



Weekly Bulletin

January 22nd 2021



Welcome to our bulletin

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As I write this, this is the current time and date. I have always been fascinated by Mathematics in nature, finding patterns in natural forms, repetition in structure, the work of Fibonacci and the imagination of Escher. Numbers are magical and their application in the natural world is almost spiritual. This wonder, this same excitement of discovery is something I am seeing daily around school. As I walk the corridors and peer

into classrooms I can see the eagerness our students have as well as the passion for sharing knowledge and understanding that our teachers have. Not for the first time, this week I was reminded of just how fortunate we are to have such a fantastic teaching staff and just how lucky they are to have such wonderful children to teach.

From Monday, I will start a long series of classroom observations, to see in more detail how our children learn and how they are being inspired by their teachers. This is the start of an ongoing collaborative process of continual improvement. At BCG we have very high expectations of our staff and students and will keep improving and keep learning ourselves to further improve our school.

On Wednesday we had our first Parent Rep meeting of the calendar year and it was, yet again, extremely helpful to us. This time it was the Year 10 parents who had some questions and I trust that we answered them sat-

isfactorily! I urge all parents to engage with the reps as they are doing a super job at representing your views and engaging in a really productive dialogue with the school.

Having spent the first week of term running the Secondary School virtually, Mr Steadman was back in person this week, looking very dapper too. Mr Hooley arrived on Monday as well and has had a really busy week meeting his new classes - I know they will really appreciate his expertise and I look forward to seeing the Geography department develop over the year.

Year 11 and 12

The Year 11 mocks are now over and the papers are being marked. We will be sending reports out before half term for all Year 11 and 12 students. It is looking very likely that most examinations will still take place this summer and so now is the time for exam students to go through the feedback from the mocks and put a plan in place to ensure they are fully prepared in May and June.

Secondary timetables

As i mentioned previously, we have a new timetable for year 9 students which starts on Monday. Students will be given new copies at registration and the parent portal timetables have already been updated. There are also a couple of very minor changes to timetables in other year groups but the students will be informed of these.

Simon Mower

Dear Parents,

This week has been another exciting one with lots of outstanding learning happening throughout the school. The Year 11s are finishing their mock examinations today, they have behaved extremely well taking the examinations very seriously. I hope this has given them a taste of how intense the exam season will be, but, with the correct preparation and mindset the students will perform well. I urge the Year 11s to take this weekend to rest and not think about school work for 2 days. They have worked hard and need to detach as they have some busy months ahead.

I used Tuesday's assembly to talk to Year 7,8 & 9 about my new role in school, who they turn to if they have a problem and social, mental & physical health. Mr Russel showed the students some Mindfulness techniques for dealing with stress and anxiety. The students responded excellently and I hope they use these new skills when they feel anxious or down in school. I will be delivering this assembly to Year 10 and 12 next week.

We will be changing how assemblies and PSHE run in the secondary school. We will be tailoring the PSHE curriculum to your child's key stage with an assembly, form group discussion and activities. We will cover subjects such as exam stress, puberty, anxiety, drugs, alcohol, online safety to name a few. Mr Russel will be playing a larger role in PSHE delivering mindfulness sessions and giving students the tools to feel calm, content and happy in school.

Thank you if you have emailed me over the last two weeks, please remember the school policy is your child's form tutor is the first port of call of any queries or questions. But I am always available and will find a time to answer any questions you may have.

Have a lovely and safe weekend.

Mr Steadman

Meet our Staff



Hello BCG community!

It's finally great to be here with you and to be teaching Geography within the secondary department. I am immensely proud to be part of a wonderful school environment that puts the needs of the students first at all times, something that I hold dear within my own educational ethos. I have thoroughly enjoyed my first week here at BCG and will look forward to continue to share my passion and drive for Geography so that I can inspire the young Geographers at BCG.

Just a brief passage about my educational background, I have been a Geography teacher for over 12 years now, having taught previously before in the UK, Germany, Portugal and Spain itself a couple of years ago. I have been lucky enough to hold a variety of teaching and leadership positions, including IBDP Coordinator and Head of Humanities, which have helped me to acquire a range of knowledge and skills in my teaching and learning practices across a wide variety of curriculums, including the IGCSE and IBDP programs. I am a recognised Chartered Geographer (Cgeog) and Fellow (FRGS) with the Royal Geographical Society (RGS). My sole purpose is to help students engage with the subject of Geography, excel in the subject academically, and motivate them to want to pursue the subject in their later educational careers.

