



26 November 2021

Dear Student, Parents and Carers,

With a few weeks still to go before the end of term, we wanted to send out a few updates and reminders. Please do continue to check our website for notices and information on the Parent/Carer and FAQs pages, and don't forget that the college calendar contains all our key dates.

Attendance/Absence

As we move towards the end of November, we wanted to send out a gentle reminder to please follow our absence procedures, and authorise all absences, particularly as winter starts to take hold. The easiest way to notify us of an absence is to email studentabsence@bhasvic.ac.uk or to leave a message on our Absence Hotline - 01273 559966. You can find full details on what to do if a student is absent from college on our student and parent/carer pages on the website [HERE](#). For information on Covid Guidance, please check our [FAQs](#)

Autumn Term Newsletter

We are delighted to bring you this term's issue of [Parent & Carer News](#), which gives a real insight into the wealth and variety of events and activities across the college community. With a focus on past, present and future, please do take time to read through to review events which have already happened, learn more about the student experience and gain important information about what is coming up. Early in the new year, we are looking to run our next Parent/Carer focus group, which will include inviting ideas and feedback on all our communications, including the newsletter. If you are interested in joining this, please do email Caroline Abbott c.abbott@bhasvic.ac.uk and we will be in touch.

Tutorial

This week we have been delivering workshops on sexual harassment to our first year students and these have been very well received. Next week, we will be covering the 'Safe Drive; Stay Alive' campaign, a national road safety initiative which is particularly important for young people at this age. Whilst some of the material can be quite hard-hitting, it is carefully put together by our emergency services to raise awareness amongst young people of their responsibilities as drivers and passengers and to positively influence their attitudes. As with the content in last week's tutorial, if any student feels uncomfortable with the topic, then they simply need to contact their tutor in advance to be excused. We will get further student feedback on both these at the student forum (see below).

Student Forum - Wednesday 1 December

All students are invited to come along to next week's Student Forum, run by the Student Union, in the Main Hall from 11.50-12.30. This is a great opportunity to get involved in wider college life and get your voice heard. We will be discussing the cost of increased travel for 18-year-olds, BHASMAS (our end of year festive celebration), responses to tutorial, and Citizens UK campaigns about mental health support for young people and the living wage. For further information, contact BHA Student Ambassadors on Microsoft Teams.

Next Steps Apprenticeships visit - Tuesday 7 December

Students are being offered the opportunity to have a one to one appointment with Frankie Denahy from Next Step Apprenticeships. Frankie will be at BHASVIC on Tuesday 7 December from 09:30 to 13:00 offering one to one apprenticeship advice and support. These will be offered on a first come first served basis. Frankie will also be able to talk about local vacancies. If students would like to talk to Frankie as part of their career planning for when they leave BHASVIC, then please book a slot on the VLE via this [LINK](#) (Please note that only students can log in and complete the booking process). Frankie will be based in Student Services so if you have booked an appointment please report to Student Services Reception. Parents and carers are also welcome to speak to Frankie with their young person or independently. If you would prefer to have a conversation with Frankie over the telephone you can arrange this by emailing her at frankie@clearlinerecruit.co.uk.

If you would like to look at the opportunities currently offered by Next Step Apprentices you can find further information here <https://nextstepapprenticeships.co.uk/>. Please do look at our Careers & Employability pages of the [BHASVIC Website](#). If you have any questions regarding Careers & Employability contact careers@bhasvic.ac.uk. For more information on Apprenticeships please view the following links: [BHASVIC Apprenticeships Resources 2021](#) [BHASVIC Degree Apprenticeships 2021](#)

Assessment Arrangements if exams in Summer 2022 are cancelled

At BHASVIC, we are very carefully formulating our contingency arrangements for Teacher Assessed Grades should summer 2022 exams have to be cancelled again by the government. Cancellation of exams is extremely unlikely. However, we want to ensure that the contingency arrangements we put in place will meet government requirements but, very crucially, we want the assessments we put in place to support our students with their final exams.

We do not want to ask our students to do unnecessary assessment activity which does not support their learning. We also do not want to unnecessarily reduce the amount of lessons to conduct extra, contingency assessments. Basically, we will formulate the very best, most supportive and educationally sound approach which meets requirements in a reasonable way and enables us to celebrate our student achievement and promote their wellbeing.

Our arrangements will be published in full to all our students, parents and carers before Christmas and via email and our [FAQs](#) webpage. No formal assessments will be taking place until well into the Spring Term. Our advice right now to all our students and their parents and carers is to focus on your learning, the advice and feedback from your teacher about your progress and enjoyment of your deepening skills and knowledge; also, to look forward to a break over the Christmas Holidays. In the upcoming Parents and Carers consultations, talk to your teachers about your progress and what to do next. Try to avoid spending precious time with your teacher on worrying about assessment contingency arrangements and avoid spending energy on worrying – we've got this for you and we'll do well by you. We know our students, want the best for them and we know how best to do that in these circumstances

And finally...We have been asked to promote the following message to our parent/carer networks

Have you left your career in the NHS or Social Care? Get back to what you love and come and re-join your Health or Social Care team – it is easier than you think. There is financial support and guidance available from The Health and Care Professions Council's (HCPC) Return to Practice Programme team at Health Education England. This message goes out to all parents, carers and members of the local community who may once have been a healthcare professional such as an Allied Health Professional (including 15 professions, e.g., Occupational Therapist, Physiotherapist, Podiatrist, Dietician, Paramedic, Radiographers, Health Care Scientist or Practising Psychologist). Returning healthcare professionals have a key role to play in ensuring quality care is provided in NHS and social care settings. For more information please visit our [Return to Practice website](#).

Yours sincerely,



Alison Cousens
Assistant Principal (Student Services)