



WEEKLY BULLETIN

October 9th 2020



Welcome to our bulletin

Mathematics

On Tuesday we welcome Mr Matthew Dixon who joins our staff to teach mathematics to Years 9, 10 and 11. He will also be supporting Year 12 students. More about Mr Dixon next week!

Exam Week

After six weeks of academic rigour and a real sense of purpose across the school we are approaching Exam Week for all students from Year 3 and above. Students will

be tested on what they have learned so far this term. It is very important for lots of reasons and is certainly something they should take seriously, they should not however, worry about the tests. If they have worked hard all term and have been paying attention and tried their best then they will be fine. After half term Parents will be sent a short Half Term report which will give the results of the test as well as a quick overview as to how they have started the academic year. I wish them all well.

Sixth Form

Whilst it is still 'work in progress', I have been very impressed by our new Sixth Form. Mrs Hall and her lively group of tutees have created a wonderful bond already and the students are really starting to take responsibility and developing leader-

ship skills which will put them in good stead for the future. I explained to them all on Thursday that all of the children in the school look up to them (figuratively and literally in the case of Sasha) and that I am expecting very high standards from them all. I am looking forward to seeing them rise to this challenge and become leaders within our school community.

Student Forum

This week saw our first Student Forum and it was a great success. One question they all seemed to enjoy was what they would do if they were Principal for a day and what would I enjoy if I was them for a day! We look forward to talking to 9 more students from different classes in two weeks time.

House Names Competition

This is your chance to create BCG History! We would like you to suggest suitable names for our 4 Houses. Each house will keep the colour (Red Yellow Blue Green) but will also have a new name, which we hope will come from your imaginations as well as your knowledge of our school.

Mr Mower



BCG House names competition

**This is your chance to
create BCG History!**

Suggest suitable names for our 4 Houses.

Please give your Class Teacher or Form Tutor your suggestions as well as a short paragraph of text explaining why you think your House Names should be chosen.

Deadline - Friday 6th November



The House system is a wonderful way for students to work together 'vertically' through the school and feel part of a team.

Dear Parents,

As we move further into the term we are introducing new methods to listen to our students and to include them in decision making within the school. The previous week saw the election of student representatives for the Student Council. This has a very practical function, but it also forms an important part in educating the students about the functioning of democracy and how to bring about change in a constructive and durable manner.

Separate to this, we will also be holding a regular student forum where we discuss and implement ideas to improve aspects of life in the school. This is known as Student Voice. The first meeting was held on Wednesday, with students from Year 2, Year 5 and Year 8 and members of the Leadership Team asked questions on welfare, academic culture and happiness in school.

This was an extremely interesting and useful exercise and is something that we will repeat fortnightly, with students from all age groups being listened to in rotation over the course of the term. The pupils left the meeting feeling valued and listened to and the leadership team will now be making a plan to act on the findings from the meeting.

Wish you all a peaceful weekend,

John Prince



Upper Primary

Dear Families,

This week was another fun packed one. The children appear to be very much back in the saddle and they look well settled and happy within their new classes and year groups. I always say that we adults can learn a lot from children. That has never been truer than in the few weeks since we have returned to school. They appear to have resilience in growing abundance, a sure sign of a successful term ahead.

Black History Month

This week we launched Black History Month. A big thank you to Miss Osivwemu who delivered a special assembly to each class, raising awareness and sharing some of the things each class will be doing to celebrate. We will also be exploring ways to interweave this important learning and cultural representation in our curriculum learning throughout the school year.

Road safety

Clearly the safety of the children is of utmost importance to us all, so we would like to remind you all of the following during pick up time:

- Please do not stop your cars in the middle of the road.
- Please park, collect your child and walk them back to your car.
- Please ensure all cars are fitted with child seats for the younger children
- Please ensure your children are using the seatbelts
- We urge you please to ensure your child is collected safely.
- Staff have now allocated parking away from the school to alleviate the build-up of traffic on the road.

