



5 March 2021

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

**Covid testing:** Students should have received their appointment invitation for either Monday 8<sup>th</sup> or Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March. Please check junk folders for this and contact [covidtest@bhasvic.ac.uk](mailto:covidtest@bhasvic.ac.uk) if you have not received confirmation.

By attending, students will be giving their consent to be tested. We will presume that those who do not attend do not consent to being tested.

Covid Testing FAQs and resources are [here](#) (scroll down to 'Covid Testing in college' box). We are adding a 'walk-through' video which should be up by the end of today.

**Grade Awarding:** I absolutely understand the stress and anxiety that the uncertainty over grade awarding is causing our students (and others), I really do feel for them all after such a disrupted college career.

Guidance on grade awarding was published on 25<sup>th</sup> February, which was 5 working days ago. It is a significantly challenging job to coordinate a coherent approach to this across 50+ subjects (plus organising a return to site via mass Covid testing).

We will get information on BHASVIC's approach published on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March – just over two weeks after receiving the guidance. We want a process that is as fair as possible, that minimises stress and anxiety and maximises student success.

Please refrain from asking teachers what final grades will consist of – they don't yet know. We do know it will be formed from a combination of assessments taken (and to come) over the duration of the course; the format, significance, balance and weighting of these is yet to be decided.

It's important we take time to get it right. Thank you for being patient.

**Summer Term:** Until we are clear on how the grade awarding process works we are unable to provide a definitive structure for the summer term, for example when teaching will end for second years, whether there will be an assessment period for first years, etc. All of this is under consideration and we will communicate that as soon as we have confirmed our plans.

**Wellbeing webinars for parents, carers and students:** As students and staff return to site, we are continuing our series of wellbeing webinars, in association with Andrew Wright (Action Your Potential), which are open to all members of the college community. Each week until Easter, Andrew will focus on a different wellbeing skill and run 30-minute webinars every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 7.30pm. Recordings will also be available and there are a wealth of other resources on the membership section of the Action Your Potential website. Further details can be found [HERE](#)

**Staying safe and remaining responsible:** We know that many students are excited to be travelling into college again and we look forward to welcoming them in from Monday. We ask that students do remain responsible and vigilant both on and off-site, and continue to observe social distancing and face covering rules on public transport and in shops and businesses around the college. We want all members of our community to stay safe and well and we all have a part to play in this. Thank you!

**Vaccinations:** As an educational establishment I think we play an important role in encouraging our wider community to beware of anti-vax disinformation especially on social media or being posted through letterboxes. There seems to be a concerted anti-vax campaign in Brighton & Hove and this may have an impact on our ability to get back to 'normal' as soon as is possible. I would therefore ask that everyone gets proper advice before declining any vaccination invitation.

I can't wait to see students returning from Monday – until then, have a good weekend.

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