



BCG Newsletter

11 October 2022





Welcome to our last newsletter before the half term break (Oct 22 - Nov 1). This week saw the first Book Fair of the year. Always a very popular event with the children and it was wonderful to see so many parents attend too. Alongside the fair, we had the first of what we hope will be many fundraising activities this year with the Year 7 students (along with some particularly talented teacher-bakers) holding a delicious bake sale to raise money for their trip to Normandy. A wonderful initiative that proved so taste-buddingly popular that plans for the next one are already in the oven! Congratulations and thank you to all involved.

Parent Rep Meeting

Two weeks ago we were delighted to see all of the Parent Reps come to school for our start of year meeting. It was lovely to see so many new Reps and this is a great place for me to thank all of you for the work you do for all parents and of course for the school.

The hot topic, of course, were the International Trips that have been planned for the end of the year. These have been extremely carefully planned and I would strongly encourage you to sign up if at all possible. Please remember there are always lots of ways of spreading the cost over the whole year or splitting it into three more manageable amounts etc. I will repeat what we said at the meeting, and what Ms Bell repeated at the subsequent trips meeting. We have put together a high quality trip, not cutting corners, not compromising safety and not wasting your money. The quite tight deadlines are not desirable but they are imposed on us by airlines, coach companies, hotels etc. The children will have a wonderful time, learn a lot about themselves as well as about new cultures.

Parent Events Group

We are now very much ready for Parents to help organise the Christmas Fair and the Summer Fair and we hope these events will help launch a new era in the Parents-School partnership. Please discuss with the Parent reps if you would like to be part of an Events Group.

Dates for your diary

Please make a note of the following events:

- Sports day is on 18th October
- EYFS & Primary Christmas Photoshoot is on 20th October

All other term 1 dates can be found in the [BCG Parent handbook](#).

New Open Days

Please tell your friends and colleagues about our upcoming Open Day on 18th November. We will also be exhibiting at the Barcelona International Community Day 2022 on October 22, which is for all international families.



IB World Conference

I am writing this from The Hague, Netherlands whilst attending the IB World Conference with Ms Fenton, Ms Delmet and 1600 other teachers and school leaders from across the world. We have had a very busy but profitable few days in discussions and workshops and have also taken the opportunity to catch up with our friends from BCA, Mr Lock (Principal) and Mr Quinton (DP Coordinator). So far it has been extremely useful and we have plenty of new ideas to bring back to the school.

Pick Ups and Authorisations

Please always do this by email to attendance@bcgava.com (not by phone, whatsapp or through your child) as indicated in the Parent handbook.

Parents must apply in advance in writing to the Head of Section for absences longer than two days.

For safeguarding reasons, unauthorized people are not allowed to pick up students. Parents will need to send an email to attendance@bcgava.com with the ID of the person and a written authorization. If you want a specific person to be authorized for regular pick ups, please send an email so we upload their personal information to our system.

Simon Mower
Principal

EYFS & PRIMARY NEWS



Thank you to all of our parents who supported our Book Fair event. It was great to see so many of you here browsing books with your children. The people selling the books were very complimentary about our wonderful children and their excellent manners. A proud moment for me.

It has been a busy fortnight with our one-to-one Parent Meeting evenings. Thank you for attending the meetings, supporting our teachers and giving some useful feedback. If you were unable to attend a meeting with your child's class teacher, please do contact them and they will happily arrange a time to meet with you.

We have some exciting things coming up in the final two weeks of our first half term: Year 5 Space Day, Year 4 Viking Day and the long-awaited Halloween, which we will be celebrating on the last day of term, Friday 21st October. Alongside this we will celebrate the local tradition of Castanyada too and will be selling roasted chestnuts on the day. This will be a non-uniform day and children in all classes are invited to wear fancy dress. There will be a prize in each phase (EYFS, Lower Primary and Upper Primary) for the best effort put into their costumes so go creative crazy! We will post more details later this week on Google Classroom.

I had the great privilege of reading some wonderful writing from Year 1 Dolphins and Year 5 Sharks Class this week. A HUGE well done to Max, Gabriel, Valentina, Isabel and Coco in Year 5 for sharing their fantastic newspaper reports about The Iron Man. They had remembered lots of details and facts from when they interviewed me for their news story. Super start to writing in Year 5! Bravo to Claudia and Michal in Year 1 for what can only be described as outstanding effort to produce excellent writing.

