



BCG Newsletter

March 11th 2022



Welcome to our Newsletter

Sisters

With the two successful ski trips having come back from La Molina

the school is again a busy hive of activity. It is clear from the photos and from talking to the students and staff that the ski trips were enjoyed by all. My thanks to all staff involved in the organisation and running of these important events in the school calendar.

As you all know we have a very strong relationship with our wonderful sister school in Andorra. BCA sits perched up in the mountains high above Andorra la Vella - an incredible site. This May see the first of our exchange programmes. Their secondary students are coming to us to do a week of water sports and cultural visits and next year we will go to them for some skiing and outdoor activities. A fantastic experience for all of your children.

To make this experience even better (and more economical for all) we are asking for host families. We are looking to host 50 children (many preferring to be in pairs)- The enrichment team have put details in a section in this newsletter and I very much hope you can help. We have waited years to start benefiting from these partnerships and we really want this to be a huge success for the children. Thank you.

Congratulations on University offers!

Two of our Year 13 students have received three excellent offers for UK universities. Sasha has offers to read Chemistry at Glasgow (BBB), Heriot Watt (BBC) and York (AAB) while Andrei has offers to read Business management from Kent (BC), Royal Holloway (BB) and Sussex (BB). This is a great achievement for both young men and we wish them all the very best in achieving these grades in the summer.

Welfare

Last week I was at the NABSS Conference in Madrid with a few colleagues. NABSS is the largest association of British Schools in Spain and about 60 schools were represented. It was extremely useful to meet other Heads and share experiences, in particular regarding the effects of the pandemic on students and staff and the challenges of getting British teachers into Spain now.

There was a fascinating presentation by one of the speakers about how research has shown clearly that students across Spain (and almost certainly many other countries) have found it difficult after the lockdown. Amongst other things they said, the research shows that:

- During lock down many students had a lot more freedom that they normally did at home. This was due to parents needing to work while the children were doing online learning
- The students have come back to school and are struggling with routines and there are some low level behaviour issues as a result
- The current crisis in the Ukraine is causing an underlying stress in many students who are afraid of the situation escalating into other countries
- There has been an big increase in staff illness
- This illness has meant staff in school have more lessons to cover and more duties to do

At BCG we have experienced all of these things and in some strange way it was oddly reassuring to know that all schools are having the same challenges.

We continue to work hard in all of these areas.

Manners

I just want to update you on something we have been discussing for a while. Perhaps it is linked to my points above, but we are noticing that some students are forgetting their manners when moving around school. Pushing past others or running in corridors. This is not something we expect from BCG students and we will be getting much stricter on such things. We will be doing a secondary assembly next week to remind the students what our expectations are. All of our students are wonderful young people but at the moment some of them are making poor decisions. Please talk to your children about manners and remind them of how we all expect them to behave.

Staff visa update

The 3 teachers in the UK have their visa appointments in London today (Friday) so we look forward to seeing them very soon indeed!

EU Business School partnership

I am delighted to announce that we have now formalised our partnership with the EU Business School ready for the delivery of the Career Related programme next September. We are in the final stages of the authorisation process and hope to launch this offering officially in May. This week's formal agreement marks a big step forward in our expansion of provision. Exciting times for BCG students!

Open day - 11 March 2022

Today we have the Open Day with over 30 families due to attend. We are delighted that the number of visits and general interest in the school is growing all the time. I look forward to telling you how the event went in the next newsletter.

Student University Fair

I have mentioned to you the importance we place on supporting our students throughout their BCG journey. Yesterday our Year 12 students attended an Online University Fair. Having done some research, they are then able to visit the stands of around 40 universities from many different countries. They downloaded prospectus, watched videos and also had video calls with International admissions officers from the schools. It was extremely useful and I am sure we will do more of these events to support the students in preparing for their university applications next year.

Simon Mower

Principal

BCG Primary Carnival Week and so much more

BCG Carnival Week

What a first week back after half term!

