



BCG Bulletin

September 23rd 2021



Welcome to our bulletin

It has only been three weeks but we seem to have done so much in that time everyone here is looking forward to the long weekend!

This week Andrea de Haro Garijo and Alexandr (Sasha) Grechman were appointed as BCG's first Senior Prefects. Mr Steadman and I interviewed a number of Year 13 students for the positions and really were very impressed by all candidates. However we felt in the end that Andrea and Sasha had the range of skills we were looking for for these prestigious appointments. Next week the rest of the prefect team will be appointed.

Over the coming Bulletins we will be introducing the new staff to you. With nearly 20 new teachers, teaching assistants and admin staff it has been a busy time for many. I have been so impressed by the way in which they have juggled the various commitments as well as the challenges of moving to the country, finding accommodation and starting a new term in a new school. Talking to them though, I can say that they have all found their colleagues supportive and their students to be a delight to teach!

At last, this week we were able to invite parents into school. All parents of children in Primary, from Nursery to Year 6 were in school meeting the teachers, having presentations and then meeting each other properly over a coffee and some rather lovely pastries. I was so pleased to finally be able to invite parents into school and I hope that you enjoyed the event. Information of further events and parent presentations will follow soon.

Today Parents of Year 7 and Year 10 will have received an email with a PDF attachment for the Chromebook Project. The Chromebooks are ready for distribution. The PDF should be downloaded, electronically signed and then emailed as per the instructions. Once we receive the signed document your sons and daughters will be issued with their Chromebooks.

Year 7 and Year 10 students should all bring the Chromebook in, fully charged each day. Year 8 and 9 students should not bring any device into school and we will be issuing their Chromebooks later in the year. Year 11, 12 and 13 students may continue to bring in their own devices as usual.

We will be very strict on uniforms and politely request that parents help us too. Many children are arriving at school looking very scruffy and are not making a good impression. We understand that there are supply issues with the uniform and we will be working with parents and the student council to improve the uniform over the coming months. We will then find a better, more reliable supplier. More details on this will be given later this term

Another reminder that mobile phones are not to be used by primary students at all and that secondary can only use them if a teacher has specifically asked them to. We will confiscate any phones being used at break, lunch or during lessons.

I wish you all a very happy La Mercè holiday.

Simon Mower

HEAD OF SECONDARY

Dear parents,

It has been a busy two weeks since I last wrote in the newsletter. The students have really settled into the new academic year and are making great progress. It is great to see the Year 10's really engaged in their new GCSE subjects, the Year 12s thoroughly enjoying the start to the IBDP and the Year 13s starting to plan their careers and university choices.

I would like to join Mr Mower in congratulating our new Senior Prefects (the first in BCG history) Sasha Grechman and Andrea de Haro Garijo. We had four applicants for the role and each student really impressed Mr Mower and I with their maturity and vision for the school. I can't wait to work with Sasha and Andrea in the near future to improve the school for our students and kick off the school council. The Senior Prefects will also lead a prefect team, this team of prefects will be chosen next week and we cannot wait to see who applies for the positions.

Having listened to feedback from teachers and parents about the late to school policy we are going to adapt the rules slightly. Students are required to be in their form rooms at 8.45am for registration. We understand some mornings there is traffic, or some other circumstance

makes a child late. Therefore there is a 5 minute flexibility to the 8.45am start time. If a student arrives after 8.50am to their form class and a valid reason is not given this student will miss break time. The student will complete homework or read a book with a duty teacher. Students will no longer miss P.1 if they are late to school. As I have said in the past we are trying to drive the academic culture in the school and it is imperative students come on time, ready to learn with all the equipment and materials they need for the day.

IMPORTANT DATES

- Year 7 - 11 & 13 Project Learning Week - 11th - 15th October
- Target and Effort grades sent to parents - 22nd October
- Year 7 parents evening - 2nd November
- Year 10 parent evening - 3rd November

Have a wonderful long weekend.

Mr Steadman

CLIMBING IN THE COMMUNITY

Sunday 12th September saw the eagerly awaited grand opening of Sharma Climbing. A state of the art, world class climbing centre right here in Gava. With a large climbing community in the area and the chance to climb routes designed by world renowned climber Chris Sharma, around 2000 guests attended the day to experience the activities on offer and the Olympic level facilities. New to our school, we offer a warm welcome to the Sharma family and congratulations on the opening of such an exciting project.

