



# WEEKLY BULLETIN



January 17



Dear BCG community,

Warm greetings and welcome you to the first newsletter of 2020. Each week we will continue to showcase school events and activities and demonstrate our educational approach to give you a window on life at BCG from the perspective of the children. The term has started in a very positive manner and in the Primary school we have our two new fantastic Heads in charge. Most of you are familiar with Miss Wakelin and Mrs Plicher and I can attest that they are brimming with energy, enthusiasm and commitment to improve the school in all aspects. Please see their welcome message on the web by clicking **here**: Nina Pilcher *Head of EYFS and lower primary* and clicking **here**: Kelly Wakelin, *Head of upper primary*. They are Educators with the best interests of the children at heart and it is a pleasure to have them join the Senior Leadership Team. We also welcome Sandra Freitas as a positive addition to the team on Reception and new teaching staff in William Smith (Year 5 and Year 1), Caitriona O'Connor in Year 1 and Iain Foreman as a Secondary teacher of English.

This week we illustrate the diversity of school and how the experience of the pupils can vary from one day to the next. You will see that Mr Steadman travelled with a boys and a girl's football team to BSB, as we start to engage more fully in competitive sports fixtures against other schools. In the spirit of transparency and honesty, I will state we lost both matches, but with Mr Steadman in charge I know that our time will come! I would like to express our gratitude to the parents who came along to support. Thank you.

Earlier in the week, I entered in to the science classroom of Rosie Palmer and she proceeded to unzip what appeared to a food container. I assumed she was offering a sandwich but luckily I checked my hand in time to avoid grabbing a heart and lungs. She was about to use these for a dissection in Biology with a Year 11 class and I can say that the lesson was an excellent example of learning theory through practice and in developing the principles of scientific enquiry.

Once again, we have news to celebrate from our outstanding music department. It is no exaggeration to say that the events leading up to Christmas were marvellous and there is much more to come.

In a previous newsletter I wrote some words regarding the benefits of playing a musical instrument for the development of the brain, but the benefits are actually much wider and include improved posture, stress relief, deeper breathing and improved fine hearing. Please see Mrs Foreman if you would like your child to become more involved.

I would like to thank the Year 9 parents for their enthusiastic engagement with the IGCSE options meeting yesterday evening and remind everyone that we have the visit of Simon Mower, the incoming Principal, from Monday to Friday next week. We also look forward to seeing you at the parents evenings and we thank you for using the new 'Meet the Teacher' software we have purchased to facilitate appointment making. If you haven't booked the appointment please do it before Monday. Other events in the near future include the Year 6 meeting (explaining transition to Year 7), the termly meeting of the Parent Focus Group and the Year 11 options evening.

Today we opened the first level connection to the new building, please **click here** to see the video of that fantastic moment early today and click **here** to see the updated bulletin of the New building.

As always, I assure you that we are working very hard to improve the school and please remember that I am available should you wish to come to speak on any issues.

With Kind Regards,  
**John Prince**





Hello All! I'm very excited to be here at the BCG teaching English in Secondary and have hugely enjoyed getting to know all of the wonderful pupils, staff and parents over the past week. I'm very much looking forward to what lies ahead! In addition to being an English teacher I am also a musician and I have enjoyed listening to and playing with the wonderful musicians at the BCG; there are some stars in the making!

**IAIN FOREMAN**  
*Secondary English Teacher*



Hello, my name is Ms. O'Connor and I have come to BCG from Ireland. I have been teaching for seven years in Ireland, the UK and Vietnam. I am very excited about joining the BCG team and have absolutely loved my first two weeks in the school. I am teaching Year 1, Hummingbird class and am having such fun with all the boys and girls. We are learning about toys this term and it has been great fun playing and exploring toys with the class. It has been a super two weeks and I am very much looking forward to the rest of the year to come. Please feel free to come and say hi if you see me in the playground!

**CAITRIONA O'CONNOR**  
*Year 1 teacher*



Firstly, I want to thank all of the staff, children and parents at The British College of Gava for their warm welcome to the school. I have had a great time with the children since the beginning of term and we have enjoyed our work together.

I have enjoyed a teaching career that has taken me from a prestigious Preparatory School in England to Barcelona in April 2020.

I have arrived at the school from Oak House International School, Barcelona and am delighted to start.

I am lucky to have a range of experience as a teacher and have always been keen to involve my interests in Music and Sport as well as my background in carpentry as a part of my teaching practice. I look forward to meeting more of the parents over the coming weeks. Please do not hesitate to say 'hello,' if you see me around the school.

I wish everybody a happy new year and a prosperous term of education for the children.