Mindfulness

Continuing with our theme of Mindfulness this term, next week the children in Upper Primary will be taking part in a Mindfulness workshop. It was great to hear in our Student Forum this week that some of the children already know and use mindfulness techniques when they are feeling overwhelmed or stressed. Look out for some mindfulness techniques for all the family in next week's newsletter.

Computer games

Some of our younger pupils have been talking about computer games such as Fortnite. Whilst we appreciate games such as this are popular, the age limit is 12 years old. If you permit your child to play these games, please ensure younger children do not have access. In addition, for games like Roblox, we urge you to apply parental controls or a pin to protect your child.

Homework

In response to feedback regarding homework, please see the time allocated for each year group's homework:

Year 3 - 30 minutes

Year 4 - 45 minutes

Year 5 - 60 minutes

Year 6 - 1hr and 15 minutes

Teachers will set homework that can be completed within these timeframes. Year 3 and 4 will have a short spelling and maths task each week. They will also have a short languages task to complete. We have listened to feedback regarding the amount of languages homework set and have adjusted the content accordingly. When learning a new language a 'little and often' approach is best adopted. With this in mind, teachers have prepared short activities that are fun and engaging. In Years 5 and 6, the length of time spent on homework increases. In Year 6, this will increase incrementally throughout the year in preparation for the transition to Year 7.

Reading is encouraged in all year groups. It is not considered 'homework' as such, but we do expect daily reading of some kind. This could be a bedtime story, sharing a non-fiction book about any topic or reading an educational magazine or newspaper. Any amount of reading will go a long way.

supporting and improving your child's learning of English.

Your child only needs to complete the homework in the time given. If they have not completed it all in the time set, that is perfectly okay. We fully understand children are individuals who learn and work at a different pace. We only ask that they do their best. Teachers will provide extension tasks, as there are many children who like to complete extra work. This is optional and will be made clear by the teacher.

Celebrations & Achievements

I am pleased to announce the winners of the House Trophy for the 3rd week running is the unstoppable Green team. It seems they are determined to keep the top spot. I have to say the Blue team was very close to stealing their crown, with only 4 points less than Greens. Reds and Yellows are beginning to catch up too. Well done to the Greens!

I would like to congratulate David Tudor in Year 4 Ravens Class for winning not one, but two certificates last week. He has clearly worked hard to impress his teachers with his outstanding communication skills and excellent work. Very well done David!



Due to the public holiday, on Monday 12th October, school will resume on Tuesday 13th October. So with the long weekend upon us, I wish you all a safe and happy one.

I would like to end with this wonderful poem by Benjamin Zephaniah:

What do people need?

<https://youtu.be/EC57oeaDpfM>

Ms Wakelin



People need people,
To walk to
To talk to
To cry and rely on,
People will always need people.
To love and to miss
To hug and to kiss,
It's useful to have other people.
To whom to moan
If you're all alone,
It's so hard to share
When no one is there.
There's not much to do
When there's no one but you.
People will always need people.

To please
To tease
To put you at ease,
People will always need people.
To make life appealing
And give life some meaning,
It's useful to have other people.
If you need a change
To whom will you turn.
If you need a lesson
From whom will you learn.
If you need to play
You'll know why I say
People will always need people.
As girlfriends
As boyfriends
From Bombay
To Ostend,
People will always need people

To have friendly fights with
And share tasty bites with,
It's useful to have other people.
People live in families
Gangs, posses and packs,
Its seems we need company
Before we relax,
So stop making enemies
And let's face the facts,
People will always need people,
Yes
People will always need people.

By Benjamin Zephaniah

EYFS & Lower Primary

Dear Parents,

This week I have a few simple notices and reminders for you:

EYFS and Lower Primary Virtual Parent Meetings

Today you will have received a communication email about the upcoming Virtual Parent Meeting for EYFS and Lower Primary. These will take place via Google Meet on Monday 19th and Wednesday 21st October. Please read the communication that was sent and follow the online booking instructions. If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Safety and Pick up Time

Another reminder please, to ensure a safe and seamless pick up at the end of the day. Please make sure you park up correctly and receive your child in person at the white gate. We are unable to put children into cars that are hovering in the road; this will build up traffic and is not practical or safe. Once you have collected your child, please do not stop to chat to other parents directly outside the white gate but instead move along the path away from the school. If there is a crowd gathered that is not moving on we will not let other children leave their class line until it is clear. We are working so hard in school to keep bubbles separate that it is disappointing to see children mixing unnecessarily outside the school gate. Thank you very much for your understanding and continued support on this.

