



WEEKLY BULLETIN

November 6th 2020



Welcome to our bulletin

We have had an extremely busy week here in the school. The children have been getting feedback from teachers about their test week prior to the half term and the admin team have been working busily behind the scenes to get the Parent Portal ready for you.

We will be launching the portal now and you will be sent very clear instructions - please do follow the instructions precisely as the system will only work if you

do. Help is always on hand if you need it. We really hope you appreciate the Portal and we will be adding features and documents as time goes on.

Teachers have been completing the half-term reports and these will be available on the Portal in the middle of next week. It is just another example of how we are trying to further improve the communication between school and parents.

Today we had a Fire Drill and I am pleased to report that everyone got out safely and in a very orderly fashion. The whole School evacuated to the football pitch with the students lined up in their class groups. I must thank the Primary and early Years children in particular for being so very well behaved and standing still while everyone was accounted for. Class teachers used various methods to keep their classes occupied while standing in their lines but the prize must go to Miss Straton who kept the Year 3s focussed by asking them to

do simple exercise and ballet movements!
They had clearly done it before because
they were all listening and trying their
hardest - Well done Year 3s!



On Wednesday we met with Heather and Nicole, the Parent Reps for Years 5, 6 and 7 and had an extremely productive discussion covering the various questions raised by those parents. I am delighted by the way these meetings are going and hope that parents are finding the feedback helpful.

Have lovely weekend.

Simon Mower

Dear Parents,

The first week back from half term has been busy and we are fully into the rhythm of the school year. On Monday we welcomed three new pupils into the Secondary School, with two arrivals in Year 10 and one in Year 11 and our numbers continue to grow. We also had our first major sporting success of the academic year, when Vitali Balevski from Year 11 became a finalist in the Bulgarian national boxing championships. Very well done Vitali.

The Assembly on the theme of Curiosity, hosted by Dr John Jim and Mr Matthew Dixon was thought provoking, illuminating and was extremely well delivered. Before the end of term Ella Lane, year 7 and I will be leading on the theme of Nature and Mrs Hall and the Business students will be leading on the theme of Entrepreneurship.

Moving on to Sartorial matters, we are tightening up on the wearing of correct school and uniform and we are insisting that pupils have shirts tucked in, wear only black shoes and only wear the sports uniform on the day that they have PE lessons. Year 12 and 13 will also be holding a 'dressing super smart' day once a week, so we can expect to see more suits, ties, elegant dresses and formal shoes.

As you are aware, we are following guidelines from the Education authorities regarding precautions against the spread of Covid and these include the ventilation of classrooms by opening windows.

As the cold weather approaches please make sure that your children have a warm coat to wear. They will be allowed to wear the coat inside classrooms if needed.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend,

John Prince

Sixth Form

At BCG, we expect our Sixth Form students to be an integral part of school life giving them the opportunity to develop extra-curricular activities beyond their academic studies.

We believe that taking on the challenge of Extra-curricular activities and opportunities for leadership enable students to acquire new skills and develop confidence and responsibility. From assisting the coaching young teams on the sports field to conducting dramatic productions, opportunities are available to suit every individual.

Our students were recently involved in the (socially distanced) Samba Band ensemble as well as leading the development of a drama production that will be filmed and showcased to the rest of the school via Google Classroom.

The Sixth Form Students are also actively involved in the Business & Enterprise Club, which encourages students to learn about business and the workplace, developing management, finance and entrepreneurial skills.

Young Leaders also run and manage the Student Council bringing together (digitally of course) representatives from every year group in secondary collating ideas and representing them to the staff Leadership Team. So far this year, they have managed to communicate the preference of break time food offerings to the kitchen staff and helped bring together a list of needs and wants for the break time area outside of the school.

In addition to this, we also have students who have chosen to use their native language to read and record storytelling for the EYFS students.

In doing so, our Sixth Form Students have been breaking down barriers and building relationships with students from all across school. These are programmes that we would very much like to develop and expand as COVID restrictions lift. For now, the Sixth Form Students are happy to conduct their activities using digital media.