EYFS & LOWER PRIMARY

A couple of polite reminders: teachers are still being asked about birthday cakes. We have explained before that children can ONLY bring in sweets in sealed packets/wrappers to give out on birthdays. Anything edible that is given out can only be consumed off-site. It will not be eaten in school. Some children are still bringing in Smartwatches - these are not permitted. If found wearing a Smartwatch, it will be confiscated and returned at the end of the day. Thank you in advance for your support with these issues.

I wish you all a great week - a reminder next Wednesday 12th October is a school holiday.

Un abrazo,

Miss Wakelin
kelly.wakelin@bcgava.com

The Romans are coming to Year 3

It was a fun afternoon in Crustaceans last Thursday with creative minds working together to make all the different parts of a Roman soldier's uniform. Year 3 have been learning about Roman soldiers in our Guided Reading and Humanities lessons this week. They had to decide which part of the uniform they wanted to create: Helmet, tunic, sword, javelin, shield, armour and sandals and then work with their team to build it. It was a noisy time in the Year 3 corridor but it was great



fun. It was fantastic to see everyone helping each other and sharing ideas as to how to make what they had chosen. Once finished the soldiers will be displayed proudly in our classrooms ready to protect should any enemies try to attack!

Miss Stevens and Ms Baker

SECONDARY NEWS

Halloween and Castanyada

We will be holding a non-uniform day for La Castanyada and Halloween, where those children who opt not to come in uniform will have some either despicably scary or respectfully elderly garb on. Ghouls and grannies will pay 2 euros for the pleasure which will go towards the school charities. There will be a competitive element for the best (sustainably) dressed form rooms. More details will be available soon.

Prefects

The prefects gave their first assembly to the KS3-5 year groups accompanied by an ever-popular Kahoot. They continue to meet with me weekly where we discuss the hot topics of the day.

Events

As the nights begin to draw in as autumn arrives at BCG we continue to experience great engagement from your wonderful children. Ms Bell will talk about the activities involved in the upcoming enrichment week in this edition of the newsletter. We can now see beyond the horizon of Half Term to a number of events that are approaching: trips and academic events that form part of the autumn cycle. Booking will open next week for the parents' evenings.

October

- October 17th - October 21st - (Y13) - Formal Assessment Week
- October 18th - 10:30 am to 3:30 pm - Secondary Sports Day
- October 20th - (Y7-Y11) Grades to Parents - RAG report and working at grades with a target

November

- November 2nd - (Y12-13) - 4:45 pm to 6:30 pm Student-Parents Evening
- November 4th & 5th - (Y11-Y13) Duke of Edinburgh Practice Expedition
- November 7th - (Y7) - 4:45 pm to 6:30 pm - Parents Evening
- November 8th - (Y9) - Talk by Local Police
- November 8th - (Y10) - 4:45 pm to 6:30 pm – Parents Evening
- November 11th - Remembrance Day Assembly
- November 14th- Anti-Bullying Week starts
- November 21st - 2nd - (Y 7-10) - Secondary Formal Assessment Fortnight
- November 23rd - (Years 7-10) - 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm - Parent Rep Meeting Key Stage 3 & 4

SECONDARY NEWS

- November 24th - 4:30 pm – 5:30pm - After School Talk - Public Speaking, Budding Entrepreneurs and Leadership for Children
- November 28th (Y12) - Y12 Assessment Week starts
- November 30th - International Universities Fair

Mr Ruddin
Head of Secondary



Year 7 cake sale

Year 7 organised a cake sale last week to raise funds for their trip. This was a fantastic success with them raising 260 euros. This shows what fantastic leaders and passionate students we have in this year group. I was very impressed with the effort they put in as well as the tasty cakes that were on sale. Well done to year 7.

