



WEEKLY BULLETIN

April 17th 2020

I know how important Easter is to everyone in Catalonia and so I hope that you were able to celebrate it, if only virtually, with your families.

The current situation is not preventing us from continuing with our exciting plans for the future of BCG and I just wanted to update you on some of these initiatives.

Mission and Vision - at some point this term I will share our mission and vision statement with you as part of our consultation. We will then publish the final document ready for the start of Term 1.

Summer school - Dan Pilcher is working hard to prepare an exciting summer school programme this year. We are confident we will be open again at that point and it will provide a fantastic opportunity for the children to get back into school during summer and do some great activities with their friends.

International Baccalaureate - We are having regular meetings both externally and internally to continue our preparations for a successful application. There is a huge amount of work to do but it all aligns so well with our values that it is giving us an opportunity to develop areas across the whole school not just in the Sixth Form. Rachel Fenton, our IB Coordinator will be giving regular newsletter updates over the coming months.

Encyclopedia Britannica - we have just started a trial of this world famous academic resource and it will be available to all staff and students. It is beautifully presented and easy to use. Everything is written at an age appropriate level and I am certain students of all ages will find it a fascinating and

helpful research tool for their projects. If the trial is successful we will be using this from September as an important resource in our new library.

Unifrog (university and careers guidance) - I have talked about this before but it deserves another mention. An email was sent out to all Year 10, 11, 12 and 13 students and parents inviting you to create an account and use this fantastic tool. I see some of you have done so but I really would urge the rest of you to do this. Mr Steadman has introduced this to his Year 10 group with great success. Unifrog will form the main support for our University application and careers support over the coming years.

New building - clearly we are not currently able to progress work in the new building but many preparations are still going ahead ready for the day we can get back in. The canteen, sports hall, gym and science laboratories will all be open by September and we are also hoping to have the library ready by then too.

Trips - we are developing a new trips procedure which will mean we will be able to publish all term one trips in the summer so that you will have plenty of notice. We will also be improving our communications about trips in the future.

Have a wonderful weekend

Simon Mower

Dear Pupils and Parents,

Firstly, I would like to extend a very warm welcome back to all our families after a much needed Easter break. Our wonderful team of teachers have certainly returned to the new term with a real spring in their step. This week, we embraced the new – yet exciting – challenge of ‘Live Learning’. The response has been overwhelmingly positive across the community to the delivery of lessons in a live format. I am sure you will agree this is huge leap forward as we strive hard to provide our pupils with the best experience possible. We hope also that it has gone some way in supporting the many different family dynamics at home.

Teachers have shared many heart-warming stories of children’s daily quips, queries and questions. Seeing all of the work the children are sharing online is fantastic. The high standard of work is testament to the high standards our pupils set for themselves. I have to say this level of commitment has been remarkable. From behind our computer screens, we have seen our classes in a whole new light – one that has shone brighter than ever before. This, alongside the many lessons we ourselves have learned, will be something special we will take away with us long after normality returns.

I would like to take this opportunity to share something with you that maybe you don’t see at home – something that us, teachers, are missing terribly: magic. The magic of the classroom. It is virtually impossible to recreate the magic that goes on inside a classroom, teaching digitally and remotely as we are currently doing. From the experiential learning, the accidental learning, the learning from asking (and answering) 300 questions per lesson, per day to the spine-tingling ‘Eureka’ moments when a child makes a new discovery – this is what is magical. At home, you are only getting a tiny snapshot of what actually goes on inside a classroom, where real teaching and real learning come to life. Please forgive us for the limitations afforded by our ‘Digital School’. Please reserve judgements about materials and content posted – we are doing our best to sprinkle at least a little bit of magic to all of your children online. We are, and will, continue to do our absolute best for your children.