We had quite an interesting and colourful return to school with some amazing outfits to kick off the new half term. It was lovely to welcome everyone back on Monday and to hear about their half term holidays. We started off with our carnival assembly where we learnt about the meaning of carnival and all about what the BCG Carnival week was going to be.



We also launched our Carnival house competition. Each day the best carnival outfit was able to win house points for their house team. This was an almost impossible task for the teachers as the **outfits were all so impressive.**



Tuesday saw the most fantastic crazy hair. We had minions, doughnuts, colours, plaits, spiders and even a palm tree.

Wednesday was crazy socks day which was great fun. The creative ideas for the socks were really funny and the students loved showing off their funky fashion.

On Thursday, it was no longer BCG school but BCG zoo with animals everywhere that you could see. It was fabulous to see the effort that had been made so well done to all the students and to you at home for supporting with this. From crocodiles to lobsters, there were animals everywhere.

Finally, we finished off the week with the house colour day where students represented their house by wearing the house colour. It was great to see the students supporting their house and earning lots of house points at the same time.

The House system is a big focus for Primary this year and we will be having many more opportunities for students to earn house points and take their team to the top. Students across all Primary also had the chance to design a shield for their house. They had to think about what values they thought their house represented and how they could show this in their design. The ideas were fantastic. The winning designs will be displayed in the new house display board in the upper primary building.

Well done to everyone for their amazing effort, participation and general great attitude towards our BCG Carnival week.

PRIMARY

Year 3 trip to the Egyptian museum

On Wednesday of BCG Carnival week the Year 3 students went on a trip to the Barcelona Egyptian museum. Some of us looked quite funny in our crazy socks but it made the people in the museum smile. We have been learning about the Egyptians in history and this was a chance to see some of our learning in action and to also pick up a few more facts. We were all given a guided tour of the museum and had the chance to see a real mummy. Most of the students were brave enough to look at it very closely!



After our tour, we had a workshop on how to make a mummy. The students already knew lots about this from our work in class so they were able to impress our guide. Each of them had a special job to prepare the mummy for the afterlife including wrapping it in bandages. After this, we also had a workshop on hieroglyphs and the students had the chance to write their own names onto papyrus. Some names were a bit trickier than others but they all looked great when finished.

The museum were so impressed with the Year 3 students' behaviour that they sent the school an email to say this when the students had returned. Mr Smith and I were so incredibly proud of all of them; they were fantastic role models for the school and should be very pleased with the way they represented Year 3 and BCG.



Fun Ski Trip to La Molina

It is with great pleasure that I write this week's newsletter from the ski slopes in La Molina. Our first ever Primary Ski Trip was nothing less than a success. Sticking to my motto 'live like there's snow tomorrow' from the moment we took our seats on the bus the positive vibes snowballed and it just got better and better.

PRIMARY

Dressed for the slopes and ready for action, we embarked on what was going to be a fabulous first day. This was only the second time I have skied but it soon became apparent that many in our group were seasoned skiers who really put us teachers to shame.

Fear and doubts were overcome as some of us new to skiing braved the cold, the heights and inevitable falls (some more than others - mainly teachers, much to the amusement of some of our pupils riding in the chairlift above). The progression I witnessed in all the children was astounding! I observed resilience like I have never seen before and what a joy it was too. The best things in life are freeze, or snow, the saying goes.

No matter how many tumbles we (I) took, we dusted ourselves off (with a little 'alp') and got straight back on our feet. This was our mantra for the duration of our stay.

The day zoomed by as quickly as Mr Fassam rolled down the slope and before long we arrived at our accommodation. The facilities at the hotel really piqued our interest as comfy beds, a disco games room, a sweet shop and an enticing dining room awaited us.

One of the many highlights was the disco. The children excitedly bought sweets from the shop and got themselves disco ready and raring to dance. Believe me, us teachers danced like a snowbody was watching. Before that, we held a special ski award ceremony and also celebrated the birthday of Helene in Year 6.

