



Weekly Bulletin

January 15th 2021



Welcome to our bulletin

I will start by taking this opportunity to wish you all a very belated Happy New Year and let's hope that the levels of the pandemic are such that we can remain open throughout the coming months. Prior to the start of term our teachers came back early for two days of training. There were a series of very interesting presentations and workshops and it was wonderful to see the staff all engaged and excited

about improving their skills. We recognise the importance of teachers continually improving their practice so that they can further improve the classroom experience for your children. Ten colleagues also took part in First Aid training and all staff had safeguarding training too.

COVID-19 prevention

As part of our ongoing procedures to ensure the school remains as safe as possible for our whole community, all staff were tested last Thursday prior to starting the training. We continue to maintain very high levels of vigilance to ensure the school remains open and we urge parents to do the same.

Positive start

I was delighted to see such a full school on Monday - very few students failed to return on the first day and almost all are now back with us. Lessons through the school started immediately and with

gusto! There is a very purposeful buzz around the school which is great to see. Our Year 11s students have had their mock examinations and our Year 12 have been doing their assessment week. I have been very pleased with the way in which all those students seem to have prepared and taken these important tests very seriously indeed.

Due to the pandemic, it is still unclear what will happen with the external examinations for our students this summer but I will update you once I have a clearer idea.

Year 9 Timetable

I am delighted to say that Mr Mark Hooley will be here on Monday (travel permitting). Mr Hooley will be teaching Geography as well as some IT and PE in the Secondary School. At the start of Week 1 (25th January) there will be a new timetable for all year 9 students. This will also be updated on the parent portal.

Uniform

I have to say that the one area which has disappointed me is the uniform in the secondary school. Last term there was a significant improvement but this term many students have reverted to their old ways. Uniform and punctuality are both extremely important as they set the tone for the day. I ask that parents ensure their children are appropriately dressed each morning. Thank you.

Simon Mower

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year. I hope all of our families had a restful and enjoyable Christmas break under the current circumstances. It was great to see the Secondary students back in school this week.

Year 11 and 12 have finished a week of GCSE and AS mock examinations. I want to say a huge thank you to all the student's who sat these exams, they were very focused and took the examinations extremely seriously. I have had lots of very positive feedback from the teaching staff. Students have started to receive some of their results and I wish them the best of luck.

Year 11 will continue with their mock examinations next week. I hope they continue with their revision over the weekend and make sure they are fully prepared for the 2nd week of exams.

I would again like to reiterate how honoured and pleased I am to be the new Head of Secondary. I look forward to working closely with the BCG community to create a positive, safe and fun learning environment for your children. If you have any questions about my new role please feel free to contact me anytime.

Kind regards,

Mr Steadman

Update on IBDP Authorisation process

We are pleased to announce that our application for IBDP authorisation has met IB standards and requirements and has passed on to the final stage. We expect a visit from IB inspectors in March and will keep you all updated with any further news. Huge thanks go out to our teaching staff for all the work they are putting into this very thorough process.

IB Learner Profile Staff Workshop

At BCG the IB Learner Profile has become a large part of our daily life. Both inside and outside the classroom we encourage our students to be their very best by aspiring to show the attributes in their learning and social interaction with others. At the beginning of this term, our teachers participated in a staff workshop to explore the Learner Profile and created a school guide defining what each attribute looks like as a student and teacher, recognising that we too are lifelong learners. We also discussed what parents and guardians can do to help their children further develop these attributes at home. Here is a summary of our discussions:

Inquirers

Students who are inquirers ask lots of questions, are curious about the world and have a drive to deepen their understanding.

Teachers who are inquirers show curiosity for their subject and their students' learning experience. They give their students opportunities for independent learning. Parents can help their child to be an inquirer by encouraging them to find out answers and information for themselves.

Knowledgeable

Students who are knowledgeable explore a range of subjects and apply what they know to their local and global community.

A knowledgeable teacher shows understanding in their subject and in their teaching, using a variety of teaching styles and differentiating for student needs. They are always ready to learn.

