please do encourage students to take the opportunity to visit our largest careers event yet. Students are invited to meet over 100 top local and national organisations to discover a host of opportunities after BHASVIC. There is also a [range of talks](#) which can be booked via BHASVLE on subjects as diverse as student finance, volunteering, apprenticeships, study in Scotland, self-presentation and moving away from home. An [Exhibitor list](#), and full details of the Futures Fair event can be found on our [Careers and Employability page](#).

A2 Mock Exam Week – change to timetable for the week for everyone

The A2 mock exam week runs from Monday 6-10 February, when there will be an adjusted timetable for both first- and second-year students. This is to enable 3-hour double lesson 'exam windows' for year 2 students. All students will be given full details in tutorial next week and they can speak to class teachers for clarification regarding each subject. We expect students to make arrangements to attend all their lessons according to the timetable and forward plan for this week to be structured slightly differently. Students should move any external commitments or appointments which may temporarily clash, such as part time employment, in order that they can maintain full attendance at college.

A1 Skills Week reminder– preparation for work experience/volunteering placement needed now!

BHASVIC Skills Week runs from 3-7 July for all first years. It is a new part of the college [calendar](#) and students will be expected to complete a work experience or volunteering placement (unless they are on a college residential trip). The work/volunteering placement can be in-person or remote/online. We have asked students to make enquiries about placements by contacting a range of people, organisations and employers (and the Futures Fair may also be a good opportunity to do this!). The Student Experience team will be sending parents and carers further detailed information in the coming weeks, so please look out for this, as students will soon be asked to confirm their placement.

Re-freshers' Fair - Thursday 26 January (Main Hall 11:30am – 2pm)

Like the Freshers Fair held in September, but with a stronger focus on college-based [enrichment](#), the Re-freshers Fair is another chance for students to find out about the amazing array of BHASVIC clubs, societies and other enrichment activities on offer, and sign up with their friends or come along to make new connections.

Wellbeing Workshops–Procrastination and Motivation (Monday 16 & Friday 20 January 2-3pm and 3-4pm)

These innovative workshops, run by Action Your Potential, will teach you how to deploy willpower, built through daily practice. Taking place in college on Monday 16 and Friday 20 January, 2pm-3pm and 3pm-4pm; full details have been shared in tutorial. E-mail events@bhasvic.ac.uk to book a place, and don't forget that 1:1 coaching sessions have been established and are also ongoing with Action Your Potential. Students should e-mail wellbeing@bhasvic.ac.uk or speak to their Personal Tutor if they think they would benefit from this support.

Summer 2023 Exams Arrangements

A reminder that Ofqual, the exams regulator, has written an [open letter to students](#), and an [open letter to schools and colleges](#) about next summer's exams. There is recognition that the 2023 cohort still deserves some protection against the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. This paragraph illustrates for all stakeholders what the intention and its general impact would be: *"Broadly speaking this means that a typical student who would have achieved, for example, an A grade in A level geography before the pandemic will be just as likely to get an A next summer, even if their performance in the assessments is a little weaker in 2023 than it would have been before the pandemic."*

Sussex Chamber of Commerce – Employer Workshops (24-27 January)

We are currently working with Sussex Chamber of Commerce to support the local skills plan and address shortages in some key employment sectors. Any parent or carer who works in one of the target sectors (health & care, construction, creative & cultural, visitor & hospitality, engineering & manufacturing, and land-based) is invited to join virtual workshops between 24 and 27 January. You can find out more here: [The Local Skills Improvement Plan \(LSIP\) | Sussex Chamber of Commerce](#)

Best wishes,



William Baldwin
Principal