Among the guests were some of our own students including Sasha Grechman in Y13 who will be helping to promote our after school climbing club that starts on Tuesday October 5th. Climbing is a fantastic activity for children of all ages and can develop their strength and coordination as well as enhancing problem solving skills and

gaining confidence. If you would like more information please email ecap@bcgava.com

Mr Pilcher



NURSERY NEWS

Dear Parents,

What a difference these weeks have made to Nursery! All of the Nursery children are so settled, and are really showing their true characters! We have been learning lots of new songs, talking and expressing ourselves in different ways and showing preferences and dislikes to different toys, foods and activities!

We even had a go at PE, where we went to the sports hall in the secondary building and used the new equipment. We will be doing this every week to build up our moving and

handling skills.

On Thursdays we go to the library and choose a book that we were able to take home to share with our families! We tried hard to keep the library tidy and neat, and are learning to respect our environment!

We have been looking at our first topic book, Owl Babies and we will be exploring all about ourselves!

Have a great long weekend everybody!

Rebecca Plummer

PERFORMING ARTS

Last week our music programme really kicked off in full swing! We already have over 100 students signed up for private instrumental lessons in piano, flute, drums, singing, ukulele, guitar, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, violin, cello, and composition.

This is BCG's third year running the programme and it is so popular among our students that there are already waiting lists. We have appointed two new fantastic teachers, Nicole Lewis and Gaura Horn, who are both highly experienced teachers and professional musicians themselves. Sadly we have had to say goodbye to one of our beloved piano teachers, Marcos, but we wish him all the best in his new full time position at the Liceu Conservatoire in Barcelona.

We will keep expanding the department to accommodate the ever-growing interest of our young people in their wish to enhance their education and daily life with the beauty and depth of music. As anyone who has learnt a musical instrument will know, it takes time, dedication and perseverance. With these three ingredients, children achieve so much that is above and beyond the everyday expectations of academic success. And the results stay with them for life.

We have also welcomed back Montse with her famous string orchestras consisting of enthusiastic and dedicated budding musicians from years 3-8! They are all looking forward to being a part of this exciting journey and performing once again in a concert at Christmas. Both beginner and seasoned musicians are welcomed.

It's hard to ignore the powerful rhythms of the Brazilian Samba band that Victor leads at lunchtime for anyone interested in banging a drum and feeling a part of something BIG! Anyone from years 5&6 are welcome to join in the playground next week. We will offer this opportunity to older children in the summer term.

Last week our musical theatre club held auditions for the beloved classic musical, Annie! We now have our talented cast list with actors from years 7-11 for the production which will be held in April or May. Watch this space for tickets!

Finally, I leave you with this wonderful video recorded this summer by our talented and passionate guitar and ukulele teacher, Izan. Let him be an inspiration to us all!

https://youtu.be/BuzTP7li_Sg

Claire Foreman
Head of Arts Music Coordinator

NEW STAFF



**ALEXANDRA
DYSON**
Year 2 Teacher

Background:

I have been teaching for over 4 years and I have spent two of them teaching in Abu Dhabi, UAE. I started my career in England in a town local to where I am from. During this time I experienced teaching children from very diverse backgrounds which helped me to grow and develop as a teacher. After two years I moved to the UAE where I taught children from predominantly Emirati backgrounds which was an amazing experience and gave me a great opportunity to develop my skills to teach children who speak English as an additional language.

Teaching style:

I would say my teaching style is very expressive and creative, I like to sing and laugh with the children a lot. I feel my approach is very caring and nurturing but also supports children to make the right choices. I use positive reinforcement and love celebrating children's successes whilst also finding ways to support children who need it. I promote teamwork and a sense of community within the classroom environment but most importantly I want children to feel safe and secure.

Piece of advice:

Take every opportunity you can and laugh often.



I am grade 8 in singing



**HELEN
STEVENS**
Year 3 teacher, Lower
Primary Phase Leader

Background:

I am originally from the South East of England and I grew up in a town called Maidstone. I graduated from university in 2001 and have been teaching on and off since then. I have taught in various places across England, as well as Bucharest in Romania and now, here in Barcelona, Spain. When not teaching, I have been travelling and snowboarding around the world. I absolutely love to travel and have done since I was very little.

Teaching style:

My Year 5 teacher was called Mr Edwards and it was because of him that I wanted to become a teacher. He was an inspirational teacher and helped to make my final year at Primary school an absolutely wonderful one. I try to be like Mr Edwards and make all learning fun in my classrooms, even the tricky stuff. I hope I am the kind of teacher that my students will remember 20 years from now. In my classrooms, my students are the centre of it all. I aim to create a mutually respectful classroom where everyone feels safe, secure, supported and prepared for learning.

Piece of advice:

Keep going even when it is tough and that mistakes can be frustrating, upsetting and annoying, but they help us to improve.