Parents can help their child to be knowledgeable by encouraging them to read, talking to them about school work and motivating them to find out more.

Thinkers

Students who are thinkers can reason and think critically and creatively.

Teachers who are thinkers reflect carefully and critically on their work and use creative thinking skills in planning and teaching.

Parents can help their child to be a thinker by asking questions about the world and their place in it.

Communicators

Students who are communicators can express themselves in more than one language, through the written word, by speaking in public, through art or music.

Teachers who are communicators are also good listeners. They value dialogue and communicate ideas using a variety of methods.

Parents can help their child to develop as a communicator by; including them in discussions at home, listening to their opinion and responding positively, asking thought-provoking questions.

Principled

Students who are principled are honest and fair and respect other people's opinions. They tell the truth and can admit their mistakes.

Principled teachers model honest and fair behaviour by treating every student equally. They take responsibility for misjudgments or mistakes.

Parents can help their child be principled by being fair and teaching their child the importance of honesty and integrity.

Open-Minded

Students who are open-minded are appreciative of different cultures, values and traditions. They are open to learning and challenge assumptions.

Open-minded teachers use resources that reflect diversity and respect all students' points of view.

Parents should model open-mindedness by showing appreciation of different opinions.

Caring

Caring students are kind and helpful to others. They can listen and mediate. They look after others and their environment.

Caring teachers put their students at the centre of learning, are approachable and ensure that all students feel valued.

Parents can help their children to be caring by teaching them that caring begins at home with our families.

Risk-Takers

Risk-takers are not afraid to try new things, they perform or speak in public and are not afraid of making mistakes.

Teachers who are risk-takers try new approaches to teaching and give students opportunities to try new things.

Parents can help their children to be risk-takers by fostering independence and providing opportunities for new experiences.

Balanced

Students who are balanced participate well at school in a variety of activities, enjoy different hobbies and are emotionally intelligent.

Teachers who are balanced understand that each child is unique and use a variety of activities in their lessons for different learners.

To help their child be balanced, parents should encourage play and free time activities and share new experiences with their children.

Reflective

Reflective students accept mistakes as part of the learning process, can self assess their strengths and weaknesses and reflect upon their lives and the world around them.

Reflective teachers think carefully about their practice and are open to change. They share ideas, ask for help or guidance and talk to their pupils about their learning experience.

Parents can help their child to be reflective by asking questions and helping them to set goals.

Miss Fenton

The image shows a large sheet of handwritten notes on a wooden surface. The notes are organized into several sections, each with a title and a list of characteristics or actions. There are also some simple drawings.

- Knowledgeable**
 - Accepting and embracing different things.
 - Trusting that they can learn from different opportunities.
 - Active - Engaged - Can link different learning experiences
 - Challenge assumptions
 - Scrutinising the beauty
- Risk-Taker** (with a drawing of a person jumping)
- Reflective** (with a drawing of a person thinking)
- Balanced**
 - different cultures, discuss & include in teaching
 - Using resources that reflect diversity
 - Language of the work
 - Respecting different languages, differences & similarities
 - Raising awareness & celebrating different traditions & empowering children to discuss them.
- Parents**
 - open-minded themselves
 - lead by example
 - be tolerant with their children's opinion
 - learn something together
 - question what children learn at school.
 - discuss their school day with them.
- Student**
 - Assisting others with their knowledge
 - Explains ideas
 - Willingness to explore a range of subjects
 - Awareness that knowledge is more than info + facts - emotional intelligence
 - Relating personal experiences + ideas
- Teacher**
 - Someone who shows understanding differentiation
 - Teacher can adapt questions to most
 - Passion for subject
 - widely read
 - willing to learn more
 - Risk knowledge when the students teach you something new; No one is too old to learn
- Parent**
 - Engaging at home with conversations
 - Bring through reports with students
 - Asking about homework/school life
 - Encouraging reading
 - Encourage parents of child's passions/hobbies + interests
 - Respect changing ideas + opinions
 - Support these changes
- Teachers**
 - Variety of questioning techniques - closed/open
 - Opportunities for students to learn independently (group activities, individual)
 - Encourage interests of student (personalise teaching topics)
 - Admitting to needing to develop understanding, continue life-long learning.
 - Show curiosity about subjects students are knowledgeable.
- INQUIRERS**
 - Students**
 - ask questions (curiosity - WHY?)
 - knowing where to look for info
 - drive to learn more/discover, deepen the knowledge.
 - apply knowledge/skills across their learning - transferable.
 - inquiring about the world around them e.g. current news, politics, music, culture etc.
 - child centred learning.
 - Parents**
 - Expose to new experiences, cultures
 - Don't give answers, encourage them to find out by themselves.
 - encourage "reading"
 - Don't be negative or dismissive of new things (but prejudice your children's opinions)
 - Share independence & responsibility for themselves
 - Mistakes can happen. Accept consequences.

