



WEEKLY BULLETIN

October 16th 2020



Welcome to our bulletin

Another great week at BCG! On Wednesday we had a very productive meeting with reps from Year 3 and Year 4 and I appreciate their continued support. The parent meetings have been very useful so far and I look forward to next week where we are meeting reps from Years 8 and 9.

Exam Week

We are reaching half term and most students will be having their half term assessments. These tests are very important for a num-

ber of reasons. After the disruptive six months preceding this school year we need to have a clear idea where each student is so, that we can adapt the teaching accordingly and provide extra support where needed.

I expect all students to take these tests very seriously, prepare as best they can and try their hardest. Beyond that, they must not worry about the results, we will be able to help any of them that have struggled. The last nine months have been so strange for students across the world and ours are no different. These exams will throw up some unexpected results in some areas but they will help us understand each child's needs more clearly.

Parent Portal

We will be launching the new Parent Portal very soon. One of the first things you will be able to

see there are the half term reports in early November. We will be sending out details of how to create an account next week and I encourage all to do this straight away as moving forwards all communication with parents will be via this portal.

School Uniform

Please use the half term as a chance to ensure your children have the correct uniform. After half term we will be far stricter with students as they arrive in school. There are still many who arrive looking veep poorly dressed and this is very disappointing. Secondary students who arrive wearing the wrong uniform may be sent home.

Mobile phones

Secondary students are allowed to bring mobile phones to school so that they can be in contact with parents (or the school) whilst travelling to and from school. Unless specifically requested to by a teacher, they are NOT allowed to use their phones during the day and the phones must not leave their bags or preferably their lockers. After half term, I am instructing all teachers to confiscate any mobile phones that are seen. I look forward to the time, in the new future, where we do not have to have such rules. Mobile phones are now very much part of their lives and they should be using them responsibly and appropriately.

Taking responsibility of their own learning

I have used this phrase often and, perhaps mistakenly, assumed parents would understand what I meant. I apologise if it has caused confusion. When I say that I expect the children to take responsibility for their own learning, it does not mean that we will not check progress, or provide feedback etc. What I mean is that I want the children to understand that education is not something we do TO THEM. It is something we help them do. **As the children get older, I expect them to be able to:**

- Prepare their bags ready for the morning
- Ensure they have the correct equipment
- Get themselves up in time so they are not late for school
- Get to each lesson on time
- Ask questions in class
- Use the library when they have work to do
- Find teachers and ask for help when they don't understand something
- Think ahead and make sensible use of free time.

For example: while travelling 30 minutes to football training they can read through their notes, or start thinking about homework. This is far more productive than chatting to friends on their phone.

Paradoxically, students who do more for themselves, and take responsibility for their own learning, will invariably have more engagement with teachers and so will progress even more.

We want all of our students to reach their potential, and I am aware that different students have different aspirations, but what i am asking is that all students, as they get older, take their education seriously and respect what you as parents and we as teachers are doing for them.

Simon Mower

Dear Parents,

The weeks are passing by very quickly and we now find ourselves with one week to go until the half term holiday. Next week is designated as an Assessment Week and all pupils will be sitting assessments in all subjects. Pupils have been given the overview assessment calendar by form teachers and each subject teacher has informed the pupils and marked the test dates in Google Classroom and Calendar. The overview for each year group is attached to this newsletter. Summary students reports will be sent via iSams in early November.

In each Secondary Assembly we focus on a different theme and this week the theme was the importance of multilingualism. Mrs Mower and Ms Delmet enlisted the help of the pupil and we found, incredibly, that our pupils speak a total of 39 languages. The 39 pupils spoke in different languages whilst holding a drawing of the flag of their primary nationality. The language teachers, with the assistance of pupils, explained the benefits of multilingualism. Along with the obvious benefits in communicating across cultures, multilingualism assists in brain development, cognitive flexibility, decision making and has a host of other benefits. It also brings great joy, as the pleasure of the community in participating in this project was palpable. The Assembly ended with pupils using online learning tools to learn new languages and I had the pleasure of seeing and hearing Year 9 learning Chinese.

