



# WEEKLY BULLETIN

November 13th 2020



## Welcome to our bulletin

This was one of those weeks that comes around every so often where I look back and realise we have come a long way over the last few months. I would like to share with you a number of things that we did this week, all of which represent how far we have come on as a community over the last 6 months.

### Statement of Mission and Purpose

Along with this newsletter you will see our new Statement of Mission and Pur-

pose as well as our Values. I am extremely proud of this document, a lot of work has gone into carefully considering each element. I do hope you agree that it is a true reflection of our school along with a little bit of aspirational thinking - something for us to aim at.

### Remembrance Day

On Tuesday we had a Remembrance day assembly for the whole school. I explained to the students why we hold this annual event and what the significance is for them. They were very attentive and asked many questions, the Year 7s to us in the Auditorium and others to their class teachers and form tutors around the school as they watched a live stream.

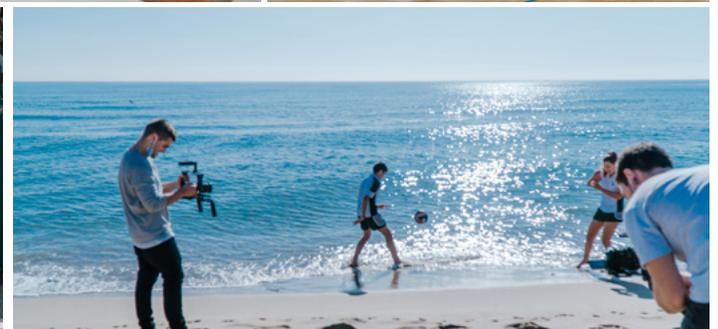
Laia Gaisser from Year 6 and Aureli Foreman Martin from Year 10 both read poems which were written by soldiers on the front line. Their readings were extremely sensitive and beautifully delivered. On Wednesday at 11am the entire school

congregated outside for a two minute silence which was started and finished by the haunting sound of the Last Post and Reveille respectively. I was proud of how respectfully the whole community took this special occasion.



## New school video

On Tuesday we had a film crew all day for our new school video. It was fantastic to see such a positive response from the staff and students - they just love being on camera! It was wonderful to see the students clearly so proud of their school. I look forward to sharing the final video with you when it is complete.



## Parent Portal

You will have seen an email from school inviting you to sign up to the Parent Portal. This is now our primary means of communicating with parents and you will find many useful documents there. With the email you received step by step instructions, please follow these precisely and you will log in without a problem. I hope you find it useful. Those of you who are technologically adventurous may like to download the iSAMs Parent app and use your login to access the portal that way!

## Reports

The teachers have written Half Term 'snapshot' reports from Years 3 -13 and these have been uploaded onto the portal too. At the end of term we will be sending out a full report for most year groups. Years 11, 12 and 13 will have a first mock examination in the first week back after the Christmas holidays and it is essential that plans for that holiday, whilst important family time, include a substantial amount of self study and revision by these students. The mock examinations results for Year 11 will be an important part of the decision making process when it comes to choosing the IB subjects.

And a bit of housekeeping...

## Uniform

Another reminder that all students should be dressed appropriately. We are in the winter term and so all students from Year 3 up to Year 11 should be wearing the white school shirt or the long sleeve polo shirt. Students can wear ties but these are not compulsory. Ideally students should also wear jumpers as classrooms are often ventilated and as the weather gets colder jumpers will be required. All students should wear formal black shoes. Only on days when they have PE can students wear the school PE kit all day. Sixth Formers should be dressed smartly and should always be setting an example to the younger students.



## Mobile phones

Mobile phones will be confiscated from students who use them without permission. Generally speaking, mobile phones are not allowed to be used in school. If a student has their phone confiscated once, it will be taken to the reception where they collect it at the end of the school day. If they have their phone confiscated twice it will remain at reception and will need to be collected by parents.

Simon Mower

## Help families in need

This Christmas we will support **Somos gente solidaria** with their campaign. If anyone wants to donate food, personal hygiene products, cleaning products, as well as toys (can be used toys), we will have collection boxes next week during drop off and pick up time in front of the green gate (Monday to Friday from 8:30 to 9:00 and from 16:00 to 17:00). Thanks for your collaboration.