To our EYFS & Primary Parents and Pupils,

Welcome Back!

We would like to extend a very warm welcome back to the Spring Term. We hope that all of our families had a wonderful Christmas, New Year and Día de los Reyes. It has been lovely to see all of the children return to school more ready to learn than ever. Despite the cold, the children have settled right back into learning and it has been so good to see them engaged and willing to learn.

This week, you should have received the Learning Overview and any updated classtimetables for your child's year group. These will be available on Google Classroom. Topics have started across the whole of Primary with each class starting with what we call a 'Knowledge Harvest' where teachers find out what the children already know and what they want to find out, this in turn informs planning for engaging lessons. Here are the new topics which you will see certainly look for an exciting term's learning:

- Nursery - Traditional Tales
- Reception - Our Planet Earth
- Year 1 - Fantasy
- Year 2 - The Great Outdoors
- Year 3 - Ancient Egyptians
- Year 4 - The Victorians
- Year 5 - Ancient Greece
- Year 6 - Volcanoes

If there are any skilled parents that believe they have something they could offer the school in terms of a visit to enrich the teaching of these topics, then please do get in touch. With limitations on trips, we are looking at ways to safely invite visitors and workshops into school instead.

Staff Training

On the 7th and 8th of January, all staff participated in a wide range of training to enhance their professional development. The First Aid training that was provided was excellent. All of our receptionist and admin staff are now fully trained and prepared for any medical eventuality. A number of teaching staff also completed the training. Our academic focus for the training days was on improving writing where many strategies and new skills were shared. We are looking forward to seeing teachers implement elements of the training into their lesson planning for this term, giving children the opportunity to write more creatively.



EYFS & Lower Primary Gardens

During our staff Inset days, in addition to the various teaching workshops, staff were very busy making improvements to the EYFS LP gardens. Resources and toys have been rotated amongst the bubbles and mini projects have been started to ensure the outdoor areas remain a fun and purposeful place to play and learn.

EYFS have the luxury of having the very skilled Ms Bifani who, with the help of Miss Jenny, made a fabulous wooden mud kitchen from pallets (in only 2 hours!) for Reception children to enjoy. Fortunately, we managed to paint it before the weekend rain! The wooden huts have been made into creative dens and role play areas and the children have been straight to work enjoying these areas this week which has been wonderful to see. What a creative team indeed!

In Year 1 the sandpit has been reduced in size to create more space for ball games and to offer more variety. We know that the children often come home sandy and muddy and this is evidence of their learning and play but we hope that the reduction of size will ensure they choose to play in a variety of the different zones.

Year 2 gardens have been cleared of role play and building equipment to make more green space to play a variety of different traditional playground games this term. Mr Pilcher will be teaching some games in PE that could be played during break times and class teachers will be spending time during PSHE lessons to teach a new game a week. The children really love when teachers play alongside them with games such as Stuck in the Mud and Benchball! Please feel free to teach your child a game that you may know. I am sure they would be very happy to teach it to their classmates.

The gardens are always an on-going project and with ideas from the children we hope to continue with modifications over the term, including adding planters for each garden that each class can tend to.