Mr Hooley

Year 11

Today our Year 11s have finished their mock GCSE examinations. This is an important step towards the next phase of their education. We wish them the very best of luck and will support and guide them through the important months to come. During February and March, we will be working closely with them to ensure they understand the IB Diploma Programme structure and are ready for the educational experience available to them in Years 12 and 13. We have scheduled 'Teacher Talks' so that they can ask our Diploma Programme teachers any questions they need to about the subjects on offer. They will also participate in workshops exploring the IB Diploma Programme Core subjects (Theory of Knowledge, Creativity, Activity & Service and the Extended Essay). We hope that this 'Pre-DP' course will inspire and motivate them as well as preparing them for the exciting challenges ahead. We will be inviting Year 11 parents to a socially-distanced Diploma Programme presentation evening on Tuesday 16th February to talk through the processes we will follow regarding final Diploma Programme subject choice and to answer any queries you may have. We hope to see all of you there!

Ms Fenton



IB Diploma Programme Update

We are delighted to have received dates for our final IBDP verification visit in March and are now working hard to ensure we have everything in place. Due to Covid restrictions, the visit will be virtual. The IB has systems in place to ensure that remote visits are thorough, fair and allow for demonstration of standards and practices being met by the school. This is a very exciting time for us and we will keep you updated with our progress.

Year 11 parents will be invited to a Diploma Programme presentation evening on Tuesday 16th February and we hope to organise similar events further down the school over the summer term.

Ms Fenton

Dear EYFS and Primary Parents and families,

This week our learning at BCG has been underpinned by our Value focus, 'being reflective'. Classes have discussed what the term means, what it means to be reflective and how we can demonstrate this. Children shared their many wonderful insights as to why being reflective is such an important value. As teachers, this is something that we both model and encourage daily.

Values certificates

Over the last two weeks all EYFS and Primary students have been learning about the learner value 'Reflective'. In class assembly and PSHE teachers and children have discussed what it means to be reflective, as a learner at BCG and in all aspects of life.

Congratulations to our certificate winners who have shown this value in their learning at school.

Nursery Duckings - Hector Aguilera Ibanez and Isa Montero Flores

Reception Penguins - Juan Jaquot Jimenez and James Fassam

Year 1 Parrots - Zoia Aly Cozzi and Cesar Reguilon Tejada

Year 2 Robins - Jan Ramon van Unen and Diego Reguilon Tejada

Year 2 Owls - Elena Afoa and Alexandra Martin Urrea

Year 3 Magpies - Diego García Freitas and Anastasia Kuzmina

Year 4 Swans - Kaia Cozzi and Martim Victoria

Year 4 Ravens - Lucas Dodd and Adria Hernandez Quintarios

Year 5 Parakeets - Nikita Berthet and Clementine Menard

Year 6 Kingfishers - Bethany Tennent and Juan Pablo Sykes

New Arrivals

As we welcome new pupils into our school, we continue to broaden our diversity even further by the addition of a Lithuanian family to our school community. We extend a very warm welcome to them. One of the many things we do really well is celebrate the many languages spoken by our growing community. In the coming weeks we have some exciting new initiatives launching, including Language of the Month and Language Ambassadors.

Children's Mental Health Week

Expressing yourself is about finding ways to share feelings, thoughts, or ideas, through creativity. This could be through art, music, writing and poetry, dance and drama, photography and film, and doing activities that make you feel good. It's important to remember that being able to express yourself is not about being the best at something or putting on a performance for others. It is about finding a way to show who you are, and how you see the world, that can help you feel good about yourself.

For Children's Mental Health Week 2021 we will be encouraging children (and adults) to explore the

different ways we can express ourselves, and the creative ways that we can share our feelings, our thoughts and our ideas. Around three children in every primary school class has a mental health problem, and many more struggle with challenges from bullying to bereavement. This special week will take place 1-7th February. Now more than ever, the mental health of children has never been so important. As well as addressing mental health and raising awareness in our PSHE curriculum, we carry out emotional check-ins with all our pupils each day. We provide pupils with strategies to cope with their problems and they know where to go for help and advice should they ever need it. Miss Muirhead, our PSHE Subject Leader, has been working hard on an exciting range of activities for that week. Classes will participate in Art, Singing and Poetry, and lots more. On Friday 5th February, we will have a non-school uniform day. Instead, we will host a dress up day with the theme 'Dress to Express'. Look out for more information in next week's newsletter.