The next Assembly will be on the theme of Curiosity and will be led by the Science teachers.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend,

John Prince

Assessments Week Timetable

Year 7	Period 1 9:00 - 9:45	Period 2 9:45 - 10:30	Period 3 11:00 - 11:45	Period 4 11:45 - 12:30	Period 5 12:30 - 13:15	Period 6 14:15 - 15:00	Period 7 15:00 - 15:45	Period 8 15:45 - 16:30
Monday 19th		Spanish Foreign Language	English	English		Català		
Tuesday 20th			ICT	Maths		Science	Science	French (Miss Delmet)
Wednesday 21st		History 7b	French (Mrs Mower)		English in Media & Culture	Spanish Foreign Language Miss Delmet	Spanish Foreign Language (Listening) Miss Silvia	
Thursday 22nd				Physics Y 10	Physics Y 10	7A Art	7A Art	Spanish Foreign Language (Grammar) Miss Silvia
Friday 23rd	7B Art in class work on final painting 7A Geography	7B Art	Y 11 Science		Lengua Castellana Spanish Foreign Language (Reading) Miss Silvia	History 7a		7B Geography

Year 8	Period 1 9:00 - 9:45	Period 2 9:45 - 10:30	Period 3 11:00 - 11:45	Period 4 11:45 - 12:30	Period 5 12:30 - 13:15	Period 6 14:15 - 15:00	Period 7 15:00 - 15:45	Period 8 15:45 - 16:30
Friday 16th		Castellano						
Monday 19th		Català						
Tuesday 20th					French			
Wednesday 21st				Maths		Spanish Foreign Language	Spanish Foreign Language	
Thursday 22nd	English	English	French	Geography		History	History	
Friday 23rd	Science	Science	Art	Art			English in Media &	
							Culture	

Year 9	Period 1 9:00 - 9:45	Period 2 9:45 - 10:30	Period 3 11:00 - 11:45	Period 4 11:45 - 12:30	Period 5 12:30 - 13:15	Period 6 14:15 - 15:00	Period 7 15:00 - 15:45	Period 8 15:45 - 16:30
Friday 16th				Castellano				
Monday 19th	9A Art	9A Art						
Tuesday 20th		IT - No Exam In lesson formative assessment	Maths both 9A and 9B					
Wednesday 21st	French 9B History 9A	Geography 9A	Spanish Foreign Language Year 9 Grammar part Miss Silvia	English in Media & Culture / Catalan			French 9A Geography 9B	
Thursday 22nd	English			9B Art	9B Art		Science	
Friday 23rd	Spanish FL Writing part Miss Silvia	Spanish FL Listening part Miss Silvia			History 9B			

Year 10	Period 1 9:00 - 9:45	Period 2 9:45 - 10:30	Period 3 11:00 - 11:45	Period 4 11:45 - 12:30	Period 5 12:30 - 13:15	Period 6 14:15 - 15:00	Period 7 15:00 - 15:45	Period 8 15:45 - 16:30
Friday 16th	Biology		Castellano					
Monday 19th				ART	ART PE GCSE Theory		Catalan / Global	
Tuesday 20th				French IT - Theory Geography	French IT - Practical Geography		English Lit	English Lit
Wednesday 21st			Maths			Drama		
Thursday 22nd	Music Art	Music Art		Physics		English Lang		
Friday 23rd	History Business	History Business				Chemistry		Spanish FL

Click [here](#) to see all the timetables.

EYFS & Upper Primary

Dear Families,

Assessment Week

Next week, the pupils in Upper Primary will be having their half-term assessments. These are short tests that will give us a snapshot of your child's progress since the start of the school year. The results of these will be communicated to you via your child's half-term school report which you will receive after half term. Generally, the children have been progressing well through the catch up curriculum which we started in September. This will continue throughout the year.

Reading resources

In response to queries regarding reading, I have included below a couple of links to good quality online reading resources. Online reading is set due to the restrictions of Covid which mean books cannot be sent home and returned to school. We are very fortunate to have a good platform such as Bug Club to support the development of pupil's reading skills. We actively encourage children to read from home and always promote the joy of reading from a book. We are looking at ways of sharing a type of reading record so parents can comment and record pupil's reading at home and it be shared with the teacher. We really do value this. Children also read in class independently as well as participating in guided reading sessions.