Beyond the classroom

BCG also provides a dedicated space for students to work and socialise. It is equipped with WiFi and offers the students a place to study quietly, relax amongst peers or even have a quiet game of chess. The BCG Library offers a wealth of resources and has a dedicated IT suite. The sixth form students here at BCG also have the privilege of being able to use the fully equipped school gym and sports facilities. Our students understand the need to keep in good mental and physical health throughout the year.

We are extremely proud of our sixth form students and the way in which they take part in and conduct themselves around the school. They are a real example to be set and we look forward to sharing in their post GCSE journey.

Mrs Hall



UPPER PRIMARY

Dear Families,

Parent Meetings

Thank you to all of the parents who attended our first, virtual parent meetings this week. It was wonderful to see you all, albeit on screen. We really do miss the face to face contact we have with all of our families; we appreciate that you do too. Any parents, who did not attend a meeting, can contact the class teacher directly to arrange another at a suitable time. Upper Primary school reports will be sent out electronically next week.

Dress Code

We are having a real drive with uniform. This is, and will be, ongoing. We want our pupils to value the importance of being presentable and taking pride in their uniform and their school, recognising that in wearing it they are the ambassadors of our school. We have many visitors and new families daily and whilst they are impressed with our wonderful school, the uniform has on occasion let us down. Please ensure your child's shirt is tucked in (except for PE kit). Jewellery, that includes: rings, chokers, necklaces, bracelets (including festival types) are not permitted. Small earrings may be worn but must be removed for PE or taped. Children will be asked to remove any jewellery that is not allowed. We urge you to support us in this matter, thank you.

New arrivals

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to our new pupils who joined this week. Our new arrivals have had a busy week settling in to BCG school life. They have been supported by a class buddy who has helped them with the school routine and to make new friends. I had a very positive check in with them this week and they are all extremely happy. Great new additions to our BCG community. Thank you to the buddies for doing such a fantastic job.

Celebrations & Achievements

Judging by the number of Housepoints given out in our first week back, it seems the children have gone out of their way to impress. Well done to all of them. One team in particular has really stood out this week and that is the bold, brave and brilliant BLUES! Excellent effort all round. Who will win the cup next week?

I would like to end with a thank you for both your patience and support as we continue to adapt to increased Covid restrictions. Your child's safety is our top priority. An enormous thank you to our brilliant team of teachers and support staff. Once again, you have risen to the challenge put before us, holding the children's learning at the heart of all you do. I cannot thank you enough. It has been a challenging time and will continue to be so. This means our home-school partnership has to be stronger than ever. We have really welcomed your positive feedback and kind words. Please do continue to share these with me.

Un abrazo

Miss Wakelin

Upper Primary birds mural

Last term, each class completed a picture of the bird that represents their class' name. Mr Timothy put them all together to create this wonderful mural. We are really proud of it.

Thank you Mr Timothy.



Science experiments



EYFS & Low Primary

Reading Books

We are very happy to tell you that we have listened to feedback from parents and children regarding reading books going home and have made some adjustments to our reading scheme and system to allow this to happen. This is something that we have wanted to do since the beginning of term but have been restricted (Covid) in doing so. However, using a bubble system and rotation of books, allowing time for 'cleaning', we are now able to send school reading scheme books home again from next Monday. Each class will have a selection of books carefully chosen by their class teacher from the reading scheme and of free readers, from the library. Books for each class bubble will only go home to children in that class. This will be monitored carefully and books returned will be stored in isolation for 72 hours before going to a different students home.

EYFS and Lower Primary

A maximum of 2 books per week (Monday and Wednesday)

Each book must be returned before a new book is given

Bug Club reading to compliment real books

No library books yet

No books will go home on a Friday. This will allow for 72 hours of books being untouched

Upper Primary

Each book must be returned before a new book is given

Bug Club reading to compliment real books

No library books yet



Why do we encourage reading?