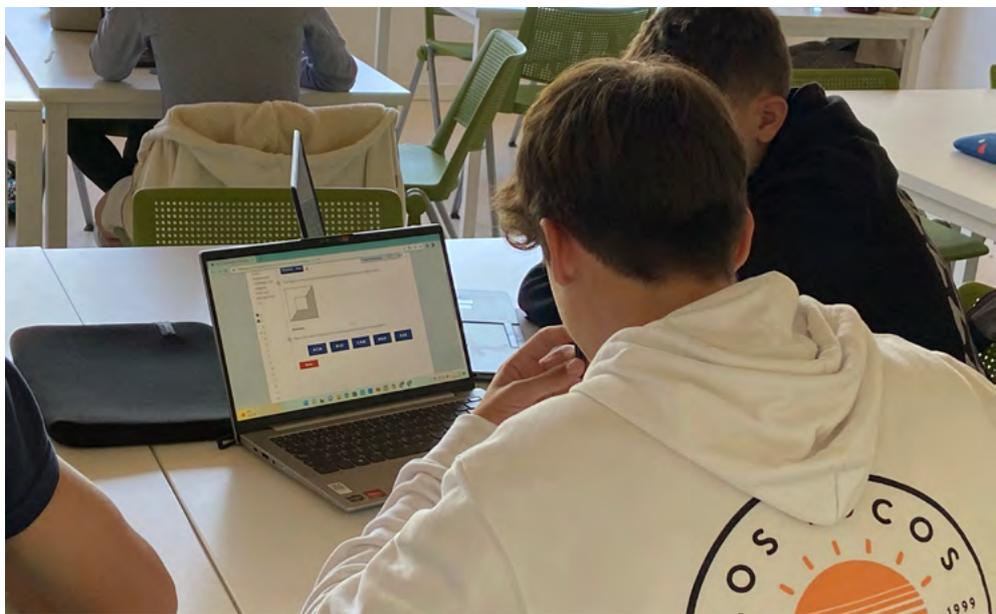
Ms Darby and Mr Fassam

SECONDARY NEWS

UKMT Senior Maths Challenge

On Tuesday our Year 12 and Year 13 Higher Level Maths students took part in the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge. Here they faced 25 challenging questions which tested their ability to apply creative thinking to their mathematical knowledge in order to solve problems. This prestigious, international competition is a fantastic opportunity for our talented students to really test themselves by applying maths in unfamiliar contexts and it will certainly help to deepen their general understanding of the subject. We look forward to receiving the results soon and we have high hopes of achieving a number of gold, silver and bronze certificates.

Mr Lester



INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE NEWS

Year 13 Biology and Physics Internal Assessments

On Monday 19th September, the students in Year 13 studying Biology and Physics started the vital process of their internal assessments. This is a piece of unique research involving a scientific experiment which counts as 20% of their final grade in these subjects. Everyone was encouraged to come up with their own topic, based on their own interests, and everyone responded to the challenge with great enthusiasm.

Over the last three weeks we have been running experiments and investigations looking into a wide range of topics. In Biology, there has been an investigation looking into the ability of tea to aid in protein digestion, another that is trying to determine whether caffeine from coffee grains will impact the ability of seeds to germinate, and another looking at whether wasted energy drinks could potentially have a negative impact on the ability of aquatic plants to photosynthesise.

In Physics, there were experiments ranging from an investigation looking at whether temperature has an effect on the elasticity of materials, to an experiment conducted to find out if the surface tension of water was affected by different objects hitting it. Then there was another that involved looking at whether if you cook popcorn at different temperatures, that temperature has an effect on the kinetic energy within the popcorn when it pops. The labs smelt fabulous during that last one!

Everyone has demonstrated fantastic levels of enthusiasm for their own projects, and excellent understanding of the scientific method.

Now the data collection stage is over, students have to work on their own to complete their write up. The deadline for their first full draft is **November 14th**.

The practical sessions for the Chemistry IAs will take place after half term.

Ms Lane



INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE NEWS

Year 12 IB students - Extended Essay

It has been great to start working with the Y12 students this month on their research skills. They are now familiar with academic honesty, source evaluation and databases such as JSTOR. It is important students know how to choose sources that are reliable and relevant to them and how to acknowledge the work of others. In this workshop, Y12 students were learning more about APA, our referencing system for DP students and in-text citations.

Ms Delmet



The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Practice Expedition

Friday 4th November to Saturday 5th November

A year ago we successfully launched The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award here at BCG. We had a fantastic uptake from students, and over the last year participants have been working hard to meet their own personal goals set in learning a new skill, in a physical activity and in a volunteering activity. Now it is time for the final section - the Adventurous Journey.

