



Weekly Bulletin

May 28th 2021



Welcome to our bulletin

Time to celebrate!

This week we had some fantastic news - five of our students have achieved outstanding results in the Junior Maths Challenge. Sofia Rodriguez Hock, Savva Sadovoi and Anton Kaeshko from Year 6 were awarded x Bronze award, Victoria Stolbova from Year 6 also received an incredible Silver award

and Danny Jim in Year 7 had a result so good that he received a special award for excellence. External competitions are a very good way for our students to gauge their progress and pit their wits against children from all over the world. Well done to you all!

At last, parents are back in school!

Yes, I admit they are in and then drive out again quickly but this week's extremely successful Drop Off process feels like one more step back to normal life. The school is looking splendid and it is wonderful to see parents inside albeit for a minute or so. Of course there will be a few minor tweaks but generally we are very pleased with the efficiency and most importantly, the safety of the drop off.

- Please note that from Monday the White Gate will Open at 8:30am and NOT before.
- If you arrive as the White Gate is being closed please continue carefully down towards the Green Gate. There will still be cars exiting from the school so please be very careful and considerate for the safety of the children.

Academic progress

This week the Year 11s and Year 12s have been busy doing their final exams and I have been very pleased with the attitude and commitment they have given to this challenge. The Year 11s in particular have made huge progress over the last few months which is so exciting to witness. Next week we have assessment week in the Primary school and I wish all the children the very best of luck with these. Please remind your sons and daughters that if they try their hardest, we will be happy. There will be some tests they find hard but they need to do what they can and then learn from the experience.

It is OK to get things wrong

Successful and effective learning can only happen when students make mistakes. Getting things wrong is an essential part of the journey to success. As I have said before, the important thing is how a child responds to the experience. James Dyson is the design engineer who thought there was a more efficient way of cleaning floors. Five years and 5,127 prototypes later, he had invented the world's first bagless vacuum cleaner. Every single prototype he made was an attempt to solve a problem - he made the model and tested it, looked at the results and improved his response - and it took 5000 mistakes to succeed. This is essentially the same thing in class - ask questions and learn from the response, ask more questions.

Feedback

This comes in many different forms and a student that is fully engaged in their learning will respond to all of these. Traditionally, a teacher will mark a piece of work with ticks and positive words, correcting spellings and underlining errors. At the end they will give a mark and probably a big tick. This is what traditional marking looks like, it is what many people expect to see and I know parents feel comfortable when they see this. However, this is not a very good way to help the children. Changing all of the errors for the child means that they are passive in the process. Highlighting a paragraph and saying

‘check spelling, however, means the student must go back and check their original work. They become active in the process. This is far more effective and the students will learn much more.

Whole class feedback is also very efficient. A teacher may be teaching children how to write a report, for example. The teacher will read 15 students' reports and see that almost all did not do a good introduction and many did not know how to justify their argument. Rather than marking every single word on 15 reports, it is more effective for everyone to focus on the two key areas that the class, as whole, needs. The teacher would then focus on explaining these two areas to the whole class.

Peer review is where children will swap books with a partner and give their feedback. This is a very valuable exercise and encourages students to be honest about their difficulties as they are happy to share these with their friends. This is NOT done because a teacher is lazy, it is done to give confidence to children.

The fourth common way of marking is **self marking**. A teacher may give the class a quick test, for example, at the start of the lesson to check previous learning. The teacher will go through the answers and students will mark their own work. Again, this is NOT because the teacher is lazy, it is because the mark is not important but the understanding of what went wrong is.

There are times when **deep marking** is required, perhaps every 2 weeks, but quick self marking, peer marking or generally class feedback are all carefully selected tools at the disposal of the great teacher.

Deep marking of **every piece of work**, with a high focus on the final mark, reward for success and sanctions for failure is an antiquated concept which we do not employ at BCG.

Teachers at BCG are excellent, I know because I have now seen every one of them teaching your children. I can honestly tell you that from Nursery all the way to Year 12, I have seen wonderfully creative lessons that are well prepared and beautifully delivered.

Your children are very lucky to have them and we are lucky to be able to guide your children through these crucial years in their life.

