



5 January 2021

Dear Students, Parents and Carers

Although regrettable from an educational perspective, the new national lockdown at least gives us certainty for the next half-term, and it is clearly needed from a public health perspective.

I know that the move to remote learning and working will mean further upheaval for you all. Having laid the foundations for this in March, and having opted for a remote learning week at the end of term in December and indeed this week, we are in a strong position to make the switch and continue to deliver high-quality learning.

### **Remote teaching**

We want to provide as much clarity as possible but realise that individual circumstances for both our staff and students may not allow this. All teachers have been asked where possible to deliver lessons according to the timetable. Some courses may need to provide alternative delivery models and we understand that some student circumstances mean that they may not be able to attend every lesson live. Teachers and tutors will ensure students know what to expect and when/how to access both live and asynchronous work. Similarly, if students cannot access live work, they should let their teacher know. More detailed information on our systems and expectations are laid out in the FAQ section of the website.

### **On site provision**

The lockdown message is simple: Stay at home. The college site will remain open for students who meet approved criteria by invitation only. They will be contacted directly. We are not open for students whose preference is to work onsite. All bursary students have (or have been offered) IT provision. There is very limited ability to provide additional equipment but any requests should be directed to Guidance Managers who will be able to assess individual need.

### **Exams**

For now, DfE have made it clear that BTEC exams in the coming week or two will go ahead as planned. There is no clarity on what is happening with Summer exams apart from that there will be 'alternative arrangements.' I empathise massively with the uncertainty that this creates, and it naturally leads to many questions, but for now I suggest students continue to focus and engage with course content as it is taught. It is the learning not the exams that is most important. We will begin to formulate our own plans and answers when we have more details from the DfE, Ofqual and the Awarding Bodies – we will keep our FAQs page up to date with the latest information and will send email communication about any significant developments.

### **First-year (A1) students**

We know also for those of you who are not imminently sitting exams (most of our first-year students, for example) that this new lockdown is unsettling, disruptive and at a very different point in your courses than when you were in Year 11. BHASVIC teachers have built a lot of experience in teaching and learning remotely and your courses will continue to follow the syllabus - we ask you to stick to your timetable, continue to maintain momentum on your courses and remember you remain in full-time education throughout lockdown. What you achieve now will be a key part of your sixth form success.

### **Planning Day**

To enable our teachers and tutors to deliver the best experience possible over the next half-term, we are intending to implement an imminent planning day for staff, where timetabled lessons will not take place. As soon as we have a date we will let you know.

### **Free online relaxation sessions for all students: Wednesdays at 7.30pm (from 6th January)**

If any student is feeling particularly unsettled or anxious, we are offering weekly guided relaxation sessions, led by [Lindsay Hardman](#). All that is required is a quiet, comfortable space and good internet connection. Students who would like to take part should e-mail [wellbeing@bhasvic.ac.uk](mailto:wellbeing@bhasvic.ac.uk) using their BHASVIC e-mail address and they will be sent a link to join.

### **FAQs**

If you have a question please check the FAQ section of the website in the first instance. We will continue to formulate answers to the key questions and respond to any new information via this forum.

That's the headlines for now. This extraordinary period continues to provide plot twists. Thank you once again for your perseverance in the face of yet more change. I remain sad that such a formative time for our students continues to be so disrupted. We know that receiving face-to-face education is best for both our student's wellbeing and educational achievement and we will look to return to teaching on-site as soon as we are instructed to.

Best wishes,

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

William Baldwin  
Principal