



1 April 2021

Dear Students, Parents and Carers

There are a few things to remind you of and to update you as we head into the Easter holidays.

A2 Students – End-Point Assessments (EPAs)

You may know that exam boards are preparing materials which schools and colleges can use for Assessments. It is important that you know that BHASVIC's EPAs are being written without reference to these materials, so any similarity will be purely coincidental. Students may of course choose to use any relevant exam board material for practice and revision purposes.

EPA Timetables

Students will receive their timetable for End Point Assessments in the first week after Easter.

A1 Students – A1 Summer Exams from 21 to 30 June

As stated last week, BHASVIC will run an exam experience for our A1 students, for relevant courses, in the second half of the summer term. These exams are not high-stakes exams and progression into the A2 year is not dependent on grades achieved in them. The exams are designed to be entirely supportive, to give students the opportunity to practice exam technique, recap on their learning to date and to gain high-quality feedback from their teachers. Practice, familiarity and feedback are the key to support our A1 students in their learning and readiness for the real thing a year from now.

PCR tests to confirm Lateral Flow Tests (LFT)

From April 1st, NHS Test and Trace is reintroducing confirmatory PCR testing for positive LFT tests conducted at all assisted testing sites, including schools and colleges. This means that all staff and students who get a positive LFT result, whether at home or supervised at their school or college, should get a confirmatory PCR. The PCR test should be booked immediately either [online](#) or by calling 119 and should be undertaken within 2 days.

Staff, students and pupils who had a positive LFT result, and their close contacts and other members of their household, should self-isolate immediately in line with [NHS Test and Trace guidance](#) and while awaiting the PCR result. If the PCR test is negative, it overrides the LFT and the staff member or student can return to school or college, and their close contacts can end their self-isolation.

Positive Covid Test Results over Easter

Please continue to inform college of any Covid positive student test results including over the holiday period. Please email outofcollege@bhasvic.ac.uk with the subject line 'Positive Test Result' along with the name of the student, the date any symptoms started, the date of the test result and the date of their last attendance on site.

Face coverings after Easter

Over Easter, the DfE is expected to review their guidance over the wearing of face coverings in lessons. Taking a precautionary principle, we will continue with face coverings on site (including in lessons) for at least the first week back after Easter in order to review that decision alongside case rates locally and staff/student confidence and views on our mitigation measures.

University applications - Widening Participation (WP)

Widening Participation is a government initiative aimed at supporting social mobility and fair access to higher education for all, helping students to make informed decisions about their future. Our fantastic Widening Participation Easter newsletter is [HERE](#) and contains a wealth of information on applying to a range of University open days, summer schools and offers advice about many different career pathways.

First year students have been encouraged to complete an online survey in tutorial to help identify whether they are eligible for any WP scheme, and the deadline has now been extended until the end of April. Further information on eligibility can be found [HERE](#) or by e-mailing wp@bhasvic.ac.uk. Please also keep an eye out for our first year HE Info Evenings after Easter, scheduled for Tuesday 27th April: A reminder to save the date!

Leavers Event

We are tentatively planning a leavers event for our A2 students on Friday 28th May subject to the latest government guidance on restrictions.

Library opening

The college library will be open over the Easter holidays between 10am-4pm. We will be sticking with our current Covid restrictions for this period – i.e., socially distanced spaces, masks etc., which means capacity is limited.

Reception

Reception will be open over the Easter holidays between 9am-12pm.

BHASVIC is currently experiencing some issues with the phone system. Please dial 01273 859839 or 01273 859825 to speak to a receptionist, between 8am and 5pm (5:30pm on Tuesdays) during Term Time. Unfortunately, you cannot currently leave voice messages.

I hope you are able to get a break over the holiday period, and that students find the balance between consolidating work, preparing for assessments and taking time for their own wellbeing and enjoyment. Happy Easter and Ramadan Mubarak to those celebrating.

Best wishes,



William Baldwin
Principal