



WEEKLY BULLETIN

September 25th 2020



Parent Communications

There have been so many wonderful things about the last six months but there is something that I feel strongly about and I think I must share it with you here. On numerous occasions this term there have been some communications from parents to the school which used unnecessarily rude language. These messages have come from very few, a minority, of parents, but it is unacceptable. I am sure you, as professionals in your own fields would not tolerate such communications.

I find it somewhat ironic that at the same time we are educating the children to be caring and tolerant and to discuss things in a respectful manner. I will be discussing how parents should communicate with the school with the new Class Reps at our first meeting on Wednesday. I am very much looking forward to that as I strongly believe that a close and respectful partnership between parents and the school is such a huge benefit to the community and together we can make excellent progress on lots of different matters.

All I ask is that conversations remain polite and respectful, and yes, of course, most of you talk to us in this positive way!

We are always happy to meet or call parents to discuss and resolve issues and concerns. Always. Our staff are experts in their field, they are experienced and have brought a wide range of skills and expe-

riences to the classroom. We will not always agree with points being made, and we make decisions within school for the educational good of our students, but where possible we will deal with all concerns.

Academic Culture

This week I did an assembly for Years 9-13. I had pre recorded it for most classes who watched with their form tutors while I spoke to the Year 10 in the Auditorium. There is already a very definite improvement in the attitude to learning from the students. Our Sixth Form are really stepping up and coming up with all sorts of exciting initiatives and they clearly want to be seen as young leaders within our community - it is wonderful to see.

However, I am also aware that there are many things that still need to be done. This works both ways - many students still arrive late to school for example, which is not acceptable. They miss parts of the lesson and they disrupt the flow of a lesson when they arrive in class.

Maths teacher

I am very aware of your concerns regarding Secondary Mathematics. Dr Link joined us at short notice in March. His online lessons are excellent and the exam groups swiftly made significant progress. Their results were very pleasing. I have been into (and follow online) many of these lessons and they really are very comprehensive and well taught. The students are always supervised.

Dr Link was with us until the summer and I had found a new permanent teacher for the new term. They dropped out before the start of term however, not unusual but extremely annoying. Dr Link very kindly offered to carry on until we found a replacement. After a few weeks here I agreed that he could go back to the UK as he has some locum (he is a medical doctor) business he needs to do.

Regarding a replacement we have been interviewing regularly and one candi-

date will be teaching sample lessons next week as part of an interview process. We are also in discussions with another highly experienced teacher currently in a leading international school who is interested in coming next September. I can assure you that I take the Maths very seriously but I am not going to employ a poor teacher whilst we have a very high calibre alternative online. As soon as I can get the correct person in place they will start.

Year 9

As I mentioned last week, we have split the Year 9 group into two which will allow all students to benefit. As always, we have made this change with the students in mind. Smaller classes means more contact time with the teacher. I am delighted to announce that Miss Jenson, our new teacher of Art joins Miss Lane as a Year 9 tutor

Parent Portal

We are preparing to launch our new Parent Portal which will allow us to give you easy access to lots of information. Your child's timetable, end of term reports etc will all be available. You will also have access to important documents such as the COVID protocols or information about ECAP etc. I will give you more information in a few weeks time but I am sure it will be a great benefit to all.

Competition time!

We will shortly be announcing details of a competition for our students to decide on new House names. The House system is a wonderful way for students to work together 'vertically' through the school and feel part of a team. Currently the House names are Red, Yellow, Green and Blue and whilst we will keep the colours we would like to add some suitable names to each House. In anticipation of keen Harry Potter fans we have decided against Gryffindor, Hufflepuff, Ravenclaw and Slytherin! Details of the competition will be out soon.

Simon Mower

Dear Parents,

As we come to the end of the week we are already thinking ahead to Monday when five new pupils will be joining us in Secondary school. Our increasing numbers is allowing us to split Year 9 into two classes, one of twelve students and one of thirteen students. This will allow for much more teacher interaction, enhance the learning experience and accelerate academic progress. We also have two brothers joining us in Year 7 and year 12 and our success and reputation is drawing in new enquiries from families each week.

New students overseas who have enrolled but are unable to travel at the moment, are already fully engaged with the teachers and their class cohort on Google Classroom.

On Monday, the Form teachers held a meeting to introduce themselves to new families and answer questions. We are reflecting on the most appropriate manner to communicate with all families during the current period and the associated restrictions.

Extra curricular activities have started, albeit within Year group bubbles, and the three vegetable plots from Miss Osivwu's gardening club have become a focal point for much discussion. The peppers are coming along nicely, as is the aromatic basil. We loved the ducks (now rehomed) but the vegetable and herb gardens are much more manageable.

