



WEEKLY BULLETIN



December 13

Dear Parents,



Welcome once again, to the BCG newsletter. This week we have photographs of the delightful Christmas Fair we held last Thursday. The illumination of the lights on the tree and the snow that mysteriously fluttered down from first floor brought smiles to the faces of everyone and created wonderful ambience. The spirit of Christmas was upon us and suddenly we were off and running towards all kinds of stalls and activities. I was impressed by the variety of stalls and the effort that had been made by all concerned. The handmade Christmas cards I bought from Year 6 pupils will soon be arriving on doormats in various countries and my only disappointment was in missing out on the dancing Christmas trees being sold by the Business Development Club. They raised 130 Euros to go into their Business start up fund and they are certainly learning in a very hands on manner.

In early 2020 we will also start the school hobby farm. Yes, you read that correctly, the school hobby farm. This remarkable new project will allow teachers to bring the curriculum to life and has sparked huge interest in our community. Expect much more news in the new year. As always we aim to develop the Educational experience of our students in innovative ways and we aim to create lifelong memories. I am sure that the experiential lessons in Science, Geography, Art, etc. linked to the farm will last long in the memory and the very nature of this engaging and dynamic approach will stimulate interest in topics, subjects and even potential careers. Educational research indicates the importance of developing the capacities of students beyond the traditional definition of academic intelligence and at BCG we stress the importance of nurturing development and growth in musical, linguistic, natural, spatial-visual and cultural capacities in order to support our students to fully achieve their potential and to flourish whilst here and out in the wider world after they leave us.

Regarding the new building development, we recently had an official visit and accreditation inspection and we have now received written confirmation from the British Council that we are authorised to educate a total of 750 pupils on the school site (please click **here** to see it). This is excellent news as it opens access to a wealth of first class facilities for all pupils in school, including those in Early Childhood and Upper Primary. This is an important milestone and we will be organising a tour of the building, for parents, early in the New Year.

As I write this 'We wish you a merry Christmas and a happy new year' is ringing in my ears as Early Childhood and Year 1 are performing their Christmas songs and poems to an enthusiastic crowd of parents, siblings and staff. The photographs tell the story, and with that may I be one of the first to wish you all a peaceful and joyful Christmas.

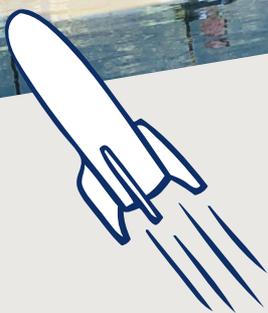
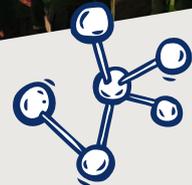
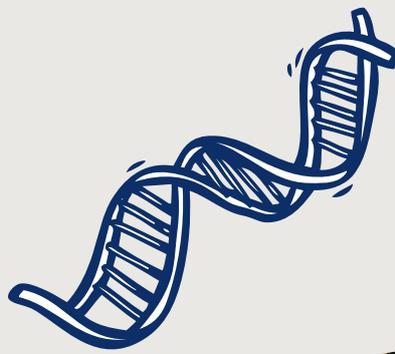
Kind Regards,
John Prince



COSMO CAIXA

On Monday 9th December, Year 5 visited Cosmo Caixa to consolidate their learning about Space. It was the perfect end to their exciting learning journey in Science this term.

The visit to the Planetarium was fantastic and the children discovered the universe, as they have never seen it before. An out of this world experience!



Hobby Farm

Biophilia is the instinctive love that humans possess for green spaces and nature. It is what drives us to seek out nature and other living things to share our homes and our spaces. The calming effects of the natural world are well known.

With these thoughts in mind and spurred on by the success of our recent hatching project in year 7 it has been decided here at BGC that the addition of a hobby farm and allotment will add a great deal to the school and enrich the children's learning environment.

Developing empathy, compassion, responsibility and work ethic will come naturally while spending time at our school's farm. Student's engagement is fostered by intrinsic motivation to work hard and develop long lasting bonds with animals.

Our love of nature and community is what this project is about... what our school is about. Creating an environment where the children are learning to care for our environment more and to share with each other what they have been able to achieve. There is nothing better than being outdoors and the children begin to realise where food comes from, learn to cook those produce and are even up for trying things they may never have tasted before.