This was honestly the best school trip I have ever been on.

The children were such good company, fun, extremely polite to us teachers, the host and staff at the hotel, as well as their instructors. It was heartwarming to see them representing our school so well and flying the BCG flag so proudly.

A huge thank you to Miss Stevens, Mr Alonso and Mr Fassam for your fantastic support. These trips can only happen with the help of staff willing to give up their spare time and evenings. Your help was very much appreciated.

La Molina, we came, we thaw, we conquered. You have taken a piste of all our hearts.

Miss Kelly Wakelin
Head of EYFS & Primary School



SECONDARY NEWS



Dear parents,

I hope your children have enjoyed the first two weeks back after half term, I hope you all got a well deserved rest.

Last week we took the Secondary students skiing, close to 70 students to be exact. The trip was an incredible experience and the students who had not skied or snowboarded before impressed me with how quickly they picked up the sport. It was a pleasure to ski with the students who were already experienced, they showed me a few tricks! Thank you to all the parents who supported the trip as these experiences will be remembered well into your child's adult life. I hope the children had as much fun as the teachers and I apologise on how tired I gave them back to you.

I am writing this after a great Volleyball match against the Benjamin Franklin International School. It was the first time BFIS had come to BCG and they brought with them 3 teams. A lower secondary girls, an upper secondary girls and an upper secondary boys team. We played so well but our LS girls team lost 2-1 in sets, our US girls team drew 1-1 and our US boys team won 2-0!

Next we have a BISA football tournament for the older students, wish us luck.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr Steadman



INTRODUCING NEW STAFF

Raquel Peña

Teaching Assistant

My name is Raquel and I am delighted to be the new Nursery Teaching Assistant. I have a degree in Early Childhood Education. I have more than 5 years of experience working with children. After living in the United Kingdom for almost 3 years and working as a Teacher and Deputy Manager, I decided to come back to Spain with the start of the pandemic. I am passionate about this work, which is my vocation.

I have been working in different schools in Barcelona, where I have been able to learn about different teaching methodologies, and I am convinced that in this school I will continue learning.

The first days at BCG have been very welcoming. I have felt very supported, both by the teachers and the administration. I am very happy to be part of this great family.



Julie Tucker

Teaching Assistant

UK qualified teacher, teaching in the UK and International Schools since 1997. I love to inspire and encourage excellence for each child in their learning journey.

With a passion for the understanding of the whole child and a passion for dance and creativity.

I have lived and worked in diverse cultures and environments from Egypt and state schools in Slovakia to capacity building in schools in Bolivia with the British Council to inspirational and innovative International schools in Bangkok.



ENRICHMENT NEWS

Dear parents and guardians,

House Events and Scores

As we reached the halfway point in the school year, we unveiled the current house point scores to students. The house system and its contribution to the enrichment programme at BCG is gathering momentum across the school generating a sense of teamwork, whole school collaborative efforts and excitement! The grid [here](#) shows the events we have held so far this year, the winners for each category of event (Academic, Cultural or Sport) and the overall winners at this halfway stage - WELL DONE TO THE RED HOUSE!. Students are encouraged to participate in upcoming events and aim to demonstrate good learning behaviour to maximise their potential in lessons and gain positive house points. The final year scores will be announced on Friday 17th June and we look forward to celebrating the house at the end of year who personifies teamwork and a sense of community!

Speaking of upcoming events, we wish to remind you that we are running a competition to change the names of our houses from colours to something... a little more exciting! Please [access the entry form here](#) to enter your suggestions before Friday 25th March.



BCG Inspiring Women

This week we celebrated **international women's day** and it is only fitting that we celebrate the success of one of our very own, **Samanta Mendoza in year 10**. Samanta is making her mark in the upcoming world of women's softball and represented her team in the Mediterranean First Women Slow Pitch Softball tournament last weekend and this weekend she will play in the Catalunya Baseball & Softball Tournament. Well done Samanta, your commitment and dedication to your sport is very inspiring.

