



BCA Newsletter

N° 36 / 16 June 2023



A TIME FOR REFLECTION

A Time for Reflection

This is the final Newsletter of the school year. For all of us (whether student, staff member or parent) the end of the year is a time to reflect on successes and achievements, as well as challenges, and to plan ahead for the coming school year. This applies not only at the personal level but also at the institutional level.

The school communicates on students' progress through parent-teacher conferences and reports, and increasingly through apps such as Seesaw. The **Parent Portal** is where we post much of our key information (timetables, important dates, events, protocols and policies), and this has developed strongly this year, although there is more to do. The **Parent Representative** groups have met this week for the last time this year. This provides another opportunity, in my view invaluable, to reflect on successes and challenges, respond quickly wherever possible, and hear suggestions for the coming year. Furthermore, and as last year, BCA will conduct a **Parent Survey**. Please look out for the email with instructions and link, early next week.

BCA has now completed its successful fifth year of operation, with its size and ambition growing exactly as planned (despite a pandemic along the way). A fully functioning, ambitious Secondary School has been created within the last two years. A recent school inspection for the British Council has confirmed the quality of the teaching and given us pointers for next steps and, after two years work, we have recently also passed the rigorous test to deliver the IB Diploma Programme. One particular success in my view, which parents might not know about, is the extensive programme of staff development, especially in the last year: all of the educational team have been involved in a variety of external training courses and school-based professional learning programmes this year, after school, on training days, or at weekends. As educators, we should be constantly refining and developing our craft.

Thus it could be said that BCA has now made the transition from infancy to maturity. Now it is time to look to the next five years, developing the huge potential of the BCA educational project, and taking into account the changing educational landscape, the rapidly evolving world of work, and current global challenges.

In this context, next term BCA plans to arrange a series of open meetings, for parents and teachers, in which we will consider various educational topics. We will call these the **BCA Forums on Schools in Society**, and at each one we will have input from parents, teachers or outside specialists in the respective area. The anticipated themes include the Impact of Technology, the Changing Landscape of University Education and Employment, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE), and Science, Technology and Innovation in Schools. The timing will be announced and others may follow, but

the intention is to stage one forum each month. Although the school must set the direction and provide leadership, these are as much societal issues as educational, so a shared understanding is best developed through the home-school partnership and the perspectives this may bring.

Furthermore, these forums might offer a useful context in which to review our **Guiding Statements**, which provide our reference point in operational actions and strategic decision-making.

Congratulations to our students and staff for their success (last week) in BCA achieving recognition as an Escola Verda / Green School within Andorra. A superb effort!

Some end of year trips have already happened, others will depart in the next two weeks. We approach the end of term with energy and enthusiasm, completing the planned curriculum and providing opportunities for celebration and, importantly, reflection.

With best wishes for the summer break.



Mr Harry Lock
Principal



School Uniform

The BCA PE uniform should only be worn on days when a student has PE. On other days, the BCA 'formal' uniform should be worn.

As we approach the end of the school year, we recognise that some items of uniform may be worn out, or grown out, and awaiting replacement over the summer holiday. Therefore at this time we will excuse items of BCA PE uniform being occasionally substituted for the BCA formal uniform.

All students should be correctly attired from September 2023. The **BCA Student Dress and Appearance** code is published on the Parent Portal.

Ticks!

We have had a report of a tick discovered on a student. Ticks are not uncommon in grass and trees at this time of year. It is definitely something for parents to check for, especially if your child is complaining of skin irritation. There are simple methods and devices available to quickly remove the tick in one piece.

Secondary Art Exhibition

Please see the poster included in this Newsletter. A warm welcome to come and enjoy the works produced by our students. Another BCA first!



Reports

The **End of Year Report** for all BCA students will be published via the Parent Portal by Friday 30th June. A notification will be sent to parents once it is available.

School office hours over the Summer holidays

The School Reception is staffed through the summer break and answering calls Monday to Friday 09:00-13:00. Emails to admin@bcandorra.com will be checked on a daily basis.

