



BCG Newsletter

February 4th 2022



Welcome to our Newsletter

It was so lovely to see so many students and staff returning this week after their quarantining.

We continue to get the occasional student testing positive for COVID 19 and this then affects the rest of the class. We continue to strongly encourage you to have your children vaccinated whenever possible as this significantly increases the chance of them being able to stay in school.

Sporting success

You will read more later in the newsletter but I was delighted to hear about our volleyball success this week! It is wonderful to have inter school fixtures back - such a great experience for all concerned. A particular congratulations to the team coach Thibault Torrellas.

Open Day

Today, Friday the 4th we have our second Open Day of the year. We look forward to welcoming 20 more families and we will also have another event later this term. Please talk about the school to your friends as you and your children are BCGs most important ambassadors!

There is plenty of exciting news to read about in this newsletter and I would encourage you all to do so. This remains the primary source of information for parents and it is important that you all engage with it.

Last week we had a strategic planning meeting with the EU Business school and we hope to formally announce our partnership very soon. We have some very exciting plans for this September.

Year 9 Options

It is that time of year when the Year 9 students choose their subjects for GCSE and on Tuesday we invited all the Year 9 parents into school to hear a presentation about what is available, how best to select subjects, which combination of subjects work well together etc. I was delighted to see so many parents come and ask great questions.

Primary Parent Rep Meeting

As promised, Miss Wakelin and Mrs Stevens met with representatives from the Primary school on Wednesday. Although it was disappointing that only 3 parents could attend, I believe it was a very productive meeting, lots was discussed. My thanks to all involved.

UK Teachers Update

Whilst we cannot give exact dates on when they will return, I can say that we are very much in the final stages of this frustrating process. The teachers will not be online from the UK next week as they each start to finalise the paperwork required to submit to the Embassy in London. So far, we have had to collect and authorise documents from 8 different countries which has been a challenge! I am confident however that we will have these wonderful teachers back in person soon. I would like to thank them and their corresponding teaching 'buddies' for continuing to provide excellent education in very difficult circumstances.

Uniforms

At my application process for the position of Principal, over two years ago I met representatives of the Parent body and later that day met all of the student reps. In both interviews the school uniform was mentioned. Parents explained that the supplier was unreliable, students complained about itchy materials etc.

Shortly after I started we announced that we would be looking for a new supplier and would in due course change the uniform. Recently we announced it was time. We have taken the students' views into consideration and in fact their views have had a significant impact on our proposed choice of materials and style. We will communicate more soon but I can clarify now that after two years of request from parents and students we are changing the uniform and in September we will be making a straight switch from one to the other.

BCG in the news

I recently introduced you to Ms Paulina Valverde, the Head of Marketing. Those of you that follow us on social media will already know that our activity has increased thanks to Paulina's hard work - we even have a new TikTok account (the Year 9's tell me this is a good thing!) Please do subscribe and follow us on the various sites - tag us, share us and help us grow.

Simon Mower
Principal



PRIMARY

Dear children, parents, families and supporters of our wonderful school,

I am extremely happy to be finally writing my first newsletter of 2022. After a bout of Covid and the long recovery that has followed, I'm finally back and ready to continue our learning journey into the Spring Term.

I say this every year but Spring is my favourite time of year. Bringing about all things new, it is the perfect time to relaunch our House system. This will be led by Miss Stevens who is a very passionate leader of anything that involves celebrating pupils and their successes. Later this year she will be launching our new Merit system which I for one am very excited about.

This week, Miss Stevens and I attended the EYFS and Primary Parent Reps meeting. I always thoroughly enjoy interacting with parents, listening to their thoughts and suggestions and sharing our exciting future plans for the school. We discussed behaviour and anti-bullying. Always a hot topic in any school and I was very proud to share not just the excellent learning behaviour I observed in lessons but the vast improvement in the dining hall. It has certainly made for a much more positive experience at lunch time.

With the brilliant support of the Secondary 'IB Primary Prefects' and the 'CAS Primary Committee' students, we have begun work on our Positive Playground Campaign for EYFS & Primary pupils. These Secondary prefects will be joining the teaching staff in supervising play times by devising games for all the children. I have ordered new playtime equipment and toys for the patio and will be working with Secondary Art students and a team of Primary School Council to design some fantastic new markings for the patio and EYFS garden.