Kind regards,
John Prince



To BCG families, Thanks for your donations, we appreciate your generosity. Drums, purifying machines, books fro the library... you are more than kind!



Dear Parents,

It is hard to believe how quickly the time has passed as we approach the end of our fourth week in school. In a few short weeks our pupils have more than risen to the challenge of learning in a new way. They have responded extremely positively to the news that we can now pair desks. Every classroom I have visited this week has been alive with paired learning, collaborative talk and most notably a real buzz. It is wonderful to feel that incredible energy in school again.

The children have overcome some tough challenges emotionally in adjusting to the many changes resulting from the government guidance we are strictly following. Our brilliant team of teachers has responded to this admirably by adapting the curriculum to suit the needs of the pupils at this difficult time. We have embedded more PSHE (Personal, Social, Health Education) into every lesson and in the next couple of weeks each class will participate in a Mindfulness workshop to further support their wellbeing. Your child's happiness lies at the absolute heart of everything we do.

A word of thanks

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our excellent team of teaching staff and all of the other adults that ensure our pupils learn well and learn happy. They make BCG the special place it is (to learn and teach). Due to Covid, teaching has been turned on its head. Teachers have had to change everything they have ever known about their profession and adapt. This has not been easy but every single teacher has risen to the challenge. I'd like to personally thank Mr Smith and Miss Baker who have supported online learning whilst in quarantine at home. It has been very inspiring to work with such a dynamic team and for our new teachers – wow, they have really shone. Behind the scenes, what has been achieved has been incredible.

Homework & Google Classroom

In addition to the information that we have shared regarding timetables, learning overviews and individual class details, I would like to explain the homework procedure and expectation for Upper Primary pupils. Homework is set on a Friday and submitted on a Thursday. This is for all year groups. This consistency means it is easier for families to manage where there is more than one child who attends school. Every week your child will be set: spellings, a maths task and Bug Club reading. In addition, your child's teacher may set a fortnightly task such as a mini-project. Pupils will be provided with examples of what the homework should look like and full support with ideas. The purpose of homework is to complement the learning in class and to promote lifelong learning. Spelling rules are taught in class before the homework is set and children are tested each week. Maths tasks will be linked to the topic taught or to your child's times tables target. Any projects set will connect to the topic studied in your child's year group. We expect and encourage pupils to work independently. We understand that younger children need more support which is why we are on hand to support homework tasks. The benefits of independent learning are endless but our sole aim is that our pupils take greater responsibility for their learning outside of school, that they become well organised learners and that it generates a high level of self-motivated study. We wholly appreciate that homework can be challenging for parents, however, it is an expectation and we are always here to support you, should you need it.

With regards to homework amidst the Covid protocols, we are not permitted to send home paper copies of work or books. This is extremely challenging for both you and us, yet we absolutely must adhere to the government guidance. From this week your child will receive a homework exercise book in which to complete their homework. Printing

is optional. Completed homework will need to be uploaded onto Google Classroom. Each week teachers will share this in class and celebrate your child's efforts. We will not be marking in the form of written comments or feedback on Google Classroom. It must only be used for posting work. We kindly ask that you respect this. On occasion, your child's teacher will post timetables, learning overviews; subject-specific targets and any extra resources they feel will support your child's learning at home.

Pupil Support & Intervention

Our specialist program of pupil support is gaining strength each year. I am pleased to say our dedicated team of support staff, Mr Fassam - our specialist EAL (English as an Additional Language) teacher and Miss Boix, our SENCo and Psychologist - are well underway with their interventions and support groups. Feedback from both the staff and pupils has been very promising. The launch of the software 'Learning Village' to support teachers and learners has proved very popular. I am looking forward to sharing this with those parents whose children require additional language support over the next week. We are extremely privileged to have such a high level of expertise work alongside our teachers.

Items brought from home

We still no longer permit toys or food brought in from home. There have been a number of pupils who have brought in their own snacks. In accordance with our Covid protocols, this is strictly forbidden. Also, pupils are not allowed to wear nail varnish or jewellery to school and will be asked to remove it. Stud earrings are permitted. Please support us in helping your child to adhere to the school dress code.

New arrivals

This week all of our new families were invited to a 'Meet the Teacher' online meeting. It was great to 'virtually' meet the parents of our many new pupils. At BCG, we really value our home-school partnership which lies at the very heart of successful learning. In the next week, we will be announcing diary dates for assessments, reports and online parents' evenings.

Celebrations & Achievements

This year we are continuing to use the 'House' system to celebrate pupils' successes and achievements. Each child is placed into a House colour (Blue, Red, Green, Yellow) and siblings are usually placed in the same team. Your child will still be in the same House colour as last year and our new pupils were allocated a House when they arrived. Houses are traditionally used for Sports Days, inter-house competitions, charity fundraising drives as well as earning points for behaviour and academic achievement.

