



**The British College  
of Gavà**  
Education in Excellence

# WEEKLY BULLETIN

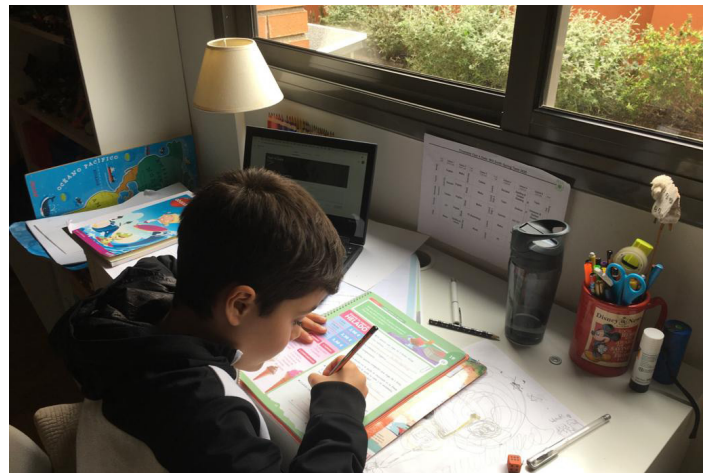
March 20<sup>th</sup> 2020

Dear Parents,

At BCG we want your children to suffer as little as possible from the closure of the school and confinement at your homes.

Our teachers follow from their homes, a system of distance learning, trying to maintain the teaching and learning of the students. Obviously this is not ideal, but they are doing their best to maintain the academic routines, while trying to encourage the children with their learning.

I want to celebrate with you the leadership of our Director Mr Simon Mower, with the help of Mr John Prince, and the whole SLT, giving encouragement to his team during this adversity. We are proud to have you all so committed, fighting for our school. They are all making an enormous effort to overcome the difficulties, which in turn for them, represents this situation. Many live far away from their families, managing emotionally the worries derived from that distance. It is very important for us to take care of our teachers, that they feel safe in their jobs, that their salaries are not reduced, and that their confidence in BCG is not shaken. We need them now, and will need them more when all this is over.



Given the extent and importance of this beautiful education project for your children, we cannot be stopped by the coronavirus, which concerns us all now. It will be over sooner than later.

This next month, you will see the proportional part of the dining room service, bus, ECAP for March and April, deducted from your bills. If the situation persists, we will also be revising our school fees policy to adjust it, as much as possible, to the circumstances.

Warmest wishes to all families,

**Mr Rafael Valverde**  
(CEO Education in Excellence)

Dear Parents

I hope you are all keeping well during this difficult time. Your children have been amazing under such difficult circumstances. I wanted to use this opportunity to clarify a few things for you all. On the one hand everyone is in the same situation stuck at home but it is also important to realise that different people cope in different ways.

Here are a few things to help make things easier:

### **Early Years and Primary Students**

They do not need to do all of the work set, they must not feel pressure to complete everything. Our teachers are providing lots of exciting material and projects to keep the children learning but it is not all essential. Ask the form teacher which things to focus on - Maths and English for example.

### **Secondary Students**

Please ensure you stick to the timetable as much as possible and continue to do the lessons as they are set. This is an important time in your education and the work you are given now is what you would have done in school so your learning is continuing as normal. Please read Mr Prince's message about exams. I loved the Black Death Videos!

### **Everyone**

The best way for everyone to manage this situation is to keep to a routine. Sensible bedtimes, proper breakfast, following the school time table (upper school) and doing the same routine each day. Children should not stay up later than normal or watch too many films etc.

Lastly, I would like to make clear my huge appreciation and respect for our amazing teachers. They are entirely committed to your children's learning and I hope that you find a moment to thank them personally because they really deserve it.

Thank you very much to many parents for your positive comments and your support, it is very important for us. Please visit our home learning blog by clicking [here](#).

If you have any comments or suggestions please do not post them in Google Classroom but email Mrs Pilcher, Ms Wakelin, Mr Prince or myself. I was disappointed to see a couple of quite rude comments which I feel were extremely unnecessary and unfair - lets all try to be courteous and understanding with each other in this difficult time.

I wish you all a very healthy weekend

**Simon Mower**  
Principal

## **External Exams (Year 10,11,12 and 13)**

Dear Parents,

You are probably aware that the GCSE, As and A level exams for the May/June Exam session have been cancelled in the UK. For International Schools, the statement from Pearson/Edexcel, the BCG Exam Board is as follows:

"Where schools are open and a country is deemed safe, exams for iPrimary, iLowerSecondary, International GCSE, and International A Level will take place for students outside of the UK in May and June 2020"

Thus we will be entering all students in Year 11, 12 and 13 (and certain students in Year 10) for external Exams in the usual manner.