There are many famous quotes and research studies that explain the power and benefits of reading and they are all mostly true! Reading really is a gateway to experiencing and understanding the world and will help your child progress in all areas of the curriculum, not just English. For example; being able to read and decode a multi step word problem in maths, reading the method for how to carry out a science investigation or how to follow a recipe to make a meal! Aside from the academic benefits, reading can be a stress reliever and a strategy to self calm, improve bonding between parent and child, and promote self confidence.

How you can help your child to read at home:

- Show enthusiasm and a love for books and reading
- Find a quiet place to read together
- Share a story together.-if your child is tired then read to them or do a page/line each
- Model expressive reading-put on voices for different characters
- Point out punctuation marks and how they change how a sentence can be read
- Discuss new vocabulary and the meaning of words
- Discuss characters and setting and ask your child for their opinion

We hope you enjoy hearing your child read at home next week.

Mrs Pilcher

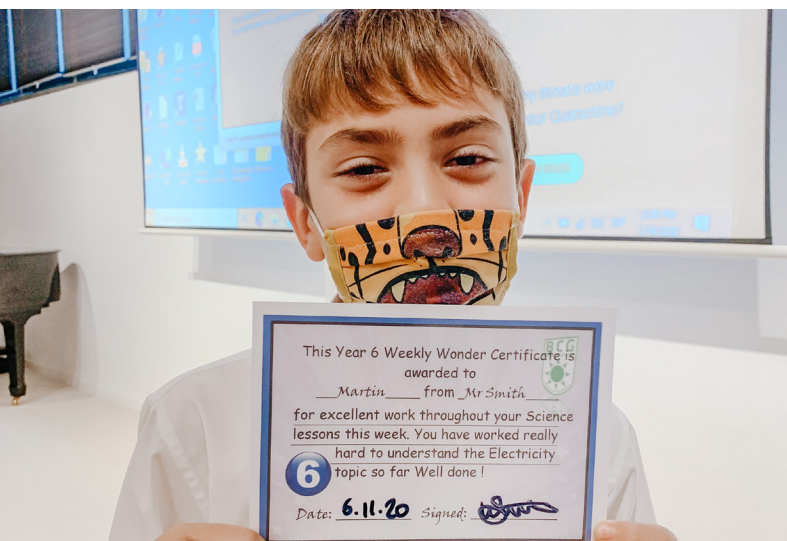


Secondary Assembly

Curiosity is a natural animal instinct but sometimes we don't make time for it in our busy lives or with all the distractions that a modern connected world affords us. Mr Dixon and I were very privileged to have given a Secondary assembly on this topic. During our assembly, we presented intriguing images and what questions can be asked about them. Then we explored the importance of curiosity in Science and the breakthroughs and inventions that came about simply because people (not all were scientists!) were curious. Then we looked at ways we could remain curious, how to use curiosity to help in our studies and how it helps us to keep being learners for life.

The images that perplexed and delighted our pupils were 1. A tardigrade, a very unusual multicellular organism that can survive radiation damage. 2. An image of a photon passing through a hydrogen molecule, this was timed and showed to be 247 zeptoseconds, the shortest measurement of time ever recorded. 3. The Sphinx in Egypt with its missing nose - what did it look like and what happened to it? 4. The Zhuhai to Hong Kong crossing, at 55 km the longest sea crossing in the world, cost 18.8 billion USD and 9 years to construct.

Dr Jim



Year 6 Assembly

This week , we had our first weekly Year 6 Assembly in our new auditorium. Miss Wakelin and I wanted to take the chance to celebrate the children's achievements over the past week as well as verbally feeding back on different pieces of work in class and from home. It was great to have this opportunity for both of us to spend time with the children together and we look forward to continuing to turn this into a weekly tradition.

Well done to Martin, who is this week's Weekly Wonder Certificate holder!

Have a lovely weekend!

Mr Smith

Education for Sustainable Development



“What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.”

Have you heard of **Dr. Jane Goodall**? She is a renowned primatologist and environmentalist who dedicates her life to mobilising action on behalf of chimpanzees and all wildlife species. Among many honours received, Dr. Goodall was named a United Nations ‘Messenger of Peace’ and a Dame of the British Empire by Queen Elizabeth II.

