



# BCA Parent Newsletter

Topic and Science Lab



# Topic Work

In BCA, we have our own methodology based on the recognition that all students have different capacities and needs which must be addressed in the classroom. Therefore, our teachers plan their lessons with these differences in mind putting the learning within the extended grasp of the individual children who are the centre of all activities. Each class is seen as a workshop in which all children participate in a variety of ways receiving continuous encouragement and feedback on their learning journey.

The British College of Andorra prides itself on adopting a 'personalised learning' approach. What this means practically is that while the British National Curriculum objectives are worked towards, the talented teachers have autonomy to adapt the content and teaching strategies to the specific needs of our students. Our school planning is best described as 'personalised', 'creative', and 'forward thinking' as teachers provide the most stimulating and meaningful educational experience for the students in their care.

Each Primary Class has a Topic and each term or half term, classes change their Topic, so they can have different themes to be stimulated by. Activities from every area, sciences, humanities, languages, mathematics, the arts, are related to the same topic, to achieve a global knowledge and create openminded students.

Other benefits of learning through Topics are:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| • To make connections between concepts and to compare different approaches      | • To open their minds and assimilate data that broaden their cultural knowledge |
| • To motivate students to have curiosity and interest to learn above the basics | • To develop a critical approach, rather than memorising large amounts of data  |



# Cygnets

Cygnets have been learning vocabulary about 'Transport' and 'Professions' as they practise their phonics and their writing. This topic has linked to their maths' work also, counting cars and trucks. The Cygnets are really enjoying learning this term!





## Penguins

Penguins' topic this half term is based on the book, Peter Rabbit. The children are enjoying outdoor learning with their own little vegetable garden and taking care of their carrots. They are also focusing on trying to use their phonics to make complete sentences when writing about Peter Rabbit's adventures.





## Owls

Mancala is a famous African game. Traditionally, the game was played in the soil using seeds as counters. Children have to use their counting skills and think tactically before taking their turn. Owls' class have adapted this game to support their understanding of multiplication. In preparation, they made a colourful game boards using recycled egg boxes and chickpeas as counters.





## Eagles

As part of their term long study of The Romans, Eagles' class has been investigating how the Roman made ink. It all started with a trip to the Science lab to see carbon being created. This carbon is then mixed with other ingredients to make their own version of the ink the Roman's would have used. They then made and wrote with their own quill pens.





## Hawks

In Hawks' Class, children have been combining Maths and Science work connected to their topic about Egypt. First they learnt to convert measurements of length and then they measured their bodies. Using the scale 1:2 or 1:3, they divided their measurements. Finally, they created their own scale skeletons. This helped them to understand the bones of the human body.





## Science Laboratory

Having a Science Laboratory at school has clear benefits for students, it helps develop scientific reasoning abilities and practical skills, as well as increasing understanding in science.

Learning takes place through experience and involves trial by error method and problem-solving skills.

Our Science Laboratory also helps develop teamwork. Collaboration enables students to creatively engage, communicate with others and develop leadership skills.

The role of laboratory practical work is to encourage active learning, critical thinking and a scientific based approach to learning.

Furthermore, we believe in 'learning by doing.' Our students have the experience of seeing Science come to life and this promotes a sense of life long interest and curiosity in Science.



### What do you like most about working at BCA?

What I like most about working at this school is being in contact with so many different cultures, being able to practise English every day and to work with students of all ages. Also, I have been lucky enough to meet colleagues who I now consider friends and who always are there to help.

### What do you like most about living and working in Andorra?

I have always lived in Barcelona, I'm a city girl, but the good thing about Andorra is that it allows me to have the services and comforts of a city whilst at the same time providing me with the views and contact with nature that are typical of the mountains. If I had done this same interview in the school where I worked in Barcelona, I would be looking at the façade of the building next door; however, I can write these lines with some incredible mountains in front of me that still have their summits dusted with snow and that is priceless.