## Statement of Mission and Purpose

At the British College of Gavà (BCG) our mission is to foster an exciting, meaningful and lifelong passion for learning and academic curiosity. The BCG community is dedicated to providing students with every opportunity to fulfil their potential through the taught curriculum and in extra and co-curricular activities. All children at BCG are heard, noticed and given the opportunity to shine. A strong academic culture permeates throughout the school: students appreciate the opportunities they have and take responsibility for their own learning.

Our students learn how to think clearly and rationally, understanding the logical connection between ideas. They are able to engage in reflective and independent thinking in all subjects and activities.

### CRITICAL THINKING

## Our Values

We firmly believe in a holistic, balanced and broad education for sustainable development which is further enhanced by our privileged learning environment. Sustainability, cultural cooperation and respectful, lasting and rewarding relationships are placed at the centre of our educational philosophy and approach. Creativity, Collaboration, Communication, and Critical Thinking are highly valued both inside and outside the classroom.

At BCG we aim to make the classroom a rich and exciting environment where students are encouraged to use their imaginations, to participate in activities at every opportunity presented, and to explore new ideas and challenge themselves in a kind and safe place - a place where students will enjoy taking initiative and growing in confidence as they learn to be the best they can be.

We are privileged to have a beautiful green site and our generous outdoors spaces are an integral part of our learning environment. Our students acquire the knowledge, skills and attitude necessary to shape sustainable futures. Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) is a fundamental academic thread running throughout the school.

### ENVIRONMENT

We believe that each child is unique and we strive to help them discover their talents and achieve their dreams. BCG embraces and encourages individuality and believes it is an essential aspect of growing up. We celebrate every child's enthusiasm, talent and contribution to school life, recognising that the IB Learner profile attributes help develop our students as lifelong learners and valuable members of our local and global communities.

### THE INDIVIDUAL

At BCG, creativity is not restricted to the arts but is an integral part of learning in every subject. The creative process energises learning and develops curious, collaborative, inquisitive, and enthusiastic minds.

### CREATIVITY

BCG is a family: we recognise the important role community plays in our everyday lives. By fostering a close connection between students, staff, and parents, in addition to the wider local community, values such as respect, empathy, compassion, care, and ethical self-awareness are harnessed and nurtured. Furthermore, by actively promoting collaboration between families, teachers, and leadership, shared values are developed, communicated and developed ensuring that the school remains exciting, vibrant, and relevant in today's rapidly evolving world.

### THE COMMUNITY

Project-based and collaborative work, presentations and debate as well as dynamic, pupil-centred activities involving art, music, drama and creative writing, are highly valued and sit alongside traditional academic excellence and contribute to our diverse and balanced curriculum.

### COLLABORATION

At BCG we extend our borders to embrace the world in which we live. The key to lifelong learning is enabling students to extend the skills learnt in the classroom beyond its walls towards the wider school, and our local, and global communities. We actively support our students in their development as decision-makers, risk-takers, critical thinkers and problem-solving Earth stewards.

With the aim of building bridges culturally, we encourage knowledgeable and enquiring students who engage with global affairs by developing practical skills and strategic thinking required to face 21st century challenges and opportunities, who strive for principled and open-minded perspectives, and who appreciate their own culture and that of others, and in doing so grow from their experience.

### THE WORLD BEHIND

Students are encouraged to develop a wide range of effective communication skills from an early age. Furthermore, our students are skilled linguists and appreciate the importance of language learning.

### COMMUNICATION

Dear Parents,

This is the time of year when all British Schools throughout the world hold ceremonies of remembrance for those killed in war, and at 11am on the 11 November the whole school listened to the last post played by the bugle teacher and we held a two minute silence to remember the dead of the Great War. Earlier in the week, Simon Mower lead a moving Assembly on this theme, with the whole school watching on a live stream to classrooms. The ceremonies were very well received and treated with the respect one would expect by the whole community.

Later in the week, Miss Lane lead Year 7 on a Nature survey in the school grounds. The photographs show the engagement of the pupils and it is remarkable what you can see, hear and feel when you really pay attention. The parrots in the pines have never been so appreciated and had so much attention. The pupils are now writing poems and perhaps even a nature rap will be forthcoming, as we are becoming very musical as a school community. We will see the results in the Nature Assembly on Tuesday.

On a more practical note, we were delighted to be able to extend the use of iSams and send the recent school reports directly through the iSams Parent Portal. We will also be extending the use of the Parent Portal in the coming months.

