



# BCG Newsletter

24 October 2023



## **International Day Against Breast Cancer**

The 19th of October was the international day against breast cancer and we were delighted that Sandra Freitas was able to join us to raise awareness of this very important event. Sandra looked amazing too! The school was very pink which was lovely to see. Thank you very much for the donations and if you would still like to donate, there is a bucket on reception.

## **Movember**

As we get ready for Movember the CAS & SL students are looking for a doctor or psychologist to visit and talk about men's health. If this is you, or if you know someone that would be willing to talk to the students about men's health, please do contact us.

## **Trophies Galore!**

Last week was a week of trophies as you will see later on in this newsletter. Our students made a clean sweep of the visa volleyball competition, and all of our volleyball players made a huge contribution to the success, bringing home three very big trophies which have been proudly on display in the reception all week. For some this would be enough, but not for BCG!

Last Saturday four year 13 economists were invited to represent the school competition against the very best economists from other Barcelona schools. They also returned with the trophy! This has been an excellent few weeks for BCG students showing the wider community what makes them so special!

## **Parent Meetings**

It's been wonderful to see so many parents coming to the parent meetings with teachers and I hope you found them useful. I would hope that in the future you all come because these are very important meetings for your children

## **A spooky end to the week**

This Friday is Halloween day, and of course the Castañada! We are looking forward to seeing some very scary costumes and I know the children will all have a wonderful day which of course is followed by a well deserved week's holiday.

## **Farewells**

Unfortunately, this week we will be saying goodbye to Paulina Valverde who has been with us leading our marketing and social media efforts for the last year. Paulina's energy and commitment to the school has been infectious and we are very appreciative of her huge contribution to raising awareness of BCG in the wider community. She has also played a major part in organising events hosted at school. Paulina is moving onto a new exciting job but will still be based in Barcelona so we look forward to hearing from her soon. Thank you Paulina and we wish you all the very best for the future.

Ms Kiran Singh joined our English Department in September and we are very grateful for the great lessons she has given her students that time. She leaves at the end of this week and we wish her all the very best for the future. Mr Henry Southall will join the school after the Half Term holiday.

**Mr Mower**  
*School Principal*

# EYFS & PRIMARY NEWS

Dear BCG Families,

We've had another bustling couple of weeks within the Primary and Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) phases. Our classrooms have been brimming with excitement, thanks to this term's school trips and special event days. It's been heartwarming to witness the children fully engaged in their learning, their faces beaming with enthusiasm.

In the Reception class, the children journeyed into the fascinating world of worms. They even create an edible wormery, though rest assured, the worms were made of jelly. Meanwhile, in Nursery the children worked as a team to bake a yummy yoghurt cake. This straightforward and delightful cooking project involved measuring all the ingredients using a yoghurt pot – a great activity for parents to try at home. If you'd like to give it a shot, here's a link to the recipe: [Yogurt Cake Recipe](#) (I must say, it was absolutely delicious). These engaging activities not only brought joy but also played a crucial role in developing early math and literacy skills in our EYFS children.

One of the highlights in Key Stage 1 during the past two weeks was the Year 2 trip to Gava Mar. During this outing, the children put their knowledge of the local area to practical use, identifying human and physical features as they explored. They even had the opportunity to mail special postcards they had been working on in their English class, so keep an eye on your letterboxes, Year 2 families!

Key Stage 2 has been equally bustling. Year 4 students, on their Viking-themed day, were a sight to behold. Their handcrafted shields and longboats were nothing short of impressive, and their Viking roars were truly fearsome. Learning about the Vikings through the story "How to Train Your Dragon" has been a memorable experience for many children in this year group. On the same day, Year 5 and 6 students undertook a sponsored run for leukaemia. This event involves over 500 schools in Spain each year. Children are required to run laps around the school (675 meters) within a set time. Students predicted how many laps they could complete in a set time frame, and if they met their target, they pledged a 2-euro donation. Congratulations to all the children who participated and put in the effort to raise funds for this noble cause.

Speaking of fundraising, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to all the families and children who generously contributed to World Cancer Day. The school was adorned in pink, and the support and energy were palpable, I know the energy and love were felt by all those affected by cancer. From the depths of our hearts, thank you!

Lastly, I'd like to remind you that we've been commemorating Black History Month throughout October. This observance originally began as a way to honour the

significant people and events in the history of the African diaspora. Our students have been learning about noteworthy individuals and events both in the classroom and during our assemblies.