Primary Library

We are pleased to announce that we will resume library sessions for all of our pupils. Led by Mrs Scott, we have organised a timetable for classes to visit the library and choose a book to take home. This is in addition to the Oxford Reading Scheme books that class teachers have allocated to each child, according to their reading level. Very strict guidelines will be followed regarding Covid. Books will be disinfected and rules regarding handling of books and hand sanitizing will be adhered to. Thank you to the Year 6 Librarians for their help in keeping the Library well-organised and tidy.

House Team Winners

If you were in Green Team last term, you will have had a very successful term winning House Winners Trophy, where they won it not once, twice or even three times – 4 time winners, in fact! Even though we have only been back to school a week, this term it appears that the Reds, Yellows and Blues are heading for glory. Judging by the number of Housepoints they have already earned, they appear to be going all out with impressive behaviour, excellent focus in lessons, being super helpful and just about anything to earn housepoints from their teachers. However, there can only be one winner and this week I am very pleased to see the mighty comeback of the Red Team. Very well done to all of the Reds! Can you keep hold of the top spot for another week?

Respect & Manners

A reminder that we are very particular about teaching children manners. Using 'please' and 'thank you' and showing respect to all staff in school, including our cleaners and dining hall staff is expected. Please help us to teach your children to show respect to all adults in the community and have high expectations of them. This could simply be replying to a morning greeting on the gate or a thank you when lunch is served or a door is opened. It is the smallest things that go a long way.

Lastly, a final reminder that toys must not be brought into school. The school cannot take any responsibility for any lost or damaged toys. Please also ensure that pupils do not wear nail varnish to school. Any worn outside of school time must be removed before school begins on Monday.

We thank you in advance for all your support for the term ahead. Your kind words and emails are much appreciated.

We wish everyone in our community a great weekend.