Have a lovely weekend,

Kind Regards,

**John Prince**



# UPPER PRIMARY

Dear Families,

This week you will have received the first of our half-term school reports that give a 'snapshot' of your child's progress and achievement. These provide a short summary of how your child is progressing and how they have responded to the catch up curriculum we implemented at the start of this school year. Overall, I am very pleased with how hard the children (and teachers) are working and the quality of work they are producing.

This week I was fortunate enough to visit each of the Upper Primary classes as part of what we call a 'Learning Walk'. It was very encouraging to see such quality teaching and such purposeful learning. The behaviour of our pupils is one of our many strengths. They were attentive and engaged in all the classes I visited. Children talked enthusiastically about their learning and demonstrated excellent knowledge about their subjects. Their teachers have worked hard to provide a stimulating learning environment and it was brilliant to see children's work celebrated on class displays.

We have come a long way and I am beyond proud of the positive culture for learning we have embedded.

## **Celebrations & Achievements**

In Upper Primary, the fortnightly value we have explored and celebrated was 'Knowledgeable'. We had interesting discussions in our class assemblies about what it means to be knowledgeable. Can you be knowledgeable if you know a little bit about lots of things? Are you knowledgeable if you know a lot about only one thing? Are you born knowledgeable? Are we all born with the same opportunity to be knowledgeable? These are just some of the insightful questions posed by our pupils this week.

In our special values assembly, the following children received the BCG Values Certificate for Knowledgeable:

**Year 3 Magpies** – Berta Gaisser and Isabel Salvatore

**Year 4 Ravens** – Lukas Dodd and Jorge Encinas

**Year 4 Swans** – Luke Jennemyr and Sasha Gorea

**Year 5 Parakeets** – Noa Cedillo and Tomas Perez

**Year 6 Kingfishers** – Savva Sadovoi and Candela Encinas

Congratulations to all the recipients.

## **Dinner Time!**

Our special feature this week is about the school lunches and the children's dining experience. School lunches have been a 'hot' topic in both our parent and student forums. We have listened to your concerns and queries about the lunch provision and would like to share some of our ideas for improvement with you.

In this week's Student Forum, we talked to a range of pupils from Year 2, Year 5 and Year 9a. They gave useful insights into their experiences in school and were very keen to share their thoughts. Each of the year groups represented were given the opportunity to interview Marivi, the Head of Catering at BCG. It was lovely to hear the suggestions made and to see her so engaged with the pupils' ideas. As a result, we have decided to involve the pupils in menu design and Marivi will host some 'food tasting' sessions. Next term, the pupils will also carry out a food survey.

Whilst we appreciate there may be some children who are still on the road to exploring different foods, as they develop their own tastes, we are confident that the vast majority of pupils enjoy the lunches they are given. They are offered 3 courses that include healthy balanced meals and are always given a selection of fruit and yoghurts. They have a plentiful supply of bread to complement their meal. It is a common sight to see children with their hands in the air asking for second – and sometimes third helpings of the food. Staff eats the same food and their plates are always empty and their stomachs full.

In addition to the improvements mentioned, we have also begun to vary the range of snacks offered at playtimes. We believe we have made a very positive start to improving the food choices your children have and will continue to work closely with Marivi to develop this as the year progresses.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Un abrazo,

**Miss Wakelin**

# Dinner time at BCG





# EYFS & Lower Primary

In EYFS and Lower Primary, history is mainly taught as a cross curricular approach, linking in with our class theme or topic. However, there are some events that are focused on separately as they appear in the calendar. Part of the National Curriculum for History is learning about significant people and events and we have had a busy fortnight remembering important dates. For example, on 5th November we learnt about Guy Fawkes and his plot to blow up the Houses of Parliament. This teaching was teamed with some role play, making pretend mini bonfires in the forest school and creating firework paintings. This week the whole school learnt about the significance of Remembrance Day on 11th November and in addition to the two minutes silence held across the whole school, children created poppies in different art forms. Each time we learn and celebrate a significant event or person, is an opportunity to add dates to a timeline and look at the world map to see where these events have happened. You can see why we use the phrase cross curricular as we dip into maths and geography, and often art, in the same lesson.

Year 2 children also went back to 1950s Alabama this week as we learnt about Rosa Parks. The children were in disbelief about how things were so unfair. The idea that in the past some people had to stand at a bus stop but others were allowed to sit down, some were allowed to sit at the front and others at the back prompted comments such as, "that is crazy and makes no sense". This early teaching of segregation led to some insightful discussions about what is fair and unfair (PSHE). Our lesson was stretched out across the whole day with light haired children being segregated to dark haired children for snack, toilet breaks and other opportunities in class. It was a very interesting day and sparked a lot of interesting discussions.

