



15 March 2021

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

I am writing to update you with regard to our plans for determining grade outcomes for students at BHASVIC this summer.

In devising the college's approach to formulating final grades, our curriculum and senior management teams have considered the guidance from Ofqual, the context locally and nationally, and have constructed an approach that provides the best opportunities for our student body as a whole. We have considered our current A1 students and their learning, aiming to minimise loss of teaching and learning for them, whilst ensuring that all our A2 students have the best opportunities to achieve their potential.

Given the broad instructions we have received from Ofqual, any system we implement is unlikely to please everyone. It is the college's responsibility to take all factors into account and devise a system which is consistent for our students (and staff) across all our departments and qualifications.

At BHASVIC, final grades will be awarded via a combination of completed on-course assessments (OCAs) and end-point assessments (EPAs) which will occur in early May. Full details of this process can be viewed on the [FAQ section](#) of the website under 'Grade Awarding Summer 2021'. For brevity we have not replicated the details in this cover letter.

We have tried to provide a system that is as fair as possible, that maximises the chance of student success, that reduces anxiety and reduces appeals, whilst providing students with some agency and focus at this point in their learning.

We know some of our students (or their parents/carers) may have preferred different approaches or methods to those we have chosen. However, given the very tight timeframe we must now spend our time helping departments and students prepare for and implement this approach. We therefore ask you not to contact us to request that the college takes a different approach. Instead, we are conducting a survey within the next week and there will be an opportunity for all stakeholders to contribute their views to all current and planned BHASVIC activity.

If you have concerns that the college may not be aware of individual extenuating personal circumstances for a student because the college or a member of staff has never been notified, please inform the Personal Tutor and provide evidence of such circumstances from an external and verifiable source (for example, medical documents).

Important technical details and policy decisions from Ofqual and the DfE still remain unpublished. We also await further information and guidance from Exam Boards. As more information is revealed to us, we will process this and inform all our community of these further details and their implications for determining grades.

Departments now need the time to interpret the college's process and they must be allowed to do this without any lobbying. They will provide further details to students by the middle of next week (Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March).

With many thanks for your continued support and understanding.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William Baldwin', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

William Baldwin  
Principal