



30 September 2022

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

It's incredible to think we are already at the end of September, and hopefully students are now enjoying their day-to-day college routines. In this communication, we wanted to reflect on a few of the last few weeks' activities and look forward to some events coming up.

## Parent Portal

A1 parents were sent login details for their parent portal accounts last week – please look for an email from our CIS (college information systems) team on 20 or 21 September. Parent Portal gives access to a range of useful information on a student's progress at college, including attendance, timetable, progress reviews, support plans and exam information. Please do activate your account and contact [cis@bhasvic.ac.uk](mailto:cis@bhasvic.ac.uk) if you encounter any technical difficulties in setting this up.

## A1 Meet the Tutor Evenings – Wednesday 12 October (5-7pm) & Thursday 20 October (6-8pm)

These are the first of our online parent/carer evenings, offering the opportunity for a short video-call with the Personal Tutor. Further information will be sent early next week and may be of particular interest to parents/carers of first year students who wish to alert tutors to any particular 'settling in' concern which has not already been raised.

## Wellbeing News

We are delighted with the feedback from our 'Starting with Confidence' wellbeing workshops, held over the first two weeks of term. Many students were surprised by how much they learnt about the science behind studying effectively and looking after your (and others') wellbeing. In feedback after the sessions, students rated an average of 8.18/10 to the statement "I know how to look after my wellbeing whilst studying at college." We will continue this work throughout the year, making emotional health and wellbeing a real priority for all our community. Action Your Potential (AYP), who ran the session for students, also held a 'Change your World' webinar in September for BHASVIC Parents and Carers and a recording will be available soon on our [Wellbeing](#) page.

It's also worth mentioning that the AYP team are offering free 1:1 coaching support, prioritised for students with anxiety which is directly related to academic performance. This is a unique programme which helps students to understand their brain, build great wellbeing and manage anxiety. Students can find out more and refer themselves to this, or other support services at college via the [Student Support Online Referral 2022-23](#)

## Student Union Events and Enrichment

Our **Freshers & Enrichment Fair** was held on Wednesday 28 September, and we had a fantastic turnout. Led by the Student Union and our Student Support and Experience teams, it was a great opportunity for new and returning students to chat with local organisations, find out about support services in and outside college and to sign up for exciting college enrichment activities and societies. There will be more information (and pictures) in the Autumn Term newsletter, but to view more details of college enrichment activities, visit [BHASVIC Enrichment](#). Students can still find out about [Student Societies on BHASVLE](#) or by contacting [events@bhasvic.ac.uk](mailto:events@bhasvic.ac.uk). If you have any questions or want to set up a new club or society, please drop in to speak to Mia or Alice in the Events Office (ground floor of Student Services Centre).

Lots of students signed up to be a student ambassador at the Freshers Fair and will be invited to the first **Student Forum** of the year in the Main Hall on **Wednesday 12 October (11.45-12.30pm)**. This is led by our Student Union who are also working with [Citizens UK](#) on a range of social action and community projects at both local and national level. It's a great opportunity to make BHASVIC, Sussex and the world a better place – so if you haven't already signed up to be an Ambassador, do register your interest with the Events Team ([events@bhasvic.ac.uk](mailto:events@bhasvic.ac.uk)) and come along to the meeting.

## Course Changes

A reminder that our virtual help desk for second year students closes today. If A2 students wish to change portfolio, tutorial pathway or have other queries, they should now contact their Guidance Manager. The [A1 virtual help desk](#) **closes on Friday 7 October at 4pm**. We aim to respond to all queries within two working days and students who have logged a help desk request should continue checking their messages on Teams for updates. After 7 October, students will not normally be allowed to join a new course and will need to contact their Guidance Manager directly with queries about their subjects and study programme. Appointments to see a Guidance Manager can be made at Student Services Reception.


## ID cards and Site Security

All students should now have been issued with their ID card and are required to carry it with them at all times whilst onsite. We ask that students do not invite friends who are not BHASVIC students onto the college premises. All staff and volunteers also wear ID cards and visitors must sign in at Main Reception. If students become aware of anyone without valid ID, they should report this to a member of staff immediately. We take site security seriously and the ID cards are an essential measure to protect all members of the community.

## Rail Disruption

We have been notified that some [rail strikes](#) are planned for Wednesday 5 October and that this may have a knock-on effect on travel for Thursday 6 October. Where possible, teachers aim to make learning materials from the class available for students who miss lessons, however, we are unable to offer online learning on these days and we ask that parents/carers email [student.absence@bhasvic.ac.uk](mailto:student.absence@bhasvic.ac.uk) before 11am. This will ensure that any unavoidable absences are authorised by the attendance team. Please be aware that absences reported by students directly will not be authorised until confirmed by a parent/carer.

Best wishes,



Alison Cousens  
Assistant Principal (Student Services)