On Friday 4th November, students from Years 11, 12 and 13 will be setting out on their Duke of Edinburgh Practice Expedition. This is open to **all students** from these years, including those who have not signed up to the Award, and will be **free of charge**. Over the past 5 weeks everyone has been working hard to learn the required skills and prepare for over 24 hours of being completely self-sufficient.

The expedition will be around the Castelldefels and Gava area, providing an excellent opportunity for students to experience amazing areas of nature that are right on their doorstep! We will meet at Port Ginesta at 9am on Friday 4th November (students will have to make their own way there), where students will then either

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE NEWS

start off on their planned route or be taken to the start point in the school minibus. They will then begin their planned route: exploring the world around them while supervised by staff, and making their way to the school. Students will be out for over 6 hours of planned activity. An important reminder for parents: participants have to be as self-sufficient as possible for the duration of this expedition, which means they must take everything they need with them.

This will then be followed by a camping experience in the school grounds, during which students will be cooking their own meals, and on Saturday morning following a self-cooked breakfast and packing up their camp, there will be another exploration. This time of the beautiful natural areas around Gava Mar. Students will be expected to do 4 hours of purposeful activity on Saturday morning, finishing back at the school ready for pick up.

[For more information, please see the letter that was sent out to all parents of Year 11, 12 and 13](#)

To succeed students will have to work closely as a team and be responsible for one another, and everyone has developed their teamwork skills through a variety of challenges and tasks in school. They are now working in their groups to plan the route of their expedition while also gathering the final pieces of their kit. This expedition is focused on being climate friendly, with minimal emissions and as little impact on the environment as possible, so students are encouraged to organise amongst themselves how to share the key pieces of camp kit that they will need.

It is our aim to cultivate a love for the natural beauty of our amazing location, and we know that everyone is going to have a fantastic time while also demonstrating that they have the required skills to be entered in for the qualifying expeditions that will take place later in the school year.

Hopefully this will also inspire some of our newer students to sign up to the Award, and to find out what they too can achieve if they set their mind to it!

The deadline for authorisation has been extended to **Friday 14th October**. Parents, please authorise your child's attendance on this expedition on the [school booking system](#).

For more information on the Award in general, please [see this presentation](#). Any questions, please send them to me at ella.lane@bcgava.com

Miss Ella Lane

NEW STAFF



Laura Oliva

Admin &
Exams

After graduating from High School in the US, I studied Tourism and Business administration at Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona.

I have been working in the tourism industry for the last 20 years in different roles such as front desk clerk, event planner, and administrative accountant.

During the pandemic, the company where I worked had to suspend its

activity and I took the opportunity to train in one of my passions, English and teaching.

I perfected my English and obtained the Cambridge CELTA diploma.

This allowed me to work in different schools and language academies teaching English to children and teenagers.



Estela Navarro

SEND Teacher
Assistant

I obtained my degree in psychology two years ago and worked as a SEND TA in a few schools, supporting different children.

Also, I have been teaching music for about five years, (specially piano and singing lessons) and have been a monitor in many entities.

I was eager to grow professionally and BCG was the perfect opportunity for me.

At present, I am still taking jazz and modern music lessons in “Taller de Musics” in Barcelona. I enjoy taking on new challenges and I am glad to be here!

Thank you very much!

Dear parents / guardians,

Enrichment Mental Health Awareness Week

The World Health Organization's annual Mental Health Day takes place on Monday 10th October 2022. In line with this, BCG's secondary students will be involved in a series of activities and discussions this week that aim to raise awareness of this significant global issue which is, post-pandemic, particularly pertinent. Mr. Russell will be providing us with daily meditation practices, we will be encouraging attendance at the Safe Space club (every Thursday with Ms. Jensen) to open dialogue and share perspectives on a number of topics concerning our mental health and well-being and our senior students will be leading a series of assemblies. Our staff will initiate subject specific, content-related activities throughout the week to encourage engagement with this week's focused theme. [Click the link](#) to read more.

Week Without Walls

The school booking system is now closed and we are discussing final numbers with the agency. Hopefully, by the end of this week, we will be able to confirm which trips will go ahead.

Year 3, 4 and 5 Summer Residentials and Year 11 Ski Trip

Our year 3 students always recall with great fondness their sleepover in the Barcelona Aquarium. Consequently, we are aiming to book this for our current Crabs and Lobsters.

