



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

WEEKLY BULLETIN

March 6th 2020

5 days feels like 5 months!

What a week it has been! I would like to start my first newsletter by expressing my sincere gratitude to students, staff and parents for such a warm BCG welcome.

As I mentioned in my email earlier this week, we have a new, highly committed team who will all work together to ensure the very best experience for our students. I also want to make this the best school for our teachers too and would like to say how impressed I have been with the dedication and professionalism shown by so many of them in what has been a challenging few months.

My first real opportunity to talk to members of the community came when I shared my ideas about the way forward in a presentation to parents a couple of weeks ago (please click [here](#) to see the presentation). There was an excellent attendance and many great questions afterwards! It was clear how well we are supported by our parents and I look forward to finding different ways in which you can support the school in the future.

On Tuesday I did an assembly for all students in years 10, 11, 12 and 13 and I asked them about their attitudes to study, how we can support them more and encouraged them to take responsibility for their own learning. I will be meeting all of these students individually over the coming weeks and I am also taking over as the Sixth Form tutor until the end of this year.

The week has been busy for everyone, not just me! As you will see, our intrepid Year 3s have been sleeping with the sharks (I have never seen so many large suitcases needed for one night!), Our Year 4 and 5 residential trip has been a great success and I have seen wonderful pictures from a (quite) snowy La Molina where our Year 8s and 9s are skiing and snowboarding. All these activities within such a short distance of the College is a reminder of just how fantastic our location is. My thanks must go to the staff who have organized and run these trips, giving up their own time to do so as well as the staff back at school who have covered lessons and duties to ensure the school runs as normal. These trips are a vital part of the education we offer but we must not underestimate the effort it takes from everyone involved!

I genuinely believe that it is such an exciting time for BCG and my initial feelings about the school are more than confirmed already.

As I said in my talk - The Future is Now!

Simon Mower
Principal

Dear Parents,

I am writing to you at the end of an eventful week. We have had four year groups who have taken coaches to various locations to engage in residential excursions that have been remarkably successful in developing social cohesion, bonds of friendship, personal and skills development and in creating lifelong memories. I am sure that our pupils will be telling their grandchildren about the time their class went skiing or the night they slept with the sharks.

Within the school the development of musical performance continues on its stellar trajectory and it is delightful to hear violins, cellos, flutes, guitars and drums as part of the background hum of the school.

We also acknowledge that there have also been staffing changes this week, the timing of which has been unfortunate. However, the main message I wish to portray here and now is that after spending a week in the company of Simon Mower I can say hand on heart that I have never been more confident about the future of the school. I have been associated with many school Heads and mentored by several of those and I can say that Simon is a true Educational Leader. He understands what the school needs, and crucially, how to implement what the school needs. It a pleasure to be working with him because of who he is as a person, and because he is such a highly skilled professional. Yes, there have been some bumps in the road this week. However, the school is already moving very rapidly along the right path and it feels really good and really positive to be here. I have huge confidence in Simon, and, I believe, so do the staff. We are fortunate to have him at BCG.

Wishing you a peaceful weekend,
John Prince



Welcome back Mr Prosser!

My return to the school this week has been a tremendously positive experience. It was fantastic for me to see all the students and staff again and to be welcomed back so warmly. It is also great to see that the school continues to grow and evolve (the new building particularly being worth the wait!) and I look forward to contributing to the development of the school for a long time to come. Now, to get back to doing what I love most: teaching English!

Mr Prosser
English Teacher

Aquarium Trip

Year 3 had a fantastic time exploring the Aquarium at night.

We learnt about the diversity of marine life, and saw everything from sharks and eels to penguins and seahorse. We got to feel real shark skin and slept up close to the sharks during the night. Pizza dinner was a hit and the children loved it so much they wanted to stay another night!

Miss Osivwemu
Year 3 teacher



Trio Veneziano

On Friday February 21st, before leaving for the mid-term break, we hosted our first live music concert - an Italian trio of two flutes and a cello - who played a selection of baroque pieces by composers such as Vivaldi, Albinoni, and Correlli. The Trio Veneziano is on a European tour at the moment, and we were very lucky to have them perform for us. One of the flautists, Lisa Gambacciani, is our very own flute and singing teacher, who gave us some background knowledge and context about the pieces and composers as they played them. Years 4 - 13 were invited, and we were able to use the newly completed auditorium for the event. For many, this is the first time they have heard live classical music and the children listened attentively and in open admiration for these talented musicians.

Mrs Foreman
Music Teacher

Year 4&5 Residential Trip



This week Year 4 and Year 5 children attended a 4 day residential trip to the Casa de Colonias, Can Miquelo. Our focus of the activities for the week was Space. The children spent the week helping an 'astronaut' prepare for her entrance exam to the space academy. The exciting range of activities included, archery, climbing, bouldering, zip wire, balance biking, hiking, orienteering, map skills, invasion games and lots more.