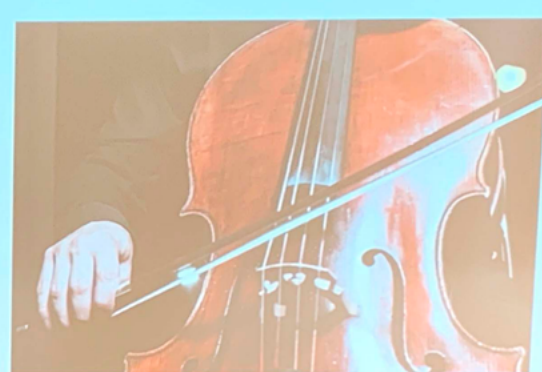
Simon Mower

More music at BCG!

NÚRIA
FOREMAN MARTIN
YEAR 8
CELLO

"Some Day"

By Kate Blackwell



The Music Department has been very busy! The secondary band, Paradis, performed in the final of Sitges Has Talent on Sunday, May 16th, along with Aureli and Núria Foreman who each performed solo acts. They spent Saturday morning in Sitges rehearsing and carrying out sound checks on the enormous outdoors stage of El Retiro Gardens, a daunting experience in and of itself, yet also a fascinating insight into the world of performing and sound technology. The participants were nervous but excited as they prepared backstage with warm ups and pep talks.

Paradis was the first competitive act in the programme, and you can imagine the tense atmosphere as they waited silently backstage behind the curtains for their act, listening to the presenters introducing

the judges, and an exhibition act to start off the show. As the applause grew, the band knew it was their cue to brave the stage and on they walked with confidence. Their performance of Bob Marley's "No Woman No Cry" was amazing and they received an enthusiastic applause and a lot of whooping from the audience! A few acts later, Aureli played an exciting rendition of Rachmaninoff's Prelude in C Sharp Minor on the piano, and finally Núria Foreman sang a heartfelt version of the song "Someone Like You" while accompanying herself on the piano.

A massive congratulations to Natasha Worthington (Y10, drums), Kika Costa (Y10, electric guitar and tambourine), Aureli Foreman Martin (Y10, piano), Leah Foreman Fenton (Y8, keyboards), Núria Foreman Martin (Y8,



vocals and ukulele), and Leu Horbach (Y7, electric bass guitar). Congratulations also to Aureli for receiving a “Highly Commended” and to Núria for winning second place! Thank you to all those from BCG who came to support our courageous and talented performers. We are all incredibly proud of them! We all agree that it feels wonderful to be performing again.

On Tuesday, May 18th, we held the Summer Music Recital for Secondary 2021 in the auditorium for the Secondary School. Several musicians from Years 7 - 11 performed on their instruments in two back-to-back concerts. We listened to a programme of excellent performances on drums, cello, piano, violin, guitar, bass, voice and oboe. The audience were also to be commended on their excellent concert etiquette: they listened attentively, respectfully and appreciatively, and many congratulated the performers individually afterwards, which meant a lot to them. Some students who didn't perform this time were inspired enough to request to be included in the next concert.

Finally, on Friday 21st Years 7 and 8, as well as the Drama and Music Year 10 students, attended the well-known musical “Cats” by Andrew Lloyd Weber, performed by university students at The Institute of Arts, Barcelona, in Sitges. The IAB has a wonderful programme of events throughout the year, including dance, theatre and musical theatre, of a very high quality, and in English. They also offer a Saturday morning Youth Academy in musical theatre, and a summer school in July. If you are interested in attending events, or enrolling your child in



the Youth Academy, please go to: <https://www.iabarcelona.com>

Coming very soon is the Summer Music Recital for Primary 2021, to be held on Tuesday, 1st June outside in the tent. Our orchestra, consisting of 24 students from Year 4 - 7, will perform several pieces they have been working on this year, and some of the Primary musicians will perform on their instruments to an audience of Years 2 - 6. The Secondary Samba Batucada will also make an appearance!

Did you know that 1 in 3 students play a musical instrument at BCG, which is far above the average in a school? It is really exciting to see so many of our BCG students finding so much joy and a sense of achievement in making music, both individually and together with friends. Let's keep it up!