Staff News

Unfortunately, due to family circumstances, Miss Hurford will be leaving BCG at the end of this half term. She will be greatly missed and we know her decision has not been an easy one to make. She will always be welcome back at BCG in the future should situations allow. The recruitment process for her replacement as Nursery teacher has begun and we have been inundated with applications. Candidates have been shortlisted and interviews will take place next week as we find the best possible teacher for this current class. We will keep you updated with this process.

Wishing you all a fantastic weekend

Un abrazo

Miss Wakelin
Mrs Pilcher



ECAP

TENNIS FOR PRIMARY

For the last two weeks, all students in Primary have been lucky enough to play tennis for one PE lesson with specialist tennis coaches, Roby and Carolina Cozzi. Roby, who has coached tennis all over the world, taught the children some fantastic skills by improving hand-eye coordination, speed and agility. All children, beginners or experienced, were able to take part and enjoy the lessons. The smiling faces and the chance to work with new teachers was a pleasure.

A huge thank you to Roby and Carolina who offered their spare time to the school during a time that it is most appreciated.

REMINDER The tennis after school activity starts on Wednesday 27th January please email ecap@bcgava.com for more information.

Mr Pilcher



Year 3

In music on Tuesday year 3 practiced a call and answer composition using percussion instruments.

Ms Straton



Reading in Catalan and Spanish

In the Catalan and Spanish department, we keep promoting the reading habit and bringing books closer to all our students because reading, among many other benefits, helps develop imagination and creativity, and increases the ability to memorize and concentrate. In addition, it improves the handling of spelling and grammar rules, allowing better use of language and writing. Reading prepares us for life.

This year we want to introduce reading in Spanish to the pre-readers of Reception and Year 1, with the little books of the Poquito a poco collection, so that they also enjoy the magical and endearing stories inside those books. This collection of texts is designed to deal with reading difficulties in a progressive way.

As primary and secondary school students, are used to enjoy a good book, they have already started their readings in Catalan and Spanish for this term. We share the titles with you:

Year 4: Patatu, Àngels Bassas (Catalan)

Year 5: El zoo d'en Pitus, Sebastià Sorribas (Catalan)

Year 6: El dragón del parque Güell, Ana Campoy (Spanish)

Year 7: De qui és el bosc?, Mercè Canela (Catalan)
El caso de la basura perfumada, Javier Fonseca (digital- Spanish)

Year 8: L'assassinat del professor de matemàtiques, Jordi Sierra i Fabra (Catalan)

Year 9: El nen que volia matar, Lolita Bosch (Catalan)
El príncipe de la niebla, Carlos Ruiz Zafón (Spanish)

Year 10: Mentida, Care Santos (Catalan)
Crónicas de la Torre, Laura Gallego (Spanish)

Year 11: La gramática de l'amor, Rocío Carmona (Catalan)
Tres sombreros de copa, Miguel Mihura (Spanish)



After Lunch CLUBS to reinforce the languages

Next week, Y7, Y8 and Y9 students that wish to, will be able to attend two clubs that we offer for the first time after lunch, planned to reinforce reading and speaking skills. These Clubs are aimed for KS3 students and above, who do not have Catalan and / or Spanish as their native language, although anyone who is interested can participate and is welcome:

READING CLUB in Spanish with Miss Silvia (Friday- Week 1 at 1:45 pm).

CONVERSATION CLUB in Catalan with Ms Pou (Tuesday- Week 2 at 1:45 pm)

Both clubs will take place in the new Secondary library.

Join now!

Lingüista de la semana / Linguiste de la semaine /Lingüista de la setmana

Talking about the benefits that reading brings us, it is proven that learning more than one language improves reading comprehension and expression capacities. Studying languages takes discipline and organization, but it is an excellent opportunity to optimize learning abilities and become a successful student.

At BCG we want to reward students for the great effort they make in learning three Romance languages, with many similarities between them, Spanish, French and Catalan, in addition to English, which is the curricular language.

With the Linguist of the Week initiative, we are going to celebrate success of those students in EYFS, primary and secondary, who show more effort, interest and communication skills in each of the three languages.

We will keep you informed in the future Newsletters, of who will be our linguists (Catalan, Spanish and French) of the week.

Ms Pou



A GLIMPSE OF THE WEEK