Each week the Year 6 House Captains (Laia Gaisser-Blues, Savva Sadovoi-Greens, Victoria Stolbova-Reds, Biel Valle Teruel-Yellows) collect the house points for their team from each class. The winning team is announced in every Monday assembly and awarded the House Winners' Trophy. This is a very exciting event and the thunderous drum roll in anticipation of the announcement of the winning team can be heard the length and breadth of Gava!

This week the Houses battled it out to knock last week's winners of the House Team Winners' Trophy - Blue Team - off the leader board. Pupils in every class have worked tirelessly to impress not just their class teachers but all their specialist teachers to earn as many points as possible. I am very proud of this week's winners, the fearless and mighty 'Green Team'. Congratulations to every single one of you. Can they hold on to the cup for another week or will the Reds and Yellows take the top spot?



We continue to celebrate our pupils success through the BCG Values. We have a fortnightly 'Values' focus which is embedded in everything we do. Whether they are taught discretely as part of a lesson in class, weaved into our day to day discussions or highlighted during playground games, our core values have fast become our language of learning. Our pupils are gaining a greater understanding of values such as, communication, perseverance and being open-minded. In our fortnightly Values assemblies, we celebrate the 2 pupils chosen by each teacher who have demonstrated the value. Our Language Team also choose pupils from their Spanish and Catalan lessons. It really is heartwarming to see so many children receive these awards.

Last week's 'Value' was 'Caring', where we celebrated pupil's awareness of the importance of caring for one another but also for our families, our friends, our learning and our planet. Our pupils truly do understand what it is to care. I would like to say huge congratulations to all of the recipients –

- **Year 3 Magpies** – Marco Paton Rodriguez and Valentina Leal
- **Year 4 Swans** – Isabela Margarit and Arnar Kristinsson
- **Year 4 Ravens** – Ettore Marigo Denoyelle and Mar Ribas
- **Year 5 Parakeets** – Eva Fassam and Manel Romero
- **Year 6 Kingfishers** – Arianne Prado and Zach Foreman-Fenton

Thank you parents for your ongoing support of our much loved school. Your positive words and feedback are highly valued by all of us at BCG. I wish you a wonderful weekend with your families and look forward to another week of brilliance in Upper Primary.

'Un abrazo'

Miss Wakelin



Emotional Wellbeing in EYFS and Lower Primary

The pastoral care of your children is of utmost importance to us as teachers at BCG. Our small community ensures that all staff know each and every child that walks in through the gate every morning. We know which child might have difficulty leaving mummy on a Monday, who spends every minute of the weekend in the

mountains and might arrive tired, who has a new puppy, who is sensitive to loud noises, who has got a new baby sister and who loves ripe bananas but not broccoli! In short, we know our children extremely well and because of this we can tailor our teaching and learning environment accordingly.

The art and purpose of teaching is not solely to achieve academic excellence. Of course, each child's progress is carefully tracked, lessons are planned specifically and with care to instil a love for learning and thirst for curiosity, but the real and most important aspect of our role is nurturing the emotional wellbeing of the children in our care. We take the responsibility of 'loco parentis' very seriously knowing that we play a significant part in your child's day and week. The emotional development is simply imperative in our phase if any 'other' learning is to happen! We want each child to feel safe, secure, confident and a sense of belonging.

Since Covid19 this is an area that is a priority for all teachers at BCG, to ensure children can transition back to school after the lockdown period, long summer and to the new socially distanced classrooms and bubbles in school. All teachers and children will be taking part in Mindfulness Workshops over the next few weeks in where they will learn new strategies to become more aware of how they feel, how to check in with themselves and how to provide support to others.

Here are an example of the ways that we already support the social and emotional development of children at BCG:

- **Emotional check up points-** every morning and afternoon the children are asked, 'How do you feel today?' They might answer by rolling a dice with a visual picture or replying out loud. This simple process lets the teacher and other students know how they are feeling.
- **Frequent use of 'emotional' language-** mindful, calm, excited, safe
- **Sharing social stories that explore an emotion and a scenario-often linked to a real life event that has happened on the playground**
- **Relaxation practises-yoga, mindfulness, meditation**
- **A clear and simple behaviour policy that is centered around positive reinforcement**
- **Quiet areas of the classroom to be mindful and reflective-use of mirrors, emotion faces and mindful mat**
- **Celebrating achievements in and out of school**
- **Use of positive language-** 'I am so proud of you', 'You have made a great effort in your learning', 'we are so lucky to have you in our class' etc

- Regular visits to our Forest School to be amongst nature
- Positive messages through assemblies, singing and music
- Teaching children how to be good friends
- Creating an environment that welcomes mistakes (growth mindset)

The list is endless and there are so many other discreet and less obvious ways in which we support the emotional well-being of the children. In its simplest form it can be modelling and showing patience and forgiveness. As a partnership, you can also help by understanding that some undesirable behaviours at home may be a coping mechanism to the recent changes in your child's life. Talking, sharing stories and listening to your child's 'concerns' whilst being consistent with what we do in school will all help in the emotional development of your child.