One of the greatest things about our school is our campus. I am passionate about making time spent outside at play a positive, purposeful and pleasurable experience for all. I will be calling on the support of our school community once the team and I have finalised our growing list of fundraising ideas. I look forward to involving you in this fantastic project.

I'd like to end with an extended thank you to the team of staff teaching online as they advance along their visa process. The children love seeing them on screen all day and we are all missing them very much. The success of the online provision could not have happened without the enormous flexibility and collective teamwork from the existing staff in school. You have worked tirelessly to support online teachers, new staff who are taking excellent care of our pupils and the high level of staff absence due to Covid. It is an honour to work alongside you and the passion you demonstrate for teaching, learning and above all making sure our children are happy is outstanding.

I wish every single family and BCG staff member a wonderful and relaxing weekend.

Miss Wakelin

SECONDARY

Dear parents,

It has been an exciting 2 weeks in the Secondary School. We have **hosted a Year 9 GCSE options evening** (it was great to see the parents), our **girls volleyball team played in a BISA** (Barcelona International Schools Association) tournament and came 2nd, we hosted our first of two open days today and the secondary students had an **assembly on proper use of devices** and social media during PSHE.



Looking ahead to the future we have some important dates for you to put in your diary. The Year 7 mixed and the Year 9 girls basketball teams will travel to the American School Barcelona for a BISA basketball tournament, we wish them all the best.

I have some **exciting news about surfing and ocean safety** being put into the school PE curriculum. Thank you to all the parents that have signed their child up to this incredible opportunity. We have enough students in Year 9 and the course will **start after the Easter break**. We still need some more numbers in Year 7 and 8 if we want to run the programme. You should have received an email stating that as we feel it is very important the students learn to be safe in the ocean and we use our local environment the school is subsidising the project and therefore the cost has gone down significantly. Please email me on danny.steadman@bcgava.com to sign your child up.

We have some reporting and parents evenings before half term so please see below for the details:

- Year 8 parents evening - February 15th
- Year 9 parents evening - February 16th
- Effort and attainment grades with targets for Years 7 - 10: 18th February

We will be opening our doors again and hosting parents evening on site in school following all the correct covid-19 protocols. The evening will start at 4.45pm and will end at 6.45pm. Please inform us of your attendance using the school cloud booking system. No appointments are necessary as you will see your child's teachers when they are free.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr Steadman



NEW STAFF



Amy Barnes

Teaching Assistant

I'm originally from England and have lived here for 11 years.

I had been working as a trainer for adults but after having children, I realised that working with them was much more fun and rewarding.

Before coming to the school I was working as an English teacher in a nursery school. It has been really wonderful getting to know the children, they have made me feel really welcome.

ECAP / ENRICHMENT

Dear parents and guardians,

This week's enrichment news focuses on **the hard work our CAS students have been putting into establishing projects both in school and out in the local community.**

CAS is a wonderful element of the IBDP that allows students to learn essential life skills assisting them to **become helpful, tolerant, responsible and proactive global citizens.**

The students have been working hard in term 1 to brainstorm, plan and prepare a range of projects and experiences that will benefit the whole school while allowing the students themselves to meet the CAS learning outcomes.

Each student must demonstrate, through detailed reflection, that they have met the criteria of each learning objective multiple times during their 18 month CAS experience.

In the next section of this newsletter, the current CAS project managers have written a summary of their endeavours so far and from now on, the '**CAS Corner**' will be a regular feature in our enrichment news.

Other Enrichment Reminders:

- For those on the **secondary ski trip**, we require your height, weight and shoe size for the equipment rental company. A spreadsheet has been shared with you. Please check your emails and complete this information by Monday 7th February please.
- To **sign up for chess** (or any ECAP club) email ecap@bcgava.com.
- If you have not **authorised your child's attendance for trips** and visits this term, please email trips@bcgava.com to do this.

Have a relaxing weekend,

The Enrichment Team



CAS CORNER

What is CAS?

Creativity, activity, service (CAS) is one of the three essential elements that every student must complete as part of the Diploma Programme (DP).

