



BCA Parent Newsletter

N° 12 / October 29th 2021





Safety first

Welcome to the fourth newsletter of the school year. I am pleased that we have been able to prepare and send you this newsletter on a regular basis. With so much going on, there is never a shortage of news and information. One purpose of the newsletter is to reduce the volume of separate email communication, so please be sure to read through carefully.

Our theme in this newsletter is safety, as a foundation for student learning and wellbeing. Appropriate too, as we approach [UN World Children's Day](#) on 20th November.

COVID hygiene protocols

A reminder that the [protocol](#) published by the local authorities states that if your child has been absent because of illness (such as gastroenteritis or fever), a doctor's certificate is required by the school upon their return.

We have been extremely fortunate to have enjoyed an unbroken period of seven weeks of face to face school this term. As a school community, we must continue to adhere to the hygiene protocols in place, so that we are all doing everything we can here at BCA to protect ourselves.

Safeguarding

'Safeguarding' is taken very seriously at BCA, in the context of our legal duty of care for students.

For those unfamiliar with the term, safeguarding means 'measures to protect the health and wellbeing of children and adolescents to live free from abuse, harm, and neglect.' Within the broad area of safeguarding, is the more specific topic of child protection, which may be defined as 'activity that is undertaken to protect specific children and adolescents who are suffering or may potentially suffer from abuse, harm, or neglect.'



Among the safeguarding measures that the school takes are:

- Having policies in place which establish a holistic, comprehensive approach to safeguarding, embracing the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. These policies include Safer Recruitment practices.
- Clearly defining and communicating the steps our employees, volunteers, visitors, and externally contracted staff, coaches and occasional workers are required to take in order to safeguard and promote the welfare of students.
- Responding promptly and effectively, should abuse or endangerment be observed, suspected, or disclosed.
- Addressing safeguarding topics through the curriculum (e.g. Personal Social and Health Education)

Staff were briefed on safeguarding responsibilities and procedures as part of the preparation days before term began, and this will be followed up by further training during the year. As part of a wide review of school policies, those relating to safeguarding will be updated and further strengthened this year.

Within the home-school partnership, parents clearly play an essential role in safeguarding. As well as keeping open communication with teachers, there is a wealth of resources online for parents looking for guidance on topics including online safety and respectful relationships. As we develop our programmes this year, and in discussion with the parent representatives, we will consider introducing workshops for parents on some of these topics.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead for BCA is the Principal, to whom any concerns regarding a child should be notified.

Medicines in school

Parents must inform the school if students are bringing medication to school, including painkillers or homeopathic remedies. Students must not self-administer any medicine without permission. The school will keep accurate and confidential records of all student medical conditions and required medications.



Evacuation

The school will stage a planned evacuation drill in the week commencing 8 November, as part of the preparations for formal inspection by the Cos de Bombers d'Andorra in the same month.

New staff leadership positions

Congratulations to Mr. Sam Shabolt, BCA Science teacher, who has been appointed BCA Secondary Coordinator, and to Mr. Warren Quintion, BCA English teacher, who has been appointed BCA International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme Coordinator ('DP Coordinator'). Both candidates faced two rounds of interviews, including a rigorous cross-examination by members of our newly formed Student Council. Earlier in the year, of course, Mrs. Alison Williams was appointed as BCA Primary Coordinator, and she has ensured the smooth day-to-day running of Primary, along with her team. These positions of responsibility are central to taking the school to the next level, and achieving its strategic goals.

Staff absence

When a teacher or teaching assistant is absent, another member of staff is assigned to cover. In general, we will only communicate these temporary arrangements to parents if the teacher's absence is for more than three days.

Parent representatives

Thank you for all the offers to help with the parents representatives initiative. The collection of names has now closed and, as communicated in the last newsletter, names of representatives will be confirmed in the week after half term.

Early Years Open afternoons

We invite Cygnets and Penguins families to join us for our open afternoon on Wednesday, November 10th, anytime from 15:00 until 17:00.



There will be craft activities, and a chance to look through your child's record of learning (Early Learning Journal).

Please let the class teacher know in advance if you will be attending.

Secondary parent teacher conferences

Our parent evenings for children from Year 7 to Year 10 will take place online on:

- Monday 22nd November
- Tuesday 23rd November

Bookings will open week commencing 15th November, with further information to follow. Please save the dates.

Go for Gold!

This week Tom Pidcock accepted an invitation to visit the school. Tom is a 22 year old professional cyclist (road and mountain bike) and Olympic Gold medallist for GB. He is based seasonally in Andorra, when not busy with the INEOS Grenadiers or other projects.

Tom generously offered two hours of his time to speak to students about the journey of an Olympian at the top of his sport, and answered students' questions. Please see the photo collage below.

Finally, I wish all BCA families and staff a safe and restful half term break.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'H Lock'.



*Mr Harry Lock
Principal*



Tom Pidcock



The British College
of Andorra
Education in Excellence



Tom Pidcock



Early Years, Red Riding Hood

A brand new adaptation of the classic tale Little Red Riding Hood premiered at BCA this week. Cygnets and Penguins children joined Little Red, Granny, the Wolf, and more on a journey through the woods with surprises and delight.

Some of the cast looked familiar...



Early Years, Red Riding Hood



Owls' Volcano

This week Owls' class has been learning about what the world looked like at the time of the dinosaurs. They have learnt that volcanoes helped to make new land. Then they made their own volcanoes using play doh and watched as lava exploded out of them. It was lots of fun!



National Automobile Museum



Because the topic in Year 2 this term is Transport, and with that in mind, Robins' class visited the National Automobile Museum. They saw amazing old cars, and vintage bicycles. Wonderful experience!



Primary Trip and Cooking

This week, the Year 4, 5 and 6 students went on an excursion with the Andorran Training teacher. They have learned a lot from visiting Meritxell Church and Lake Engolasters.



Primary Trip and Cooking

Also this week, Year 2, 3, 4 and 5 students worked on a recipe and cooked a typical Catalan sweet for these days, called "panellets". They had so much fun and a very good time together, with the local Andorra culture enriching our British curriculum.



Non uniform day

As well as plenty of witches, we had superheroes and fantasy characters of all descriptions. This week's non-uniform day was a lot of fun, and also raised plenty of money for a school charity.



Non uniform day



Non uniform day



Non uniform day



Double, double toil and trouble;
fire burn and cauldron bubble.

– William Shakespeare –
“Macbeth”



“

Why didn't the skeleton go to the Halloween party?

– Because they had no-body to go with!

Know why mummies never reveal their true age?

– ‘Cause they like to keep it under wraps.

How can you tell if a vampire has a cold?

– Because of the coffin!

What do spiders do for fun on Halloween?

– Surf the web!

”

