



WEEKLY BULLETIN

January 24

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the Friday newsletter where we showcase educational events and activities experienced by your children and our community over the past week. From Pyjama Day in EYFS to anatomical dissections in Year 11, reflections on utopian and dystopian societies in Year 10 and storytelling around Chinese New Year traditions in Year 3, the breadth of experiences continues to impress.

The ducklings hatched in December have grown into ducks of impressive size and they are proving to be a point of real interest at lunchtimes as children gather to watch their behaviour. We continue to strive very hard to nurture the minds and hearts of the children here at BCG and as always we are here to listen. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to come to speak to us.

Have a lovely weekend,
John Prince

Visit of Mr Simon Mower, our new Permanent Head Teacher of BCG

We were delighted this week to have Simon Mower in school for five days of deep induction into this new role. Simon has spent the week meeting the staff in all ages and areas of the school as well as chatting with members of the community and visiting neighbourhoods for places to live. His feet haven't touched the ground and not even Storm Gloria could keep him from making progress!

John Prince and Simon have been liaising on next steps and both look forward to working alongside each other in transition from now through the latter part of this academic year.

Simon spoke with the entire faculty on Monday about his initial excitement and clear ideas to take the school forward. He is acutely aware of the challenges but from his experiences in the UK and Thailand, nothing phases him. After touring the new building he is excited about what the new spaces can offer but most of all he wants to fully support, develop and build further confidence in our teachers. Simon has had working dinners with the Senior Leadership to hear about their progress at each stage of the school.

Simon met numerous parents at the parent consultation evenings this week and enjoyed having initial conversations about the hopes of families going forward. One of his first actions has been to help plan for the forthcoming Year 6 transition meetings and Open Days and will play an active role in communicating about his clear vision for the school.

Conscious of the IB authorisation process in motion, Simon will be attending an IB conference-workshop in Prague next month with our DP Coordinator designate Rachel Fenton. He will be leading this process of authorisation alongside the current team. Simon has a rich experience of building sixth-form (KS5) centres and has strategies for further development of the senior years overall.

Simon has a background in design and IT amongst other specialisms and he has met with the IT team this week to talk about hands-on ideas for our current systems development through ISAMs and other tools. They are delighted he brings expert support in this field.

Most importantly Simon walked through the classrooms from Early Years to Sixth Form and was delighted to view our staff and students in action. He knows we have a great team to take forward and is analysing the ways they can be supported.

Simon will be visiting again on February 19th to the 21st and we are delighted he has decided to **start his role earlier from March 1st**. Simon will be speaking to all parents on his next visit on Thursday 20th February so you can welcome him then!

Andrew Atkinson
General Director



Primary Assembly

This week we celebrated our value of being 'Open-minded' in our special Values Celebration assembly. These assemblies are always my favourite part of the week as it is so wonderful to see their joy - and sometimes surprise - at being specially chosen to receive a certificate by their class teacher. We celebrate one of our values, taken from our BCG Learner profile, every fortnight. Teachers keep a close eye watching for children who demonstrate the value. I must say we found it very difficult to choose as so many of our pupils demonstrate open-mindedness every day.

The deserving winner 's of this week 's certificates were:

- Nursery & Reception - Mia and Daniela
- Year 1 Parrots - Izzy and Olfa
- Year 1 Hummingbirds-Diego and Sofia
- Year 2 - Sofia Sadovaya
- Year 3 Eagles - Veronika and Adria
- Year 3 Robins - Valentina and Kaia
- Year 4 Owls - Nicole and Nikita
- Year 5 Flamingoes - Laia and Sophia
- Year 6 Kiwis - Matvie and Yaroslav
- Year 6 Swallows - Paloma and Martin

Our new value we are celebrating in EYFS and Primary is 'Reflective'. We look forward to celebrating this with the children in our next assembly.

Kelly Wakelin
Head of Upper Primary and Year 5 teacher



Promoting reading



Within the **Catalan and Spanish Department of BCG**, we continue to reinforce reading habits, as these are a fundamental tool in improving the communicative competences of our students in these two languages, and throughout the educational stage.

Reading stimulates our imagination, allows us to reflect, live outside experiences and travel to abstract and imaginary worlds, but also helps us to foster our critical senses, expand vocabulary and appreciate the values of books. Reading, therefore, has many benefits in addition to strengthening the learning of Catalan and Spanish.

This year we have also designed a special program of reading, accompanied by activities to work on the reading competences throughout the academic year. These are the titles of the books that our primary and secondary school students are reading this **second term**:

YEAR 5: *El zoo d'en Pitus*, Sebastià Sorribas

YEAR 6: *El dragón del parque Güell*, Ana Campoy

YEAR 7: *De qui és el bosc?*, Mercè Canela

YEAR 8: *La hija de la noche*, Laura Gallego

YEAR 9: *L'anticlub*, Angel Burgas

YEAR 10: *El Lazarillo de Tormes* (anónimo)

YEAR 11: *Aloma*, Mercè Rodoreda

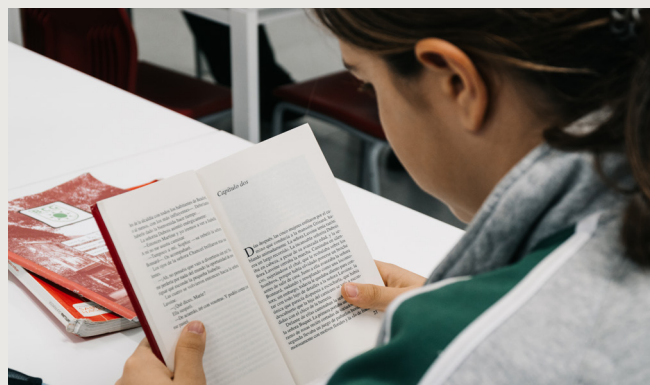


How do we work to develop reading skills?