Oxford Owl is a free eBook library has been created to help children aged 3-11 to develop their reading skills at home. All the eBooks are free to use, but you will need to register to read any books. Please note, their eBooks are not optimised for mobile phones and are best viewed on a computer, laptop, or tablet. Books are available for ages 3-11:

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/free-ebooks/>

First News is an award-winning educational newspaper informing and inspiring the next generation. It includes articles about current affairs, special features, animals, sports and much more - <https://www.firstnews.co.uk/>

Parent Meetings

As a school, we value the partnership with parents in helping your child's progress academi-





cally and personal development. Unfortunately, it is not possible at this time to meet face to face, due to Covid. From today you can book a virtual meeting with your child's class teacher. The parent meetings will run on Wednesday 4th November and Thursday 5th November. Appointments begin at 16:40 and the last appointment will be at 18:20. Each meeting is for ten minutes. You will be sent a link to join the meeting by the class teacher. Please be prompt. The meetings will be via Google Meet. Anyone that is late will need to reschedule for another time. During the meeting you will receive an update from your child's class teacher on their progress so far and any specific areas to work on. This is your opportunity to hold those valuable conversations about your child in a virtual way.

Halloween

As Halloween takes place during half term, we will be celebrating the spookiest day of the year next Friday 23rd October. Children can wear Halloween fancy dress so channel your inner ghost, zombie or witch and come to school in your outfit. Please be mindful when planning your scary outfits that due to Covid restrictions you must limit the accessories you would normally bring in. If you have PE that day, please bring a change of footwear. I will be choosing a winner from each class for the best costume. See next week's newsletter to find out who won. We will take many pictures throughout the day and these will also be shared with you in the newsletter.

Celebrations & Achievements

It was a tense week in the race to reach the top spot in the Houses competition this week. Greens desperately tried to hang onto their reigning glory but were knocked off the top spot by the Yellow Team. They really did go all out to win as many House Points as they could this week. Greens and Blues were joint second place and the Reds were third. Very well done to all the teams and many congratulations to the winning Yellows.

As we approach the end of our penultimate week of our first half term, I am pleased to say the children are continuing to work with as much gusto and determination as they did in the first week back. Usually at this time, the children begin to tire after working so hard during their busy day at school but when it comes to learning, they really are unstoppable. Thank you to all the children for their hard work.

Wishing all our families a great weekend

Un abrazo

Miss Wakelin

EYFS & Lower Primary

Home Learning

Homework, or as we prefer to call it 'home learning', is an important part of school life and has many benefits. Primarily, it is an opportunity for children to practise becoming organised, independent and taking pride and ownership in their learning. There are always differing opinions about home learning but it is very important to remember that any activities set will always be relevant, purposeful and achievable. As with all learning at BCG, home learning expectations are age appropriate and will increase with each year group. Please see the below table to see the progression in home learning across the phase.

Please note that whilst we are experiencing covid and following extra guidelines we are unable to send reading books and activity sheets home. Instead, the children should continue to read via online Bug Club. Teachers regularly check book bands and replenish each child's 'library'.

Home Learning in EYFS and Lower Primary	
Nursery	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No official home learning• Children of this age may be encouraged to learn nursery rhymes and songs but there is no set, recorded home learning• In the Summer term, there may be some children who take a levelled reading book home to read-once per week
Reception	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read a book from the reading scheme once a week for up to 5 minutes• Phonics key words or sounds, once a fortnight (10 minutes)• In the Summer term, letter formation practise sheets may be given
Year 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read 2-3 times per week for 5 to 10 minutes• Weekly spellings to include phonics sounds and tricky words (10 minutes)
Year 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Daily reading for at least 10 minutes per night• Weekly Spellings and spelling sentences (15 minutes)• Fortnightly maths (15 minutes)• Termly Project

It is recommended to set high expectations from your child. No tasks set will be out of their reach. Please allow them a clear space allocated for working with no distractions. Home learning should NOT be a chore or onerous task. If, after an initial best effort your child resists and it is becoming stressful then STOP! At this age we want to set positive associations with learning so please, if you have issues then simply ask your child's teacher for advice. Please also remember that the school day is long and very busy and that if your child is tired and wants to play, this is ok. Over the weekend you may 'catch up' with reading or spellings. By the end of Year 2, students should have built up enough stamina and enthusiasm for home learning to be able to seamlessly approach Year 3 expected tasks.