As we approach the half-term break, I hope you all have a relaxing and enjoyable time.

**Miss Kerry Ford**  
KSI Coordinator

## LANGUAGES

### Spanish class

This week, in our Spanish class, we have been exploring the autumn season. Within this topic, there are many concepts that are useful for language development, such as reading and writing, directionality, and vocabulary. We also put into practice values like effort, cooperation, and concentration.

To achieve this, the class was divided into different groups, each with different activities at their respective tables. After a while, they rotated so that each and every student could participate in every challenge.

I'm sharing some images with you so you can see how much fun they had and how much they learned through play.



**Miss Marta**



# SECONDARY NEWS

## Sixth Form

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The Autumn Term has seen new freedoms and new responsibilities for both our Year 12 and Year 13 students. Each sixth form student now has a BCG lanyard which they use to sign in and out each day (just like teachers!) and they are permitted to leave the premises after having lunch to nip down to the beach for a coffee or take a walk and get some fresh air. Our older students are role models for the younger ones and sixth form students are becoming more aware of the impact that their actions have on others and how school processes work together to provide a safe and pleasant community for all. Sixth formers are also ambassadors for BCG when they are out and about in the neighbourhood and therefore concepts such as civicism and community play a wider role in their daily lives. We remind them that their behaviour and actions within the wider community affect the way in which our school is perceived by others and we congratulate them on the great job they are doing so far.

## Secondary School Council

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We are pleased to announce the following representatives from KS4 who will join Heads of House on the Secondary School Council:

- LITA - Yaroslav Khmelev (Matthias)
- MIRO - Emilio Magoga (Gwen)
- DALI - Sophia Gikic (Matt and Ben)
- GAUDI- Martin Matejka (Marta)

They will be joined soon by representatives from KS3.

The Secondary School Council will meet for the first time this year on the last day of half term. Made up by Heads of Houses and representatives from KS3 and KS4, the council will discuss any issues raised by secondary students and then present them to Heads of Stage to decide on any points which are actionable and make plans for implementation.

The secondary school council is a mechanism by which students' voices are heard and gives their ideas direct access to secondary and senior leadership teams. Heads of houses, representatives and prefects will receive training and guidance on how to run a school council and the experience will help them grow as communicators and leaders. We look forward to news from the secondary school council in the next newsletter.

## Halloween House Competition

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This year we are taking Halloween scarily serious with our new House Halloween competition. Our Heads of House met with their counterparts in Primary to draw chilling categories out of a hat. The result is that next Friday, students should dress up in their House category costume, which are as follows:

- Miro - Spiders & Skeletons
- Lita - Monsters & Mummies
- Dali - Witches & Wizards
- Gaudi - Ghosts & Ghouls

May the best House win!

## IB Curriculum Focus - Language & Literature

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*'To imagine a language is to imagine a form of life'*

- Ludwig Wittgenstein

Those of us who teach the IB "Group 1" subjects – English and Spanish Language & Literature – believe in this quotation to the fullest. From taking students on a journey from ancient texts like Euripides' *Medea* to the Renaissance and Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*, from modern classics like *La Casa de Bernarda Alba* and *Dubliners* all the way up to the 21st century and graphic novels, our aim is to have students experience **life**, and experience a conduit to it that is quite distinct from the prevailing inputs of our times. We want to get them to think about how meaning is created and shaped. To see subtlety, beauty, pain, exaltation and humour in words. In short, we want to convey all the intellectual gifts the vehicle of language has to offer.

A wonderful feature of our school is that we offer this experience for students in both English and Spanish - two distinct vehicles, as it were, each with its own idiosyncrasies and joys. Nevertheless, we want both subjects to be alike in their adherence to the philosophical underpinnings of the IB and in the rigour and complexity of the content. To that end, the teachers of the two subjects aim to combine our approach when selecting texts and when guiding the students through them. We confer regularly, workshopping ideas on how to drill the most profitable essay techniques, and how to get students to ponder more deeply and comprehensively oftentimes dense and difficult material before them.

Group 1 is a module of the IB we at BCG feel very passionately about and - though dense and difficult the material may be - we aim to instil that same passion in the students. Follow Wittgenstein's maxim, the payoff is huge!