This space will enhance the learning experience of our children in many ways:

Business teacher:

It is hoped that the products of the hobby farm, eggs, fruit, vegetables and perhaps in time jams or other baked goods could be used by business students to develop a deeper understanding of the business cycle. From market research to packing to sales and resourcing the farm will offer potential for business students.

Humanities:

In today's world, concern for the environment is paramount and a growing concern amongst our ethically conscious kids. Having a hobby farm will enable them to learn about our carbon footprint and the ways in which we can act as a school to reduce this impact.



The science team:

Having a hobby farm will offer many opportunities for hands on learning that will fit very well into the curriculum in secondary school. In year 7 we learn about cells, growth and reproduction and having baby animals that they have witnessed throughout the cycle has given them a better more interactive understanding of the process at work. Another topic is variation, which our ducks have also helped with enormously as they are different breeds and the children have been able to study the differences and similarities that variation brings.

In year 9 we are studying the life cycle of plants and the differences in plant species as well as farming and the need for crop rotation, the allotment will prove invaluable as we will be able to study the effects in real time and watch how the seasons affect the various plants and the products that they produce.

Even up to GCSE the farm will offer opportunities for hands on study, both in biology and also in chemistry with the need to ensure soil pH and other conditions for growth. For our older students we hope that having a nature space will allow for them to relax during a challenging period.

Early Years:

The children in early years have gained great enjoyment from the ducks already and have been to see them several times. However, a farm will fit into the curriculum in early years brilliantly; there are many links to be drawn.

In early years a section of the curriculum is devoted to teaching the children about changes that occur over time, having plants and animals that will physically alter is an excellent example of this. Another area is being able to show care for themselves and others and show concern for their environment.

Humanities:

In today's world concern for the environment is paramount and a growing concern amongst our ethically conscious kids. Having a hobby farm will enable them to learn about our carbon foot print and the ways in which we can act as a school to reduce this and reduce our environmental impact.

Year 7 say that they have enjoyed their project hatching some ducklings and they have remained attentive throughout. The children were pleased to be allowed to take them home, which allowed the ducklings to be shared with children from other year groups.



Christmas Fair

Thanks for your participation and support in what has become a school tradition: Our **BCG Christmas Fair**.



Smiles around our Xmas tree



It's snowing at BCG!!!



Christmas cookies





EYFS Christmas Show



This week we have continued celebrating the festive time of year with two more shows. EYFS and Year 1 sang and recited poetry on the Christmas theme beautifully. Thank you to Miss Pilcher, Miss Plummer, Miss Baron, Miss Jenny and Miss Sylvia for all their hard work preparing the songs, solos, and poems with actions and accompanying bells played by the children. It was lovely to see the large turnout of parents and siblings in the audience who clapped vigorously with appreciation at the effort the children were making to put on a great show.



We wish you a Merry Christmas



Junior Musical Theatre Recital

Our first ever Musical Theatre performance was showcased on Thursday evening, with the Junior Musical Theatre group performing songs and dances from four different musicals: Annie, The Lion King, The Little Mermaid and High School Musical. The children juggled singing, dancing, props and costume changes extremely professionally, and provided a wonderful evening of entertainment for us all. Many thanks to the supportive parents who helped with hair and makeup before the show. And of course, thank you to Jessica Hallam, our dance teacher, who has worked so diligently and enthusiastically with the group over the past couple of months to produce such high quality pieces from such young children. We look forward to the next one!



Participation of our students of Spanish as a foreign language in a school competition at Lancaster University

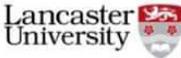
KS4 and KS5 students have been offered the opportunity to participate in a writing contest, organized by Lancaster University. Participants had to write an academic essay in one of the foreign languages taught in the schools (Spanish, French, German, Italian or Chinese) on the topic "Learn Languages to Build Bridges". A topic about the importance of language learning, that students could freely develop.

In our school, three sixth formers studying Spanish participated: Andrea, Aaron and Polina. We are very proud as Polina's text has been selected as finalist and was sent to the British university. We wish her good luck!

Please see the poster with all the information.