If the situation changes and we are unable to sit Exams in May/June, we will be following the same processes and procedures as UK schools in determining the grades to be awarded for August. These procedures are yet to be decided, although a decision is imminent.

However, in either case it is essential that all pupils in Exams years continue to work online in close cooperation with their teachers as the work being set is in preparation for the upcoming exams and will support the achievement of higher grades by whatever means they are assessed.

We will keep you updated as the situation evolves, but for now please let your children know that they need to carry on studying as usual, albeit within the new context of distance learning.

I am at your disposal if you have any questions.

With Kind Regards,

**John Prince**

Head of Secondary and Exams Officer  
(Acting)

This week has been a very new and interesting experience for us all. Honestly, the most challenging week for me since my arrival at BCG. However, as we reflect over the past 5 days, I can see many positives. Firstly, the children's adaptability, resilience and motivation has been a reminder of how we can underestimate them. We talk each week in assemblies about how we can show these learning traits and have seen it in front of our very eyes by our 4 year olds, desperate to take part in their morning phonics and Wake and Shake in their lounge!

Secondly, it has been another opportunity to see that we have the most committed team, willing to work out of their comfort zone to ensure children receive a personal experience this past week. Last week I wrote about our internal teacher lesson observations. Well I think you have been able to see for yourselves the wonderful range of lessons and teaching that goes on at BCG! We could start a television channel with the wide range of teacher home made videos this week! These have varied from playing the ukulele, to yoga warm ups to performing science experiments in our own kitchens!

Finally, having been somewhat 'forced' into teaching online we have been given the opportunity to improve and learn different strategies and methods of using IT. So I am thankful for the push to develop professionally! I would like to finish with a **video link** for you.

At a time when we may be worried that our children will not be learning enough, it is a welcome reminder that if they are playing and having fun then they ARE learning! Have a happy weekend free of screens and we will see you next week for some new and creative lessons.

**Mrs Pilcher**

Year 1 Class Teacher

Head of EYFS and Lower Primary



A huge congratulations is in order to our Primary parents who have not only been doing their own work, keeping businesses going, plus running a home AND now being teacher. The collaborative effort between you and us has been instrumental to the resounding success of this week - and what a week it has been.

An uncertain and difficult time that I have to say has been managed extremely well. Teachers are having to redesign completely what school learning looks like, children are having to learn away isolated from their friends and the teachers they are so very fond of, and parents are having to keep their families spirits high in amidst this crisis. I think every single person in our school community deserves applause.

We are reviewing daily our online teaching, listening to both the positive and constructive feedback in order to improve and still working collaboratively as the excellent team of professionals that we are. We kindly ask for your patience with this. Finding a balance that suits all is challenging and we are doing everything we can to compromise. We are looking at a more flexible approach for next week with classes completing Maths and English lessons in the morning and a more project based approach for the afternoon.

We understand some parents are feeling overwhelmed. There is no pressure to complete every task, to stick to deadlines and timings. We are providing adequate learning for your child and we truly value the importance of this. We have a responsibility to nurture and support your child's learning journey, even though at the moment it has taken a different path. We are still there, right beside them every step of the way. We are with you too.