## IB Business Management 2 Minutes - 2 Slides - 1 Potato!



As part of our introduction to marketing, Y13 students were tasked with creating and presenting a short marketing pitch. Their goal was to win a contract for a marketing campaign to rebrand potatoes as creatively as possible, whilst delivering an engaging and enthusiastic pitch, with attention to the core principles of marketing. Congratulations to Pablo and Ben for their company 'Chunky Spud!'

## Senior Maths Challenge

A couple of weeks ago some of our IBDP Mathematics students took part in the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge, which is a very prestigious competition set by the UK Mathematics Trust. Facing 25 extremely challenging, problem-solving questions, they achieved some fantastic results. I am delighted to report that out of a cohort of 20 students, 13 of them achieved medals.

Our medallists were:

- Bronze Award - Maksim Babkin, Yuriy Golovin, Mariia Honcharenko, Vassilissa Khmeleva, Zoe Marchant Gormaz, Samanta Mendoza Grima & Robert Schmidt
- Silver Award - Darina Fedorova, Ariadna Rey Moreno, Luka Gikic, Marcus Naesstroem & Maria Pishnyak
- Gold Award - Ekaterina Leksina



Special mention should be made of Maria Pishnyak who is actually in Year 11 and, despite entering the competition a year early, managed to achieve a silver medal. And also of Ekaterina Leksina who managed to achieve a gold medal for the second year running with a huge total.

The maths department are incredibly proud of all of the students who took part in the competition and it is really encouraging to see that we have such talented problem-solvers taking the IB Mathematics courses.

## Theatre & Drama at BCG - Squire Stage Combat

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*"The essence of drama is conflict. The epitome of conflict is combat."*

Last week we were visited by Mark Ruddick from Squire Stage Combat. Mark is an experienced film and stage stunt performer and fight choreographer who has worked on movies such as Xmen as well as a multitude of TV shows, West End productions and opera.

Students from Y9 to Y12 learnt to stage a realistic fight and sword fighting scene and had lots of fun in the process! Apart from a great physical workout, the students developed their understanding of 'act-react' in theatre and the use of momentum and control.

Thanks Mark! We look forward to repeating these sessions next year.



## TOK to your Child

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TOK (theory of knowledge) is a core element of the IBDP programme and embraces our BCG core value, Critical Thinking. You may not know it but TOK is everywhere. We even hear TOK style discussions amongst our students in EYFS; it's not just a sixth form thing! For example, when a child claims something is not fair and another child or adult disagrees, who is correct?

TOK aims to unpack and investigate *how you justify that you are right or wrong*. What is your reasoning, what is your evidence, what has affected your decision making process and led you to believe that *you are right*? In the process of unpacking their 'claims' and personal 'truths', students investigate possible bias and are asked to consider the counterclaims of others. Students work on developing open-mindedness as they consider the IBDP statement that **'other people, with their differences, can also be right'**.

In the next half term, we focus on the BCG core value of Critical Thinking across the whole school. It would be great if parents also supported the concept of TOK and critical thinking at home with students of all ages, by initiating discussions and *talking to your child about what they think they know*. Encourage your child to consider and acknowledge the perspectives, views and truths of others.

Parents. Challenge yourselves to think about the world from your child's perspective. By no means does this suggest you have to agree with them or force them to agree with you. The opposite is true. TOK is not a debating class where we aim to select a winner or choose a side in a topical argument. In TOK we aim to consider all views and opinions to make sense of the world, its diversity and its conflicts. Through discussion and reflection, we engage in ways to move forward



as harmoniously as possible, tolerating and perhaps even learning to appreciate and accept the contrasting views of others around us, while standing firm with our own set of justified, true beliefs.

If you wish, you can initiate a talk at home using one of our 7 BIG questions that we will be discussing in classes over the next half term. These are:

1. What shapes our perspectives as knowers?
2. Why, when faced with facts, do our minds not change?
3. How has our understanding and perception of knowledge changed over time and what factors have influenced this shift?
4. To what extent do you agree that there is just as much diversity of perspectives within an individual community or culture and there is across different communities as cultures?
5. How do we know what is true when experts disagree?
6. Are those outside a specific community/family/religion/culture able to understand the respective groups key ideas and beliefs?
7. To what extent is it possible for a person to remove all emotion, personal experience and / or bias when sharing or seeking to acquire and accept knowledge?

