



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

WEEKLY BULLETIN

May 8th 2020

Dear BCG community,

When I arrived in March, it was clear to me that one of the very first things I wanted to address in the College was the quality of education in the Secondary School and Sixth Form. There are essentially three things, which need addressing:

Firstly, we have an excellent group of highly professional and motivated teachers. They are inspiring and I am extremely proud to have them in our team. However, the structure of the curriculum and the way the timetable is laid out makes their job very difficult indeed. This is changing.

Secondly, students have struggled understanding how to choose subjects at GCSE and at A level. They have chosen subjects they like or think they want to do, but have not had proper guidance about subject combinations, skills learnt or where the subjects can lead. We have completely changed the way we are supporting them with this difficult decision making process by pulling together sensible subject combinations into Pathways, including a challenging Pathway for the very best students. We will be presenting these on Monday.

Lastly, the academic culture will change. From September, Sixth Form students will have a full academic programme, either in class or studying in our wonderful new library. This will include support on careers and university choices, the application process, writing personal statements etc. We will provide support for students applying to Spanish Universities, the UK, US or any other country. The process will be thorough and parents will be kept updated regularly. All students will be expected to be in school and in lessons on time and I would expect them to take responsibility for their own learning, with support of course.

Further details will be sent out on Monday.

Simon Mower

Dear Parents,

As you are aware, as the May/June exams session is cancelled we will be submitting predicted grades for IGCSE, AS and A level Exams, together with supporting evidence, during the months of June and July. I would like to let you know that we are using the time since lockdown to do everything we can to support learning and establish a true and accurate grade which builds and improves on the performance in previous exams during the academic year.

We are empowered by the exam board to use a wide variety of available evidence and it has been extremely fruitful in that we are able to demonstrate and justify progress in exam capabilities since lockdown started. However, I should let you know that OFQUAL (the Department of the UK Government which oversees, awards and validates exams) is explicit that schools cannot disclose predicted grades to parents or students.

The full schedule of important dates from May to August is outlined in the table below.

If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards,

John Prince

Dates	Event
25-29 May	Assessment Week, Year 11, 12 and 13
01-05 June	Feedback on Assessment Week testing, final discussions on exam performance with pupils and final evidence gathered and collated to support predicted grades
Friday 05 June	Final lessons for Year 11, 12 and 13
08-12 June	Teachers review pupil performance and achievement through the academic year and come to a final conclusion on predicted grades for submission to the exam board. The evidence that is used to inform and support decisions is collated and stored.
15-19 June	Mr Prince and Mr Mower review, discuss with teachers and sign off the predicted grades. Person exams Board are informed of predicted grades in all subjects for all pupils.
June and July	Mr Prince and teachers are available for consultation with Pearson and to provide supporting evidence
13 August	Exam grades are awarded for AS and A level exams
20 August	Exam grades are awarded for IGCSE and GCSE exams



IB Update

As our work towards becoming an IB World School continues, BCG staff are taking a leading role in drafting policies, writing course outlines and planning resources for our wonderful new library and laboratories. Meanwhile, our whole school exploration of the IB values and philosophy continues and next week we will be reaching out to our community as we create a School Language Profile. Students from Year 3 upwards will participate in discussions about the importance of respecting different languages and cultures and how learning languages can benefit not only each of us individually but our world as a whole. We will then ask our students to complete a questionnaire about the languages they use to communicate and learn. We are lucky to have such an international student body and look forward to celebrating each and every language and culture together. Thank you to Ms Pou and Mr. Sales for organising this fabulous project.

Rachel Fenton

STEM Project Week

Children in EYFS to Year 2 have enjoyed a fantastic selection of afternoon projects over the last two weeks all relating to the 4 elements of STEM. These included robot tasks, computer programming, physics and maths challenges a plenty! We have seen so many fantastic photographs and videos including building robots out of Lego and from recycled materials with functions such as picking fruit and washing cars! The children have been led by their imaginations as they have explored these topics.

Last Tuesday's computer programming was a popular project and we had lots of children creating life size mazes in gardens and on balconies following algorithms to lead pets and parents to the end of their paths. Wednesday and Thursday we had a variety of physics based tasks such as building towers, ramps and creating a domino effect with books and toys. Not forgetting, one of the most popular activities to learn about the Water cycle in a jar!

After the bank holiday weekend we kick started this week with a Monday full of maths. This came in the form of measuring the length of a person in handprints, Sudoku challenges and homemade watches to tell the time. The children have continued to amaze their teachers with their creativity, imagination and motivation. All of our teachers are so proud of the effort and BCG learner traits that we keep seeing each and every day.

Have a wonderful sunny weekend and we will be here on Monday ready to take on Week 8 of our online learning journey.

Mrs Pilcher

STEM Week (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) landed at BCG last week. With a focus on the topic of sustainability, Monday's Technology and Engineering day looked at the use of Robotics and Computing to solve some of the challenges facing humankind over the next decade. Students from Y7 investigated the carbon footprint of everyday computing usage and worked on how to minimise our carbon footprint when using our devices. Y8 looked at the fate of old devices and the environmental and human cost of manufacturing devices. Y9s researched how Technology is used to minimise food waste, fight pandemics, make energy efficient buildings and robot farms. I was very impressed by the work produced by our pupils!

Tuesday and this Monday was Physics and Mathematics, and Mr Link, our Maths teacher, wowed and challenged our pupils with a programming task based on pendulums and arcs as well as an intriguing code breaking exercise, with a wide range of encryption methods, including ones decrypted by the Allies during World War 2! Let's hope our students don't encrypt their homework!

Last Wednesday and Thursday was the turn of Miss Lane and Miss Kirby, who took turns to introduce our students to topics in Biology and Chemistry. Pupils were enlightened by TED talks and constructed virtual schools using Minecraft, followed by viewing live-streamed experiments.

