



21 April 2023

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

I hope you all enjoyed some downtime over the holiday period. The summer term always marks the start of exam season and I hope that students are managing the competing demands they face.

Coming up in college - please always check the [BHASVIC Online Calendar](#) for key dates/events coming up.

Strike Action – Thursday 27 April and Tuesday 2 May

This action will involve teachers across primary, secondary and post-16 education in a dispute with the government over cost-of-living increases to pay which stem from inadequate funding.

The messaging from the NEU around minimising disruption to 'Yr13' has caused considerable confusion and there has been no clarity around what this might mean or look like. As a result, the local branch have informed me that those striking will be withdrawing all labour for these two days.

Teachers who are not on strike are required to deliver lessons onsite, and they will communicate directly with students where this is happening. Therefore, students should check Teams messages carefully as individual teachers will let them know directly if lessons are taking place. We ask that students do attend lessons that are occurring as usual.

In addition, BHASVIC will be open for students who wish to use the Library, and some other study spaces will also be available. Exams will be taking place in the Main Hall on both days, so this won't be available for student social and study space. The Copper Café will be open with its usual menu.

A1 summer exam study leave begins on Tuesday 2 May, so first year classes will not be running on this day. However, the **exams the students are taking will run as normal** and students should follow their exam timetable.

Adult Evening Languages: these lessons *will* be running onsite as normal.

Reminders

A1 Parents and Carers 'Specialist Applications' event – Wednesday 3 May

Following on from our [Higher Education Information webinars](#) before Easter, this event is for parents and carers of students who have chosen a Visual Arts, Employability & Enterprise, Medical Careers or Oxbridge tutorial pathway. The Specialist Application evening is an 'in-person' event and if students have selected one of these options as part of A1-A2 Transfer in March, please look out for an email from events@bhasvic.ac.uk later today, which will include further details and booking instructions. If you have any questions or do not receive an email but would like to be added to a waiting list, please contact events@bhasvic.ac.uk.

Community news

It was fantastic to see students from across the city negotiating with the two people most likely to lead the next council at last night's **Citizens Accountability Assembly**. The Labour and Green leaders were asked to make mental health provision, safe spaces and affordable transport and housing key priorities if they take office. It is so important that young people see democracy in action and the impact they can have with elected officials.

And finally

Action Your Potential Webinars

Moments of transition and change, including starting a new term after a few weeks' break, can be tricky for young people, teachers and parents and carers. Here, Andrew from AYP, walks us through why the brain finds change in routines so hard and what we can do about it. [How to Manage the Back to School Wobbles \(1\)](#) and [How to Manage the Back to School Wobbles \(2\)](#) You can join and access the support from AYP by signing up to their [#NeuroNinja Learning Hub](#).

The [Exam #NeuroNinja series of support webinars](#) also continues, and students, parents and carers can sign up at 8pm every Thursday from now until the 15 June.

For more information about supporting mental health and mind management, please see the following videos from AYP about building mental flexibility and managing your brain's worry system: [How to Manage My Brain's Worry System - 14:27s](#) and [Introducing Your Mind's Garden - 7:39s](#).

Yours sincerely,



William Baldwin
Principal