



# WEEKLY BULLETIN

April 24<sup>th</sup> 2020

*Education is what remains after one has forgotten what one has learned in school. - **Albert Einstein***

This whole experience will make many of our students stronger, more independent and with a better sense of responsibility for their own learning. I am sure that many of our teachers will adapt their teaching methods after this is over. I have no doubt that the use of video conferencing and online collaboration will be a welcome addition to our offering in the future. You have all adjusted extremely well, impressively actually, to the demands of online learning and teaching. The students, in particular, have adapted and it is wonderful to see just how many remain entirely focussed and on task, even after five weeks. Clearly, some children in Early Years and Lower Primary still need some support at home, but I hope that all parents, in particular those of children in Upper Primary, understand the importance of their children working independently. Doing work for the children, or assisting them significantly, does not help them at all. In school they solve problems and find solutions on their own and this should also be happening at home too.

We are not only teaching the formal curriculum, but also the more holistic aspects of an education, in particular developing strength of character and perseverance in our students. A positive outcome from a very difficult situation will be that more of our students are

independent learners, have developed their organisational skills and are more self aware. All essential life skills.

Of course this week was Sant Jordi and I am very much looking forward to seeing the wonderful festivities in all their splendour next year. Interestingly, Sant Jordi is St George, the patron Saint of England and we have very similar stories about his conquest with dragons but unfortunately no roses or books! So, I would say the Catalonian traditions are far more enchanting for young and old alike. It was world book day too on Thursday, which was very appropriate.

On Wednesday we also had the 50th Earth Day which reminds me that when COVID-19 has been contained and we are back at school we will start work on our sustainability strand that will run through the whole school. It will eventually form part of the DNA of BCG.

We will teach our students the essential responsibilities they will have as they grow up, responsibilities to themselves, to each other and to our planet.

**Simon Mower**

# Professional Learning Community



# Science and Environment Week

Dear Parents,

I hope you are keeping up and I wanted to write some words to keep you informed of the journey we have been going through in the Secondary School over the course of the lockdown.

Two weeks ago I detailed our various approaches to online assessment and related feedback to pupils, as this was something very real that I could see, was impressed by, and wanted to make visible. The teachers have evolved their teaching, week by week as they adapt to new circumstances, share their experiences and learn from each other. They want to improve their teaching and it is quite something to see that they always want to do it better; they are always looking to improve. I feel that there is a remarkable quality to what we are doing now, despite the circumstances. That is not to downplay the difficulties you may have in managing the situation at home and in dealing with this new 'on screen' world.

What we now have amongst the teaching staff is a remarkable spirit of togetherness and community. The community is social and also professional. The sense of supportive professional learning community started to develop before the lockdown and has strengthened since, as teachers share best practice and new ideas, as well as keeping their spirits up with the usual jokes and videos! We will be leaving lockdown in a very strong place as we have a group, a team, of dedicated professionals all committed to improving and supporting teaching and learning.

**John Prince**

## Exam update (GCSE and A-Levels)

As you are aware, the formal sitting of the external exams is cancelled this year and we will be asked to submit predicted grades in early June. Results will be awarded in August as usual.

We have not received precise details yet, but we are expected to be asked to submit evidence to justify the grades we submit. Therefore it is vital that all students carry on studying as intensively as possible as the work they are doing now may well be used as supporting evidence.

**John Prince**

Dear Parents,

Next week we will be emphasising project based learning on the themes related to Science and the Environment. Themes will include Carbon footprint, Technology in a sustainable future, Recycling, Human activities and animal behaviour and building a sustainable school. It would be wonderful if you could get involved in the experiments - they are all designed to be performed at home. They include oobleck (yes, oobleck), the science of baking (yum yum), egg into a bottle, flower dissection, walking water, and my favourite, jelly bear osmosis.

Ella Lane expands on this in her article and I wish to thank the science team of Dr John Jim, Ella Lane, Elizabeth Kirby, Dr Colin Link and Jude Timothy for planning this and bringing it to life.

Timetables for Primary and for Year 7, 8 and 9 will be adjusted next week and all pupils will be informed in Google Classroom from Monday morning. However, it should be noted that Year 10, 11, 12 and 13 will continue on the normal timetable as Exam preparation is essential and continues as usual.

It will be hard to follow that, but we will try and we will be having a Monster Maths Monday on Monday 04 May. Details in next week's newsletter.

**John Prince**

# STEM Week

What a great two weeks! I'm so happy to be a part of this community. It's been an unorthodox start, but I can honestly say that I am enjoying it. I do miss being in a lab though, and being able to run practical activities with my lessons, which is why I am really excited to announce that next week will be STEM week!

