



BCA Parent Newsletter

"Christmas Edition"

N° 14 / December 21st 2021





Time to Celebrate

Dear BCA Community,

To go with the festive season and the upcoming winter vacation, the theme of this newsletter is Celebration. At the end of term, I would like to reflect on the achievements that we can celebrate as a school, as well as some of the challenges we have faced. In our parent coffee mornings at the beginning of term (which themselves should be celebrated, as the first such meetings for a long time), I set out our task of moving the school from a 'beautiful infancy' to a 'conscious and capable maturity', over the coming years. I believe we have already taken some significant steps towards this.

Student learning is our core purpose, thus the main cause for celebration is the individual and collective progress that all children have made over the last fourteen weeks. This could be a child in Early Years developing a passion for learning and discovery, a child in Primary mastering the next step in mathematics, or a Secondary student developing their practical laboratory skills in Science. And a hundred, if not a thousand similar exciting stories of growing in confidence across every year group and every subject. Alongside the learning, for the students we should celebrate the new friendships which have blossomed, and the old friendships which have strengthened. As a school, the next step is to raise our heads and look outwards, connecting with our local setting, our British and international context, and our wider social purpose.

As a staff we have engaged with research and best practice to derive a definition of High Quality Learning, and what it looks like, and this will guide our practice and align approaches across the school. I would like to celebrate the first successful term of our IGCSE courses in Year 10, and the work of those students. The granting of candidate status for the prestigious IB Diploma is another cause for celebration, and this will be a major lever for further school development, as we will need to review our whole school approaches to teaching, learning and assessment, to align fully with the very best practice.

This school year the number of staff has doubled. Such an influx of new people and new ideas provided both opportunity and challenge, and I would like to celebrate that, overall, the process has transformed the student learning experience and taken it to the next level, thanks to the quality, commitment and open-mindedness of the new and existing staff. Compared with previously, we have an enlarged Leadership Team, Special Educational Needs and English as Additional Language coordinators, more Teaching Assistants in the classes where they are needed, and additional monitors for the Cafeteria, Playground and expanded Bus service. I celebrate everyone's quick and effective adaptation to 'hybrid' learning when we faced the extraordinary COVID situation of half the students (and half the staff) at school and half at home.



High quality buildings, facilities and resources are essential, and I would like to celebrate how the investment in these has directly improved student learning. The new buildings were ready on schedule and we now have ample learning spaces for all teachers and all classes. More developments will follow, as you will see from the construction site below the Sports Hall. In January, two more class sets of digital devices (Chromebooks) will arrive, to further support the use of technology in the classroom. I also celebrate the fact that field trips, so important for student learning, were reintroduced this term, with visits to local museums and exhibitions. More will certainly follow; I intend that BCA students will travel far and wide, and have happy and exciting times, in pursuit of their studies!

Student voice and leadership lies at the heart of an effective education. I would like to celebrate the re-launch and growth of the Student Council this term, and their great work in informing school improvement (e.g. interviewing the teacher candidates for leadership positions), representing the school (e.g. hosting the visit of the British Ambassador) and supporting service learning (e.g. raising over 700 Euro for TeamSeas). I intend that student agency is only strengthened further in the coming year, in Primary just as in Secondary, and want to see every student leading. We have begun the process of systematically reviewing all school policies, and have already introduced a new Responsible Behaviour Policy in Secondary, which goes beyond a simplistic 'rewards and sanctions' approach, to instead focus on acquired understanding through restorative measures.

I celebrate the Parent Representatives initiative. We have twelve parents through whose commitment and support we are able to engage systematically with the wider parent community, for the sole purpose of improving the overall educational experience. As the incoming Principal, I have found these conversations extremely helpful in learning more about the school and its needs. We have begun a discussion around adjusting the pattern of the school day to better suit all stakeholders. This partnership also proved invaluable as we navigated the recent COVID outbreak. Also on the communication topic, I celebrate that we have successfully introduced a school management information system this term (iSAMS), and have opened the Parent Portal function, which will in future be one important place for parents to follow their child's learning. I also celebrate that we have managed to increase the frequency of these Newsletters to fortnightly (COVID dependent!).

