



# WEEKLY BULLETIN

September 10th 2020



What a pleasure it is to write to you at the start of this new term! We opened our doors a week ago and we have had seven wonderful days with lively excitable children eager to learn.

I would like to say a particular welcome to all of our new families - it is a privilege for us that you have chosen BCG for your children's education and I can assure you that we will do everything we can to ensure they are happy in our community.

Our new staff have settled in very well too and all tell me how much they enjoy teaching their classes! Students have already been using the library, the science laboratories are being used all day long and we can hear the new year 7 and 8 choir as we walk down the corridors towards the auditorium. Early Years and Primary wasted no time, and the children were eagerly learning new things from day one.

Clearly everyone is delighted to be back in school.

Our COVID-19 procedures have been working very well within school although I would ask that parents take a little more care at afternoon pickup as it is difficult for us to manage what happens outside the gates - we really need your full cooperation so we can keep everyone safe.

This week we had the first assemblies of the year. On Tuesday I addressed the whole Secondary School and explained my thoughts on the importance of us building and maintaining a strong academic culture across the school. I would like to share some of the salient points with you here.

**Whilst moving around school, all students should:**

- Be courteous and well behaved
- Say good morning to cleaners, teachers, kitchen staff etc
- Be very aware of their COVID responsibilities

**In class, students should:**

- Arrive on time a fully equipped for each lesson
- Take an active part in class discussions
- Ask questions if they do not understand
- Listen to other students and share their thoughts in a respectful manner
- Be prepared to make mistakes and learn from them
- Understand that they need to work hard if they are to succeed

**At home, students should:**

- Have an appropriate place to do their homework
- Do the homework according to the Homework timetable
- Turn off mobile phones until they have completed all their work
- Read a book in English, each evening

There was already a very positive attitude from students this week, which was wonderful to see. We want your children to achieve their very best and I ask that we can have your support by ensuring your children arrive at school on time and have an appropriate place at home for their homework. Children in year 10 and above should, ideally, have their own desk for studying.

**Home Learning.**

We have reviewed our home learning policy and I will be publishing a new one next week. Homework is an extremely important part of the education of your child as it is the one opportunity they have to develop and improve their independent learning skills.

Every year at school builds upon the last and students need to reach a point where they have acquired all the skills and knowledge to pass their exams and get into the university of their choice. Many of you will be hoping for your children to go to leading universities and that is very realistic for many students but it requires hard work and commitment from an early age. We will be setting home learning as follows:

- **Year 7** - 1 hour per night
- **Year 8** - 1 hour per night
- **Year 9** - 1 hour per night
- **Year 10** - 90 mins per night
- **Year 11** - 2 hrs per night

Students will also be doing after school clubs, sports etc. I appreciate that, but it is essential that they develop their academic skills to the right level if they wish to move on to a good university when they finish IB. We will be sending out Homework Timetables very soon.

**Simon Mower**



Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the new school year. I wish to start by reassuring you all that we have strict rules on masks, disinfecting hands, year group bubbles etc and we are taking this responsibility very seriously. All staff and students have adapted quickly to the new situation and it is not detracting from the fact that the BCG community are very happy to be back in school. Regarding school life in general, we have an extremely positive ambience in Secondary and we are now installed in the new building with all pupils taking lessons in the specialist facilities. We have also started with a strong focus on academic culture and positive reinforcement for behaviour management and we are encouraging all the students to take responsibility for learning and to aim high. All teaching staff are fully engaged and committed to supporting and encouraging them on their pathway. I am also asking that all parents continue to be vigilant regarding the wearing of correct school uniform, as this is important in setting a serious tone in school. We will continue to keep you updated on events and activities on a weekly basis via the newsletter. For now, it is a pleasure to be back in school, and enjoy the long weekend.

**John Prince**

Dear parents,

We have reached the end of a very busy week in Upper Primary and what a week of success it has been. All of the children have made an excellent start to this term's learning, as enthusiastic chatter of the Vikings, Romans, Space and World War 2 has filled the air of every classroom.

All of the Upper Primary pupils have been working hard in Art to produce their class bird, ready for our corridor display. We look forward to sharing pictures of this in next week's newsletter.

I'd like to thank all the parents for supporting our 'pick-up' procedures at the end of the day. We realise it is busy and appreciate your efforts to minimise traffic and to collect your children promptly.