Ms Pou

Spanish / Catalan Coordinator



Lancaster University Modern Languages Schools Competition 2019

Schools are invited to hold a competition for their Modern Languages students and to put forward their winning submissions for the Lancaster University Modern Languages Schools Competition.

The topic for this year is 'Learn Languages to Build Bridges', which students may interpret as freely as they wish. This year we invite Year 10 and 11, as well as Year 12 and 13 to take part.

- Year 10 and 11 students are invited to submit a creative entry – for example an audio or video file, image, collage, or meme. Audio and video submissions should be 1-2 minutes long. Visual/non-text-based submissions should be accompanied by a short statement of 250 words explaining how the submission addresses the theme of the competition. Submissions can be made in English or in the target language, but should in any case contain clear references to the target language/culture.
- Year 12 and 13 students are invited to submit an essay discussing the theme. The essay should be written in Chinese, French, German, Italian or Spanish. Essays should be no longer than 500 words long and should include a bibliography (not included in the word count).

The student's name and school should be clearly indicated on each submission. Submissions will be judged by a panel made up of academics at Lancaster University. The involvement of teachers in the preparation of submission should be minimal. Teachers may discuss the topic and help their students to plan their submission, but should not in any way correct it. Schools may submit one entry for each category (Year 10 and 11 & Year 12 and 13) for consideration.

| Prize for Year 10 & 11 | Prize for Year 12 & 13 |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Winner: £50 book voucher | Winner: £50 book voucher |
| Runner up: £25 book voucher | Runner up: £25 book voucher |



The submissions selected by each school should be submitted by email to the Competition Administrator Hannah Monaghan: languagesessayprize@lancaster.ac.uk



'My time at BCG has come to an end. Thank you parents for your unending kindness, patience and support over the past 15 months. Teaching your children has been one of the greatest honours of my career and I will be forever grateful to Rafael Valverde for this opportunity and privilege. To my magnificent team, your passion, understanding and love of teaching has been a pleasure to watch and be a part of. The children look up to all of you and they are blessed to have you guiding and nurturing them through their formative years. Thank you also to John Prince, Steven Lockwood and Maria Andrea for our team work and understanding. Finally to my children, you have the most incredible minds, hearts and souls I have ever met...Be kind to one another, hug and kiss your parents every-day and most importantly be the best you can be. Thank you.'

Aine Mooney

'I would like to say a huge thank you to Aine. She has done a amazing job and we wish her well in the future.'

John Prince



First of all, I would like to thank everybody that has been involved with our extra-curricular program during this exciting first term. The students have enjoyed around 400 hours of club activities from September to December and we aim to build on that in January. Registration is now open for January's activities with some exciting new additions yet to come.

Now we are coming to the end of term there are some activities that will continue to the last week of term and some that have finished but will start again in January. Other lessons that were missed due to a teacher absence will be made up. Please check the details of each club below.

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Mugendo EYFS ON | Swimming ON | Robotics ON | Multisports FINISHED | Mini Tennis ON |
| My Gran Chef ON | Mugendo ON | Athletics FINISHED | Musical Theatre ON | Yoga ON |
| Football FINISHED | Football FINISHED | Football FINISHED | Tennis ON | Rowing ON |
| Yoga ON | Business ON | Yoga ON | French ON | |
| Rowing ON | | Art ON | Football FINISHED | |

UPCOMING EVENTS

WINTER CONCERT

December 17 at 15:00

Whole school

Parent meetings

January 21-22 Primary
January 22-23 Secondary

Head Teacher Interviews - Wednesday 18th December

We would like to remind you of an invitation to attend an important community meeting at 4.30pm on Wednesday 18th December in the tent to meet in person the four candidates for the role of permanent Head Teacher for the next academic year. All parents, staff and students are welcome to attend. Diane, David, Julia and Simon will make a brief presentation to all invited and there will be a chance to mingle with them for refreshments after. Rafael Valverde, our founder, and Andrew Atkinson, the General Director will be present at the event and in school from Tuesday 17th to Thursday 19th December if any parents wish to speak to us informally or in a scheduled meeting. This is an extremely important decision for the school and we thank you in advance for your support. We look forward to seeing you there!

Kind regards,

Andrew Atkinson
General Director