Covid-19 has denied us all globally many things. The devastating impact will be felt for a very long time to come. From a teaching and learning perspective, it has denied us teachers and our much loved classes those daily interactions, we – and they – not only thrive on, but that feed the magic of a classroom. The class jokes, the numerous funny stories shared each day, the holding hands, the pat on the back, the HI-5, the rounds of applause, the reassuring smiles, the voices that say ‘you can do it’ – Now, this is the magic we can achieve online. Achieving what we have from behind a screen in just 4 weeks has been a monumental challenge, one we are now on the right track to mastering. This week I would like to dedicate this week’s Primary Newsletter to all of the teachers for weaving their magic so well. The hours and effort behind the scenes is beyond admirable. Thank you.

I would like to finish with a special thank you to our new Principal, Simon Mower. In his very short but extremely eventful start to BCG, he has weathered and guided us through a global storm we could never have imagined. His valiant steering of the BCG ship into much calmer seas has been done with such immense care and respect for his staff and the community as a whole. Thank you.

I wish all of our families a safe weekend

Miss Wakelin

Primary Marking & Feedback

Feedback and marking of pupil’s work in the Upper Primary school is given in various forms: written comments beneath work posted and shared and verbal (via Google Meet online class chats), which is the most effective. In the classroom, feedback is ongoing in every lesson. Teaching online we don’t have the pleasure of reading and critiquing children’s exercise books, where we would normally use rewards, positive praise of effort and skill, and suggest a next step or area for improvement. We are doing this with work that is posted but the limitations must be understood.

Pupils post their work at various points through the day – this is absolutely fine. However, this can mean that ‘marking and feedback’ given by teachers can look sporadic. It is not. We endeavour to respond to everything that is posted. When in school, we adhere to our school’s marking policy. Depending on the nature of the task the feedback may be short, simple yet effective enough to move the child’s learning on. They may be at the start of a new topic and learning new skills, or, they could be building on knowledge previously taught, whereby they require longer – what we call ‘deeper’ – marking. Again, the feedback will vary based on this. It is good practice and important for the development and progression of each child or manage constructive feedback about their work. They are asked to edit and improve their own and others’ work continually. These are vital skills in themselves. The level of feedback also varies from year group to year group, naturally.

As they progress through Primary, children are expected to try to identify errors themselves – this is learning at its best. So a teacher may comment on a piece of work posted online ‘I can see you have missed capital letters for 3 of the words you have used – can you spot them?’ This is appropriate and challenges the child to see where they made the error. Comments such as ‘Excellent effort’ are commonly used – praising effort is valued above achievement, at this age range. We will continue to develop our strategies in line with our online practice.

Miss Wakelin

We may have had a short week but our learning has been very busy and creative in EYFS and Lower Primary. The teachers have enjoyed live teaching sessions, hearing all about Easter egg hunts and family games over the holidays and working on different lesson inputs. Some classes have started their new topics for the summer term. Miss Plummer's class have been learning to tell the story, 'We are going on a bear hunt'. Storytelling with actions is an ideal way for young learners to remember key language, which will later find its way into writing! This has linked in well with their topic Amazing Animals and they have even learnt to some facts about black and brown bears!

Year 1 have made a 'flaming awesome' start to their Australia topic! We have been stunned by the creativity in building models of Sydney Opera House and the Sydney Harbour Bridge. We have some designers and future architects amongst us! Have a look [here](#), at all of the creations. Year 2 have been using comparatives and superlatives to describe and will begin their new topic Adventure next week. Well done everyone for continuing to show a big effort in your online learning.

Mrs Pilcher



New Date



Come and visit
our
New Building

BCG OPEN DAY

Friday 12th June
14:30 to 16:30

Book your place now on our Website:
www.britishcollegegava.com

Learn more about British education, discover how our students develop a true love of learning, see our facilities including our new building, meet the teachers and ask us questions.

