



BCA Newsletter

Nº 32 / 16 February 2023



GLOBAL CITIZENS - LOCAL CITIZENS



Our [BCA Values](#) call for students to develop an appreciation of diversity, a sense of responsibility, a commitment to sustainability, along with self-awareness, compassion and communication skills. These all come together under the concept of citizenship.

Global citizens

We are working hard to develop global citizenship and intercultural understanding within the curriculum. The lead project is the introduction of the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) from September 2023. Preparations are well advanced: the teachers are in place and have been trained on specialist IB workshops, the curriculum is written, the resources have been purchased. We will host a 'verification visit' from the IB in March, after which we expect to be granted authorisation. Part of the IBDP is a compulsory programme of active service to the community, through which our students will make a positive difference locally and globally. In the Early Years and Primary curriculum, we also identify and promote opportunities to develop global citizenship.

You will read in this newsletter of our first participation in a student-led Model United Nations, where our senior students (and future leaders) recently engaged with serious global issues over two days of intense debate in Barcelona, along with several other schools.

There are many crises in the world: it is important as educators and parents that we help children to understand these, at an age-appropriate level, and provide both context and reassurance that there are solutions. In this newsletter you will read of how the Eagles have been sensitively including recent tragic events in Türkiye-Syria into their classroom learning. This week we are using the opportunity of Carnival to raise money to improve conditions for the people of Ukraine (a British Embassy initiative for schools), and for earthquake relief in Türkiye-Syria.

Environmental protection and climate change mitigation is a global challenge, but one which is still relevant to our daily lives in Andorra. We know, for example, that 2022 was the warmest year in Andorra since 1950, and that the Andorra [warming trend is up and the snowfall trend is down](#). Lifestyle changes are required of us all. Our work as an Escola Verda (Green School) continues, and BCA students have been invited to participate in a Green Schools Forum, in Andorra la Vella, during Environment Week in June. Our recycling initiatives continue and a school garden is planned for the Spring. Our Outdoor Learning programme teaches children that nature should be enjoyed, but not exploited.

Theresa May, former British Prime Minister, once declared that *“if you believe you are a citizen of the world, you are a citizen of nowhere”*. This unfortunately placed her out of step with more than half the world. A 2016 [GlobeScan poll](#) proposed the statement: *“I see myself more as a global citizen than a citizen of my own country”*. 51% was the global average of respondents who agreed with this statement; in Spain 59% agreed. Seven years have passed since that survey, and the global results may be different now: nationalism is on the rise, and borders and barriers to travel and trade are being strengthened rather than removed. Nonetheless, the concept of global citizenship is one that must endure and prosper.

Local citizens

We are also fostering our local connections and responsibilities.

Student teachers at the University of Andorra (UdA) must practise and develop their skills before they graduate, and many are interested in teaching in English and here at BCA. We have signed an agreement with UdA to mentor their student teachers, and one will start after half term, under the supervision of the BCA class teacher. We have also signed an agreement with the University to provide access for BCA students and staff to their physical and electronic library resources: this will prove invaluable for our Baccalaureate students next year, who will be able to access high level academic material to support their studies, along with what we have here in school.

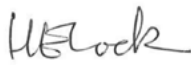
Some of our Secondary students recently took part in the [16th edition of the National Dictat](#) organised by the Ministry of Culture and Sports, and next month students will join practical courses organised by the [Civil Protection](#), in snow and avalanche safety. We have recently joined an initiative to establish a Consell de Joves (Youth Council) in Andorra, as one way of encouraging students to participate in the democratic process. Our Year 11 students will participate in the [Andorra-EU Barometer](#) project led by Andorra Research and Innovation, taking part in an opinion study in relation to the association agreement between Andorra and the European Union.

Over the coming weeks we have a great number of field trips, for children in Early Years, Primary and Secondary, to museums, exhibitions and other events in Andorra. Our Adventure club in Secondary, new this year, is planning its first overnight hiking expedition into the mountains. Hawks and Peacocks will next month make a trip to the skiing World Cup finals here in Andorra.

This week we have been honoured to host a visit from the Head of Government and Education Minister, to demonstrate what we have achieved over the last five years, with their support, and our vision for the future. On Monday 13th March at 11:30 we will join with all schools in Andorra in simultaneously singing the national anthem, to mark the 30th anniversary of the Andorran constitution.

In participating in all these activities we recognise the learning opportunities and their potential to enhance our role, and contribution, as The British College of Andorra.

I wish all BCA students, parents and staff an enjoyable half term. The day we return, Monday 27th February, will be our 100th day of school this year: we are 100 days smarter than at the start of the year!


