



8 January 2021

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

I wanted to end the week with an update but also to pay tribute to our students and say a massive well done and thank you to them. Yet again, they have shown how amazing they are by adapting to remote learning so quickly and engaging with it so positively, when we know how disruptive, frustrating and upsetting this period may be to them.

**Cancellation of Exams:** On Wednesday the Secretary of State announced that exams for Summer 2021 would be cancelled and replaced with a teacher assessed grade. We have been here before and I know that BHASVIC staff are experienced at assessing students accurately and fairly.

We want students to leave BHASVIC with the highest grades they're capable of achieving. We know that work completed during lockdown is not the same as work completed when college is open. Students should not be working any harder (or any less hard) than when the college is open. They should not be anxious about their work or final outcomes - the healthiest thing to do right now is to stay actively engaged in lessons, course content and learning routines.

Ofqual are about to launch a two-week consultation on Summer 2021 assessment, so there will be little concrete news for at least three to four weeks. As soon as we have information about the nature of future assessment plans and the remainder of courses, we'll let you know.

**Lesson times:** We are reverting to the standard college timetable lesson times during lockdown, as we do not need to stagger times that students are moving around campus. The times are available on our FAQs page, at the start of the "Lockdown 2021 - My Timetable" FAQ concertina, or on the front page of BHASVLE. If students have *any* uncertainty or problem with attending lessons according to the timetable, we ask that they communicate directly with the teacher for each lesson.

**Attendance Registers:** Teachers and tutors will continue to register engagement with learning throughout this period of remote learning. A register will be taken for each lesson/tutorial. It is important that students engage with all lessons, tutorials and learning activity set. If we or you have concerns about engagement or access to learning, the single most important thing to do is *communicate*. Our teaching and tutoring staff will swiftly contact students who we feel are not navigating lockdown well and who are not engaging with learning. We want to support all our students and help them to continue to progress. If there are any concerns about the ability to access online learning, please contact the individual tutor or teachers as soon as possible to seek advice and support.

**January Staff INSET Day:** The planned INSET day for teaching staff this month has been moved to **Friday 15 January**. There will be no lessons or tutorials taking place this day. The INSET Day will become a 'Planning Day' for our teaching and tutorial staff and teams. We are bringing this day forward so that our curriculum staff can have a day off timetable to plan for optimal delivery of courses, lessons and tutorials for the remainder of this half term. This planning time should ensure students receive the best experience and are effectively supported in remote learning this half-term and beyond.

**Onsite Provision:** Onsite provision is by invitation only. We believe we are set-up and best placed to continue to support all students remotely, whether that is for additional learning support, for those with poor mental health or supporting our more vulnerable individuals.

**A1 Parents' Evenings:** These will go ahead as scheduled on Thursday 14 and Wednesday 20 January. All appointments will be conducted remotely via our Parents' Evening online system, accessed [HERE](#). Parents of first year students will receive a separate communication today about booking appointments and where to find technical help and support, should it be needed.

**Onsite provision and IT access:** Onsite provision is by invitation only. Please see details in our previous communication about this and IT access.

**Wellbeing:** Please continue to check our Parents and Carers noticeboard [HERE](#) for up-to-date links and information about support which is being offered online. For further specialist advice and guidance on mental health support, [Brighton & Hove wellbeing service](#) have a consultation helpline, staffed by their Primary Mental Health team, which BHASVIC students, parents and carers can call during normal office hours: 01273 293481 or e-mail [SWSConsultationLine@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:SWSConsultationLine@brighton-hove.gov.uk)

**Further information, support and links are available on our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) page.**

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