Samanta will support the school's upcoming **Softball Trials** that will be offered to students in Years 3 to 10 in late March. If successful, we hope to add this activity to our enrichment ECAP in the summer term.



Please let me know (carolynne.bell@bcgava.com) if you wish the enrichment team to celebrate your child's success in school and mention it in our community newsletters. We know there are many students doing amazing things that contribute to their holistic development and we aim to have their efforts recognised and celebrated.

ENRICHMENT NEWS

End of Year Residential Trips

The enrichment trips and visits team wishes to remind parents of the end of year residentials and the urgency to confirm attendance for these. The grid below shows the destinations for each year group. The Year 3 and 4 trips are new additions and can be authorised on the [school booking system](#) between Monday 14th and Friday 18th March.

For all other trips previously advertised, additional requests to add students should be made directly to trips@bcgava.com. For all trips listed below, the final date to authorise via the booking system or or add students via email is **Friday 18th March**.

SECONDARY		
Year Groups	Destination	Dates
7 - 10	Bellver de Cerdanya	20th June - 23rd June (the last week of the school year)
10 -13	Basque Country (surf trip)	20th June - 23rd June (the last week of school year)
PRIMARY		
5 & 6	Bellver de Cerdanya	17th May - 20th May (3 nights)
3 (NEW)	Barcelona Aquarium	19th - 20th May (1 night)
4 (NEW)	La Molina	23rd - 25th May (2 nights)

Hosting the British College of Andorra Students 23rd - 27th May 2022

Please consider helping us initiate and launch this exciting new venture with our sister school. You can find our [original information letter here](#) which contains a preliminary schedule and the form required to become a host [here](#). Hosts should be confirmed no later than Friday 25th March to allow the BCA students to experience our amazing local environment and hospitality. We need the support of our community to host the following students from BCA:

- Year 7 - 20 students - 11 male, 9 female
- Year 8 - 14 students - 6 male, 8 female
- Year 9 - 8 students - 2 male, 6 female
- Year 10 - 11 students - 8 male, 3 female

Host families will receive CULTURE HOUSE POINTS for opening their homes and sharing their lives and routines with others. The other added benefit of hosting is that your child can expect the same wonderful treatment the following year when BCA opens their doors to us!

Continue reading for more information. Thanks.

The Enrichment Team

BCG UNIFORM UPDATE



We received the first uniform samples from our new supplier and wanted our Secondary students to try them on for a full day to get their feedback on the fabric, design, etc. Their opinion is very important for us and these are some of the things they said:

- **School Trousers** - Like the shade of black better than grey
- **PE Hoody** - Very comfy, like the fleece lined
- **Tracksuit Bottoms** - Very comfy, better material
- **PE Top** - Really nice material, like the trim of the sleeves and collar. Like the new BCG logo of the sun, more flexible
- **Gillet** - Likes a lot, pockets inside are very comfy, everything is very comfy, great for activities, would be great for PE, material is perfect (in their words), like the fact it fits into a small carry bag
- **Skirt** - Comfy, it's not itchy
- **Shirt** - Much more comfortable, feels better - nicer material
- **Jumper** - Much better not itchy
- **Shorts** - Very comfy, better material, feel nice to wear

Samples give students a better idea of what the final uniform will look like, but some elements might change, for example the gillet will not be deep blue, as the sample.

We will gather feedback from Primary students next week and share them with you.

If you have any questions in the meantime, please contact [us](#).