Wearing a masks and regularly sanitising our hands is fast becoming part of our daily school routine. The children have managed this remarkably well. In addition, in our PSHE lessons this week, we have had class discussions about change and how the many changes we have experienced since the lockdown began have affected us. Their thoughtful responses are a sure sign of the maturity they gained over the summer. This is wonderful to see.

I look forward to seeing you Monday, raring and ready for a new week of excellent learning.

I wish you all a fantastic 'long' weekend.

**Miss Wakelin**

## **IB NEWS**

During the last few days of the summer term, our IB consultant visited BCG and spoke to staff, students and parents with a view to evaluate our application process so far. His report was extremely encouraging and we start this new year with lots of exciting changes, news and plans.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome Miss Jensen to the DP team as Art teacher and Mr Russell who will teach Physics. They are now working collaboratively with other teachers in their subject groups and are a great asset to our team. We have seen further modifications to our science laboratories and library and our teaching staff are now finishing their two year DP course outlines after spending their summer completing official IB training. Thank you to everyone for the dedication you have shown.

**Ms Fenton**



How lovely it is to be ending the week with the sun shining; such a contrast to what was a very wet start to the week. Whilst damp and dreary outside the children continued to blossom in their classes with their now familiar daily routines. It may have been a short week but it has been the usual jam packed curriculum and thoughtful lessons in each of our classes. We have even finished the week with more children than we started, as we have welcomed 4 more children into our BCG family! It is always wonderful when new children join our school, to see our current students show pride and confidence helping them to settle in.

This week in Year 2, the children have been writing sentences using correct punctuation and have been describing characters from the BFG. Mr Smith has been spotted with his dream catching trumpet, 'stealing' the thoughts of children in Year 2 Owls, ready to make our dream jars on Monday! Ms O'Connor has dazzled Reception, Year 1 and 2 children with their first music lessons, linking ideas to each class topic whilst introducing pitch, rhythm and pulse. Year 1 Parrots have been enjoying their history lessons, exploring the idea of toys from the past and have begun to ask questions and discuss differences between old and new toys.

Reception Penguins have been drawing large story maps to help retell a class story and worked very well as a team to remember key parts and language. And last but not least, our littlest learners in Nursery, who have now built up to full days at school, have been painting pictures of themselves in their school uniform as they learn about themselves and where they belong.

After a fun week inside the classroom and splashing in puddles outdoors, we are all now ready for a lovely long weekend before we do it all again! A polite reminder and request for next week:

The start of day has been excellent so thank you all very much for adhering to the rules of 1 adult only, dropping off swiftly and for being on time. Morning drop off is between 08:30-08:50 and lessons start promptly so please arrive on time. In order to improve the end of day pick-up, please make sure that once you have collected your child, you leave immediately to ensure social distancing is adhered to. The path and road should not become crowded. Once collected, children should not be playing by the gate or inside the school.

It is very important that you make every effort to collect your child on time. Our collection time is between 4.10 and 4.20pm. If you have older siblings finishing later then please arrive to collect your youngest child first. We are making every effort to maintain the safest school day possible for your child by using a bubble system, rotation of toys and extra cleaning regimes and late pick ups impact the after school duties of teachers. In some cases, this leads them to be late to collect their own children. Parents arriving late (past 4.20pm) will need to collect their child from the front steps. We want to avoid taking your child past other bubbles of children so please collect on time at the white EYFS and Lower Primary gate. If you have an unexpected delay, please email [attendance@bcgava.com](mailto:attendance@bcgava.com).

I wish you all a sunny weekend and look forward to seeing you all bright and early on Monday.