As with all curriculum subjects, each year children will delve a little deeper into their understanding and content of such events and begin to ask more questions to further their understanding. The children were excited by the idea that what we are all experiencing now with Covid 19, will become history in the future!

**Mrs Pilcher**



# PROJECTS IN THE LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT

From the language department we are very excited to announce the participation of our students in several very interesting projects:

**Year 3** students will participate in the contest 'A solidarity story', organized by Radio Nacional de España and Fundación Crecer Jugando. Miss Sadurní and Miss Company are working with the students in the creation of a very original poem-song in Spanish, called "A very special year". They express and explain the importance of games in this very atypical year: how they have learned to play in a different way, how they have learned to feel close to friends and family without being able to meet, what aspects of the game they appreciate more than before, what new games and ways of playing they have invented or discovered.

You can check the contest rules [here](#).

When the video is finished we will share it with all the families.



The **Year 4** students are holding a Reading Club in some of the Spanish lessons with Mr Sales and Miss Sadurní. This term they are reading a funny story: 'Blasted tadpole' by Maite Carranza.



In Secondary for Catalan, **Year 11** students are participating in another educational project, **the Award for tomorrow's youth**, promoted by Fundesplai, and which aims to empower and reward young people who want to contribute to a more sustainable present and future. Two groups of six students are going to make a video that presents their initiative to contribute to the fulfillment of some of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

In 2015, at a historic United Nations summit, all states members adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development containing the 17 SDGs. If you want to know what the SDGs are, click [here](#).

You can check the bases of this award [here](#).



And finally, Year 10 and Year 11 GCSE Spanish and French as a Foreign Language students and Year 12 Spanish AS students, will have the opportunity to put their oral communication and written expression skills into practice, by participating in the Modern Languages in Schools Prize, 2020-2021, organized by the Lancaster University Department of Languages and Cultures.

GCSE students are invited to respond to a question in a video, using the language studied and in a well-argued way. This is the challenge they will have to face: Do we still need to learn about other languages and cultures in the age of Google Translate? On the other hand, Year 12 participants will have to write an academic essay, in Spanish, that answers the question: Is internationalism important in the twenty-first century?

The bases of this award can be checked [here](#).  
We wish all of our participants the best of luck!

**Languages Department (Spanish, French and Catalan)**

## Exciting news in the Music Department!



This week **Izan Rubio**, BCG's very own guitar, ukulele and bass guitar teacher reached the finals of the Miquel Llobet Internationals Guitar Competition and won third prize as well as a special prize for Best Classical Catalan Guitarist. Congratulations Izan!

He is a classical guitarist who began his studies with renowned teachers Miguel Angel Sanz and Jordi Codina.

In 2012 he graduated with Laura Young ESMUC and is currently finishing his master's degree in Advanced Studies in Interpretation. He has won many awards in international competitions, including the award for best Catalan guitarist at the Miquel Llobet International Guitar Competition in November 2010.

Izan is passionate about teaching guitar. He strongly believes playing an instrument is one of the most challenging activities for the brain, but also one which involves connecting your emotions to your body. He has learned, first hand, that learning a musical instrument develops confidence in young people, and also helps them express their emotions when sometimes spoken language fails. Izan teaches many children at BCG who are lucky to have him!

## BCG Orchestras

Our wonderful **BCG orchestras** are creating beautiful music together every week. Many of the primary children are trying out new instruments for the first time in the orchestra, such as violin and cello, and are finding their participation in orchestra very rewarding! Members of the orchestra from years 3 and up are preparing a performance which we will film as part of a substitute for our Winter Concert. Watch this space! Other musical activities this week have been Samba band outside in the sun, in which we have over 40 members, and Rock Band, in which the Year 10 GCSE Music students are preparing performances of Rolling in the Deep and No Woman No Cry, with guest artists from Year 8 and BCG Staff. We also invited our trumpet and trombone teacher, Tobi Brazier, to demonstrate his instruments to years 4 - 8, and to talk a little about the history and technique of brass instruments. The children were excited to hear him demonstrate a range of pieces from nursery rhymes to jazz and Gustav Mahler! Not surprisingly, quite a few hands went up to request lessons!