Updated Behaviour Policy

As a staff team, we constantly reflect on the day-to-day behaviours and learning that we see in school and have updated our behaviour policy accordingly. In EYFS and Lower Primary, we understand that children of this age group are experimenting with feelings and emotions on a daily basis. There will be occasions where children's natural responses and impulsive reactions may result in undesirable behaviours and whilst this is understood and nurtured, staff follow a simple rewards and consequences procedure to ensure the safety and happiness of all children in the phase. Children are children, not robots, but as they learn how to behave appropriately in their surroundings they will be rewarded for their efforts. Staff refer to the BCG values and reinforce and reward appropriate social behaviours.

Posters of our school rules and rewards and consequences are displayed clearly in all classrooms and garden areas and can be found [here](#).

The teacher's role is to facilitate a class atmosphere and environment that is positive, fair and calm. We use positive reinforcement as our main strategy but our priority is simple; to ensure a safe environment where all children can learn. We will be sharing our new posters and explaining these to the children on Monday in class assemblies. Please feel free to ask your child about this.

Virtual Parent Meetings

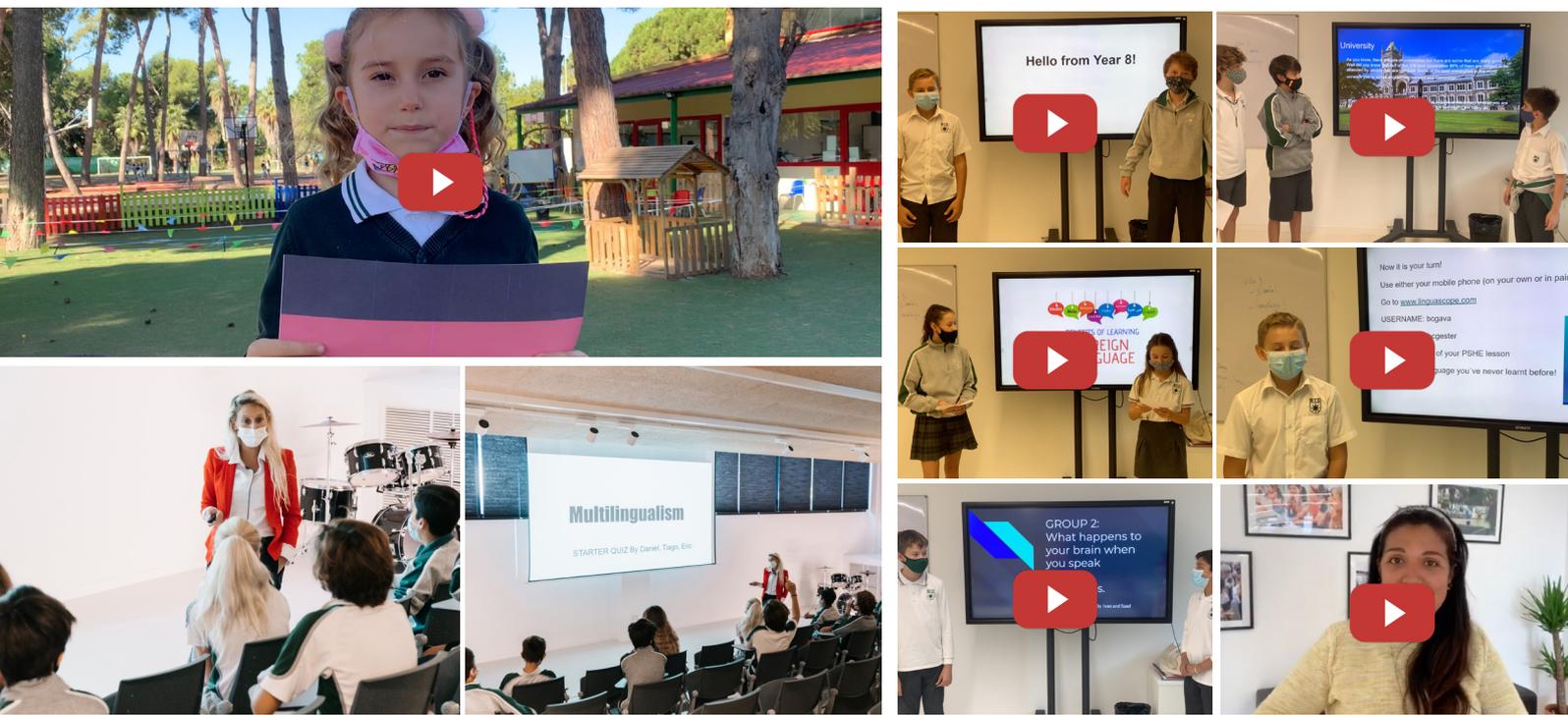
Thank you to those parents who have signed up for our first virtual meetings on Monday 19th and Wednesday 21st October. If you have not yet done this, the booking system is now closed and so please email your child's class teacher directly. This is the first time we have arranged meetings in this way so **please read the following information carefully**:

- A schedule of timings will be posted on the Classworks section of Google Classroom on Monday morning by your child's teacher.
- Please use the class Meet Link (as used during online lessons) that can be found on the banner on the Stream underneath the class name and code.
- Sign in with your child's school email address to be able to access the link.
- Meetings are 10 minutes only. This will be a snapshot of how your child has settled into the year. Full end of term reports will follow in December.
- Please respect the timings. It will be extremely helpful if all parents join the link on time, not a minute before!
- A scheduled 2 minute reminder will be posted to the stream for each subsequent meeting.
- If you require a meeting with me, please feel free to email me at nina.pilcher@bcgava.com.

Thank you in advance! We very much look forward to being able to meet with you in person as soon as we can. Next week I will share with you some dates for upcoming events for the remainder of the year that you may wish to attend. These will most likely be virtually but (fingers crossed) may be on site. Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Pilcher

Have you ever heard about multilingualism?



Did you know that 43% of the world's population can speak two languages but only 1% can communicate fluently in 5 languages?

That is what all secondary classes learnt about last Tuesday in assembly and PSHE. The assembly was organised by my form (Year 8). It is clear that - with 14 languages being represented in a class of 16 students - the Year 8 were the ideal candidates to lead an assembly on that topic!

It was a very nice project to conduct with my form group, especially as it promoted diversity and the subjects I teach: languages! No need to say it was not an easy task but the Y8 signed up for the challenge and here we were: getting organised three weeks before the deadline!

They learnt how to plan, research and organise information. They found out the benefits of learning multiple languages are either social, biological or related to education and work opportunities. Each group either prepared a PowerPoint - making sure it was clear, engaging and visual- or a quiz. Finally, the best part for me was to see them "perform" when we started recording. Because of COVID, this could not be done live but I am confident they have communicated their enthusiasm with the other form groups. Considering the feedback and videos we have received since Tuesday, I am proud to say they have done a very good job so it is a big well done to all of them! When we watched it all together this week, they were surprised to see the final result and were already discussing things to improve next time! They are definitely looking forward to the next presentation. Who knows? We might have created some vocations here!

As part of the assembly on multilingualism, Mrs. Mower also helped to produce a video where both Primary and Secondary students came together introducing themselves in their native language or in a language they have learnt. It created a great sense of community and these students and their peers thoroughly enjoyed counting the 30 languages spoken at BCG! Staff also showed examples of foreign languages they are currently learning (Mandarin, Catalan, Russian...).