There is a great deal of work to be done by students and staff, and in a supporting role by parents, once we return to school next term. The collective wisdom of all will need to be shaped into a strategic plan for the future. But for now, in the 1980's words of Kool and the Gang, "Let's all celebrate and have a good time".

With best wishes to all BCA families and the school staff
for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Mr Harry Lock
Principal

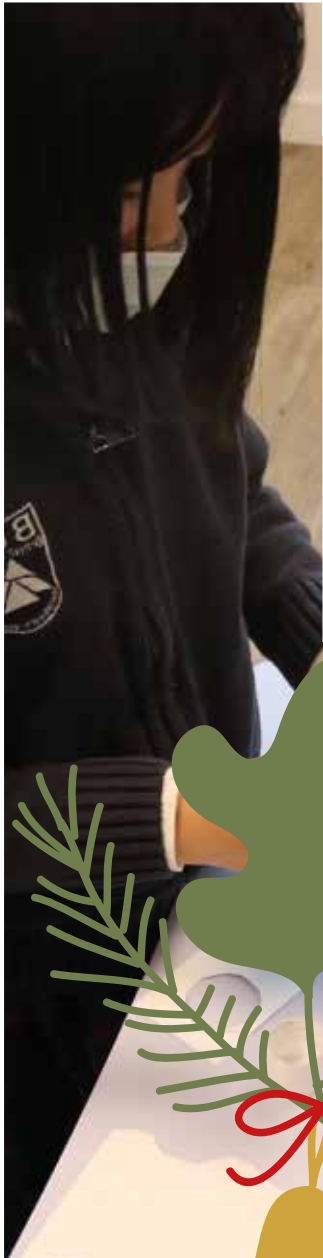
Letter to Santa

Penguins' students wrote a letter to Santa to go straight to the North Pole!



Christmas Cards

Primary students were busy decorating their lovely Christmas Cards



Kingfishers







Hawks Art



Inspired by their Roman topic, Hawks created busts from clay



Christmas Decoration



It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas



CAGA tió

Finding Christmas Log



To celebrate Andorran traditions, Primary students went outdoors to find the Christmas log.





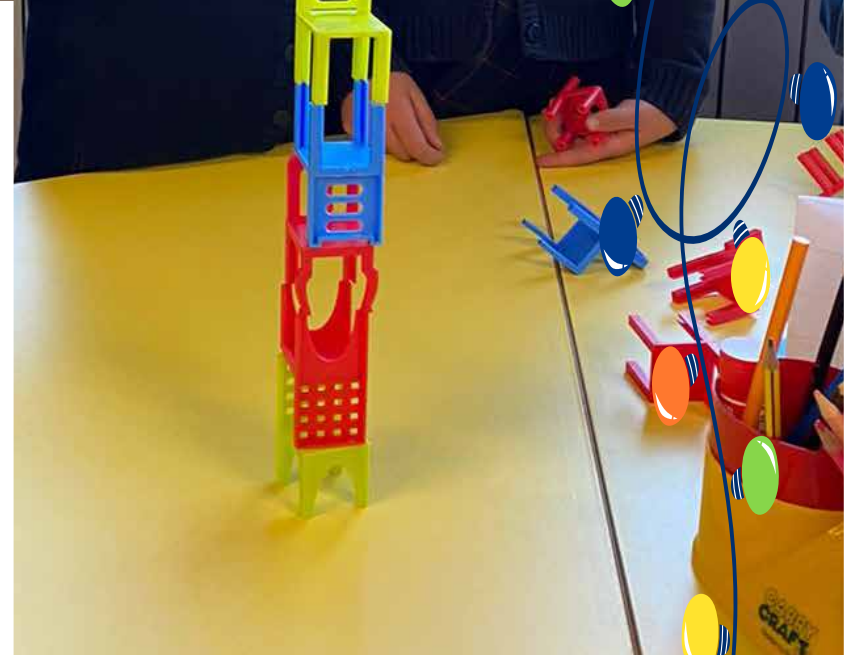




CAGA tió

Presents

Finally, they sang the Caga Tió song, and hit the Tió with sticks, to see if he had something for the children... and yes! he had brought them some games to enjoy in class.



Kingfishers



Owls





Harriers

The Harriers researched a case study of water management in countries at contrasting levels of development *China and Spain*. They then presented their findings to their peers.



Geography Exposition