We combine joint reading in the classroom with individual and silent reading. Books and stories are discussed and analysed by participating in Reading Clubs and debates. Teachers can also ask students to read some chapters at home, as well as to carry out reading comprehension activities, oral presentations, book trailers, written comments and assessments about the books.

Ester Pou

Head of Spanish/ Catalan



Extra support in lessons:

From this week we have the reinforcement of our Teaching Assistants (TA) in the classroom, supporting the teacher, in the following subjects of the Spanish / Catalan Department:

Year 2 Spanish language (3h with TA Sílvia)

Year 2 Catalan (2h with TA Sílvia)

Year 6 Spanish (3h with TA Yaiza)

Yaiza and Silvia are going to help some students to improve reading and expand vocabulary and oral communication in Catalan and Spanish.

Pyjama Day!

EYFS

On Friday 17th of January Ducklings class held their own pyjama day as a way of immersing themselves in their new topic, 'Traditional Tales!' Everyone came in their pyjamas for the school day, bringing with them a teddy and their favourite book! The children loved sharing the stories with their friends and teachers, listening attentively to stories both in Spanish and English! We really wanted the children to get a feel for a topic and stories we have studied and will be looking at, so we decided to make our own gingerbread, which we then ate whilst drinking a cup of homemade hot-chocolate, all snuggled up with our pillows, teddies and blankets. We also got the chance to make our own bookmarks and masks of our favourite book characters! We had such a lovely day and the children have already put in a request for another pyjama day soon!



Year 3 Eagles



Last week Mr O Casaide's Eagles Class learned all about Chinese New Year. Students learned all about the traditions and stories surrounding this ancient celebration. Students watched videos of some of the marvellous parades and firework displays. In anticipation of the celebration the Eagles Class created their own Chinese Lanterns. The students worked really hard on creating interesting patterns for their lanterns and the end results were fantastic. A big well done to all who participated!



Music

This week the two Year 6 classes began their 10-week strings workshop in which they began to play the violin or cello. It was very moving to see the children concentrate so hard, count out the beats, and play in sync together. They even produced a performance by the end of the class to a backing track. Some of the children are naturals and it was hard to believe they had never played the instrument before!

During the course the children will learn to read rhythmic and melodic notation, and hopefully develop a love for the stringed instrument they have chosen. In addition they will experience the unbeatable feeling of playing music in a group with their friends. Thank you to Montse Colomé for inspiring first lesson!

Claire Foreman - Music Teacher



English

Much has been accomplished this term with regard to Year 8 and Year 10 English. Having completed our work on the Gothic tradition genre, Year 8 produced some wonderful pieces of creative writing using the Gothic characteristics of the presence of a ghost, an isolated dwelling, extreme weather and a protagonist who declares, 'I don't believe in ghosts...'. Of particular interest was the amount that all students were able to write - a sure sign that there is an increase in confidence amongst the students which may have been previously lacking. Once that is in place, improving the quality of the work is easy. Next, Year 8 began reading *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding. They have been learning about the imagined world of utopian and dystopian societies and understanding how a society operates by keeping to the rules and acknowledging the correct usage of hierarchy. They have learned about the anarchy that can ensue once that hierarchy is broken. There was some hilarity when they were asked to think of two things they could take with them should they ever be marooned on an island - I'm not sure a football and electric toothbrush is advisable - and responded well to discussions about the qualities of a good leader (all related to the themes in *Lord of the Flies*).



Year 10 have completed all the non-fiction texts required for Paper 1 and have begun to look at writing to inform. This forms part of their transactional activities, and I look forward to reading their magazine articles informing the public about a place they know well. They have worked extremely hard.

Katherine Ikonen
English Subject Leader

Science experiences in Year 7

In year 7 science this week some of our students learned about acidity and alkalinity. To further their understanding of this topic we build a pH scale rainbow. By using various substances that can be found around the house, from lemon juice to toothpaste we added universal indicator and observed our results!

Elizabeth Kirby
Science Teacher



UPCOMING EVENTS

Open Days

February 14 from 9:00 to 11:30

March 24 from 14:30 to 16:30

Parent Focus group meeting

January 29 at 16:30

Building Futures Model United Nations Y11, 12, 13

January 30 from 8:00 to 17:00

January 31 from 8:00 to 17:00

NEW DATE Year 6 transition to secondary-Meeting

February 11 at 18:00

Primary assesment and reporting meeting for parents

February 4 at 17:30

Please visit our updated school calendar in our web:

https://www.britishcollegegava.com/en_EN/about-us/school-calendar