I would like to add on a more personal note that it is a blessing for me to be teaching in such an international, open-minded and caring environment. Thank you very much to all the participants for their enthusiasm! A fantastic encouragement to keep learning languages!

Miss Delmet

Year 2

This week in English we have been writing fact files about animals. The children have learnt the key features of a non-chronological report and are now able to identify and use sub-headings to order their information. In guided reading sessions we have learnt about the different habitats, diet and appearance of giraffes, pelicans and monkeys; animals from our class story! This has been a great way to show the children how paragraphs are formed and has helped with our writing. We have also had our first 'Big Write' of the term that we will do every fortnight. This is a completely independent and unaided piece of creative writing of the children's choice. From this we are able to 'train' the children to spot their own mistakes and set targets for their writing. With the timer set at 15 minutes, pencils sharpened and our classroom classical music on, it was a wonderful view to sit back and see busy minds and heads down. Children can then choose to read their writing aloud to their peers; an opportunity to improve confidence in public speaking.

Mr Smith



‘¡En Year 1 hemos estado practicando matemáticas de una manera nueva! ¡Hemos estado realizando un juego de llamadas y respuestas, en el que los niños asumen el papel de profesores para practicar nuestros vínculos numéricos hasta el 10! A los niños de Year 1 les ha encantado este juego y querían compartir con mamá y papá su arduo trabajo, ¡así que lo filmamos para que lo vieran! ¡Un niño dice el primer número y los otros niños tienen que responder con el número que coincide para formar 10! ¡Esperamos que lo disfruten!’

Ms Plummer



Reception

This week in Penguin Class we have created our very own 'Growing Tree' where we will share our targets and our wow moments! We have started to talk about and make our own targets for what we want to get better at and have written these on a leaf! This is our first time doing this, and so some of the children needed a little help to set their first target. I am hoping that soon all of the children will be able to set their own goals! We are going to keep trying our best! Please talk about our Growing Tree at home too!

Ms Bifani



The Secondary Library

The new library has been open for a month now and has had many students visiting to study, read leisurely or to do their homework. It's such a nice space, with large windows giving lots of natural light, plenty of seating and workspaces, and a separate computer room designed for research. New books are arriving every month tailoring towards supporting their educational needs. It's such a pleasurable place to work in.

If you have any books you would like to donate, no matter the language, please do hand them into reception. We would love the library to be able to offer as big a range as we can.

Jackie Mason



Education for Sustainable Development in BCG

Dear BCG families,

We are Marina and Alex. In the last 10 years we have been working on Sustainable Development projects in collaboration with schools and museums internationally. Very importantly, we are also parents of Maite (Year 5) and Dante (Year 2)!



We are collaborating with the BCG to implement new sustainability topics and practices within the school. Our work converges with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations 2030 Agenda. Making sustainability a thread running throughout the school is key to develop global citizens and responsible leaders. We believe that BCG has everything it takes to become a reference in this field: a clear vision for the future, an enthusiastic team, curious students, committed parents and an amazing learning environment.

Although many of the things we had initially planned couldn't take place (yet!) due to the pandemic and its restrictions, we have had great experiences, such as the SDGs program for the BCG Summer Camp and the special distance-learning project "Time for Nature".

From today, we will be sharing here every two weeks some updates and ideas on Education for Sustainable Development. Wish you all a great weekend!

What is sustainable development?

The concept was described in 1987 as the 'development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs' (Un Bruntland Commission Report).

What is the difference between sustainable development and sustainability?

Sustainable development refers to the process and pathways to achieve sustainability. Those include sustainable agriculture, sustainable productions and consumption quality education and training, etc.

Sustainability Snacks

Getting children to eat enough fruits and vegetables can be tricky! Showing where their food comes from and how it is produced can make them more excited about it.

Did you know that you can get fresh fruits and vegetables directly from small producers just 5 minutes from BCG?

Along the Avenida del Mar there are some cultivation fields and "agrobotigas" from the Agrarian Park (Parc Agrari). The Park is an important hub for the production of fresh, local and seasonal food in the midst of Barcelona metropolitan area. This month you will be able to find (and taste!) many types of pumpkins from the fields around the school!