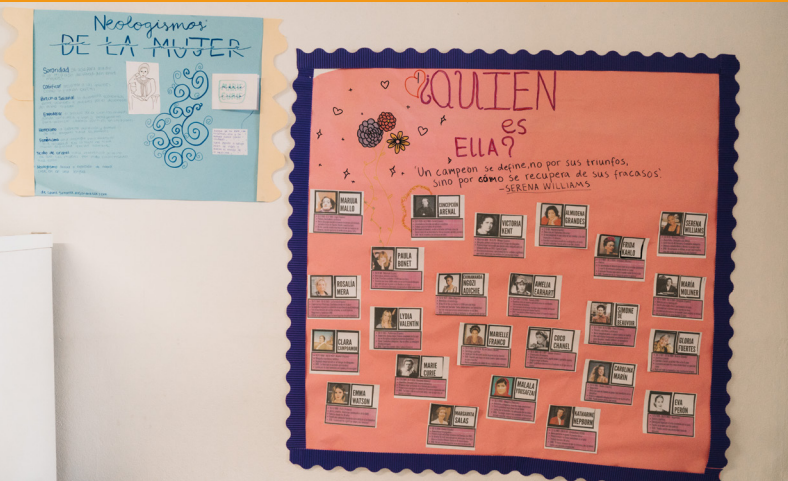
It has been great to see the children out of their comfort zone, working together and enjoying the outdoors. The children have managed the time away from parents with impressive maturity and, while we have all missed home, they have definitely become more independent.

It has been wonderful with to see the children with such healthy appetites enjoying the variety of delicious foods on offer. All of the children contributed to the daily cleaning after meals and gained an awareness of food waste and the environment.

I would just like to say, for the record, how proud all of the staff have been of the children over the past week. They have been polite, thoughtful, engaged and most importantly, kind. They have represented the school brilliantly and have done themselves proud. We wish you a restful weekend and hope that everybody can catch up on their sleep, ready to return to learning on Monday!

Miss Wakelin
Head of Upper Primary

March 8th: International Women's Day. Catalan and Spanish lessons analysis and reflections



On March 8th, International Women's Day is celebrated. A day to fight for equality, participation and empowerment of women within society, also from education. The Catalan and Spanish department can't miss the opportunity to celebrate it with our students, and we have prepared some activities and discussion spaces around this date and what it represents.



In the Spanish subject, Year 8 have studied the different procedures by which new words are created, they have analysed some examples of neologisms that have been created to replace the role of women in society, as "empowerment" or "crystal ceiling." After studying their meaning, they will try to apply them in written and oral texts.



The students of year 10 are working on a literature project where they compare a medieval or Renaissance literary text such as *La Celestina* and *The book of good love*, with a song or a current screenplay. To reflect on women's day, they have drawn conclusions about the role and treatment of women in these important texts in the history of literature and compared it to current ones. Students of Spanish GCSE have successfully researched the names and artistic activities carried out by different women throughout history. Among others, they discover who Clara Campoamor, Concepción Arenal, Frida Kahlo or Gloria Fuertes was.



On the other hand, the students of the year 11 in the Catalan subject have also analysed the role and characteristics of the female character from Mercè Rodoreda novel they are reading this term: *Aloma*. We have discussed issues such as: What is *Aloma* revealed against? What does she think of marriage? And how is women expected to behave in Barcelona before the war?

Ester Pou
Catalan / Spanish Director



Ski Trip

This week year 8&9 were out on the ski trip residential. It was an amazing week with all the students improving their skills and overcoming fears! Some students had never skied or snowboarded before and finished the week skiing down black slopes! Well done everyone, we hope more students will sign up for next years trip and have the chance to experience such a wonderful residential!

Mr Steadman
PE Teacher

UPCOMING EVENTS

About Coronavirus

At BCG we are taking action:

- We are educating and reminding the students of basic protective measures against the virus (e.g. hand hygiene).
- We are installing additional hand sanitising stations to all areas of the school.
- We have implemented additional sanitizing procedures during school cleaning.
- We are immediately assessing any community members should they report feeling unwell.

Please alert the school if your family has recently visited areas where COVID-19 is spreading. This information will be treated with the strictest privacy measures.

Please **Click Here** for more information:

Year 4 & 5 Olympic Museum

March 12th

Hamlet or Not II Year 7 - Year 11 Day trip

March 13th

Science Week

March 16th to 20th

Year 8&9 trip to Aquarium

More details next week!

Minas Prehistoricas de Gavá Year 4 - Year 7 Day Trip

March 16th

Year 6 trip to Volcano Santa Margarita

March 17th