I have cycled the length of New Zealand (North Island to South Island)



**ISABEL
SÁNCHEZ**
Teacher Assistant and Librarian

Background:

I have a degree in Translation and Interpreting gained at Murcia University, where I am from. I also have a Master's Degree in Teaching Spanish as a Foreign Language and a second Master's Degree in Teaching English as a Foreign Language.

Teaching style:

I love helping teachers and students alike, especially when it comes to languages as they are my passion. I love reading too, so I am really happy to be able to work in the library, surrounded by books. Finally, I also enjoy giving a hand in admin.

Piece of advice:

Study hard, work hard and always follow your dreams.



The three times I have been to Italy, I have stayed there to live for a little while as it is my favourite country.



**LIZ
FLEMING**
Year 6 Class Teacher

Background:

I have been teaching for 5 years and have taught in many different settings. I have taught English in Thailand, been a classroom and PE specialist teacher in Leeds in the UK. I have also taught in an international school in Abu Dhabi and now here in Barcelona.

Teaching style:

I have a genuine passion for helping children of all abilities reach their full potential in and out of the classroom. I like to give learning a meaning and discuss when it could be used in real life. I encourage my students to have a voice, ask questions and participate actively in all learning. I try to encourage my students to be independent learners and to discover their passions and interests.

Piece of advice:

We learn from failure, not from success.



I enjoy extreme sports and have skydived over the palm in Dubai.



**MARTA
NAVARRO**
Spanish and Catalan
Teacher

Background:

I am a Spanish Teacher that has a degree in Kindergarten and Primary Education. I have been working in a whole range of different schools in Barcelona, some with traditional methodologies and other with innovative ways of teaching. I have also worked in an International School in Oklahoma, USA. All of them have taught me great resources to develop in my classes.

Teaching style:

I like to involve my students in the language classes talking, doing games and having their participation as much as possible. In my opinion, learning a language should be fun.

Piece of advice:

Watch as many videos, series and movies in the language you are trying to learn to improve your knowledge!



I've seen 4 of the Big Five Animals in Kenya this summer



**PACO
REVERT**
ECAP Team

Background:

I have been teaching for 4 years including one of them in the US! I have been linked to football for more than 20 years, both as a player and as a coach. I feel very lucky to be currently coaching at FC Barcelona Youth Academy!

Working style:

I am a very enthusiastic person who is always willing to create a positive environment and have a very strong sense of humor, which I think is imperative to create a nice atmosphere.

Piece of advice:

When you think that you are not capable of doing something, just add "yet" at the end of the sentence.



I am not very talented but I like dancing and singing :)



**PAUL
LESTER**
Mathematics Teacher

Background:

I am originally from Manchester and I had a range of different jobs before deciding to teach. I have now been teaching for around ten years and in that time I have taught in Manchester, Kyrenia in North Cyprus, Murcia, Bergamo in Italy and now here in Barcelona.

Teaching/working (admin staff) style:

I believe that there is great enjoyment to be had in problem solving, especially the great satisfaction of finding the solution to a problem. My aim is to try to instill this enjoyment of mathematical thinking in my students. Maths is so much more than just calculations or applying formulae and I want students to discover the fascinating connections to be made through a wide variety of approaches and representations.

Piece of advice:

People who love maths don't love it because it is easy, they do so because they know how hard it is.



One of my hobbies is competing in obstacle course races - deep down I am still a little boy who likes to play in the mud!



**SARAH
DARBY**
Humanities, English and
Drama Teacher

Background:

I have been teaching for 7 years and taught in one other international school in Valencia. Before I taught in a school near Bristol in the UK. My degree was in Geography and I love exploring the world. I have been to many different environments and had the pleasure of getting to show students the wonders of our planet.

Teaching style:

I believe in being positive and trying your best. I always give my students respect and want that respect in return. I adore teaching and really love seeing students happy in a classroom. I always try to make my classroom environment a place where students feel comfortable and a place they know they can ask questions without feeling worried. Through all subjects students can explore the world and start to grow into independent thinkers. Overall I like to think that I am a teacher who students feel happy to talk to with any issues and a teacher who helps them achieve their potential.

Piece of advice:

Trying and failing is a start. Doing nothing and failing is nothing. It is better to start and slowly progress than to do nothing at all.