Mr Harry Lock
Principal



Announcements

Parent workshop

Children's ear-, nose- and throat problems:

- Friday March 17th at 9.05

By Dr. Karin Oomen, specialist and BCA parent

Please register in advance, admin@bcandorra.com

Parents Evenings

The next Secondary parents evenings are scheduled as follows:

- Wednesday 15th March: Year 10 and Year 11
- Thursday 16th March: Translated appointments (all years)
- Tuesday 21st and Wednesday 22nd March: Years 7, 8 and 9

Booking instructions will be sent after the upcoming half term holiday.

The next Early Years and Primary parents evenings will be in the week commencing 17th April, after the Easter holidays. Booking instructions will be sent in the second half of March.

Skiing

Skiing for children in Reception up to Year 6 recommences after the half term break, and for four weeks, with the same days of the week as previously. Please contact the class teacher if you have any questions.

Penguins have been thinking scientifically in their Catalan Class

And developing the vocabulary, measuring items using scales and rulers, and comparing different materials. As usual, learning by doing makes it more meaningful.



3-2-1...Go!

The Vikings' boat races were really exciting!

This term, Robins' topic is transport, so using this theme, they created a Viking's boat and went outside to see how fast it could travel.



Year 3 continued learning about the Romans by designing and making their own catapults!

Children worked collaboratively to build these weapons and test them out on Roman soldier models, which they also made. The learning was a success and every single catapult worked!

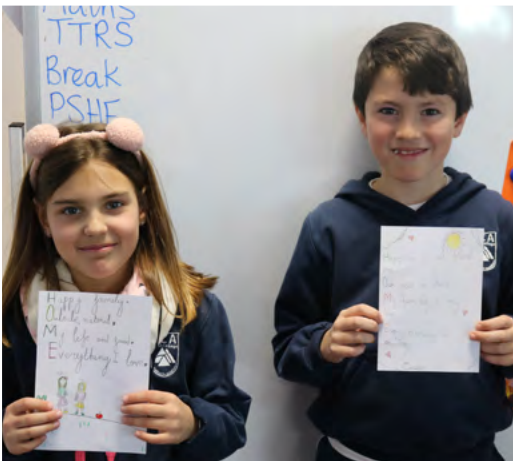


The topic in Eagles' class this term is "Violent Earth"

The children have been looking at how devastating the effects of natural disasters can be on those that live in the affected area.

Following the catastrophic earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria, the Eagles reflected on how they would feel if they were suddenly to lose their homes. They wrote heartfelt poems about what home means to them, to understand how the citizens of those two countries must now be coping with the aftermath.

The children understand that we all need to be aware of the impact of global events on everyone near and far, the building of empathy and the appreciation of gratitude for what we have.



The Peacocks' "Ancient Egypt" exhibition was fascinating

Families learnt about how important the process of mummification was to the Ancient Egyptians, and were even shown a demonstration of the process (using a parent volunteer).

The class and parents then enjoyed some activities together including making jewellery, building pyramids and writing hieroglyphics.



Following the Topic "Polar Art"

The Hawks have created masterpieces, the results are marvelous!

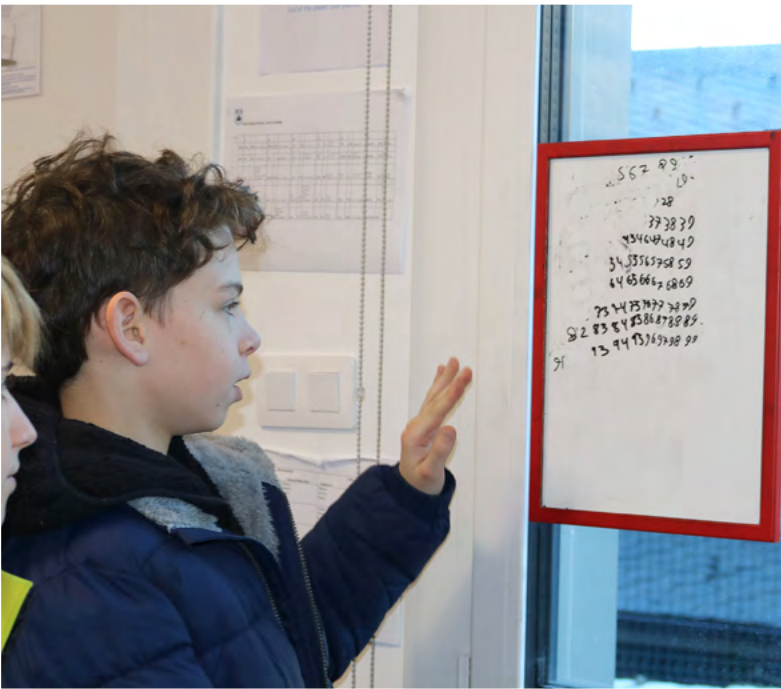


Year 7 have been honing their mathematical ninja skills

Learning and practising efficient ways of adding and subtracting mentally, using the fundamental laws of arithmetic. To get everyone thinking whilst practising the methods, they have been working in groups, standing at whiteboards on the walls to solve interesting problems and explore curious patterns.