Year 4 will go to Sant Quirze Safaja and year 5 to La Garrotxa, each on 3 day, 2 night trips full of adventure and activity! Overviews in the table below. The [school booking system](#) is now open and the deadline for authorisation is **Friday 21st October, 23.59hrs**. Letters with more detailed information will be sent this week by the trips team and will also be posted on your child's google classroom.

We continue to work with our sister school on the year 11 ski experience at the amazing Andorra ski resorts. The British College of Andorra (BCA) is finalising the itinerary and we will provide this in due course. This trip is planned for mid-February allowing year 11 students a chance to mix, mingle, meet new friends (and perhaps potential study buddies?) before knuckling down to prepare for their IGCSEs. Please note that as BCA and BCG half terms are not aligned, this ski trip runs into the first weekend of BCG's half term. Nonetheless, this is a great opportunity for the exam students at both BCA and BCG to get together to share learning and have fun!

Year	Location	Dates	Cost
3	Barcelona Aquarium	Week of 13th - 17th May	TBC
4	Mas Badó	15th May - 17th May	240 euro 3 installments of 80 euro: End October, December and February.
5	Estada Mas Pinsach	22nd May - 24th May	240 euro 3 installments of 80 euro: End October, December and February.
11	Andorra	15th February - 19th February	TBC

Secondary Sports Day

Parents must authorise their child's attendance for sports day. Please do so on the [school booking system](#) before the end of this week. This will take place on TUESDAY 18th OCTOBER at the Gava Sports Track from 10.30 - 15.30. Our students have been preparing for all events in P.E. lessons and are excited to compete.

Will the RED house manage to emerge victorious for the second year in a row????

Parents are strongly encouraged to come along and support. This year our parents and staff will JOIN FORCES and compete against our upper secondary Relay Teams. If you want to run, please be warmed up and ready to win for 15.00!!!
Everyone should be wearing their house colours please.

P.E. Stars of the Fortnight

In this edition we celebrate the top 15 students with the best performances in the 12 minute cooper test. Every student in year 7, 8, 9 and 10 took part in this test of Cardio-Respiratory Endurance and our top 15 were:



Student Name	Year Group	Year Achieved	Laps Ran	Distance Ran (m)
Juan Pablo Sykes	8	October 2022	17.5	4025
Rafael dos Santos Costa Kaku	9	October 2022	16	3680
Biel Valle Teruel	8	October 2022	16	3680
Kaius Lehtonen	7	October 2022	14	3220
Marc Perez	9	October 2022	14	3220
Liam Caceres Ortiz	9	October 2022	14	3220
Aron Castillo	9	October 2022	14	3220
Noelia Villanueva Barrasa	9	October 2022	13	2990
Eve Fassam	7	October 2022	12.5	2875
Anna Luneva	8	October 2022	11.5	2645
Valentina Rebecca	8	October 2022	11.5	2645
Laia Gaisser Gallo	8	October 2022	11.5	2645
Jessica Sackey	7	October 2022	11	2530
Lara Roche	7	October 2022	11	2530
Vera d'Hooghe	8	October 2022	11	2530

Congratulations to Juan Pablo Sykes in year 8 for running just over 4kms in 12 minutes! Amazing. The next 12 minute challenge will be in February. Can JPS retain his title?

We also wish to say a huge WELL DONE to Mathias Derkx and Daniel Mendoza Grima, both year 10, who have been using the fitness suite at lunch times and working on achieving their own personal fitness goals.

#DOITFORYOUR HOUSE



BCG SPORTS DAY

Tuesday October 18th

From 10,30 am to 3,30 pm

For Secondary students only

Parents are invited (and encouraged) to join and win points for their child's colour house.

Will the Red House win again?



LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT



LANGUAGE OF THE MONTH NEWSLETTER: HEBREW

During September and October we have been celebrating Hebrew as our language of the month. We began with assemblies, learning about the Hebrew language and the culture of Hebrew speakers. We learnt, for example, that Hebrew is an ancient language that has been spoken for at least 3000 years. We also learnt that the Hebrew alphabet has 22 letters and that Hebrew is written and read from right to left. Our Hebrew speakers also taught us about Challah bread, Tapuach bedvash and how to say some things in Hebrew. (Shalom!) A really big thank you to all our Hebrew speakers, in particular Suf, Eyal, Gaya and Liam, who gave a fantastic assembly explaining their experience of speaking Hebrew and of Israeli and Jewish culture, well done!