I was also very privileged to see the incredible work coming out of Primary. There are some budding young engineers and scientists there! I look forward to teaching them in the coming years as they enter Secondary. I would like to thank our pupils for their enthusiasm and hard work, their patient and dedicated parents for supporting our learners and our wonderful STEM team as well as our Primary colleagues, for what can only be described as a truly sensational STEM week.

Dr Jim

What a fantastic week! From studying how IT could be made more sustainable on Monday, to experimenting with coding models on Tuesday, and Biology and Chemistry tasks spread over Wednesday and Thursday, and then a coding Math's challenge the following Monday, the fun of STEM just kept going!

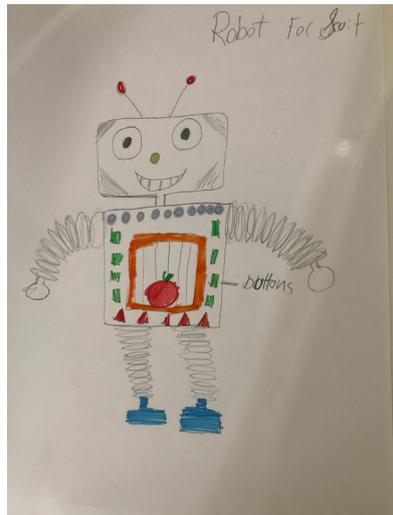
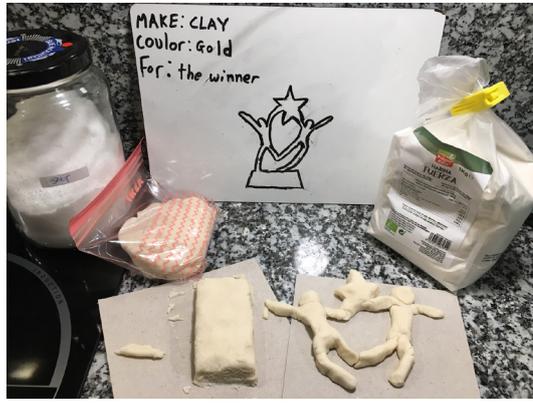
It was so wonderful to see all of the engagement with all of the STEM activities. We had some excellent work submitted - some incredibly professional voice overs detailing animal behaviour, excellent examples of coding, amazing models of the water cycle and of sustainable schools built and then explained, and some truly inspiring TED talks, written with the focus on 'Building a sustainable future'. Our school's young scientists really shone in their knowledge and understanding of complex topics, and really impressed their teachers with their projects, their positive attitudes, and the complex questions they asked our guest speakers!

A highlight of the week has to be the live lessons - the chance for pupils to see science experiments being performed for them during a time when they don't have access to the fantastic labs they were looking forward to using, and to practise the vital skill of recording observations in the form of scientific posters. All of Key Stage 3 were able to watch and engage as I demonstrated to them a practical in which you can make your own indicator out of red cabbage, and primary were able to see how water moves through a plant and what the inside of a flower looks like. Teachers were very impressed by the scientific minds shown by all of our pupils!

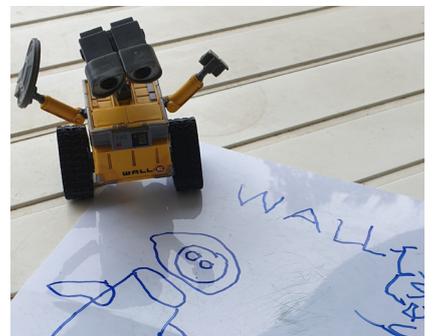
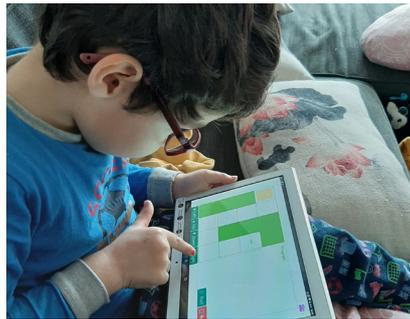
Truly, STEM Week 2020 was an exceptional week in which all of our young scientists have done themselves proud. Here's to looking forward to STEM Week 2021!

Ella Lane

STEM WEEK



Visit [our blog](#) to see more about STEM week



Summer Camp OPEN

Although the future is uncertain we continue to make preparations for our summer camp this year and plan on going ahead with the start of our program until informed otherwise by the government. When this happens we will, of course, carry out all of the recommendations and guidelines to ensure the safety of all of the children.

Summer camp still promise's to be a fun, enjoyable and interactive experience for the children with workshops and projects in the environment, at the beach and using the brand new facilities at school for a huge selection of sports and technology. Now even more fitting, this year's theme is 'Movement to the Future' and in partnership with the Moti Foundation we will gain awareness and understanding of the world around us and how regeneration and sustainability can have a positive effect.

We continue to offer the 40% discount to our families and, once registered, you will be charged on the 10th June. Should the camp be cancelled a full refund will be given.
For any queries contact summercamp@bcgava.com

Registration for BCG families is open at :
https://www.britishcollegegava.com/es_ES/summer-camp

Dan Piclher
Summer School Coordinator



In association
with
MOTI



SUMMER CAMP

Movement to the Future

**Learn or Improve English
in workshops and projects**

*The Environment
The Beach
Sport
Technology*

**29th June - 31st July
Monday to Friday
08:30 to 16:30**

Early drop off available from 8 am

Age 3 - 14
Half day or full day booking
Regular Price - 225,00€ (full day) - 175,00€ (Half Day)

To find out more and register go to
www.britishcollegegava.com/en_EN/summer-camp

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