In this particular lesson, in honour of the palindromic date 3/2/23, they were investigating palindromic numbers, and trying to establish which numbers up to 100, when added to their reverse, resulted in a palindrome (e.g. $23+32=55$).

Later, they were challenged to make the largest and smallest possible differences when subtracting, without repeating the digits 1-9. To develop their mathematical communication skills, they were then invited to explain to the class what shortcuts or patterns they found to help them.





Last week, seven delegates from Year 10 and 11 travelled to Barcelona to represent BCA at the Oakhouse Model United Nations Conference, our first ever as a school. Each student was assigned a country and then to a committee which debated pressing topics ranging from human trafficking and fast fashion to how best to prevent and protect sex workers. They met other children from local schools, discussed and debated interesting topics, and experienced something new and challenging that will enrich their learning. Here are some student reflections on their time at the conference.

Please find below some students' reflections

The MUN conference was a very good step in implementing the ideas of how to debate with others that we learnt in class into a real debate. Overall, the conference was one of great interest in terms of listening to the ideas of other people who represented different nations, and getting to know the basics of an actual conference. Therefore, the conference was highly enjoyable and something I would definitely like to repeat in the future of the club.

J.L



The conference was an extremely enlightening experience that taught me a lot about how a MUN conference works and how it is carried out successfully. The debates were riveting and very educational which created an exciting atmosphere in the conference. It benefited my communication, organisation and social skills greatly and I was very glad and honoured to be able to participate in such an esteemed and prestigious event.

C.W.



The MUN conference experience has taught me a lot about communication, organisation and public speaking skills, which is something I am very grateful to have attended too. The debate puts you in a position where you need to use these skills, while also making sure you learn further for future conferences. Overall, the whole trip was a very rewarding experience that I would love to attend again, and I hope others who are interested would want to as well.

L.F.



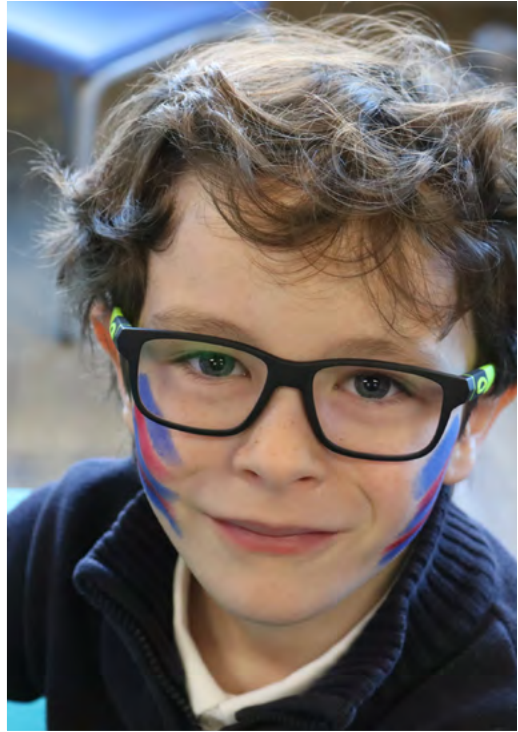
The MUN conference opened me to understanding how a professional MUN conference works. The conference enhanced my public speaking, communication, listening and organisation skills. When presenting my opening speech, I was able to put my ideas all together and present them effectively. Throughout the conference it was very important to be active and listening, making sure to be aware of the situation debated. Overall, I think this trip was an excellent and interesting experience and opportunity to know more about how an MUN works and a great opportunity to have fun with your friends and learn.

E.L.









CARRERS DEMOCRÀCIA
I CARDENAL REMOLINS

V MERCAT ROMÀ ILERDA

10, 11 i 12 MARÇ
LLEIDA 2023



FIRA D'ART I ARTESANIA
ALIMENTACIÓ · MÚSICA
TEATRE · ACTIVITATS INFANTIL
XERRADES · DESFILADES · I MOLT MÉS...

Organitza:



DEMOCRÀCIA
C. REMOLINS