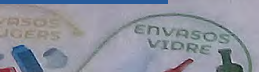




BCA Newsletter



END OF YEAR REFLECTIONS



EARLY YEARS AND LOWER PRIMARY

This academic year saw the arrival of three new members of staff, who quickly bonded with their classes and established a happy and settled atmosphere in each year group. Our major academic change was to introduce a phonics scheme called Phonics Shed and this has had a very powerful impact on reading, with a consistent, progressive scheme of beautiful reading books.

Phonics lessons are very focussed, fun and fast-paced. We introduced an assessment, every half term, of sounds and high frequency words, to better track and support the progress of all children as they learn to read.

All parents from Penguins, Owls and Robins were invited to observe phonics lessons, because where there is a culture of daily reading and discussion at home, children continue to thrive at school.





For the children, being safe at school is our number one priority and we have tirelessly worked at teaching, explaining and establishing how to treat each other with kindness and respect, how to play and include everyone and how to communicate clearly and politely. The behaviour in this department is now excellent and reflects not only the hard work from all of the teaching staff and monitors, but also the understanding of the children of how to be part of this community. We introduced fortnightly assemblies where we positively reinforce and reward those who have shown our school values in action. This term there have been awards for both responsibility and for communication skills.



Anne Newlin
Head of Early Years and Lower Primary

UPPER PRIMARY

One of the biggest highlights of the year in KS2 has to be our Christmas production. We had all four classes working together to achieve a witty, joyful show. After the show, it was lovely to hear positive feedback about how nice it was to see the different classes working together so well. KS2 have also been very 'green fingered' this term. With the help of Miss Melgar, we have successfully grown some lettuce and carrots. As well as this, children in KS2 have been representing the school at many different locations around Andorra, and in Spain and France.



El British College of Andorra ha participat al VII Congrés de ciència de la Universitat dels infants



Andorra la Vella, 17 de maig de 2024



Year 6 successfully represented BCA at the Science Congress of the Children's University, and at the Consell d'Infants and both Peacocks and Hawks enjoyed a two night trip to Mas Portal.





Eagles also had an exciting overnight stay at Naturlandia and the Kingfishers recently enjoyed an exciting trip to some caves in Spain. These adventures have complimented our in-class learning and have provided the children with a memorable learning experience.



Julia Costin
Head of Upper Primary

SECONDARY

This year in Secondary (Years 7-11) has seen many developments on the foundations of last year. We have focussed on our termly values as a way of developing students holistically, with the values of appreciation of diversity, a sense of responsibility and communication skills providing opportunities for students to interact in mixed events in school and with local organisations outside of Andorra.



Our clubs programme has expanded again with a greater variety for our students to participate in and one specific benefit has been the new mural replacing a rather drab concrete wall.

Once again students participated fantastically in a school production displaying a range of skills. We have also had our second cohort of IGCSE students complete their exams and hope they achieve the results their efforts deserve when they receive their results in the Summer. I wish all the students a very happy and restful holiday.



Sam Shadbolt
Head of Secondary

IB DIPLOMA PROGRAMME

Our first cohort of DP students have reached an important milestone: the end of their first year: DP1. The majority of the subject content has been covered; this week they are completing their end of DP1 exams; next week they hand in the final draft of their 4000-word extended essay. Yes, the IBDP can feel relentless, and students are no doubt tired, stressed, and ready for a break. But there is some respite on the horizon: next week they will be embarking on a trip of a lifetime to the city of the Incas in Perú, followed by their much-needed and deserved summer break, before continuing with the DP in September.

The DP is a challenge, there's no question, but students come through the experience more resilient, more independent, and better prepared to face the adult world of higher education and work. I have watched this cohort grow from the heady days of their IGCSE examinations, which I am sure they now see as a walk in the park compared to what they are currently doing. They never cease to impress me with their respectful attitudes, their sense of humour, and their curious minds. I congratulate them on their many successes so far this year, and for the way they have dealt with the challenges. Finally, I wish them all the best for their final year at BCA.



Warren Quinton
Head of IB Diploma Programme

PRINCIPAL

When considering the successes of the year, one has to be careful. Shine the spotlight in one place, and somewhere else is cast in the shadow. Furthermore, looking for headline stories is arguably not aligned with the nature of student learning itself, which is highly personal to the individual, and all about daily and often small incremental steps, but which together and over the course of a school year have a big cumulative effect.

I am pleased that this year, more than ever, we have lived the BCA values. Rather than remaining as just a nice poster on the wall, each term we have focussed on one value and seen it used as a driving force for educational experiences.

We are more connected than we have ever been to local organisations and initiatives. True, a step into the British system is a step out of the Andorran, Spanish or French systems, but our curriculum is enriched by the opportunities in Andorra and beyond: examples include numerous Primary school visits to events and places in Andorra, the *Dictat Nacional*, the *Consell dels Joves d'Andorra la Vella*, the RECcrea short film competition, the Science Congress, the Andorran schools chess championship and the activities of *Andorra Sostenible*, the official celebration of 30 years of UK-Andorra diplomatic relations, and many other charities in Andorra with whom we now regularly link for educational activities. We have a strong partnership with the University of Andorra and have welcomed a number of trainee teachers to complete their placements with- they universally speak favourably of the curriculum and teaching ethos at BCA.