It's going to be a week full of exciting activities to engage the entire family with the STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths), all with the focus on 'sustainability' and designed to forge your child's connection with science and develop this into a deep love of the subject.

Activities will include independent tasks, to help your child build self-reliance and essential study skills, including tasks which will encourage students to research using our wonderful new Encyclopedia Britannica School. We will also have budding scientists (including Hudson - a young entomologist who is eager to show off his stick insects!), live demonstrations of kitchen science experiments, interactive challenges for you to have a go at at home, and more!

Students will gain a huge number of valuable, transferable skills from engaging with the activities. They will have the chance to put their design skills to the test to build a model of a sustainable school, and they will develop their public speaking and presentation skills through writing their very own TED talks.

Monday and Tuesday will have a focus on IT and Physics, and Wednesday and Thursday will focus on Biology and Chemistry.

We would really appreciate any evidence of your child engaging with the activities - as pictures of their finished work or videos of them completing the challenges - our aim is to build a STEM wall of fame to showcase what your child has achieved during this time.

We know that this is going to be an amazing week for all years - the STEM subjects are incredibly important, and we hope that you have as much fun carrying out the activities as we have had planning them!

**Ella Lane**



## What are we missing most?

This week we asked the staff and students what they miss most about not being at school. The word cloud shows their answers - the larger the word the more common the answer. Not surprisingly most answers refer to friends and exercise!

We also asked the staff and here are a few of their replies!

"Welcoming everyone back to class, hearing lockdown stories, emerging from the cocoon."

"I am looking forward to seeing all of the children again and their lovely smiley faces!"

"What I am looking forward to most about coming back to school is daily face-to-face interaction with Secondary and Sixth form students."

"Looking forward to seeing how many pupils are now taller than me!"

"I'm looking forward to Omar and Alvis asking me lots of questions ;)"

"Seeing Cesar and Viku"

"I'm looking forward to being able to chat informally and have a joke in the corridor with my students and colleagues. I also miss hearing music wafting through the halls from music lessons all day long."

## IB Update

**BCG** continues behind the scenes with its preparation to become an **IB World School**. A large proportion of our staff are now actively involved in the authorization process: collaborating on school policies, exploring IB philosophy, standards and practices through online workshops and focus groups and preparing initial course outlines. Despite the difficult circumstances regarding practical work on our marvellous new building, we are continuing with our resourcing by planning our new library and resource centre to ensure we surpass IB guidelines. Our examination cohorts, including GCSE and A-level students, will enjoy these new facilities from September.

**Ms Fenton**

# Earth Day

On 22nd April, to celebrate Earth day, Year 5 completed a range of activities including acrostic poems, using reading skills to learn about Palm Oil and creating a Commitment Craft Mobile. Here are some lovely examples of their work. It is lovely to see the children caring about their planet and showing such an interest in learning more about how we can look after it. Well done Year 5!

## Year 5 Team

For Earth Day this year Swallow and Kiwis made `fortune tellers` that high-lighted all the different ways we could protect the planet.

On each of the 8 flaps inside the fortune teller was written one thing that we could do to protect planet Earth and under each flap was written an explanation of why it was so important and how this actually improved the environment.

As you can see the results were very impressive as well as being spectacular to look at.

## Year 6 Team.



## THE HANDSTAND CHALLENGE!

The Year 6 Team would like to give a big shout out to Camelia Jallouli from Swallow Class for the brilliant training and exercise videos she has regularly posted for her class. Camelia, who is a talented tennis player, told us that she wanted to help keep her friends and classmates entertained, fit and healthy during confinement. This week, Camelia posted a direct challenge to Mr. Steadman - The Handstand Challenge! Here is a video of Camelia showing us how it's done - please don't try this at home unless you are very strong! Mr. Steadman - you have been dared! Well done Camelia for maintaining such a positive attitude in difficult circumstances!



# April 23rd: Sant Jordi confined

On April, one of our most beautiful traditional literary festivals of the year in Catalonia arrives. From the Spanish / Catalan Department, we didn't want to miss the opportunity to celebrate Sant Jordi, even in the most unusual circumstances, confined.

It is always a good time to celebrate reading and love, so what better way to do it by offering all our students a series of activities in Spanish and Catalan for this new "Sant Jordi confinado".

BCG joined the Casa Batlló initiative "Balconies dressed in roses" (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5LEKtpnDB40>). Primary students have designed the most original and creative roses using recycled materials, paint, food and a host of different resources. In addition, they have accompanied all these roses with positive messages to remember that "we all do Sant Jordi."