### What are your hobbies?

I'm a very family-oriented person. I have a two-year-old boy and I spend my free time right now mainly with him, going for walks, playing in the park, so I guess my greatest hobby right now is learning to be a mum. If I have some free time for myself I like music and I am in love with the piano, although I haven't played it for a long time. I also like singing but I only do it when I am alone. I like to watch futuristic series like Black Mirror and I love going out to eat.

### Can you name a favourite film or book?

It's actually been a while since I've seen a film or read a book. Well, I'm lying, I read a lot of books, but I don't think that *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* or *Can I Look at Your Nappy?* are the kind of titles you would expect to hear about! Films that I remember liking a lot at the time, all of them being very different: *Gladiator*, *Moulin Rouge* and *A Model Citizen*.

### What is your favourite city in the world?

The most spectacular place I have been to is Iguazú Falls, one of the seven natural wonders of the world, bordering Brazil and Argentina. I do not have a favourite city, I'm more about enjoying the best of the place I am in. If you had told me ten years ago that I would not live in Barcelona, I would have said it was impossible, I like it very much, but now that I live in Andorra I think it is an ideal place to raise a family and I really enjoy the life I have here.

*Most of my family is from Andalusia, however, I was born in Barcelona. Since I was a child I knew I wanted to be a teacher and I studied Primary Education at the URL and Psychopedagogy at the UB. I was lucky enough to find a job straight away.*

*I worked in a school in Barcelona for eight years, most of the time as the class teacher in Year 6. When I fell in love, I moved to Andorra, where I have been living for almost three years.*

» Ms Fons  
» Spanish and Catalan Teacher



### What do you enjoy most about working at BCA?

I enjoy working at BCA because it is an amazing place to work. It is a place where children want to come to learn and there is a positive environment where students can flourish and assert their own personality. Moreover I really appreciate working with an excellent team. We share ideas and everything is focused on students' learning and wellbeing.

It is a real pleasure for me to come and work here every day.

### What do you like about living and working in Andorra?

I have been living in Andorra for three years and I am really happy with my decision. I love the mountains and have the possibilities to go hiking and skiing right next to my house. Also being here with my children because it is a secure and safe country with lots of nature.

### What are your hobbies?

I like reading, doing yoga, hiking, skiing, going to the beach and being with my family and my friends.

### Can you name a favourite film or book?

This is a tricky question!! It is not easy to pick just one book. So I will name three, one of these, I studied as a teenager, *Les fleurs du mal* by Baudeaulaire, another one very relaxing *Soufi mon amour* by Elif Shafak, and the last one which had influenced my life *L'esprit absorbant de l'enfant* by Maria Montessori.

### Which is your favourite city in the world?

I don't have a favourite city. I prefer mountains and beaches but if I have to pick a place, it would be Florence. I really enjoyed the museums and the ice cream.

*I studied English Literacy at the University of Perpignan. I continued my studies to gain a Masters degree in Education at Perpignan.*

*I have always been interested in languages and have studied English, French and Spanish. While I was studying, I was lucky to travel during the summer holidays to the USA, Ireland and Spain. This was the perfect opportunity to practise my skills and broaden my horizons.*

*Following my studies I worked as a French teacher in a private French school. During this time, I became interested in Maria Montessori's educational framework. I studied and gained the Montessori qualification which then allowed me to open a Montessori Nursery for children up to 3 years old. This was a wonderful experience for me as a teacher and for the parents that the nursery provided for. I left the nursery to move to Andorra, and now enjoy working at the British College. I work as the French teacher and teaching assistant across year groups.*



# Topic and Science Lab



**The British College  
of Andorra**  
Education in Excellence

Ctra. de la Comella i de la Plana, s/n.  
AD 500 Andorra la Vella. Andorra.

© BCA 2021



**+376 720 220**

**Information and admissions:**  
[info@bcandorra.com](mailto:info@bcandorra.com)  
[www.britishcollegeandorra.com](http://www.britishcollegeandorra.com)