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Our New Teachers



A little about myself, I did a maths degree then a PGCE at Oxford, and went on to be a Secondary teacher in the 1990s. I taught up to A level Maths in a school in Northampton. I always liked Maths and what's great is, if you put the effort in, the results will be returned. It's not like writing essays where the marker can be subjective. ... with Maths if you know how to do it those marks are yours!

Unfortunately something happened to me at the end of that decade that required me to have an ear operation, and it had to be re-operated a few times. I ended up spending more time in hospital than I would have ever imagined. As Robert Burns said "The best laid plans of mice and men often go awry". And as is, with the current crisis, life can throw curve balls at us, and change our directions.

During this time as an inpatient, I decided I wanted to "be a doctor" and perform surgeries. Fortunately with my degree in Maths, I was able to apply for a shorter Medical degree! Yes Graduate Entry Medicine programs view maths as a science, and that took a year off my Postgrad studies. People ask, 'If I had my time again would I do Medicine straight away from A levels?', the answer is probably yes, it is a great career. However it is hard work and not for the faint-hearted. It was even tougher as a 'mature student'; those long hours were even less wonderful as I got older.

It was a combination of the life-style balance, and a wish to work in Europe, why I chose to return to teaching last year.

I'm really excited to be at BCGava. My early experiences have already been so positive with the students online. The level of effort, willingness to learn, and the mathematical ability is high. And like all of us, I can't wait to be back in the classroom!

Mr Link - Maths



I must admit I was rather nervous about starting at a new school given the current situation (especially considering how I am still in the UK), but it turns out my nerves were for nothing! I would like to extend my gratitude to all of the staff and all of the students at BCG who have given me a very warm welcome and who have gone to extreme lengths to help me settle in quickly - thank you all!

To introduce myself, I am Ella Lane, and I am the new secondary science teacher. I will be teaching science to Year 8, Year 9, Year 10 and Year 11. I am very proud to have joined a school that has such an excellent system in place for dealing with these unprecedented times. All of the classes I have had so far have run smoothly, all pupils have been engaged, and it is such a wonderful community to become a part of.

That being said, I truly cannot wait for the school to open again and to be able to teach in the classroom. I am incredibly passionate about my subject, and about developing working scientifically skills in my students - which means practical investigations! Until we are able to all meet together in the new labs, keep an eye out for the little projects that I might suggest that can be completed at home.

There's always room for science, even when we're all stuck indoors!

Ms Lane - Science

MUSIC RECITAL VIDEO

As you know, our **Spring Music Recital was cancelled** at the end of March. A music recital is a special time when the children can shine and show their friends and teachers how much hard work they have been putting into making beautiful music. It also inspires others to do the same. Therefore, with your help **we have decided to create a video of some performances** as an alternative.

If your child has his/her instrument at home and is able to play a piece well (it can be beginner level if the piece is mastered), please video it and send it to Mrs. Foreman. The performers should wear their BCG uniform in the video, and smile into the camera at the end of the performance. Please also write the title and composer of the piece in the email when you submit the video.

If your child would like to participate, please send an email to Mrs Foreman (claire.foreman@bcgava.com) and submit your video by Wednesday 22nd April. Many thanks.

Big Sing

The Big Sing video deadline is next Friday, 24th April.

The song is one that everyone knows: **Imagine by John Lennon.**

The **code to access** Google Classroom and the backing and vocal track is:

dneskle



TALLERES CONFINADOS!

QUE OS PARECE SI HACEMOS UN TALLER?

<https://youtu.be/YvI0edPDPMI>

Los Equipos de Monitores i Monitoras se añoran...
Se añoran mucho!

Por eso os haremos llegar un taller cada semana de un compañero o compañera del equipo de saned. <https://youtu.be/YvI0edPDPMI>

Animaros a hacerlo!

Ah! Y no olvidéis hacernos llegar una fotografía con el resultado.
Podéis enviarla a saned@saned.net



Menu Recommendation

Please find NEW recommendations for a healthy menu [here](#)



Everything will be ok