We couldn't forget the legend and we have seen different versions, the traditional one and many new versions. The little ones have carried out activities to tell the traditional legend orally, with comics and writing. In primary school, students have reinvented history in a very fun way, using new characters such as the most popular nowadays "the Coronavirus" or their own BCG classmates.

On the other hand, reading is accompanying us a lot during this confinement, and it is an opportunity to read more than ever. The students have read in the most unusual places at home and have portrayed that moment with the #KeepReadingAcasa hashtag.

We couldn't miss music, an essential ingredient for this celebration. Students have sung and danced traditional Sant Jordi songs with the Catalan music group "El Pot Petit".

To finish, we have become chefs and we have prepared traditional and special menus for the special day. Toast with roasted vegetables and anchovies, alphabet soup, Sant Jordi bread, and even pizza. It was delicious!

We hope that you have all enjoyed the activities and that you continue celebrating reading and love.

Happy confined 2020 Sant Jordi!

**Ms Sadurní, Mr Sales and Ms Delmet**





## Reinventing our rose and book celebration

On April 23rd, the streets of cities and towns are crowded with people and stalls selling books and roses. It is about celebrating the feast of the patron saint of Catalonia and remembering this tradition based on love and culture. However, this year we have reinvented the celebration so that, despite the pandemic, the spirit of this tradition can be kept. From the confinement in our houses we have enjoyed various activities and initiatives related to the rose and book day.

In high school, students have also joined the Casa Batlló appeal that under the motto #TotsFemSantJordi, invites everyone to decorate their balconies with roses. In addition to the action on the balconies, and in order to promote reading to reduce the negative effects of confinement and boredom, they have sent us images of them, in different spaces of the house, reading a book.

On the other hand, in the Spanish subject, the students from Y8 to Y11 have participated in a micro-story contest, promoted by the newspaper La Vanguardia due to Sant Jordi. In Catalan subject students have reinvented the traditional legend of the knight Sant Jordi and the princess, incorporating elements from modern and current society, and they have also written fantastic calligrams demonstrating how talented they are. They have listened to "Amagada Primavera" from the group Txarango, a song that tells us about the celebration of April 23rd in the city of Barcelona ([https://youtu.be/2uOnVK\\_UVTc](https://youtu.be/2uOnVK_UVTc)). Finally, the Y10 and Y11 students have recited some poems from contemporary Catalan authors, taking care of diction, rhythm and communication skills.

We wish that all of you have been able to spend a happy book and rose day, together with your family.

Happy confined 2020 Sant Jordi!

**Ms Benito and Ms Pou**

Curiosidades sobre la Diada de Sant Jordi



**Did you know that Antoni Gaudí represented the legend of Sant Jordi in the architecture and design of Casa Batlló so that over the years this tradition would stay alive?** In the Gaudí building you can see motifs referring to the dragon, the sword of Sant Jordi and a flower-shaped balcony alluding to the princess's balcony.

The legend of Sant Jordi happened in the village of Montblanc.

According to the legend, Sant Jordi saved his princess by killing the dragon from whose blood a rose was born.

**Did you know that the tradition of giving a rose dates back to the 15th century, according to ancient documents?**

Sant Jordi is the patron saint of lovers in Catalonia.

April 23rd is also World Book Day promoted by UNESCO. A universal tribute to books and authors. Authors such as Shakespeare, Cervantes, Maurice Druon, Vladimir Nabokov; Josep Pla or William Wordsworth are linked to this celebration.