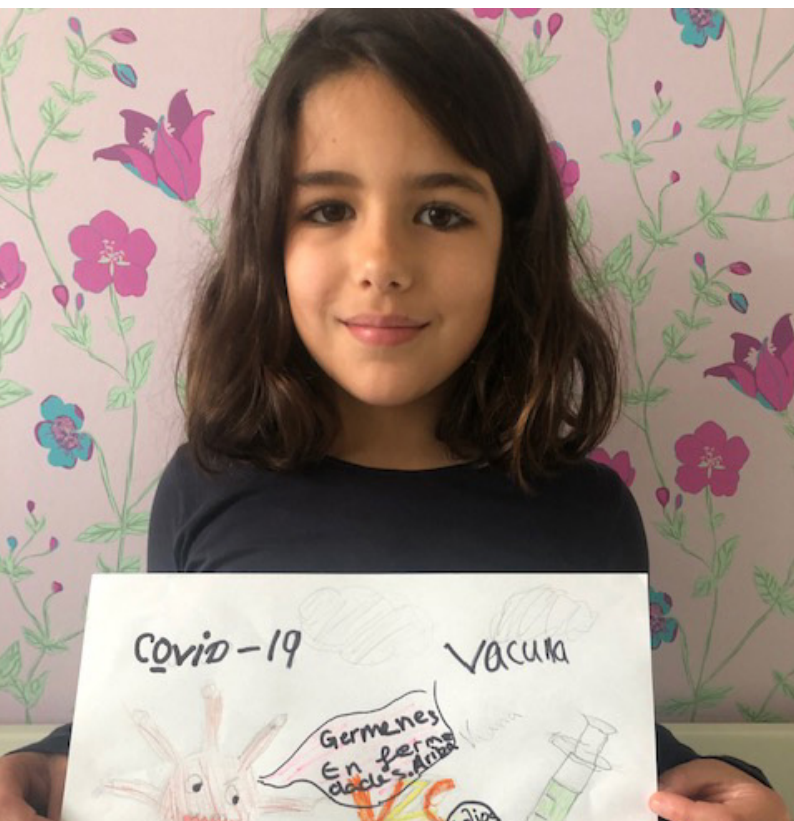
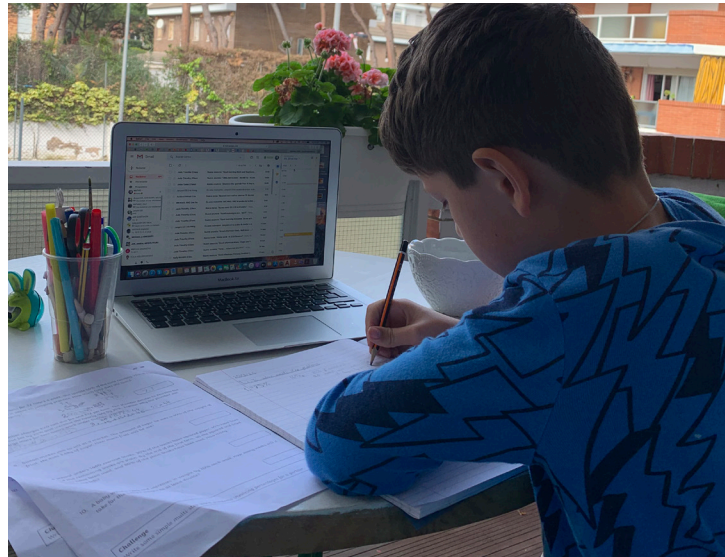
Teaching children is magical. This is a fact. However, seeing how they are adapting to this situation, how they are engaged with activities, how creative they remain to be, is a special kind of magic of its own. Their clear desire to learn is evident in every Google Classroom. There could be no better example of just how motivated and resilient BCG children have grown to be. I am very fortunate that I am able to see what all the pupils are doing - and they are doing great stuff. Please know, also, that their comments to their teachers are really keeping us all in good spirits. It means a lot to us to see our children interacting with us so enthusiastically. For some of us here away from our own countries, this is a huge lifeline, so thank you.

As time goes on, it may become harder to motivate, to inspire, but we and our incredible team of teachers are ready for that. Our community of children and our community of parents is extremely important to us. We hold in our hearts your child's wellbeing and that of their families. Never before has our home-school partnership and bond been so tight.

I wish you all a relaxing weekend with your families. Amongst the chaos, just know that you have us here.

Kindest regards

**Miss Wakelin**  
Head of upper Primary



# Instrumental lessons on-line

This week many instrumental music lessons are continuing online and live via Google Meet and Skype. Our dedicated and committed teachers and students aren't allowing quarantine get in the way of the arts! For our music pupils, music lessons are a welcome break from online learning at the computer. The show must go on! If anyone else feels like signing up for online music lessons to spice up their days at home, adults included, please get in touch with Ms. Foreman.



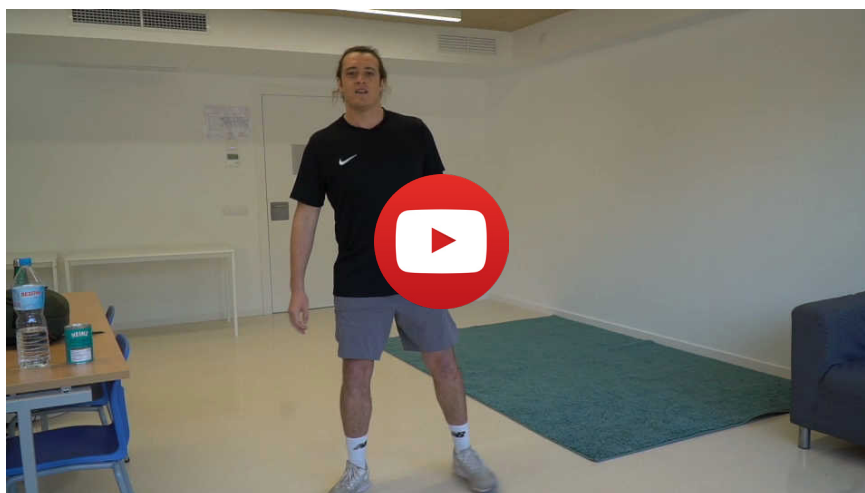
I hope you are all staying fit and healthy and trying to complete the fitness videos Mr Pilcher and I have been posting on the google classrooms. I know it is hard to do some exercise in these uncertain times but please make sure you try and do something for at least 30 minutes per day. The videos I have posted can be repeated every day and are a great and easy way to stay fit within the confines of your house or garden.

