



**Brighton and Hove
Secondary School Partnership**

30th April 2020

Dear Student,

The last few weeks have challenged us all but it is important to acknowledge how difficult it has been for you since the announcement was made to cancel all exams this summer.

All secondary schools across the City are continuing to support students with the advice and guidance they need to prepare for September. We recently met with the Principals of BHASVIC, Varndean and The MET to discuss how we can work together to successfully plan your transition to post 16 study. Each college has highlighted how best they can support you in managing your time and studies leading up to the summer break.

MET: We know that starting at **MET** might seem daunting. Here are our top tips to help you prepare:

- Carry on with your studies - the knowledge you build now will help you at college and in later life.
- Continue to complete the work set by your school.
- Complete any projects your school has set you.
- If you're thinking about applying to the MET, have a look at our website to find out about our courses.
- Once you've applied, keep an eye on your inbox as we'll be sharing regular updates.
- After half-term you'll be able to access our MET Prep portal. Here you'll find everything you need to know and do before you join us in September.
- We'll be setting you some work relating to your chosen MET course via the portal. Make sure you complete this before enrolment in August.
- If there's anything else you need or want to know, check our website or get in touch - we're here to help.

BHASVIC: Don't worry about starting your BHHASVIC college courses too early. Here's what we recommend:

- Continue with work your school may have set you.
- Work on really knowing and understanding the content of your GCSEs – particularly for subjects you intend to continue with at college.
- If applicable, complete project work as directed by your school. Completion of project work like the RSA Cities of Learning 'badging' scheme is excellent preparation for entering college
- Proactively research the content of your college courses using the website to link through to specifications
- Find out more about this content using a wide range of providers such as FutureLearn, iTunes U, Coursera, Khan Academy, Alison, Bitesize etc.
- After the half-term break, we will begin to set you some progression work related to the courses you are interested in taking. This work will involve self-directed learning that is aimed at helping you prepare to study the chosen course. Instructions on how and when to access this will be provided in due course.
- In mid-July we will build on this work as part of our Moving-On events
- Up to date information is available on our website

Varndean College: We are really looking forward to you joining us at Varndean College and will continue to keep you informed on our website. Here are some tips and advice from us before you join us:

- It's really important that you ensure that you complete all of your studies for your GCSEs as this will place you in the best position when you start the next step with us.
- We have already emailed you a research project for you to do if you feel that you have the time to prepare for college life. This can be found on our website. This is badged by the RSA Cities of Learning Project so you can choose to do this or the project your school has provided.
- This is a great time to research the subjects you have chosen, you can do this on our website and by visiting our course pages in the prospectus.
- In a few weeks time we will be emailing you with a reading list and some topics to start researching for all of your subjects and with some work to get you excited about your upcoming subject choices.
- In June we will be releasing pre-work for all of your subjects to get you ready for what to expect once you begin all of your chosen subjects.
- On Results Day, August 20th, we will be available for support before you have your enrolment interview.
- Our Additional Support team are still working, albeit remotely, so will still work with those of you who would like some transition support. You can contact our inclusions co-ordinator Jack on: jad@varndean.ac.uk.

Newman College: Those students who have accepted their places at Newman College will be sent Year 12 subject and generic College progression packs that address skills such as independent working, reading, research techniques and critical thinking, as well as well-being resources relevant to College life. Each student will be expected to undertake at least two assignments from each of their three provisional subject choices over the course of the summer term. These will help them begin to prepare for their future Level 3 courses. This is something we have always done but this year we will endeavour to get this work out at an earlier date. We will continue to plan for the induction of students into our academies as and when it is safe to do so. If you have not applied to Newman College but wish to do so please go to <https://www.cncs.co.uk/sixth-form/information-2-2/how-to-apply/>

Hove Park 6th Form: You do not need to worry about starting at Hove Park 6th form as staff will make you feel right at home very quickly. Here are a few things for you to focus on in preparation for starting your new courses.

- Carry on working and revising for the subjects you know you will be taking next year. This will ensure there are no knowledge gaps.
- Information, advice and guidance with suggestions about how you can prepare for any subject you are planning on studying post-16 can be found on our website www.hovepark.brighton-hove.sch.uk/covid-19 under the section titled 'Exam Information'.
- Research the courses you are taking by accessing the HP6 website at www.hp6.org.uk/ Find out what board your course is and look at the content of the course. Even if you learn about something that is not going to be taught straight away it will broaden your knowledge of the course and come in useful.
- Research more about your course looking at websites that can help you such as BBC Bitesize, Ted Talks etc.
- After half term we will be sending you some specific tasks to get on with to prepare you for your course. Complete these so that you are ready to start as soon as you enrol in September.
- It is not too late to apply if you haven't already - <https://www.hp6.org.uk/apply-form>

BACA College:

- We have been in touch with almost all of you to confirm courses and are really looking forward to you joining us at BACA College in September.
- We will continue to keep in touch with you regarding any updates and please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.
- We will do everything we can to make sure you feel supported and prepared for BACA College life in September.

- Your course tutors will be contacting you shortly with details of pre-course bridging work. This will be an excellent opportunity to start to build a dialogue with them and they will be available to give you feedback on your work and provide further guidance if you need it. A full list of all the pre-course learning tasks will also be available on our website.
- For those who have yet to confirm their destination for September and would like to find out more about what is on offer at BACA College, please visit our website at <https://www.baca-uk.org.uk/BACA-College/>

We want to reassure you that at this time of uncertainty, we will be doing all that we can to support you through the rest of this term and prepare you for the next exciting stage of your education.

We hope that you and your family stay safe and well.

Wishing you all the best



John McKee



Ashley Harrold



Kate Williams



William Deighan



Matt Hillier



Sarah Price



Mark Poston



Bob Speight



Jim Roberts



Dr James Kilmartin