Exception: Monday 31st July to Friday 4th August, and any public holidays, when the school is fully closed.

Reminders

- Bus survey. If you wish to continue or begin to use the bus service next year, please complete the survey recently sent to help us to plan the routes and logistics over the summer.
- The end of year Uniform Exchange event will be on Thursday 29th from 16.00h. To avoid parking congestion, we recommend using the picnic area car parking, a couple of minutes walk above the school.
- There will be an early finish (14:15 Primary, 14:30 Secondary) on the last day of term, Friday 30th June. This will also be a non-uniform day (but not a fundraising day)
- There are still places available on the BCA Summer Camps. Please see: britishcollegeandorra.com/en/summer-camp for further details.

After School Activities Programme

The After School Activities (ASA) offer for the next school year was recently sent home and posted on the **Parent Portal**, with a range of exciting opportunities.

Save the Date

To help your advance planning, please find below the dates of the 'Back to School' events for parents at the beginning of next term. We look forward to seeing you there and setting out our plans for the year ahead. The first day of term is Monday 11th September.

18th September	NURSERY, RECEPTION, SECONDARY & IBDP	Meet the Teachers Evening
20th September	YEARS 1 & 2	Meet the Teachers Evening
21st September	YEARS 3 & 4	Meet the Teachers Evening
22nd September	YEARS 5 & 6	Meet the Teachers Evening

Table Tennis



**COME TO PLAY
TABLE TENNIS**



BCA parents may be interested in an offer from the CTT Encamp table tennis club, www.cttencamp.club.

They are starting an interesting project and are looking to attract children who want to play (and parents too, since they have a section for children and adults).

Youth Festival “La Juve”

The Andorra la Vella Youth Service have shared with us details of this youth talent festival for young people, on Saturday 24th June. Find out more [here](#).



Cygnets have been learning all about 'Peter Rabbit', a character from the classic children's series by the English writer Beatrix Potter. They learned new vocabulary and improved their skills with different activities.

For the finale of this topic they prepared delicious carrot cupcakes.



This week the Reception class had their Spanish lesson outdoors, combining vocabulary with PE.

The class was split into two groups. Each student had different fruits and vegetables, so if they called out a fruit, the child who had it (from both groups) had to run out to reach the meeting point as fast as they could, competing with the other group (similar to the popular Spanish 'handkerchief game').

Where happy children learn best.



Robins and Owls are preparing an exciting Art Exhibition for their families, so they have been very industrious and creative in their art lessons.

YEAR 1





The Kingfishers have been learning about the Stone Age, in particular the cave paintings that were created during this time. They traveled to France, to the 'Cave of Niaux', to discover more about their culture.

It was thrilling!



Eagles' Catalan cultural journey took them on an excursion to the "Casa Rull" museum in La Massana. This museum shows Andorran family life during the 20th Century, and characteristics such as people's jobs and way of life.



YEAR 5 & YEAR 6 TRIP

Last week Peacocks and Hawks classes had their Summer residential trip, a first for BCA with these year groups. They went to the *Casa de Colònies Vall de Boí - Verge Blanca*. The children had the opportunity to take part in some water sport activities such as rafting or canoeing, and other outdoor adventurous activities as well as a nature based workshop.

Everyone agreed it was epic!





YEAR 7 DRAMA LESSONS

In Drama, Year 7 students explored comedy as an art form, learning its entertainment value and ability to address societal issues. They explored different comedic genres such as Slapstick, Farce, and *Commedia dell'Arte*, gaining a deeper understanding through their own performances. During Farce weeks, they incorporated their knowledge of Shakespeare's plays "Comedy of Errors" and "The Taming of the Shrew" acquired in Ms. Spillane's English lessons, in their performances.



SECONDARY ADVENTURE CLUB

For the final challenge of the Adventure Club in Secondary School, students planned to climb to the *Collada de Prat Primer* (directly behind the school), followed by a return to school and overnight camp in the school grounds. They had been preparing their shelters in the past weeks to have outdoor camping.

Such an experience!