## CAS and Service Learning

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### World Mental Health Day

Hello Community!

October 10th was the world mental health day. I led the coordination of this event. I want to say **thank you so much** for participating by dressing in green and also for your very generous donations. We raised a total of €256 which will go towards helping young people with mental health problems. The charity is [here](#).

During the first period on Tuesday 10th October, my project assistant, Varvara, and I told Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9 about mental health, causes of mental problems and how to maintain their mental health. The children actively participated in the discussion of the current topic, answered questions and listened attentively. Thank you very much for your interest and attention.

I would also like to thank Mrs. Bell and Mrs. Edwards for the opportunity to organise a day of mental health awareness and present this extremely important topic to the younger years. We remind students that there is a listening team in school and a safe space club on Wednesdays if anyone wants to discuss issues that are affecting their mental health in any way.

Thanks,

*Margarita*  
Year 12 IBCP

## November

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### Calling all men in our community!

November is the month that our community brings awareness to men's physical and mental health. For all those wishing to participate in the worldwide NO SHAVE November month, please put your CLEAN SHAVEN, week 1 [photo in this folder](#) no later than Wednesday 8th November. Then, you do not shave for the entire month and each week you should upload your progress photos to the same folder (in the correct week please :) Please make sure your photo is labelled with your name.



During the Movember month, there is a lot going on, coordinated by Pedro and Gaya in year 12 and supported by all year 12 CAS students. The students have already led very informative Men's Health assemblies to kick start the month (in lieu of our upcoming November holiday). They are looking to invite guest speakers and will be leading a range of fun tutor time activities across the month.

Don't forget to buy a moustache - if you cannot grow your own - as we want everyone to be wearing one on Thursday 30th November!

### IBDP Student Focus - Ekaterina Leksina

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Hello! My name is Ekaterina Leksina, I joined BCG last year for the IB diploma programme. For my subjects I chose Maths AA, Computer Science, Economics, Biology, English A and Spanish B, all of which I enjoy very much.

I continue to broaden my knowledge outside of IB in various ways. One example is participating in different subject olympiads in my home country. At the end of March I participated in the final stage of the All-Russian Olympiad in Economics and became one of the winners. This is the biggest national competition in Russia consisting of four stages and only 300 students from all over the country reach the final stage. It is a great opportunity to test your knowledge, attend lectures from professionals, meet like-minded people and win some prizes. I am quite happy with my result. In the summer I represented Russia in the International Economics Olympiad and won a scholarship to a short study programme in San Francisco. I am now very focused on my university applications - I am applying for UK and US. I have taken some time to visit different colleges to help make up my mind. I know that I still have a lot to learn and a new goals to achieve in the future.

## ENRICHMENT NEWS FROM MISS BELL

### Residential Trips and Primary Ski Trip 2024

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Following on from our parent meeting in June, the trips team are now happy to announce that we have confirmed all of the 2023-2024 residential trips including the year 5/6 ski trip. Even better is the news that many of these came in under our originally predicted cost. Parents should have received your letter over the weekend with a signup deadline of Sunday 22nd October 23.59hrs. Please support these trips that support our school core values and learning powers as well as strengthen bonds and relationships between staff and students.

### Mixed BISA Volleyball Tournament

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A little bit of BCG history was made on the 17th October 2023. For the first time EVER we entered this BISA tournament and won not one, not two BUT ALL 3 age categories!

Ms. Sierra's and Inez's U14 team were an absolute delight to watch with our experienced year 9's supporting our new year 7 and 8 players in an excellent display of sportsmanship and peer coaching. Our youngsters won their round robin event against 6 other BISA schools winning all but one of their matches. Amazing.



Our U16's were led by our very own Ted Lasso, Mr Fassam! Again, the team spirit and collaboration with each other made the difference in what was a super close 3rd and final set with BCG winning with pure mental toughness and resilience shining through against SEK; the tournament host and previously predictable winners of this league! Mr. Fassam kept everyone calm and reassured throughout the tournament that having fun and working together was the priority for the day. This definitely helped the students' mindset and paved the way for victory!

My U18 team was nothing short of wonderful (if you ignore the serving!!!) in the way shook off mistakes with good communication and humour and dug deep when it counted to pull off some amazing plays. Our last game was a convincing 2 set win over BSB that left me with slightly more grey hair than I started the day with. A tense but tremendous final to say the least!

