



BCA Newsletter



Nº 34 / 3 May 2023



A WORLD SCHOOL!

Principal's letter

I am pleased to announce that the College has been **authorised to offer the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme.**

The IB develops inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through education that builds intercultural understanding and respect.

(IBO Mission Statement)

Mr Warren Quinton, our IB Coordinator, who has led us through this almost two-year process, writes:

"This, to my mind, is what we all want our students to achieve, and while I believe we already strive for this throughout the school without the IB, the inclusion of the Diploma Programme now offers students an all-important culminating stage of their BCA education, which is backed by an externally-assessed, globally-recognised qualification that will prepare them for university and for life after formal education.

This has been a long process, but one that every member of the BCA community has helped us to achieve, and I would like to thank you for your contribution. I want particularly to thank next year's DP teachers and coordinators, who have put in a lot of extra work to attend meetings and professional workshops, as well as to create their course planning documents.

Well done for your collective efforts in getting us over the finish line"

The IB's report contained much positive affirmation of what we are doing and have achieved, as well as guidance for the next steps we must take. On teaching and learning, the IB found that:

"Teaching and learning at the school reflect IB holistic educational philosophy and approaches to teaching and learning...visits to [list of subjects] classes reflected a safe atmosphere of inquiry, confident communication and supportive interactions between teachers and students...various student-centred strategies were observed, including collaborative inquiry-driven research and learning, hands-on experiments, problem-solving, targeted technology use, presentations and interactive communication, critical thinking questions and answers, and discussion of local and global issues"

Student leadership has also recently received a significant boost in our Early Years and Primary sections.

Parent: "How was school today?"

Child: "OK"

How often have we heard that conversation? Our **Student-Led Conferences** last week were an initiative intended to produce a somewhat longer conversation and richer experience.

The student-led conferences presented a different format to the usual parent-teacher conferences. We followed the example of other schools that have successfully introduced this idea, where a learning-centred conversation takes place with the child present, and moreover genuinely led by them, as much as possible according to their age. There were plentiful magical moments as the children, animated by their learning, shared their achievements and challenges, across different subjects and aspects of school life, with their parents. They had prepared themselves well and did a great job. These conferences complemented the more traditional parent-teacher conferences held in Term 1, and the full written report sent home in Term 2.

Summary reports for all students will be published at the end of this term.



Book Week was an enormous success, with a multitude of events led by teachers, students and parents. We had a Spanish Theatre performance relating to Sant Jordi, a Book Swap, a short story writing competition in English and one in Catalan too, Year 7 children peer-reading to Reception children, a parent reading to Year 3, the 'Get Caught Reading' contest, a book themed assembly and dressing up day.

Well done to our Year 10 and 11 students who qualified for the final phase of the 16th National Dictat on Saturday 22nd of April. The event brought together students from all Andorran schools and this year the texts were based on the book “Les ànimes sordes” by Albert Villaró.

It has been a great experience and we are very proud of their participation, well done!



Still on the book theme, after a significant investment in many (100's of) new books and the refurbishment of a classroom, we have now proudly opened our new Primary library, which classes are already using. The Secondary Library is just upstairs.

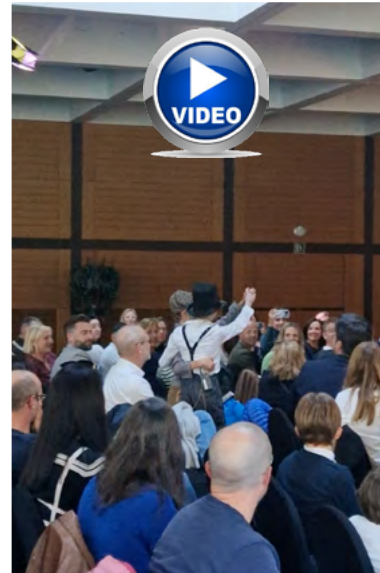


Finally, although it took place before the recent Easter holiday, this Newsletter is the right place to recognise the work of the children and all those who supported the ambitious production at BCA; the marvellous musical Oliver! We were all amazed with the staging, the singing and every detail. I also thank the Andorra Park Hotel for the support and all the comforts offered to us. In another spontaneous example of student leadership, on each evening Year 10 and Year 11 students took the opportunity to prepare a bake sale for the audience, and raised significant funds for their end-of-year trip.

“BCA’s got talent!” Indeed.

Harry Lock
Mr Harry Lock
Principal







BCA Sports Days, May 2023

Save the date!

Secondary sports day: Thursday 11th May, 10:00-13:00

Early Years and Primary sports day: Thursday 18th May, 10:00-13:00

Venue: Encamp Rugby Pitch [Prada de Moles Sports Centre]. Students will take the bus from school to Encamp and return to school for afternoon lessons.

We welcome all families to come and watch this exciting event where students can showcase what they have learned in PE and compete against one another. It is a celebration of sport and athletics.

Parent Authors

We have several parents who have recently written books.

Thank you to Noemí García de Marina, who has presented a copy of her recent book "Mamá, ¿tú me quieres?" to the school, and Dan Martin, who has given us a copy of his first autobiography, "Chased by Pandas".

Hanne Holdorf's Ellie's cats, edited by her son August, is on sale at the school Reception, with proceeds going to the Creu Roja, Andorra.

Way to go!

CLASS READING





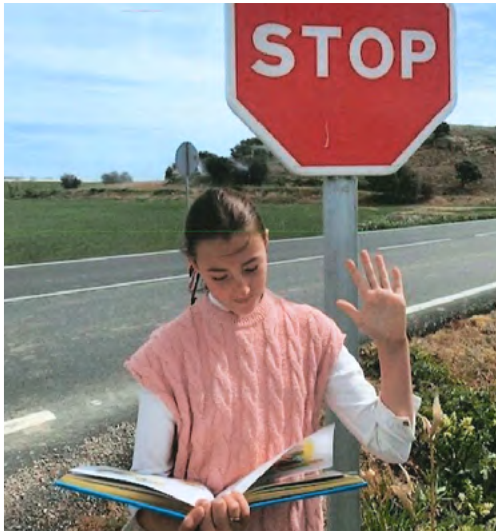
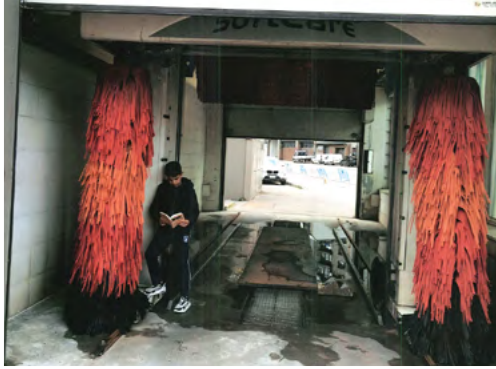


BOOK SWAP









GUESS THE BOOK!