**WILLIAM SMITH**  
*Year 1 and Year 5 Teacher*

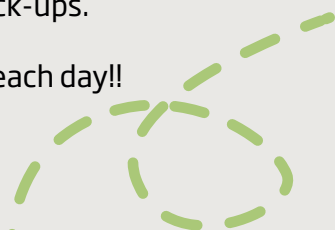


Hello, my name is Sandra Freitas, I have a degree in Advertising and PR. I have more than 15 years of experience in the Public Relations branch in Barcelona.

I joined the BCG in November updating ISAMS data, and after the Christmas holidays I started working at the reception, where I manage ISAMS, attendance, and early and late pick-ups.

It is a pleasure to say Good Morning to everyone each day!!

**SANDRA FREITAS**  
*Receptionist*



## e-Athletes



A warm welcome back to all of our e-Athletes and well done to those of you who studied during the Christmas break. It was a pleasant surprise to see some that had completed courses before our January 31st target. I hope you are all refreshed and keen to get back to your sport and study commitments. It was a pleasure to see them settle in and knuckle down to work in 2019.

As mentioned, the target completion date for the first batch of courses is at the end of January. This is the half way point in the year and students will be able to choose courses in order for them to graduate in June.

There are some exciting times to look forward to in 2020. The first of which being our move to the new building. Although slightly delayed, we will be the first group to make our permanent home inside the new classrooms which will include a purpose built e-Athlete lounge and separate study area.

Finally, I would like to remind all e-Athletes that they are part of the school and are extremely welcome to access careers or further study advice, school extra-curricular activities and whole school events.

I look forward to working with you again this term.

**Mr Pilcher**



## ECAP



Welcome back to all students that attend a class in our extra-curricular program and a happy new year. All clubs have now started, thank you to those parents who registered online for our spring term classes. The ECAP team made a great start last term and aim to increase choice and participation for the remainder of the year. New additions Zumba and Russian language club started this week so please come and try them to ensure that they are a success.

Not only do we strive to create more choice but we intend on improving clubs we already have. I have reviewed a number of clubs in our program to ensure that the safety and enjoyment of our students is a priority and the level of teaching and learning is high. I did this by suggesting class strategies and implementing behavior management processes. This is an ongoing process and I will continue throughout the term but please contact us with any concerns or suggestions in the future.

Once again, thank you for your commitment and I look forward to working with you in 2020.

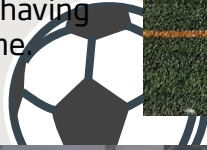
**Mr Pilcher**



## FOOTBALL FIXTURES

On Wednesday we had our first football matches of the season against BSB. We took two teams, one team of Year 8 and 9 boys and a team of Year 8 and 9 girls. The girls played really well and showed great spirit losing one of their matches but winning the second. The boys matches were used as training games and it was a great experience for the boys to play against another school and against other students. We look forward to hosting BSB school here at BCG and will be playing more fixtures at BSB, including football, rugby and rounders fixtures. Thank you to all the parents who came to watch and support the teams, it makes a big difference having support when we are playing away from home.

**Danny Steadman**



## GCSE Options Information Evening for Year 9

On Thursday 16th January from 4:30pm, we presented the subject options available for the General Certificate of Secondary Education, 'GCSE'.

As students move into Year 10 on September, they will have more choice as to which subjects they would like to pursue. While all students will study the core subjects, we are asking students to decide in consultation with their parents and subject teachers, about the subjects they wish to study in Key-Stage 4 to complete their secondary education.

Thanks to all the parents and students that attended, as there was a chance to speak individually to different subject teachers about the content and requirements for each topic area. Thanks also to our teachers and feel free to ask more questions about the optional subjects if needed.



# MORE MUSIC!!!

**The Winter Concert** in December was a wonderful way for families to come together at the end of last term. It was attended by a very large crowd of parents, siblings and friends. We listened to songs on the themes of Peace and Friendship, from throughout the ages and around the world, sung by the choirs made up of all the children in years 2 - 6 directed by Miss Bernado and Ms. Foreman. The children have been learning how to sing together in harmony and in different parts, and did so beautifully in the concert - no easy task! The choirs were accompanied by Secondary pupils on the drums, percussion, piano, violin and cello. Even the parents were taught a Hebrew song in three parts! And all, parents and children, were invited to sing carols together in English, Spanish and Catalán.



