



5 February 2021

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

We're only a week away from half-term which feels like a much-needed milestone – congratulations for making it through this half-term. I plan for this to be the last update before then, unless there are any significant announcements next week.

Half-term

The half-term holiday is Monday 15th to Friday 19th February. Term begins remotely on Monday 22nd February. The Government have said they will update the public with their plans on the re-opening of schools and colleges on February 22nd and have ear-marked Monday 8th March to start opening – although we do not know at this point whether this will be a full re-opening of all stages and phases.

Video Message

I've put together a [video message](#) for students and parents/carers to unpick some of the burning questions you might have right now, and to explain some of the decisions we are making as the term unfolds. This video is complemented by the FAQ section of the website where I hope most of your questions will be answered. I have therefore tried to keep this update brief as many points are covered in more detail in my video or the website.

Progress Reviews

We have taken the decision to cancel the Spring round of Progress Reviews for courses with a final grade this summer (for example, all A2 A levels and BTECs; A1 Double Maths; AS Level Recovery Courses; A1 BTECs with a Certificate; GCSE Retakes). These were due to be published on 19th March.

Progress Reviews for all other courses will take place as normal (mainly this applies to A1 students on A levels and BTECs).

The Progress Grade, which is the core component of the Progress Review Report, is defined at BHASVIC as the grade the student is likely to achieve given all the evidence of their work and progress so far. We think it would be inappropriate to produce a Progress Grade a matter of a few working weeks prior to determining students' final grades. This risks the college breaching Ofqual's final policy on grade awarding, and provides the potential for confusion and misunderstanding for students and other stakeholders if these two grades were to differ in any way.

Students will still get a sense of their ongoing progress via feedback on individual pieces of work.

Student Wellbeing

#NeuroNinja in Learning and Life: Webinar Recordings - Every Thursday during February and March from 7:00-7.30pm.

Andrew Wright our Wellbeing Partner is running 10 webinars on how to manage mental health, productivity and well-being in these complex times. Full details and how to sign up are [HERE](#), to access recording's go to www.actionyourpotential.org. These webinars are an opportunity to take stock, understand your brains in a deeper way and get more out of them every day. To become a member, follow the instructions [HERE](#), once you are a member please go to the members area and click on the webinars button, scroll down to the BHASVIC page and our password is **nmbhasvic20**.

Our Wellbeing section on the BHASVIC website is regularly updated and has a range of resources to support students, please see [#BHASVIC Wellbeing](#).

I hope you have a good weekend and some time to relax over half-term when it comes.

Best wishes,

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

William Baldwin
Principal