



# BCA Newsletter



Nº 35 / 26 May 2023



HEAD, HEART AND HANDS



The learning stories and images in this newsletter exemplify the diversity of experiences and opportunities that our students enjoy each day.

Our Mission statement speaks to the importance of educating the whole child. The idea of a 'holistic' education has deep and historic roots. One of my 'influencers' is the Swiss social reformer Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi (1746-1827). He is known as the Father of Modern Education because he was the first to see teaching as a subject worth studying in its own right, what we now know as 'pedagogy'.

Pestalozzi said that education should develop the powers of '*Head*', '*Heart*' and '*Hands*'. He believed that this would help create individuals who are capable of knowing what is right and what is wrong and of acting according to this knowledge.

The news stories below from the IGCSE examinations, a fascinating talk about mineral resources by a parent, and the chess competition, are obvious examples of the '*Head*' in action, but equally our recent Sports Days were as much a mental game as a physical one. The '*Heart*' must permeate all activities at school ('where happy children learn best'): students must know the learning intentions and what the success criteria look like, if they are to be motivated and enjoy having their own agency.

BCA students act daily from their Heart, witness the spontaneous bake sale organised by children from Peacocks this week, and the smiles on the children's faces during exciting field trips (there is something happening almost every day right now!) that they will remember for many years to come. The '*Hands*' are also employed because we try to make activities authentic and 'hands-on', for example the pictures below from the Year 2 Forest Art and the Year 4 Pop Art workshop.







Next week, although only a short one, is our Biodiversity Week. We have many environmental activities planned. Cygnets have got off to a head-start already, building lovely homes for minibeasts! Our green campus is looking at its best right now: flowers everywhere, trees resplendent, birds singing. What better place to engage “head, heart and hands”?

Sources used: <https://jhpestalozzi.org/>



A playground with a view, BCA May 2023.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'H Lock'.

**Mr Harry Lock**  
Principal



## Parent conference

Mr. Arnau Paz came in to give a presentation on mining for minerals to Year 8 class. Using the life cycle of an iPhone, he spoke about the need for gold, aluminium and lithium, among others, and discussed the methods for extracting these from the earth.

Pupils learned about the process of mining, potential future shortages, and the importance of recycling.

We are really grateful for this opportunity.



## Teacher announcements

Class teachers in school year 2023-24 for Early Years and Primary will be announced in the week commencing 5th June.

## Last Week of the School Year

### Transition Day

All children from Nursery through to current Year 6 will have a transition event on Monday 26th June. This will usually mean spending an hour or two with their new teacher/s and TA/s, and doing some taster activities. In the case of a class teacher who will not arrive at BCA until September 2023, the new class teacher will send a recorded presentation. Year 6 children will be prepared for the transition to Secondary.

### Reports

The End of Year reports will be published via the Parent Portal, after school on Monday 26th June.

### After School Activities Programme

Activities will run up to and including Wednesday 28th June. There will be no ASAs on Thursday of the last week of term.



## Uniform Exchange

Save the date!

There will be a school uniform exchange market at school on Thursday 29th June, from 15.30 to 16.15 (please note the last day of school will be a non-uniform day).

If you want to participate, please bring your child's uniform in advance the week before (from Monday 26th June) or the same day. You can contact the school office to store the items.

## Friday 30th June

On the last day of the school year, school will finish at 14:15 for Early Years & Primary, and at 14:30 for Secondary.

Extended supervision will be available, on request, until 17:00 for parents who require it.

We have major refurbishments taking place in the main building over the summer holidays, as well as the Summer Camp. An early finish for students will provide the staff with sufficient time later that afternoon to finish packing and removing teaching materials and furniture from areas scheduled for building and decorating work.

## Notices from the Comú and other organisations

To continuously support the wellbeing of our students, we are increasingly developing our links with local organisations and agencies, who are themselves rising to meet the rapidly evolving challenges that children and adolescents face. Here are different activities and other notices that have been recently sent to the school for dissemination:

- [Activities from the andorran Comú for teenagers](#)
- [This is the video presentation](#) of the new UNICEF Andorra campaign to promote the well-being of children and young people in our country
- A recent UNICEF-Govern d'Andorra-Andorra Recerca & Innovació report on the [Impact of Technology in Adolescence](#)
- The 3rd June is [International Bicycle Day](#)

The Servei de Joventut d'Andorra la Vella proposes a "chill" space for teenagers to dedicate time to themselves and learn relaxation techniques in the company of a psychologist. If you need more information, call this number: 611 842









## PRIMARY

































The Robins have been mixing art and outdoor learning this term as we take inspiration from the artist Andy Goldsworthy's 'Land Art' to create our own natural sculptures!





The Eagles went to the **Carmen Thyssen Museum** as part of the their learning around our Art topic of 'Pop Art'. They had a guided tour around their colour exhibition '*Khrôma*', followed by a workshop.





# SECONDARY CHESS TOURNAMENT

On Thursday 18th May, twenty of our secondary students participated, for the second year running, in the Interschool Chess Tournament 2023 organised by l'EASESC (Escola Andorrana de Segona Ensenyança de Santa Coloma). We had a greater number of participants this year, and once again the students performed exceptionally well.

The range of abilities of the competitors was vast, but the students consistently rose to the challenge, and there were some standout performances, especially one of our Year 7 students, who was narrowly robbed of a prize-winning place.





Our senior students are currently taking their external IGCSE examinations, typically taking 15 examinations, each of about 2 hours, over the coming weeks. They have been preparing for the exams for almost two years.

We wish them every success!



## NURSERY VISITOR

To deepen their understanding about the incredible world of bees, Cygnets had a visit from Matt (from 'Autèntic Abelles') who explained many interesting facts about these insects, how they make honey and how important they are for us and the environment! At the end, he offered children three different types of honey to try.

Thank you for the visit @autenticabelles, it was a lovely way to conclude our Minibeast topic!