I have eaten ice cream cake on top of a volcano and slept through a tropical cyclone (The cyclone even lifted boats onto the street)

LINGUISTS OF THE WEEK IN THE LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT

EYFS AND PRIMARY

The linguists of the week in primary for being excellent communicators in one of the 3 languages are:

Reception: Spanish

- Amaia Rodríguez

Year 1: Spanish

- Julen Sevillano

Year 2: Spanish

- Máximo Rodríguez
- Sofía María Tarancón

Y3: French

- Hugo Martín Pérez

Y4: French

- Diego García

Y5: Catalan

- Alessandro Millan

Y6: Catalan

- Wolf Mous

SECONDARY

The linguists of the week for our first value, **BALANCED**, are:

French:

- Aitana Montero Flores, Year 7

Spanish:

- Juan Pablo Sykes, Year 7

Catalan:

- Judith Pérez Year 11

Congratulations to all of them!

Languages Department



ENRICHMENT

Dear parents,

This week, the Enrichment Team uploaded all upcoming trips and visits to the school booking system. You can find the list of trips below and the link to the booking system [here](#).

Year	Destination	Lead Teacher/s	Date
Reception	Gava Mar Beach, Team Building Morning	Jessica Bifani	Wednesday 29th September
Nursery	Gava Mar Beach, Team Building and Family Morning	Rebecca Plummer	Tuesday 7th October
Years 5 - 9 plus Yr 10 & 11 Music and Drama Students	Sitges, Institute of the Arts for the production of All Together Now!	Claire Foreman	Monday 15th November
Year 3	Tarragona, Roman Experience	Will Smith & Helen Stevens	Thursday 28th September
Year 6	Gava Mar Beach, Beach Clean Morning	Zoe Mellor & Liz Flemming	Wednesday 29th September
Year 2	Barcelona, Chocolate Museum	Claire Baker & Alexandra Dyson	Wednesday 17th November
Year 1 & Year 2	Gava, Bordas Garden Center	Nina Pilcher	Tuesday 5th October
Year 5	Barcelona, Cosmocaixa Interactive Museum and Science Center	Louise Barron & Louise Culshaw	Wednesday 13th October
Year 6	Sitges, Ocio Adventure Team Building Day	Zoe Mellor & Liz Flemming	Thursday 21st October
Year 8	Barcelona, Cosmocaixa Interactive Museum and Science Center	Carolynne Bell & Ella Lane	Tuesday 19th October

Please note that the deadline for authorisation OF ALL TERM 1 TRIPS is Monday 27th September at 22.00.

ENRICHMENT

From Tuesday 28th September onwards, all information will be processed by our finance department for the cost of both your chosen ECAP activities and trips and visits. As per the new procedure announced at the start of the academic year, payments will be deducted from bank accounts when the processing is complete and refunds will only be offered in exceptional circumstances.

For information regarding the booking system or payment please email trips@bcgava.com

For information about the trip itself, please **contact the lead teacher** as shown in the table.

Any trips or visits added to the programme this term will be done so with at least 2 weeks notice to parents. Do not worry if you have no trips planned for your child this term, it simply means that teachers feel the content they are delivering can be done effectively in school. They will likely have a trip coming in term 2 or 3 (or 2 and 3!) where these are deemed more valuable for learning purposes.

Why attend BCG trips and visits?

All trips and visits hold significant educational value. Not only do they contribute to academic success, they remarkably support holistic development. While interacting with peers and meeting and communicating with individuals and groups outside our immediate school community, our students not only have fun and create memories but increase their ability to retain and recall information. By immersing themselves in hands-on learning experiences students learn by doing and this has been proven to assist students when it comes to providing oral or written responses to class questions and course work assessments. Students are able to reflect on their previous experiences and form more articulated responses as a

result. Other benefits include:

- Improving critical thinking and problem solving skills
- Experiential learning takes place (learn by doing)
- Student's worldview is expanded (transfer of learning to different contexts and across different subjects)
- Reinforces classroom material
- Greater bond between students and teachers (build relationships outside the classroom)
- Learning local culture
- Students are encouraged to learn with and from others in unfamiliar surroundings (improves adaptability, communication and resilience to name but a few)

Ref: Stuart, H (2018), <https://www.easchooltours.com/blog/the-top-9-educational-benefits-of-embarking-on-a-school-trip>, accessed 21/09/21

International CHESS Tournament

Kendal English School in Chile will host an international chess tournament on Saturday 20th November. This will be via zoom and is open to students from years 2 - 13. Two of our CAS students will be organising this event with the enrichment team's help. Your child should be of a level to play in competitive matches. This is not a beginner's event.

Sign up opens tomorrow on the school booking system and the deadline for authorisation is Thursday 30th September at 18.00. A meeting with all registered students will take place during the week beginning 4th October at which point further details will be issued.

We wish you a fabulous long weekend.

The Enrichment Team

FOREST SCHOOL



FOREST SCHOOL



A GLIMPSE OF THE WEEK

EYFS & LP



A GLIMPSE OF THE WEEK

Upper Primary & Secondary