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend full of honest emotions!

Mrs Pilcher



Young Oxbridge Pathway

Leading to any IB Pathway



On Tuesday morning I was very excited to introduce a selection of Year 10 students who chose the “Young Oxbridge” pathway to a Philosophy course created to enrich the GCSE programme, to challenge them intellectually, to foster reflection and debate skills, and to nurture independent learning. The course, designed by the world-renowned University of Edinburgh -- historically famous for its philosophy department -- is designed to give the students an overview of some of the main areas of philosophy in addition to providing a taster of some of the topics,

questions and debates they might study as part of a degree programme in a wide range of fields. The course includes questions regarding morality, knowledge, and whether we have an obligation to obey the law or believe what we hear; about minds, brains, computers and asking whether scientific theories are true; considering whether or not we have free will and if this matters; and exploring the possibilities and implications of time travel.

Iain Foreman

Meet our new brass teacher at BCG!

If your child would like to sign up for lessons in trumpet, saxophone or trombone, please contact Mrs. Foreman at performingarts@bcgava.com. If we have enough pupils, we will be able to set up a jazz or brass band ensemble very soon. Read about our new teacher, Toby Brazier:

Toby is a professional trumpeter, musician and brass teacher (trumpet, saxophone, trombone). He started his music career by studying jazz at Leeds College of

Music and then later went on to become a musician in the British Army’s Royal Artillery Band, Woolwich. Whilst in the band, Toby performed at many high profile ceremonial events including at Buckingham Palace, the Royal Tournament at Earl’s Court and the changing of the guard at Windsor Castle. As well as this, he performed on several international tours including the Moscow State Tatroo, Rotterdam Music Festival and the Malmö Military Tatroo. Toby went on to study his masters degree in jazz trumpet performance at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. Toby has been teaching young brass players and musicians of all levels since 2016. At the start of this year, he recorded and released his first jazz album with his Leeds based group, The Toby Brazier Sextet. Toby says, “Teaching the next generation of musicians is a great privilege and an enormous responsibility. Music has the power to change the world and the need for it has never been greater than now. I see that there is a thriving music department here at BCG and I look forward to introducing brass instruments to the repertoire of instruments taught here.”

Mrs Foreman



Nursery at BCG

It has been wonderful to have most of the children back at Nursery this week; the classroom is full of life once more! Our focus this week has been, 'We are Duckling Class', so the children have been learning all about ducklings. They have been singing the song '5 Little Ducks' and they have made their very own fluffy ducklings. On Wednesday, we had to go on a search and rescue mission! 'Mother Duck' had lost all her cheeky chicks. Luckily, we found them hiding around the school. This was a great opportunity for the children to learn outside, explore nature and become familiar with other parts of their new school.

Now that the children have settled into the routines, they have begun making closer friendships within the class. They have been playing with one another and have learnt the names of their classmates. It has been lovely to watch and we are excited to have more of our friends back next week.

Ms Hurford



Science

This week the triple option Chemists investigated the solubility of two solutes in water at different temperatures. Our young Chemists found the saturation point of these solutes by experimentation. They practiced collecting data and creating graphs to show solubility across a range of temperatures. One take home lesson was always to ensure the balance was measuring in the scientific unit of grams and not ounces!

Dr Jim

ECAP

Dear Parents,

Monday 28th September is the start of Early Years Bubble Club. As you know our extra curricular activities program has been cancelled but we still aim to provide an alternative service after school from 1630h to 1730h.

During this time each child will stay in their year group or class bubble, taking part in activities. The activities provided will be play based and each child will be able to choose from a practical, art or reading activity.

It is essential that you register in advance for Bubble Club via this [link](#).

Mr. Pilcher



Primary Bubble Club 1630 - 1730 Mon to Thurs

	Year3	Year4	Year5	Year6
Monday	Outside Activity	Sports Activity	Art Activity	Board Games
Tuesday	Board games	Outside Activity	Sports Activity	Art Activity
Wednesday	Art Activity	Board Games	Outside Activity	Sports Activity
Thursday	Sports Activity	Art Activity	Board Games	Outside Activity