Mrs Foreman



RECEPTION

This week in Reception class we have been learning all about Engineers. The children have absolutely loved exploring this occupation! We have thinking and talking about the different areas engineers work in, thinking particularly about how and why things are made in certain ways. To help us explore this, we have been using real tools to take apart different technological items, looking inside at the different components that make up talking toys, computers, keyboards and mobile phones. The children have learnt new vocabulary and are using it in play to show and ex-



plain their findings to their friends. We have become engineers ourselves, thinking about how to make a boat that floats - we looked at different images and then designed and made our own using materials and techniques specifically for purpose. This week has definitely brought out the inquirer value in our Penguins! Another fabulous week of learning!

Mrs Bifani

YEAR 1

Trip to La Granja

Year One had such an exciting trip on Monday to La Granja! It was a very lovely day and was a great opportunity to explore the great outdoors! We spent the day working on teamwork and building our confidence by working through Nana Bulinda's challenges! This involved bouncing on the trampoline to focus on experiencing the feeling of happiness! We had a big wall that we had to climb up and then we had the very fun part of going back down the hill by either sliding down the huge slide or rolling back down (or in poor Mrs Baron's case, falling down!) We then went to the farm and had the opportunity to learn about respecting the animals around us



by feeding the emus, goats and sheep. We were also allowed to pet the chicken and ducks, but the grumpy goose tried to escape and had to be chased back into the pen! We met Nana Bulinda in the forest, who turned us into the 'bisbi' fairies that help us to conquer our fears, doubts and sadness. We have now even made our own 'bisbis' at school and have our own confidence rock to help us at school with our emotions! What a wonderful day.

Miss Plummer

YEAR 5

Beach Trip



On Wednesday, Year 5 took a trip to the beach! This term, we have been working on a project for our Global Goal: Life Below Water (Goal 14). We did lots of activities related to the goal, and made videos in preparation for our assembly presentation on Monday. We are really looking forward to sharing all our hard work with the rest of primary!

We also worked in groups finding different coastal features (our

Geography topic this term). Some groups managed to find as many as 10 features- wow! We had so much fun taking our learning outside the classroom and taking advantage of being so close to the coast. If only we could spend every day on the beach- I'm sure Year 5 would love that!

Miss Muirhead



Dear parents,

We have lots to celebrate this week in the BCG sports community. I would like to congratulate Eva Piris Font Year 9 for taking part in another round of the Copa de España in Cadiz. She performed very well in some tough conditions. Ariadna Rey Moreno Year 9 has been invited to a trial for the Catalunya Hockey Team, a huge achievement and we wish her the best of luck. I would also like to wish Niels Torrellas Storm Van Leeuwen Year 8 and his volleyball team the best of luck this weekend in the Catalunya championship. His brother Thibault Year 10 played in this tournament last week and got to the semi finals, well done!

PE Team

GCSE IT

Students welcomed a special guest

Today the GCSE IT students welcomed a special guest.

Ruben, BCG's IT Administrator came into class to demonstrate how to upgrade an iMac and give a tour of the schools network and specialist IT equipment.

Experiential learning is a valuable tool and one which helps to secure theoretical learning in the classroom.

Students were very fortunate to have Ruben offer his time and expertise and found the whole experience exciting and informative.

This was no doubt a great opportunity the week before the assessment week allowing pupils to see theory in action.

Thank you Ruben.

Mrs Hall



Dear Parents

As part of the upcoming Arts Festival and IB Pre DP course, the Year 11 students will be preparing some stalls selling items for the festival as well as taking part in various arts workshops culminating in a final music performance for all pupils across the whole school.

In order to support BCG's sustainability goals we will be creating decorations for the festival using repurposed fabrics and natural materials where possible.

We would like to ask that our families donate any unused and or unwanted bed clothes such as sheets, duvet covers, pillow cases or thin curtains. We would also be happy to take any other kind of fabric, ribbon or wool that you might have unused at home.

These materials will be cut up to be used for streamers, bunting and decorations around the school during the festival. We will be teaching some students haberdashery skills such as using a sewing machine, hand sewing techniques and crochet during this process.

Students from year 11 will collect any donated items during form time or please feel free to bring in to reception throughout the day.

We thank you for your support and look forward to sharing with you the successful finished projects.

Mrs Hall
Business Teacher



A GLIMPSE OF THE WEEK

EYFS Primary



A GLIMPSE OF THE WEEK

Secondary