Studied throughout the Diploma Programme, CAS involves students in a range of activities alongside their academic studies.

“CAS is a core subject in the IB diploma program. It stands for creativity, activity and service. To pass CAS we need to create, initiate, lead and evaluate a series of projects, as individual students and in groups. For example, individually, I volunteer as a hockey coach at my club. I teach the little kids how to play and pass on my knowledge of this wonderful sport. Here, I am involved in an activity I love and I am doing a service developing commitment and perseverance skills. Also, during term 1, I was a teaching assistant to Dr. Jim in the chemistry lab when he taught year 10 classes. I used my study sessions to offer my support to year 10 students and help them with their work; as someone who has been in their position, I wish I had such student mentors to help me when I was in year 10 chemistry! This experience meant I had to reorganise my time at home to make up for the missed study sessions and I had to learn how to break down and explain complicated content to help the younger students learn.”

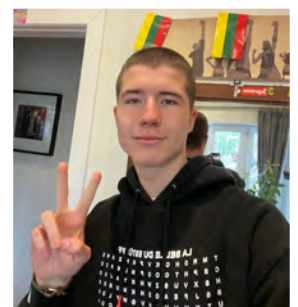
Judith Rey,
Year 12 CAS Core Values Project Manager

Meet the CAS project managers

“Hello, this is Augusto from the CAS language ambassador group and this is a summary of the hard, hard work that we have been putting into creating our projects!

- 1. We took over the organisation of the Language of the Month assemblies previously organised by Mr. Fassam. We began in January with a Lithuanian language assembly (I am Lithuanian!) and a display near the school entrance. In the assembly I taught everyone a few simple phrases in Lithuanian and we learnt some interesting facts about my country (for example did you know that Bob Dylan has Lithuanian ancestors?!). This month our focus is Italian.*
- 2. Our group is also working on plans to translate the newsletter into short audio summaries available in various languages that will meet the needs of our community.*
- 3. We are creating a visual world map of languages to help us identify how international our community is. We're going to meet every 2 weeks with the BCG language ambassadors across the primary and secondary school and we are also looking to set up a conversational language exchange that will help students across the whole school develop their speaking skills in English and Spanish.*

More to come!”



Augusto Midveris,
Year 12 CAS Language Ambassadors Project Manager

CAS CORNER

'During the last months, some classmates and I have been planning activities for the primary school. From **hosting morning assemblies to arranging fundraising activities**, our long-term CAS project consists mainly of **helping and guiding younger students**. Next week, for instance, Florencia and Gregor from year 12 will be giving a **presentation on "Friendship Boundaries"** during which they will explain the importance of verbal and non-verbal communication when forming and sustaining positive relationships. Also, they will discuss topics such as acceptance of differences, tolerance of choices and respect for diversity which are essential to understand at this stage of development.

We encourage students to attend this **next assembly and the upcoming ones** which are:

- * March: Online Safety (Hector, Arianne and Marsal)
- * May: Pay It Forward (Julio and myself)

My personal projects for CAS are also underway. A classmate and I are preparing to start a **Math & Science YouTube channel** for younger students at BCG, with the aim of helping them in the subjects that we are passionate about and we know can sometimes be complicated. We will be posting videos on a regular basis, and invite all students to check it out once it is created! Each Monday, Giada (fellow CAS student) leads the secondary chess club and I lead the primary session after school on a Wednesday. I am very satisfied with the motivation of everyone who attends, and, if everything goes as planned, we will be able to organise a BCG tournament among the members in a few weeks time. I encourage every single student to join us to share and learn about the Royal Game!

Oriol Martinez

Year 12 CAS Primary Liaison Project Manager



What are CAS learning objectives?

1. Identify own strengths and develop areas for growth.
2. Demonstrate that challenges have been undertaken, developing new skills in the process.
3. Demonstrate how to initiate and plan a CAS experience.
4. Show commitment to and perseverance in CAS experiences.
5. Demonstrate the skills and recognize the benefits of working collaboratively.
6. Demonstrate engagement with issues of global significance.
7. Recognize and consider the ethics of choices and actions.

CAS Week's Special - House Name Competition (Sign Up!)