# AUSTRALIA

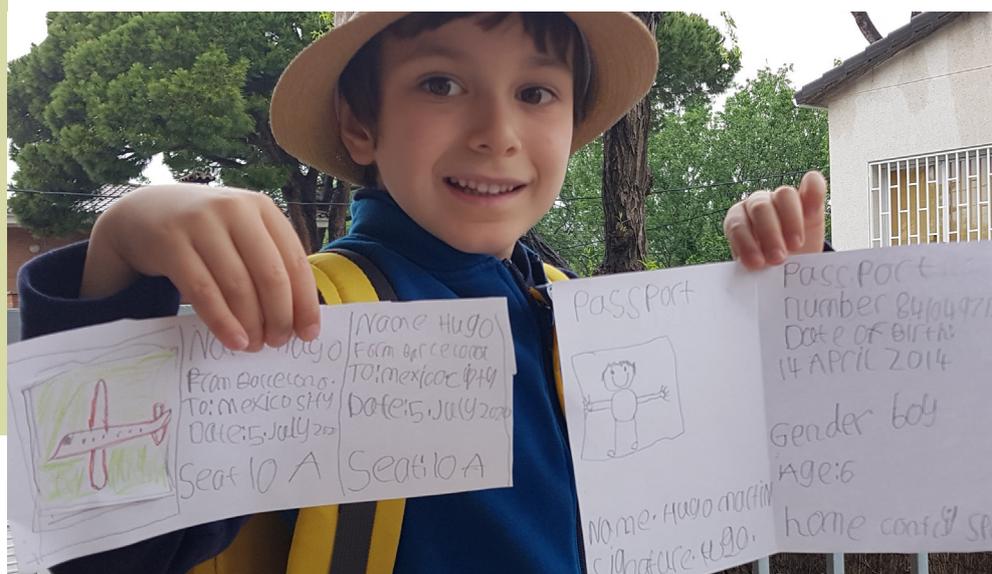
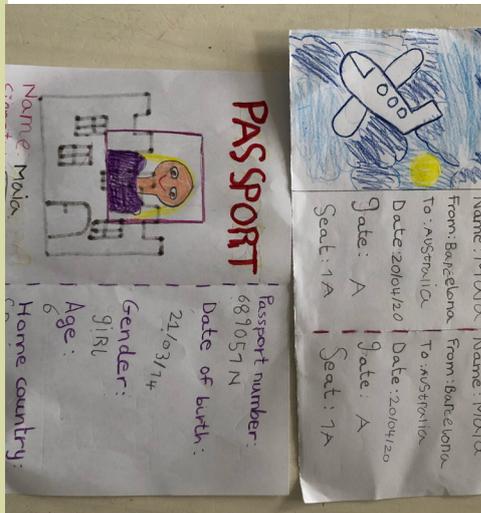
This term the children in Year One are learning about Australia. From the Outback and Sydney Opera house, to kangaroos and Aboriginal art, the boys and girls of Year One are going on a journey through this wonderfully exciting topic!

Following on from last week's learning where we learned where Australia is in relation to Spain, this week we explored how we would actually get to sunny Australia! Getting on an airplane is something we all dream about at the moment but in Year One we went a step further! The children explored what we would need to get on a plane and then they had amazing fun making their very own passports and boarding tickets. The children continued to prepare for their trip by packing a suitcase with all the essential items...(Lily packed lots of swimming suits!)

It was a great start to the week seeing all the boys and girls with their suitcases, sunglasses and sun hats! It's important in times like these to remember that things will change and a day will soon come when we'll all be back out and about with our suitcase, sunglasses and sun hats enjoying the beautiful world we all love and share!

Well done Year One for another spectacular week of learning! I have never been as proud of children as when I see your enthusiastic little faces every morning sitting ready to learn at your computers at home! Have a fabulous weekend and we will see you again on Monday to continue our beautiful adventures 'Down Under'.

**Ms O'Connor**





# BCG SIXTH FORM

## Things have changed at BCG

We are now moving into a new phase at BCG and you will be the first students to benefit from our outstanding new facilities and enhanced programme of academic and university progression. We will support you in your academic studies as well as helping you choose and apply to the university of your choice anywhere in the world.

### What are A Levels?

Advanced level qualifications (known as A levels) are subject-based qualifications that can lead to university, further study, training, or work. AS levels take one year to complete and A levels are studied across two years. They're assessed by a series of examinations at the end of each year. At BCG we do the Pearson (Edexcel) AS and AL qualifications (<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels.html>)

### Choosing your subjects

The most important criteria for choosing A levels subjects are:

- Looking at what you are likely to enjoy and be good at. If you enjoy a subject or have an ability in it already, you are more likely to do well.
- Are there any particular subjects and/or grades you may need? If you have a particular career, job, or further study in mind, you may need to choose specific A levels in order to meet entry requirements.
- How open you want to keep your future study and career choices?

### Timetable

From September 2020 we are making big changes to the Sixth Form at BCG. You will receive a full timetable and be in school all day everyday. It is essential that you participate fully in the Sixth Form life to maximise your chances of going to the university of your choice.

You will receive 6 hours tuition in each subject every week, between 3-6 hours of personal study time, 90 minutes of PE and up to 3 hours of personal tutorials where you will be supported in your research for careers and university options.

### Leadership opportunities

We will be introducing a range of opportunities for you to develop your leadership skills during your two years in the Sixth Form at BCG. Apart from being really enjoyable, this will allow you develop essential skills for the future.

### Careers and University application support

The application for universities around the world can be extremely complex and each country uses a different system. With our new guidance platform Unifrog we will be able to support each one of you through this process in a straightforward and effective way.

### Next steps

If you would like to discuss our new Sixth Form programme please contact me directly [simon.mower@bcgava.com](mailto:simon.mower@bcgava.com) and I will ensure you get the answers to your questions straight away. I am also happy to arrange a call with you and your parents to discuss your future.