I have a challenge for everyone over the weekend. I would like everyone to try and complete the burpee challenge. Please watch the video and email or post your times on the google classroom. Parents feel free to get involved, students try and beat your parents time!

If you would like certain content in the fitness videos please email me, or if you would like a shout out!

Stay safe and healthy and I will see everyone soon.

**Mr Steadman aka Mr Motivator**



**For our teachers: Click here!**



**THANK YOU** to our teachers for working so hard this first week and keep teaching us that every challenge is an opportunity!

**BCG Students**

## Year 4 & 5 trip The beach of Gavá

Last Thursday, before the school closure, Year 4 and Year 5 went on a trip to the beach in Gava. We felt that due to their trip to the Olympic Museum being cancelled, due to the Coronavirus situation, we still wanted to give them a treat and an opportunity to learn outdoors. Year 4 and Year 5 have managed some big changes in school and as a result, they have formed a lovely bond.

We set off after lunch, although it was not quite beach weather, and headed down towards the beach. Once there, the children were set the task to do some ephemeral art. This means using the natural environment to create a picture. They eagerly collected leaves, flower petals, sticks and stones to create some lovely pieces.

The clouds grew darker and the wind became cooler, yet the radiant sunny smiles of our BCG pupils could be seen for miles. Their determined spirit could not be deterred, whatever the weather. They worked in small groups and produced some really interesting pieces of art. We then had enough time for some games on the beach before heading back to school.

Very well done to our Year 4 and 5 pupils for consistently demonstrating what amazing BCG children they are. Perfect examples of excellent behaviour in public were clear to see by any passersby. They are kind, supportive and a real joy for us teachers to work with. A really enjoyable day was had by all.

**Miss Wakelin and Mr Smith**



## IB Update

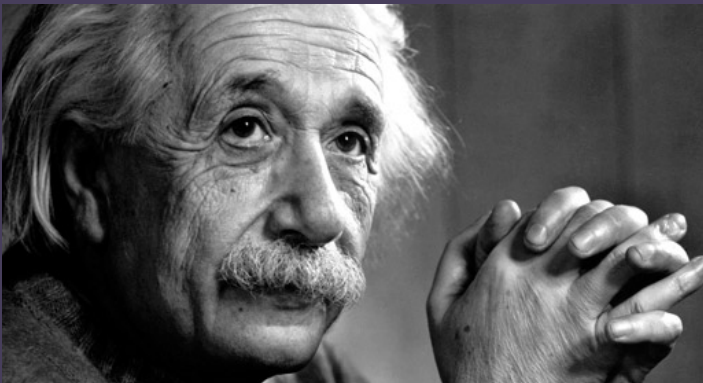
BCG is currently at the candidacy phase of the IB authorization process and we are working hard to put together our final application which will be submitted later on this year. Mr. Mower, Mr. Prince and I meet regularly with each other and our external IB consultant to ensure that all areas of our school will satisfy and surpass IB standards and requirements in areas including resourcing and facilities, curriculum, policies and pedagogy.

The breadth and scope of this application process will involve the cooperation and support of all members of our community - teaching and admin staff, governing body, senior leadership team and of course our families and wonderful students. A consultation procedure will be put in place in the near future to ensure that everyone can form part of this exciting journey. We sincerely look forward to sharing our progress with you.

### Ms Fenton

IB Coordinator

## The crisis



*"We can not expect things to change if we keep doing the same things."*

*The crisis is the greatest blessing for people and nations, because the crisis brings progress. Creativity comes from anxiety as the day comes from the dark night. E 'in the crisis that is inventiveness, discoveries and great strategies. Who overcomes crisis overcomes himself without being 'passed'.*

*Who gives the crisis its failures and difficulties, violent his own talent and gives more value to the solutions to the problems. The real crisis is the crisis of incompetence. 'Inconvenience of people and nations is the laziness in seeking solutions and ways out. Without crisis there are no challenges, without challenges life is a routine, a slow agony. Without crisis there is no merit. In crisis emerges the best of each, because without crisis all winds are only mild breezes. Talk of crisis means increasing it, and be silent in the crisis is to exalt conformism. Instead, we work hard. Let us stop, once and for all with the only dangerous crisis, which is the tragedy of not being willing to overcome."*

### Albert Einstein

## Menu Recommendation

Please find **here** a home Menu recommendation from Saned.

