



BCA Newsletter



Nº 25 / 22 September 2022



DEVELOPMENTS AND DIRECTION



PRINCIPAL'S LETTER

On behalf of the BCA Community, and at the sad passing of H.M. Queen Elizabeth II, I would like to express my deepest respect and appreciation for her years of service to Britain, the Commonwealth, and the wider world of nations.

Students and staff have made a strong and positive start to the new school year. I am very pleased that within the very first week we were able to host all of the Meet the Teaching Team events, and provide parents with a detailed outline of the plans for teaching and learning, for the whole year ahead (previously issued termly). Welcome to all new students and their families, and also to the new teachers and assistants who have joined BCA, further strengthening the team and the educational opportunities we provide.

Uploaded to the Parent Portal (please see the notices below for how to access it) are the results of the **'Climate for Learning' 2022 parent survey** we conducted before the summer holidays, in June 2022. It was the first such extensive survey the school has conducted. The survey was open for three weeks with the invitation to complete sent out three times. The results of the survey are very useful for the school's development, and the results have already informed actions. The survey also invited written responses to open-ended questions: these were provided and received in confidence and reviewed carefully by the school leadership team. You will see that about 70 parents completed the survey, and we are grateful for their time and thought. The survey will become an annual one, to enable longer term tracking, and we hope for a higher response rate, ideally over 75%, in 2023.

Alongside our daily work of ensuring high quality learning and wellbeing for every child at the school, BCA will focus on two key areas of strategy this year:

1. Assessment

2. Communication

And in addition we must ensure:

3. A successful outcome to our first **IGCSE examinations** (Year 11) i.e. smooth administration and every child achieving their best.
4. Successful **authorisation for the International Baccalaureate (IB)** Diploma Programme (Years 12 & 13)- next term we host an inspection visit for this process.


Alongside the above headline items, there are all kinds of exciting things happening in the areas of **Outdoor Learning, Music, Language provision, PSHE, Counseling, Clubs, Sport and PE** (with a specialist PE teacher now working with Year 3 upwards).

On Assessment, things are already moving quickly. Teachers have developed a new **Feedback Policy** that reflects current best practice in placing emphasis on 'in the moment' immediate and in-person feedback from teacher to student, along with peer feedback at times, too. Traditional 'marking' of students' work will still take place, but time must be set aside for students to closely study, and act upon, what the teacher has written. In the next few weeks we will administer a standardised **Cognitive Assessment Test ('CAT4')** for all students from Year 3 to 11 inclusive. This test, widely used in the UK and in international schools, measures verbal, non-verbal, quantitative and spatial reasoning. The total time needed for the test is about 2 hours, and no preparation is required. This will be very helpful as an externally-referenced 'baseline' measure to inform teaching, learning and target setting. Parents receive a copy of the report.

The cost charged to parents for this additional service will be approximately 20 Euro. Driven by our move to the IBDP, we will be developing a new **Assessment Policy**, which among many other things will recognise that authentic assessment means much more than 'tests'.

On Communication, Early Years and Primary parents will already see that we have extended the functions of **Seesaw** as our platform for daily communication of learning between school and home, involving the students, their teachers and their parents. **Our iSAMS Parent Portal**, previously only used for publishing the school reports, is steadily being loaded up with the key documents you need, throughout the year, to stay informed about your child's learning along with school policies and procedures. **Meet the Teacher** events have already been held for all classes, across the school, and the first **Parent Conferences** have been scheduled (see notices below).

As we move forward into the new school year, let us all, students, staff and parents, set the highest expectations on ourselves in pursuing educational success.


Mr Harry Lock
Principal



School photographs

As previously announced, we will start the student portraits next week, commencing 26th September.


This is be the schedule:

- Monday 26th September: Hawks, Owls, Peacocks, Eagles, Robins, Ravens.
- Tuesday 27th September: Penguins, Kingfishers, Harriers, Peacocks (2), Robins (2)
- Wednesday 28th September: Cygnets, Ravens (2), Ospreys (2), Falcons, Condors, Ospreys.

Parent Portal

We are delighted to announce that we will use the iSAMS Parent Portal to further improve communication. The iSAMS app is very useful, because over the coming weeks we will upload all the key documents for your reference (curriculum guidelines, timetables, menus, school policies...)

We have sent will send you all the instructions by email, to activate your account.

If you have the app already from last year you can start using it (the documents are in the general interface at the bottom, not inside your children,  Information). Please email our IT manager if you have any questions: it@bcandorra.com

On the Parent Portal, under 'School Directory', you will also find a list of all the teachers' email addresses.

Save the Date Parent Conferences

The first parent conferences will take place on the following dates and times, in person at the school:

- Tuesday 18th October, 17:00-19:15
- Year 10 and 11.
- Wednesday 19th October, 16:45-19:00
- Early Years and Primary (with translation service)
- Thursday 20th October, 16:45-19:00
- Early Years and Primary (with translation service)

- Tuesday 25th October, 17:00-19:15
- Secondary (only for parents requesting a translation service)
- Tuesday 8th November, 17:00-19:15
- Years 7,8 and 9
- Wednesday 9th November, 17:00-19:15
- Years 7,8 and 9

Family collaboration

We are always looking to connect our children's learning with the real world. Specifically, we are currently looking for **parents who would be able to speak to our older students about different career areas**, and their own career journey. If you are interested, please contact the Principal directly.

Bake Sale

We would like to report that the **Bake Sale** held in June finally raised EUR 565 for UNICEF Andorra. Well done to everybody!

Save the Date: BCA Christmas Charity Fair

Saturday 3rd December 2022. BCA will collaborate with UNICEF Andorra and other charitable partners in organising a fun-filled activity programme at the school, for all the family. More details to follow later this term.

Birthday Cakes

Our school lunch service, K L'Irina, is able to prepare birthday cakes for students of all ages. The cake will be share with your child's class and they can celebrate the special occasion with their friends in school.

If you would like to order a cake (plain or chocolate), please contact Irina Ponsico, our Catering Manager, on irina.ponsico@bcandorra.com or via WhatsApp on +376 346 406.

The cost of the cake is 20 Euro and orders need to be made 48 hours before the day the cake is required.









Y5 TOPIC / TECHNOLOGY





Y7 SCIENCE

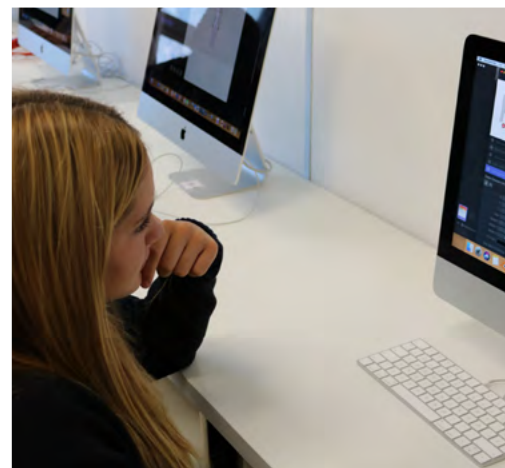




Y8 P.E.



Y9 ICT





YEAR 11 BUSINESS

