



6 May 2022

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

## Survey

Every year we ask Parents and Carers to complete this [Parent and Carer Annual Survey](#). Please could you complete it by 1 July. We feel it is important to receive your views so that we can continue to make improvements.

## A1 Summer Exams

All our A1 students will sit a 'Summer Exam' in each A level subject (apart from Visual Arts) during May this year. These exams are a vital opportunity for students to gain experience of exam conditions and to put their learning into practice. The scripts and results will be really helpful for individual students to understand how well they know the subject and topics on the course and will also provide information to teachers to inform teaching and learning ahead. We also use the results, along with on-course progress, to inform UCAS predicted grades and to identify students who may need additional support going into their second year.

To progress into the second year of an A level course students are required to pass these exams and we put this condition in place as we know it is in the best interests of our students. If a student does not pass the A1 Summer Exam, we offer a resit opportunity to be absolutely certain that the student is not learning and succeeding on the course. If the resit is not passed we know that, due to the pace and rigour of A level study, it is highly likely they will be unable to pass at the end of their second year. We therefore take this opportunity to work with the student through the support of our Guidance and Curriculum teams, to replace this course with an alternative one-year AS or BTEC course in their second year. This gives the student an opportunity to refocus their studies and finish with a robust set of qualifications and full range of progression options.

Things to note around this process:

- A 'pass' grade at A level is A – E. Therefore, students need to attain a minimum of an 'E' grade in their summer exams to be able to progress with the subject.
- All students who do not pass an initial summer exam will have the option to take a resit. If they pass this resit they will be able to progress with the subject into the second year. In some cases, a student knows the course isn't right for them and they choose to explore Recovery Course options instead of taking the resit.
- Students do not have to take the resit and will be supported by their Guidance Manager if they wish to withdraw from the course following the first exam.

We want these exams to represent a positive challenge and learning opportunity for our students, many of whom will not have sat a traditional exam before. We know how important it is for our students to feel confident in showcasing their learning and to provide opportunities for honest and supportive conversations where needed. More information can be found here [Progression from A1 into A2](#).

In support of both the A1 and A2 exams we are offering workshops and resources on revision and exam stress and anxiety, please see below:

## Wellbeing Support & Revision

Action Your Potential produced a range of short videos for our students which have been presented in tutorial. Please see the recording of the webinar Andrew Wright ran for Parents and Carers in April [Study Reps and the Final Phase of Exam Preparation on Vimeo](#). Students can also sign up to a [live webinar](#) on **Monday 9 May at midday** to help final preparation for revision.

## Online guided relaxation

All students can also join live, online 'guided relaxation' sessions, designed to address and reduce anxiety through understanding what is happening in your brain and body when feelings of stress or anxiety present themselves. Sessions are delivered online via Zoom and all that is needed is a good internet connection and somewhere quiet and comfy to sit. There will be absolutely no pressure for anyone to talk or have their camera on. **If you are interested, email [wellbeing@bhasvic.ac.uk](mailto:wellbeing@bhasvic.ac.uk) and you will be sent the Zoom link to join the sessions.**

## Mentoring

On Thursday, we ran another 'in-person' Anxiety Management workshop for young women and non-binary students, which was organised by the [Flourish Mentors](#) programme. This was well received, and students can still sign up for individual mentoring during the exam period by following the [Flourish Mentors - Get Involved](#) link

## Parent/Carer Support – Anxiety Management Masterclass

Further [Action Your Potential](#) webinars for Parents and Carers start this week on **Wednesday 11 and Thursday 12 May at 8pm**. These run for the rest of the month on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Please [click here to sign up](#) : they are all recorded and available on the hub within 3 days of being recorded. Finally, there is an **Anxiety Masterclass for Parents and Carers on Tuesday 31 May (8-8:30pm) and Wednesday 1 June (8-8:30pm)**.

## Progression Week follows A1 Summer Exams – 23-27 May

This week is a combination of online and live events to inform A1 students further about their options, based on the choices they make during the A1-A2 transfer process. We include sessions on routes into Higher Education, employment and apprenticeships, visual art-related courses, Oxbridge and medical careers. We ran our **Specialist Application Event** on-site earlier this week for parents and carers, with presentations on the different pathways. Powerpoint recordings will be available soon on our [Higher Education page](#). If students chose the UCAS pathway, we ran webinars in April for A1 and A2 parents and carers, and you can view these recordings in our [Parents' & Carers' News Spring 2022](#). You can also find further resources on our [Parents & Carers page](#)

## Update: Monday 3 May 2022 - FAQs about exams series, covid symptoms or positive tests

**\*\*Please read our Covid Guidance accordion section before reading the FAQs directly below**

JCQ have published important and helpful [FAQs on Special Consideration](#). These cover the following questions/issues:

- What is meant by Special Consideration and scenarios where this would and would not apply
- The minimum requirements to receive a grade, if any of your exam attendance or coursework submission is disrupted by Covid
- Advice about Covid symptoms/testing positive and sitting or missing an exam
- What to do if you miss an exam

## An additional FAQ to answer: If I cannot attend the exam at BHASVIC due to self-isolation, can I take the exam at home via remote invigilation?

No, unfortunately this would not be possible (please see Page 7 of this [JCQ Guidance on conducting exams](#)). If it was the case that you had missed all previous components (coursework/exams) and would not be able to gain the qualification **AND** you know at least 5 days in advance that you will miss the final exam, please contact the exams office [exams@bhasvic.ac.uk](mailto:exams@bhasvic.ac.uk) and we will investigate your case.

## Parents' Donations

Every year parents and carers contribute by donating funds to the college. BHASVIC needs this financial support to provide the best possible resources and facilities for our students. The money which parents and carers give helps finance activities in sport, music and drama; it helps equip the Library and Sports Centre and provides computers and supports Student Union functions. For this reason, we invite you please to assist us in providing the best possible education for your young person by making a voluntary contribution to BHASVIC of £75.00, if you have not already done so. Depending on your circumstances, you may wish to give more or less than this sum.

Please go to the [Payments and Donations](#) section of our website for more information regarding the fund, or go here: [Parents' Fund Donations Letter from the Principal](#), the [Parents' Fund Payment Form](#) and the [Gift Aid Declaration Form](#).

Best wishes,



William Baldwin

Principal