



BCA Parent Newsletter

N° 13 / November 19th 2021





Dear Parents,

This newsletter was prepared before the COVID health situation became more challenging this week. We will continue to ensure you are fully and regularly informed in these difficult circumstances. Health and Wellbeing are as much a part of Quality, the theme of this newsletter, as is the academic news and achievement below.

Quality

“Quality is never an accident. It is always the result of intelligent effort”, wrote the 19th century English writer, philosopher, art critic and general all-rounder John Ruskin, and one of my heroes from the influential Victorian period of British history. He was what would these days be called a ‘thought-leader’ or ‘influencer’. There has been much ‘intelligent effort’ at the College in the last two weeks to report, both in the text below and in the photos from our class activities that follow.

BCA staff have collaborated in a series of inclusive discussions on what high quality learning looks like at the College. Drawing on a range of research and their own practice, the aim was to derive an aspirational, whole school definition that would be as applicable to the learning experience of our youngest students in Early Years as it would be for our Secondary students. It is a definition which can both guide and unite our learning community and be used to hold us accountable. It is what we expect to see (as educators, students and parents) in our classrooms. Here is our statement:

High Quality Learning at The British College of Andorra...

IS ENCOURAGED WITHIN AUTHENTIC CONTEXTS

Being meaningful and linked to real-world issues and events, and recognizing the power and relevance of an interdisciplinary approach.

IS CONSTRUCTIVIST, AND INQUIRY-BASED

Involving an active process in which students construct meaning by linking new ideas with prior knowledge. Inquiry may involve play, projects, questioning, discussion or investigation, and involves problem-solving and critical thinking.

IS CYCLICAL AND PROGRESSIVE

Involving phases of action, feedback and reflection.



IS BOTH INDIVIDUALIZED AND COLLABORATIVE

Recognising and including each student as a unique learner, and developing their interests, skills and potential. Differentiating and providing support as needed. Recognising that collaborative learning and co-construction of knowledge in groups or teams is as valuable as individual endeavour.

FOSTERS STUDENT AGENCY

Providing opportunities for student self-determination and leadership, for example in influencing and making decisions affecting their own learning. In this way, learning thrives on a positive student-teacher relationship, and promotes wellbeing.

PROMOTES INTERCULTURAL UNDERSTANDING

Recognising the school's rich local context and culture, the importance of the British curriculum, values and culture, and the wider international context of students, as young global citizens.

BCA accepted as an IB Candidate School

The British College of Andorra is a Candidate School for the IB Diploma Programme. This school is pursuing authorization as an IB World School. These are schools that share a common philosophy—a commitment to high quality, challenging, international education that the British College of Andorra believes is important for our students.*

**Only schools authorized by the IB Organization can offer any of its four academic programmes: the Primary Years Programme (PYP), the Middle Years Programme (MYP), the Diploma Programme, or the Career-related Programme (CP). Candidate status gives no guarantee that authorization will be granted. For further information about the IB and its programmes, visit www.ibo.org.*

The College has received confirmation that it is officially a candidate school for the IB Diploma Programme (IBDP). The IBDP is a curriculum for students aged 16-19. This is excellent news and confirmation of our strategic intent. The school now enters the 'Candidate Phase', which typically lasts 12-18 months, concluding in a verification visit by the IB and authorization to commence teaching in August 2023.

Our sister school, The British College of Gava, which already has students in Years 12 and 13, has completed this process. IB World Schools share a common philosophy a commitment to the high quality, challenging, international education that the British College of Andorra believes is important for our students. The IGCSE courses followed by our current Year 10 students will provide a high quality foundation for IBDP, and



success on the IB Diploma itself will provide students access to universities worldwide, including of course the UK, US, Spain, France and Andorra.

We will now enter an intensive period of preparation, with staff training and student information. We will organise an IBDP parents information evening next term (Spring 2022). In the meantime, there is an information page for parents at <https://www.ibo.org/diploma-guide/> and for a feel of what teaching and learning looks like on the IBDP, there are several video resources such as [this one](#) at the British School of Washington (you can select subtitles in English, Spanish or French).

IGCSE Information evening

There will be an online information evening on **Monday 29th November at 18:00**, to provide information for parents on our Year 10 and 11 curriculum and the IGCSE courses. Though primarily aimed at parents of Year 9 (Ospreys), who will begin their IGCSEs next year, it is open to all secondary parents seeking further information. A translation service will be provided. The meeting link will be sent shortly before the event.

BCA Parent representatives

Part of the 'quality equation' is a strong home-school partnership. I am pleased to announce that we now have twelve class representatives. All parents have been informed who their representative is. Thank you to the representatives as we launch this initiative to further develop the student learning experience at BCA.

Morning arrival

Please make every effort to ensure your child arrives on time to school.

At 09:00 each morning, the attendance register closes and the first lesson begins. Therefore, in order to arrive in the classroom on time, students must pass through the school gate by 08:55. This allows 5 minutes to walk to class, remove the coat, unrushed and to get settled ready to start the day's learning at 09:00.

Students arriving after that time will be directed to the upper entrance (Reception) to register. This is to ensure that all students are accounted for on arrival. Thank you for your understanding.

These arrangements apply to all year groups.

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



Mr Harry Lock
Principal

Class Open Afternoon

At BCA we had our first Open Class Afternoon, where parents for Early Years were invited to their children's class. It was an opportunity to review their child's Learning Journal, and they did some crafts together.

A special word of thanks to all the parents who came, for their interest and dedication they showed.







Dinosaur Fossils

Owls' class has been learning about fossils. This week they made their dinosaur fossils and they will use them to find out what it is like to be a paleontologist.

They will have fun discovering them this term. Dig Dig Dig, Brush Brush Brush!







‘Consell d’Infants’

Students from Hawks’ class recently had a visit from UNICEF and the Comú of Andorra la Vella, to explain to them about the work of the Consell d’Infants (the Andorran Children’s Council).

They also discussed the rights that students have as children. A thought-provoking and relevant visit.







Els Isards come to BCA

Rugby is said to have originated at Rugby School in Warwickshire, England, in 1823 when during a game of football, one of the pupils decided to pick up a ball and go with it.

Here at BCA, the [Andorran Rugby Federation](#) are currently joining PE lessons to introduce this fine sport to all secondary students.





Park Hotel Visit

Business and Economics trip to the Park Hotel

On Friday, October 29, Year 10 students visited the Park Hotel in Andorra. Following the academic curriculum of Economics and Business, the students were able to see the operation of a large company, its objectives, and different strategies, in different periods of supply and demand...

They had a tour of the facilities and the different departments of the Hotel.

We would like to thank Neus and her team for their time and attention.