**Mrs Pilcher**





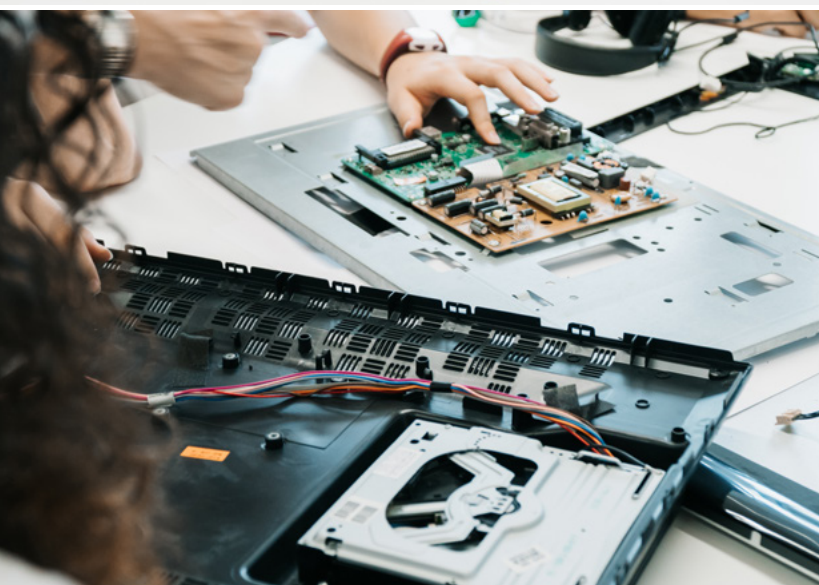
On June the 22nd, pupils from Year 6, 7 and 8 competed in the Junior Maths Challenge, an annual Mathematics competition for pupils from Year 8 and under, organised by the UK Mathematics Trust. This year, the competition was delayed and moved online but our pupils were able to take part just in time! Pupils were given additional Mathematics online classes to help them prepare for the challenge. I am pleased to announce the following results which were released over the summer.

**Gold Award and Best in School - Danny Jim Y6**

**Bronze Awards - Mathys Derkx Y7, Zoe Marchant Y8, Ariadna Rey Y8.**

Congratulations and well done for everyone who took part! It looks like we have some budding Mathematicians at BCG!

**Dr Jim**



**The year 10 GCSE ICT Class** started the year by bringing in and dissecting various digital and non-digital devices. The iGCSE course requires students to have an understanding of what digital devices are and how they are used by individuals, organisations and societies. To really give the students an understanding and awareness of digital devices, they used time in class to open them up with screwdrivers and pliers to take them apart and look for various components and microprocessors. Once found, the students discussed the application and function of both the components and devices they came from.

The students really enjoyed this hands-on learning with many of them being able to recognise and understand the function of each element.

**Mrs Hall**



## Science at BCG

In Science, we have started Autumn term with our pupils working hard. Those entering new Keystages (Year 7 and Year 10) have completed their baseline assessments with a positive attitude and an open mind. As teachers, we now have a much better idea of your child's pre-existing knowledge and skillset. Moving forward, we are well placed to support and develop your child's learning.

In Year 7, pupils have been learning about the cells, tissues, organs in relation to the organisation of an animal. In Year 8, pupils have been introduced to the topic of food in relation to health and the digestive system. Year 9 are learning about the differences between living things of the same species and what causes those differences. KS4 classes have started / continued with their iGCSE content in their respective disciplines. Our new KS5 classes in all three disciplines have kicked off to a flying start, learning about atoms, biological molecules and momentum.

All science classes are now taking place in the new, spacious and wonderfully equipped laboratories and some classes have already started taking part in individual practical activities. We have a busy Autumn term ahead but are very happy to be back teaching and seeing those moments of learning in your children's eyes!