After half term we will be celebrating Swedish. If any of our Swedish families would like to get involved, or if you have any new ideas, please let us know!

Mr Fassam



eATHLETE GROWS!

We have recently expanded our eAthlete program to include musicians! As with sports, musicians are required to make huge sacrifices and commitment to progress and succeed. None more so than our new student, 14 year old pianist with a plan to reach the top. He has joined BCG due to the unique flexibility and understanding we offer our students and their lives outside of school.

He is a remarkable musician as you may have seen from recent social media posts. He has been living in the Barcelona/Castelldefels area for 3 and a half years but originally comes from Shenzhen in China. He started playing piano as a hobby only 1 and a half years ago and quickly progressed to the level he is today by practicing regularly. He enjoys it so much he now practices 3 to 5 hours per day!



With the support of his family and piano teacher he is now applying to the prestigious Mahidol Music School (Conservatoire) in Bangkok from December 2023.

You can look forward to seeing him perform at school soon.

NEW DRUM TEACHER - WELCOME ROBERT GIBIAQUI

We are delighted to welcome our new drum teacher who will start teaching at BCG after half term.

Robert Gibiaqui is a professional drummer whose passion for music and drums began at the very young age of 8 years old.

His career spans more than 28 years at a professional level which has resulted in playing around the world in over 33 countries.

He has played at the best festivals around the world (to name a few):

- GLASTONBURY Festival UK
- STRAWBERRY Music Festival Shanghai - China
- LAMC Festival Central Park NYC - USA
- MTV Music Award Moscow – Russia

And it should be noted that he has played in such emblematic places as (to name a few):

- The Fillmore of San Francisco
- The Greek Theater in Los Angeles
- Cesar Palace Las Vegas Hotel
- Crocus City Hall in Moscow

He has played and recorded with great artists such as:

Sergey Lazarev (Russian Popsart), Manu Chao, Brazzaville (ex- member of Beck), Capitan Melao (ex member from

Stereophonics), Carlos Sadness and many others. He is currently the drummer of the famous Barcelona band DORIAN.

He has been nominated at the Pop & Rock Awards for “Best Drummer” in 1999, 2000 and 2001. Rob has lived in Amsterdam, London, Moscow and now in Barcelona for many years.

Link drum solo Live in Russia:
<https://youtu.be/3AGEz7tiqxc>



Claire McDonald

SEND NEWS

Dear parents,

In our wish to make the school an open thrilling educational community, the SEND department is offering a series of workshops aimed at parents. These will provide an opportunity to learn, understand and discuss ways to help your children at home.

Topic will be:

- **Dyslexia** - From a neuropsychological perspective we will unfold the dyslexic brain to understand what dyslexia is, how it affects learning, what strategies we use at school and how to help from home.
- **Emotional intelligence** - Emotional intelligence is a flexible set of skills that can be acquired and improved with practice. We will be exploring the core components of emotional intelligence zooming into emotional awareness and regulation. By teaching children appropriate ways of dealing with their emotions and the emotions of others, we will be helping them establish healthy relationships with the people around them and improving their quality of life as a whole.
- **ADHD** - ADHD is one of the most common neurodevelopmental disorders of childhood. In this workshop we will explore the neuropsychological pathways involved in attention, impulsivity and executive functioning, understanding what it means for a child with ADHD to learn at school and do homework, as well as how to manage behavior.
- **Growth Mindset** - A growth mindset is the understanding that we can develop our abilities and intelligence so that it isn't a fixed construct. In this workshop we will find out the implications of those beliefs in children's attitude towards learning and failure. Parents will get to know how they can support their children embracing challenges, taking feedback constructively, pushing themselves outside of their comfort zone and developing resilience and perseverance.

Workshops will be held monthly at 16:30 at school:

- **Dyslexia. 14th November at 16:30**
- Emotional intelligence - December 2022
- ADHD - January 2023
- Growth Mindset - February 2023

If you are interested in participating, please email alba.rosas@bcgava.com or laia.boix@bcgava.com

GLIMPSE OF THE WEEKS



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