To all the players, you were a credit to the school in terms of your conduct and communication both on and off the court. Your general enthusiasm and energy was commented upon by other coaches and the host school organisers. Everyone noticed you winning and losing games and accepting (sometimes rather dubious!) referee decisions with dignity with respect for yourselves and others around you. Well done for being such fantastic representatives of the BCG community.

## Barcelona Economics Olympiad

Last weekend, four of our Year 13 Economics students competed at the Barcelona Economics Olympiad, coming away with the the first place trophy! We want to congratulate Felix Lehtonen, Ekaterina Leksina, Bohdan Khmelnytskyi and Elin Hoenselaars for their wonderful achievement and for representing our community - and of course their teacher Mr Hadjipavlou for inspiring them to participate.



In the words of the students themselves..

*'It was truly a great event, where we got not only to compete, but also to connect with other students with a passion for economics. Our team spirit combined with the amazing talent in our team is what made us the champions of the Barcelona Economics Olympiad 2023. This event is something that all the economics students at BCG should look forward to, and hopefully our example encourages more students to dive into the world of economics.'*



## CAS - Parent Support

Thanks to our parents for supporting all our CAS events either in person, through donating or both. It's wonderful to see you such community involvement.

*Miss Bell*

## **ECAP - Football league on Friday afternoons**

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This year we wanted to participate in the mixed Football and Volleyball leagues (girls and boys) organized by the Consell Esportiu del Baix Llobregat (CEBLLOB). At the moment, we have a football team of students in Years 5, 6 & 7 who will be representing the school on Friday afternoons. Sadly, the volleyball team didn't have enough students to be formed.

Matches will be played in and around the local Gavà area and are due to start in November. We will be playing in the Alevin Futsal (football sala) category. Participation will involve playing every Friday, at either 6pm or 7pm.

Playing matches is something that encourages and motivates children, and these friendly competitions aim to help them enjoy the sport in a respectful environment. They are not as competitive as matches at Club level. The team manager is Rubén Fernández, whom the children already know from school and has been in charge of the team in previous years.

Before that, and in order to prepare for these matches, we have started with the training sessions at school (Sports Hall) on Fridays, from 4:30 to 5:30pm.

For more information, please contact: [ecap@bcgava.com](mailto:ecap@bcgava.com)

We are all looking forward to a great football year!

## **Irish Dance Club is back!!**

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I'm very pleased to announce that we will be starting the **Primary Irish Dance Club** again after half term. The club will be every Monday at break time and lunch time for years 3 - 6. Children will be learning the basic steps of Irish dancing and working on a choreography to perform for St Patrick's Day. I am looking forward to having last year's dancers back and welcoming new students who would like to give it a try.

*Ms O'Connor*



# MUSIC

## JACOB - GUITAR TEACHER

I'm from London and studied classical guitar at the Royal College of Music and after at the Royal Academy of Music. After that I toured the country with a flamenco group and my own guitar duo. Then I moved to Spain and studied early music at Escola Superior de Musica de Catalunya playing the theorbo and baroque guitar and performed extensively in the UK and Spain. I consider myself an all round versatile guitarist. I enjoy listening to and playing bluegrass and rock music through to baroque opera and Mozart.

Now I enjoy family life, playing with my kids, cooking, making music projects with my students, encouraging and mentoring young talent, and collecting veg from my allotment. It's a joy to join the music department at BCG and I look forward to developing the young guitar talent that I got to see on my first day.



## NOEL - TRUMPET TEACHER

Originally from Dublin, Ireland, Noel has been working as musician and music teacher in Barcelona since 2021, and holds a Master's degree from the Conservatori Liceu. A deep believer in youth music education, he is delighted to be joining the music team at BCG!

Noel still has some availability on his timetable therefore if your child would like to learn how to play the Trumpet or trombone, please contact [claire.mcdonald@bcgava.com](mailto:claire.mcdonald@bcgava.com) for further information.

# OTHER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

## FUNdamentales REMINDER

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### Spaces Available

The FUNdamentales Multipsport half term camp is taking place this half term from Monday 30th October to Friday 3rd November, 0830h to 1630h

There are still places available to take part in this fun and and inclusive sports week!

Contact FUNdamentales directly on [info.fundamentales@gmail.com](mailto:info.fundamentales@gmail.com)



# GLIMPSE OF THE WEEKS





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