**Dr Jim, Miss Lane, Mr Russell**



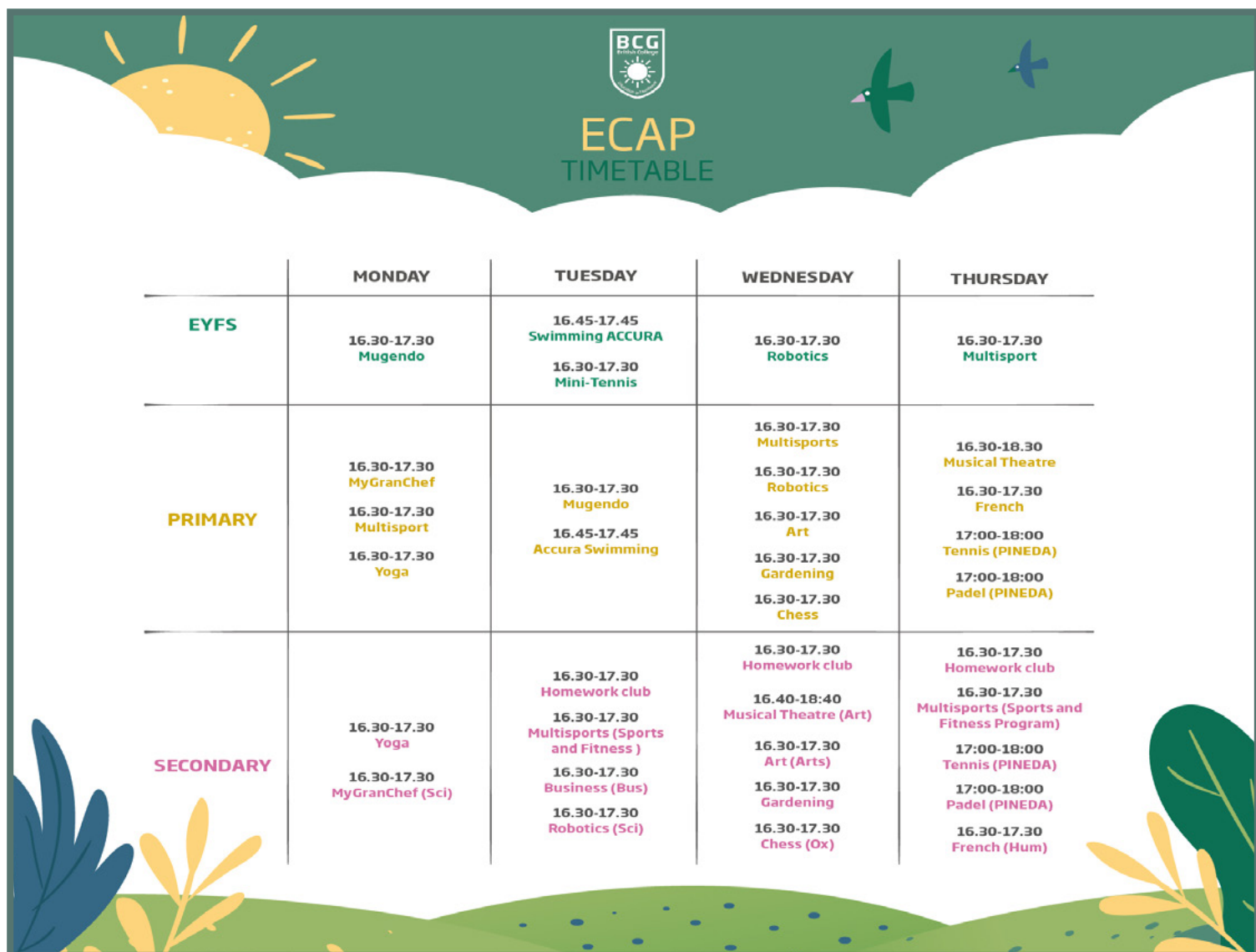


# ECAP

\*Reminder\*

Thank you all for attending our Open Doors Week. Please register by Sunday 13th September for this term's activities.

An up to date schedule and link to the registration system can be found at [https://www.britishcollegegava.com/es\\_ES/ecap](https://www.britishcollegegava.com/es_ES/ecap)



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## ECAP TIMETABLE

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
<b>EYFS</b>	16.30-17.30 Mugendo	16.45-17.45 Swimming ACCURA 16.30-17.30 Mini-Tennis	16.30-17.30 Robotics	16.30-17.30 Multisport
<b>PRIMARY</b>	16.30-17.30 MyGranChef 16.30-17.30 Multisport 16.30-17.30 Yoga	16.30-17.30 Mugendo 16.45-17.45 Accura Swimming	16.30-17.30 Multisports 16.30-17.30 Robotics 16.30-17.30 Art 16.30-17.30 Gardening 16.30-17.30 Chess	16.30-18.30 Musical Theatre 16.30-17.30 French 17:00-18:00 Tennis (PINEDA) 17:00-18:00 Padel (PINEDA)
<b>SECONDARY</b>	16.30-17.30 Yoga 16.30-17.30 MyGranChef (Sci)	16.30-17.30 Homework club 16.30-17.30 Multisports (Sports and Fitness ) 16.30-17.30 Business (Bus) 16.30-17.30 Robotics (Sci)	16.30-17.30 Homework club 16.40-18:40 Musical Theatre (Art) 16.30-17.30 Art (Arts) 16.30-17.30 Gardening 16.30-17.30 Chess (Ox)	16.30-17.30 Homework club 16.30-17.30 Multisports (Sports and Fitness Program) 17:00-18:00 Tennis (PINEDA) 17:00-18:00 Padel (PINEDA) 16.30-17.30 French (Hum)