Also featuring in the concert were the Secondary Band (four vocalists, bass guitar, acoustic guitar, tambourine, drums and piano), Chamber Orchestra (who played the 2nd movement of Vivaldi's Winter), and String Orchestra (who played a funky song called Attitude). A special mention must go to our very own cello teacher and orchestra director, Ms. Montse Colomé, who has rehearsed with the children in her own time, and is credited with directing the first ever BCG orchestra! Thank you for your professionalism and enthusiasm, Ms. Montse. We at The British College of Gavá are all very proud of the children's brave and emotional performances. We all look forward to seeing even greater things to come! Well done.

See the Winter Concert Video by clicking [here](#)



## MUSIC NEWS



### Orchestra

From Monday January 20th we will offer two orchestras at lunch time (Primary and Secondary) which is free of charge. This is available to all pupils who learn an instrument (especially violin, viola, cello, flute, clarinet, oboe, guitar, recorder). If your child would like to be a part of this exciting project but does not yet play an instrument, then now is the time to sign up for lessons. After as little as half a term of lessons, your child could be ready to join the orchestra! Contact [performingarts@bcgava.com](mailto:performingarts@bcgava.com).



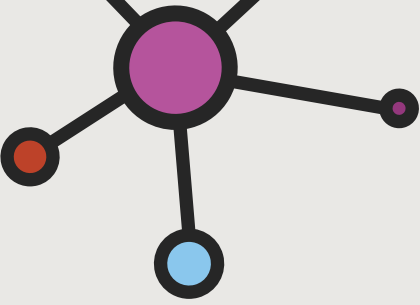
### Strings Workshop (Year 6)

This term the BCG is funding the very first Groove n' Play Strings workshop ever to be offered in Spain to the two Year 6 classes. The children will be introduced to the violin and cello, and learn to read music and play the instruments during their classroom music lessons, and perform for the parents in the Spring Recital at the end of term. This workshop will be taught by Ms. Montse Colomé, our cello specialist, and Ms. Foreman, our music teacher. This is what Ms. Montse says: "My name is Montserrat, a cello teacher specialised in whole-classroom teaching and Suzuki method. I worked in London setting up the programme 'Musicians of the Future' between 2006 and 2011, in which school children are taught to play stringed instruments in their classroom music lessons. The project was commissioned by the Royal College of Music together with the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea to introduce string instruments to primary and secondary schools in the borough. It is with this experience that I offer a high-quality, interactive musical workshop, which creates a class ensemble that engages and inspires pupils to develop a love of music."

### Music and Drama GCSE (Year 10)

We will be offering GCSE Music and Drama to Year 10 next year for the first time at BCG, subject to demand. Please speak to Ms. Foreman (Music) or Ms. Fenton (Drama) if you would like to find out more about these wonderfully creative and fun courses.





## Biology Dissections



In Biology classes this week Year 11 have had the opportunity to learn in a practical way about the structure of our respiratory system by carrying out two dissections. First, we dissected hearts which allowed the students to see for themselves the chambers, valves and blood vessels we had been studying in lessons. Each pair of students had a heart to dissect and did a fantastic job of opening up the hearts in a precise and careful way so that all the internal structures could be identified. Next, we looked at a set of lungs with a trachea and heart attached. The students first looked at the structure of the trachea and discussed how the rings of cartilage keep the airway open. Then we felt how the lung tissue was very light and spongy (confirmed by floating a piece of the lung tissue in water) and also cut through the lungs to identify the bronchioles that bring air into the lungs. Finally, we identified the blood vessels that connect the heart to the lungs and discussed their function. It was great to see Year 11 fully engaged and enjoying the practical side of their biology lessons.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Year 6 transition to secondary-meeting**

**February 4 at 18:00**

**Primary assesment and reporting meeting for parents**

**February 4 at 17:30**

### Parents Evenings

**Primary parents evenings :**

**21-22 January**

**Secondary parents evenings :**

**22-23 January**

Please use the following link to book the appointment :

<https://bcgava.parentseveningsystem.co.uk/>

**Parent Focus group meeting**

**January 29 at 16:30**



Come and visit  
The British  
College of Gava

# BCG OPEN DAYS

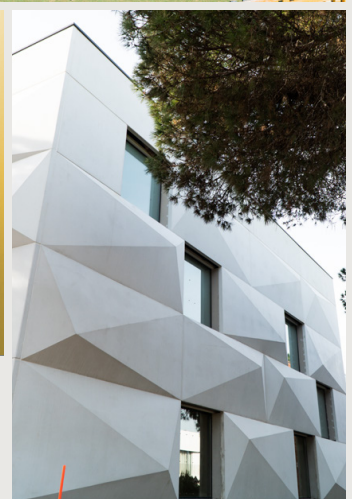
Friday, February 14th  
9:00 to 11:30

Tuesday, March 24th  
14:30 to 16:30



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.

*Book your place now by clicking [here!](#)*



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