She also founded the program “Roots and Shoots”, currently connecting thousands of young people in almost 100 countries with the common desire to help make our world a better place.

We are thrilled to announce that this week BCG’s registration to the Roots and Shoots Program has been approved. Soon we’ll be sharing more updates about it .



And if you want to discover more about Dr. Jane’s life and work with your family, we suggest watching “Jane”, a National Geographic documentary (available on Netflix and other platforms). Watch the Trailer [here](#).

Have a great weekend!

Marina and Alex

Samba de Gava!

We had a great turnout for the Secondary Samba Band this week. Over 35 students with representatives from Years 7 to 13 and a handful of teachers gathered in the playground on Tuesday during lunchtime break, for our first official launch of Samba Band with the new instruments that arrived just before the half term holiday. In only twenty minutes the band were playing complicated and powerful syncopated rhythms all at once, and following rhythmic cues by the leader, Victor Laguna, in call and response patterns. I´m sure the whole of Gava Mar could hear us! More instruments are arriving this week so that hopefully next week even more students and teachers will be able to join. There was a real feeling of solidarity and community amongst the staff and students as we made music together. We´re looking forward to a long and popular tradition of BCG Samba!



Vitali Victorious

It is with great excitement and pride I write to you this week. Vitali in Year 11 flew home to Bulgaria before half term to take part in the Bulgarian National Boxing Championship. He performed extremely well winning two fights and progressing to the final. Vitali unfortunately lost the final bout but everyone here at BCG is extremely proud of him and of his great achievements. I hope Vitali remembers his PE teacher when he is participating in the 2024 Olympics.

Thank you,
Mr Steadman



Gymnastics in PE

In recent weeks upper and lower primary have been learning about gymnastics in PE. An amazing effort from all students involved has seen this subject become one of our most popular. All students have shown unparalleled levels of energy and creativity. Key movements such as balance, rolling, vaulting and flexibility have been developed but the most enjoyable was the chance to perform a show to music in front of their friends.

Mr Pilcher



BCG Piano teacher



Marcos Fernandez teaches piano, theory and composition at BCG. He graduated from the Royal College of Music (London) and is an award-winning pianist and composer as well as founder of the Worldwide distributed label 'Piano Underscore'. Marcos has been commissioned for writing new operas by the Arts Council of England - one about football with best-seller author David Almond - and has been programmed by more than 30 orchestras around the World. He also teaches at the Conservatoire of Barcelona and has taught in many schools both in Spain and the UK over the past 15 years. He is a fellow of the Royal Society of Arts (London) due to his commitment to bring music to the ordinary individual. He is a dedicated and enthusiastic teacher who believes that every child deserves the chance to play, understand and enjoy music. Listen to him performing one of his own compositions here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BL0CxFGZzJU>

EXCITING NEWS! On Sunday, 8th November, Marcos' new opera, The Soldier's Return, will premiere as a film online: <http://www.operasunderland.co.uk/operas-events/the-soldiers-return>

Here is the press release: 'When everything has changed in your world and your family and friends feel like strangers can you ever really feel at home again or will a part of you always be at war?' Written by international award-winning composer Marcos Fernandez-Barrero and T.S. Eliot prize winning poet Jacob Polley, The Soldier's Return is based on interviews with modern-day veterans. Featuring a community chorus alongside a professional cast and musicians, this moving and thought-provoking production reflects the soldiers' experiences of coming home after conflict and the impact on their families. Originally planned as a live production, due to the pandemic Opera Sunderland are collaborating with award-winning North East filmmakers Meerkat Films, director Annie Rigby (Unfolding Theatre), to create a film of The Soldier's Return. Watch the world premiere of The Soldier's Tale online on Remembrance Sunday: <http://www.operasunderland.co.uk/operas-events/the-soldiers-return>

The film will premiere on Sunday 8 November 2020, immediately after the 2 minute silence at 11am GMT. Running time approx. 40 minutes. Free, but as a registered charity, donations to support Opera Sunderland's work are welcome.

Mrs Foreman