Celebrating Birthdays

This week we sang Happy Birthday to Antoine Menard (7), Vega Garcia Paton (5) and Juan Jaquotot Jiménez (4). I have been working with our fabulous kitchen team to find a way to mark the special occasion for our youngest members of school as we know the effects of covid mean that many will not have a party and that a birthday at this age is so very important! We have had personalised birthday cakes presented in the dining hall, singing, balloons and class parties in class. The boys and girls have really enjoyed celebrating their friends' special day! Have a wonderful weekend celebrating with your families Antoine, Vega and Juan.

Halloween Dress Up Day

On the final day of term, Friday 23rd October, children from Nursery to Year 6 are invited to dress up in a simple Halloween costume. Please keep accessories to a minimum. We know that these occasions are a highlight of the year for many children however, this is optional and costumes can be Autumnal themed for those not keen on Halloween. If children do not wish to take part, this is also fine.

Have a wonderful long weekend!

Mrs Pilcher



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Sports

The PE department is looking to the future and starting to prepare for fixtures against local schools when the covid protocols have been lifted. We are excited to be able to host the schools first volleyball and basketball matches in our fantastic new sports hall. The Year 11 Basketball team has started training this week, the boys brought great energy to training and we are developing a very strong team.

Looking to the future I will start to run training sessions after school for different year groups, this will enable the students to remain in their bubbles and have the opportunity to train.

The training sessions will include volleyball, football, basketball and rugby. The days for these training sessions will be finalised next week so watch this space.

I hope to see many students at training and excited by the prospect of representing the school in sports fixtures again.

Thank you,

Mr Steadman





Musical EYFS and Lower Primary

The children of EYFS and Lower Primary have made a great start to their music lessons this year showing enthusiasm and focus in our weekly music lessons.

Reception Penguins are exploring songs based on the soh-me toneset. Using these two pitches the children have been learning to sing new songs, respond to the music through dancing and have been playing percussion instruments to the beat. Exploring instruments is always great fun and the children are really enjoying learning about dynamics by playing their instruments quietly and loudly.



In Year One Parrots the children are learning all about sounds. This week we listened to environmental sounds and as the term continues we will learn about vocal, body and instrumental sounds. The children will be going out around the school premises to record sounds from different locations as well as creating their own soundscapes in the classroom.

Our Year Two Robins and Owls are learning about a specific piece of music. This term we are exploring a piece by Greig called "In the Hall of the Mountain King." The children have responded so positively to this piece and absolute love the dramatic change of dynamics and tempo throughout the piece. This week the children read the rhythm of the music from adapted sheet music and played the rhythms on their percussion instruments. It was amazing seeing the children reading and playing the music using different tempos and dynamics.

It has been a wonderful start to the year, and I love to see each class across the week and the progression that is clear to see across the phase. We have some confident and keen musicians and I am very excited for the music lessons to come!

Ms. O' Connor

Juliet Jensen

Art Teacher

I believe in creative education and feel privileged to be the new art teacher in the BCG community where we are building such a strong creative arts department. It is exciting to be working with each of the year groups and the BCG team, and I have already seen the progress and enthusiasm in the small time I have been here.



I trained in sculpture, photography and drawing in London and then worked as a freelance artist and performer for a number of years. I have always taught alongside my own creative work, teaching in colleges in the UK, then also in Mexico and Italy before arriving at BCG. I am happy to be speaking Spanish again. I love sharing skills and processes, and then applying a little individuality to each task.

I ask my students to be willing to experiment, to be willing to make mistakes and to be willing to practice. I will need to listen to this advice when I start learning Catalan!