We have launched our whole school House system (think 'Harry Potter'), with more developments around this to come next year, as we launch a representative House Council to further develop student leadership within the school. The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award is firmly established (Year 10 and above). All schools must commit to a programme of education (and preferably action, too) for environmental sustainability, and it was great to have this important work recognised with our recent re-accreditation as an Escola Verda. Additional staff and newly created coordinator roles have added greater depth and specialised skills to the services we provide as a school.





We have faced challenges of course, not least in responding to the wider societal issues that have affected all schools this year, for example discussions around how schools should teach about sexual and gender diversity, how schools should assist families with issues of screen time and cyber bullying, and how schools should manage AI. To some of these questions we have set out a clear policy, for example aligning our PSHE curriculum with the English national curriculum, which sets very clear parameters and age guidelines for all topics, and a blanket ban on the use of phones on campus by children in Years 11 and below. In others, such as the incorporation of AI into teaching and learning, we are at an early stage but have made progress.

The school embarked on its IB journey over three years ago. It has been both a catalyst and a lever to effect curricular and extra-curricular developments throughout the school. Our aim is for our graduates, at age 18, to be bilingual and highly competent across the arts, humanities, sciences and mathematics. Next school year we look forward to seeing our first graduating cohort, the 'Class of 2025', go forward as young adults to achieve their ambitions in higher education or employment, with much of the whole world open to them.



Mr Harry Lock
Principal

NOTICES

Transition Events, Friday 21st June

To support a smooth transition for the children into the next school year, and the class above, all children in the Early Years and Primary sections will have a one hour transition event on this day. They will meet their new teacher/s and complete some activities. With the exception of our new Nursery parents, who are invited to school on that morning, these transition events are arranged for the children only.

For Year 6 students transitioning into Year 7 and the beginning of Secondary school, the event will be four hours, including some lessons. We will provide additional written guidance for parents on supporting your child through this key transition.

On the same day, we will communicate to parents the name of the class teacher who has been assigned to each Early Years and Primary class next year.

Early in September, all parents will be invited to attend a 'Meet the Teacher' event to visit their child's classroom, meet the class teacher or form tutor, and hear about the plans and expectations for the year.

Minimising late arrivals and early departures

In the final weeks of this term, and when we begin next school year, we kindly ask parents to redouble their efforts to bring their child to school on time (medical appointments excepted).

Similarly we ask parents to minimise early pick-ups. Although the great majority of families follow the school hours, early pick ups are in general too frequent, especially on Friday afternoons, and we need to collectively improve in this area. In the case that there is a good reason for an early pick up, we kindly ask for notification well in advance.

Please note the last day of the current school year is Friday 28th June, and is a full day of regular school with no early finish.

Key dates for School Year 2024-2025

The BCA Calendar for the next school year is published on the BCA website and on the Parent Portal.

Furthermore, we have already fixed the dates for all the main parent conferences, curriculum information evenings and report publication dates. This **BCA Academic Calendar** is published on the Parent Portal and should be carefully consulted. If you have any questions about any of the listed events, please contact admin@bcandorra.com.

Parent Forum - Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) Tuesday 24th September 09:00

The next Parent Forum will take place early next term. All parents are welcome. The idea of these forums is to engage with educational themes of current interest, and particularly those around which there may be a range of opinions. The idea is to provide parents with information, to hear their views, and the views of educators and specialists (we have had some guest speakers from outside BCA), and to clarify and/or shape school policy. The outcome of a previous Forum was to considerably strengthen the school's restrictions on the use of mobile phones, in line with the findings of research.

Please register your attendance in advance, and by Friday 20th September.



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Centre
de Congressos
d'Andorra la Vella

ORGANITZA


Andorra la Vella
#AndorraCapital


**JOAN
VERDÚ**


**F22
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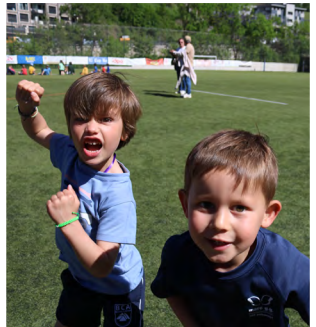
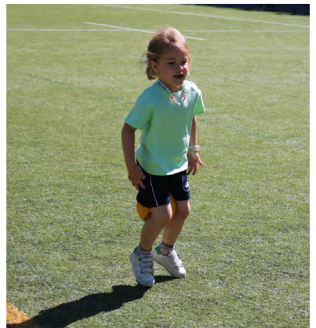

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SPORTS DAY



PRIMARY SPORTS DAY











SECONDARY SPORTS DAY