LINGUISTS OF THE WEEK



- **Reception**

Isa Montero

- **Year 1**

Pablo Cerdans

- **Year 2**

Daniela Garcia
Cesar Reguilon

- **Year 3**

Santiago Julià Fernandez
Matthew Steven Díaz Peña

- **Year 4**

Clara Roda Abalo
Emma Flores Juan

- **Year 5:**

Arnar Kristinsson

- **Year 6:**

Joel Hartmann

- **Year 8 - Second Language Catalan**

Jan Castañón

- **Year 10 - Second Language Spanish**

Liam Volfin

- **Year 12 - Second Language French**

Julio Suárez

Congratulations to all of them!
Languages Department



ANDORRA HOSTING

HOSTING PROGRAMME WITH THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF ANDORRA SUPPORT REQUESTED FROM OUR FAMILIES

Dear parents and guardians,

The enrichment team recently announced a new opportunity for our students to meet new friends, demonstrate open-mindedness and support the launching of a collaborative community project.

We are building a **reciprocal hosting programme** with our sister school in Andorra and we require the goodwill and support of our BCG families to make this a success.

We would like to invite the British College of Andorra's secondary school students to join us here in Gava for a **week of educational and cultural activities**. We are perfectly placed in May 2022 to provide the BCA students with a week filled with water sports and sightseeing.

To make this happen and keep costs to a minimum, we will rely on the **families of our BCG students hosting peers from BCA** and making them feel like part of your family during their stay. There is no financial support or payment offered for hosting. We ask that your BCA guest is absorbed into your way of life and welcomed like an extended member of your family for the 4 nights and 5 days they will spend with you.

This program is available for students in Year 7, 8, 9 and 12. If you are interested in hosting a BCA student, please fill out our form. [Link here](#).

Should you have any questions, please email carolynne.bell@bcgava.com in the first instance. We can arrange a meeting with parents if there is a need to do so, otherwise, all information can be seen here or in the form contained in the link above.

Your support is greatly appreciated!

Sincerely,

The BCG Enrichment Team



PRIMARY VALUE ASSEMBLY

This week's Primary Value Assembly celebrated the concept of 'Open Mindedness', which we feel is an absolutely vital part of the childrens' education in an international setting. I must say how impressed I was with the maturity of some of the discussions that I had across all of the year groups and was amazed to hear some of the ideas being shared, particularly around the concept of showing empathy to others and how it differs from showing sympathy. I find that working with young people often leaves me feeling amazed and inspired and some of the thoughts of our children have done just that!

Well done to all of the children in the Primary Department and thank you for your mature and knowledgeable discussions!

Have a lovely weekend,
Mr Smith

This week's winners are:

Year 1

Lola and Ben

Year 2

Hendrix, Bruno, Helena and Bastian

Year 3

Dante, Jan, Diego and Alba

Year 4

Coco, Raffi, Anastasia and Emma

Year 5

Jordi, Arnar and Jorge

Year 6

Eve, Noa Cedillo , Julia and Maite

SEND PARENTS' WORKSHOPS

Dear parents,

In our wish to make the school an open educational space, the SEND department is offering a series of workshops aimed at parents in the field of learning difficulties. Led by Alba Rosas, educational psychologist, the workshops will provide an opportunity to learn, discuss and find ways to help your children.

Workshops will be held every two weeks at 16:30.

Next parents' workshops:

- Tuesday 15th March - ADHD
- Tuesday 29th March - Dyslexia

If you are interested in participating, please email alba.rosas@bcgava.com

GLIMPSE OF OUR CARNIVAL WEEK ANIMALS AND NATURE



GLIMPSE OF OUR CARNIVAL WEEK

CRAZY HAIR DAY



GLIMPSE OF OUR CARNIVAL WEEK

CRAZY HAIR DAY



GLIMPSE OF OUR CARNIVAL WEEK CRAZY HAIR DAY



GLIMPSE OF OUR CARNIVAL WEEK CRAZY SOCKS DAY



GLIMPSE OF OUR CARNIVAL WEEK HOUSE DAY



GLIMPSE OF DE WEEKS



GLIMPSE OF DE WEEKS

Y3 - EGYPTIAN MUSEUM VISIT / OTHERS



GLIMPSE OF DE WEEKS INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