*"As the core values project manager for this term, I have been responsible for delegating tasks and monitoring dates and deadlines for projects that our group have been planning. **The first of these is launched today! It is a house name competition!** [Click here to access the letter and entry form.](#) Much like in the Harry Potter movies, our hope is that the winning names represent the people in each house, foster a team identity and create a vibrant school spirit where the whole school community are proud to be part of their house groups."*

Judith Rey

Year 12 CAS Core Values Project Manager

HOSTING PROGRAMME

The enrichment team is excited to announce a new opportunity for our students to meet friends, demonstrate open-mindedness and celebrate their local environment as we launch a new and exciting collaborative community project. We are looking to build a **reciprocal hosting programme with our sister school in Andorra** and we require the goodwill and support of our BCG families to make this a success.

If you missed the link in the last edition of the newsletter, please [click here](#) to fill in a hosting form.

To make this happen and keep costs to a minimum, we will rely on the families of our BCG students hosting peers from BCA and making them feel like part of your family during their stay. There is no financial support or payment offered for hosting. We ask that your BCA guest is absorbed into your way of life and welcomed like an extended member of your family for the 4 nights and 5 days they will spend with you.



TRIP TO THE SANTA MARGARIDA VOLCANO

What beautiful weather we have had on our trip to the Santa Margarida Volcano on Thursday. The scenery can be described as nothing short of stunning.

The Year 6s impressed our guide with their excellent knowledge of volcanoes and asked many interesting and insightful questions. They learned a lot about the volcano itself and La Garrotxa. It was wonderful to see them so curious about their geography topic.

Each class was extremely well behaved and I thoroughly enjoyed spending the day with such polite, kind children.

Thanks Year 6 for a fantastic day! Miss Wakelin, Mr Morrison and Miss Mistry.

Miss Kelly Wakelin
Head of EYFS & Primary School



FUN ACTIVITY WITH Y4 CATALÁN NATIVES

This week we have done a fun cooking activity with Y4

The Catalan Native class has been practicing how to give oral and written instructions with correctly structured sentences. All of them have prepared a recipe that they will later write as part of an activity that they will have to hand in later in the year.

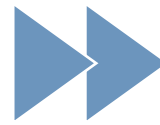


OPEN DAYS

Today we hosted the first Open Day event of the term. An Open Day is an important opportunity for prospective parents to experience the BCG community first hand. During this time, new families get the opportunity to:

1. Visit our large and impressive campus unparalleled by any other school in the area.
2. Explore all the classrooms and facilities.
3. Meet the School Principal and get the opportunity to speak to our teachers.
4. Ask as many questions as you want about education options for your children.
5. Our next Open Day will take place on March 11th, so feel free to spread the word with your friends and network.

More information can be found here:



UPCOMING OPEN DAYS



JOIN US & VISIT OUR CAMPUS

Open day	February	4th	14:30
Assessment day	February	11th	9:00
Open day	March	11th	14:30
Assessment day	March	18th	9:00

LINGUISTS OF THE WEEK

EYFS and Primary

The linguists of the week in primary for being excellent communicators in one of the 3 languages are:

1. Reception: Spanish

Platon Kravtsov

2. Year 1: Spanish

Adam Umurhurhu

3. Year 2: Spanish

A: Lucia Dennis

B: Sofia RuoHan Zhang

4. Year 3: Spanish

Antoine Menard

Marta Levina

5. Year 4: Catalan

Emma Flores

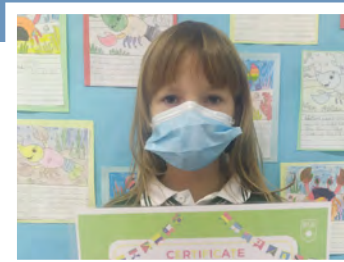
Hanna Lelek

6. Year 5: French

Niragh Niraula

7. Year 6: French

Julia Rodríguez



Secondary

The linguists of the week for our second value, PRINCIPLED, are:

1. French

Noelia Villanueva (Y8)

2. Spanish

Angelina Hommel (Y10)

3. Catalan

Alvise Marigo (Y8)

Congratulations to all of them!
Languages Department

A GLIMPSE OF THE WEEKS



A GLIMPSE OF THE WEEKS