Miss Wakelin & Mrs Pilcher



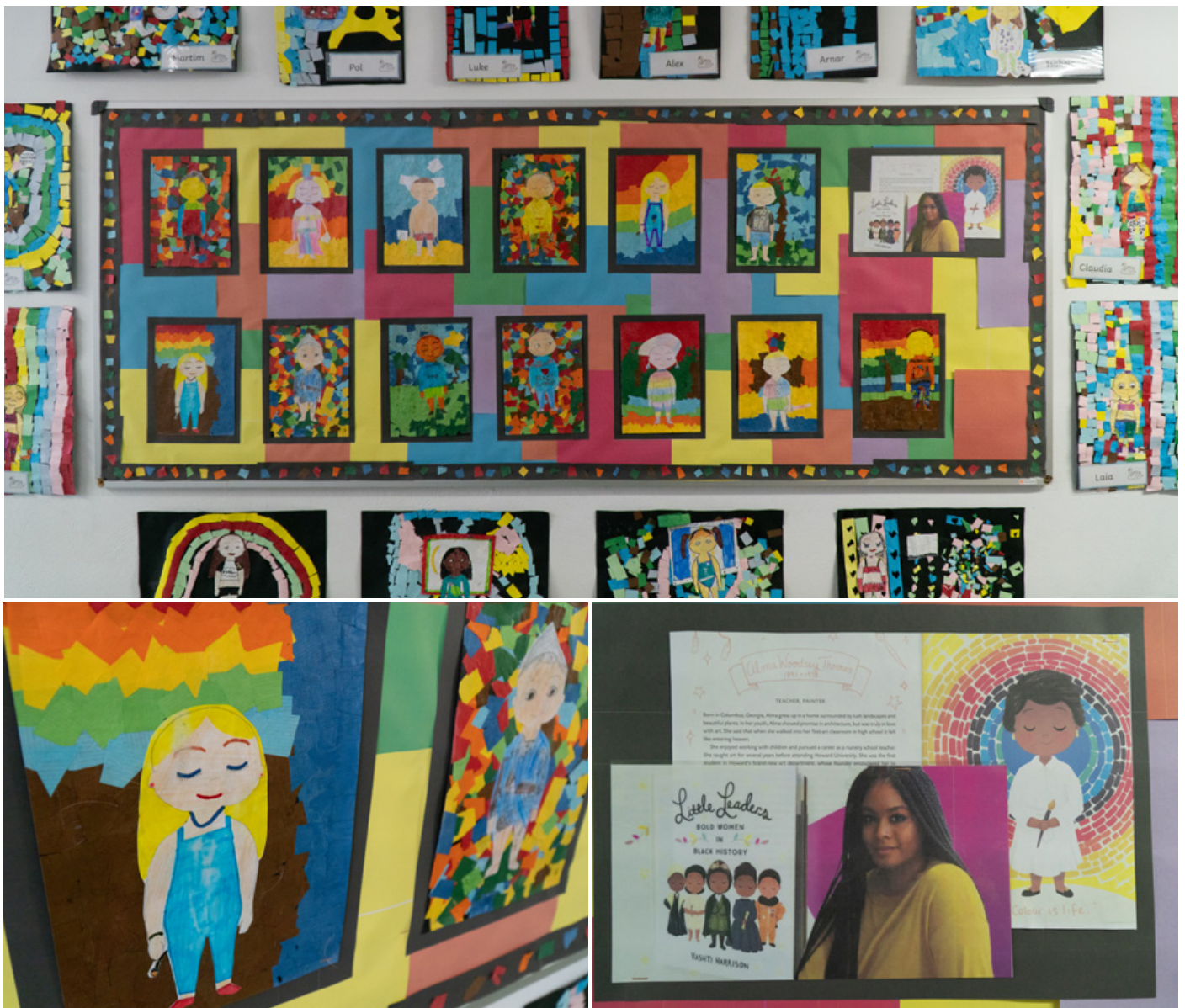
Year 4 Artwork

Last term, during Black History Month, Year 4 studied the award winning author and illustrator Vashti Harrison. They enjoyed reading her books and seeing her wonderful illustrations of renowned Black people in history. We discussed how she presents her characters with items that represent their achievements. One of these people was the artist Alma Woodsey-Thomas, who is recognised as a major American painter of the 20th century. She was an artist and teacher who lived and worked in Washington and is best known for the “exuberant” colourful paintings. We decided to combine the two artists and create our own cartoons of ourselves in the style of Vashti Harrison, on a bright, colourful background inspired by Alma Woodsey-Thomas.

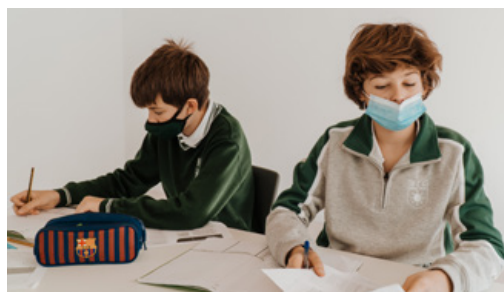
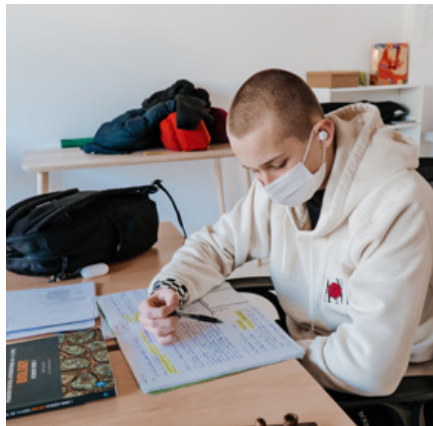
To produce Vashti Harrison-inspired artwork, we first completed a self portrait using the same design as she used herself. Then we created the background by using the collage technique we learnt this term in our art lessons. The background involved sticking multi-coloured bits of paper onto a black background. Our self portraits were then stuck on top and the whole thing covered in a layer of glue to seal and give the finished work a lustre.

The results are fantastic, bright, lively self-portraits!

Miss Osiwemu and Mr Timothy



A GLIMPSE OF THE WEEK





Now at BCG



Meat
Free
Monday

Meat Free Monday is a fun and easy way to improve your health and reduce your carbon footprints.
Yes... One day a week can make a world of difference!