



BCA Newsletter



"BE REAL"

PRINCIPAL'S LETTER

BE REAL

There is a common theme in the news stories and images in this edition: education as real-life.

We believe that children learn best when they interact with the resources for learning (whether those resources are the educators in the room, other children, visitors to the school, equipment, the built and natural environment, or printed or online resources).

We do have to be rather careful, however. Simply being 'active' or 'engaged' is a poor indicator for learning. We need to know what's going on inside a child's mind, and moreover plan for it. There may be just as much learning taking place in a classroom of seated children studying in silence, reading in the library, or listening to the teacher's skilled exposition.

Learning happens when people have to think hard.

So when we talk about 'engagement', we are talking about being internally engaged i.e. thinking critically and constructing meaning, rather than just being visibly 'busy'. Every educator knows this and therein lies the skill of planning learning experiences.

The influential American teacher and educational philosopher John Dewey (1859-1952) similarly theorised that children learn by doing, and that education should be based on real-life situations:

"True education comes through the stimulation of the child's powers by the demands of the social situations in which he finds himself"

His work continues to guide educators more than 100 years later, especially since governments and examination boards, especially in the UK, are clear on 'what' to teach, but fortunately leave it pretty much open as to 'how' to teach.

In Early Years and Key Stage 1, each class goes to the forest at least once a week for Outdoor Learning, connected with any part of our curriculum. Primary English and Science classes incorporate practical challenges: passive involvement is not an option! In some Catalan lessons, traditional *panel·letes* have been made. In one of our clubs, IB students have been offering their experience in tutoring Year 11 IGCSE students. In History, a class role-played the election of a King. A Year 8 Geography class research and then debate the pros and cons of population growth. In Maths, teachers use the new white boards to promote visual and collaborative learning in the solution of algebraic problems. Year 9 students have represented the school, very professionally, at the Consell de Joves.



Year 9 students at the Consell de Joves.

All of these experiences, which are pictured below, are active and promote engagement, but, far more importantly, are authentic, connect children to the resources, and trigger deep thinking and therefore learning.

Let's get real!

Congratulations to all students and staff for great work and a strong finish to the first half term of the school year, and thank you to all our parents for their continuous support of a BCA education.

Mr Lock
Mr Harry Lock
 Principal





EARLY YEARS IN THE FOREST



Y1 & Y2 FOREST

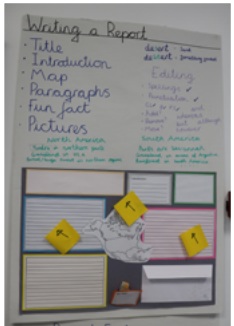
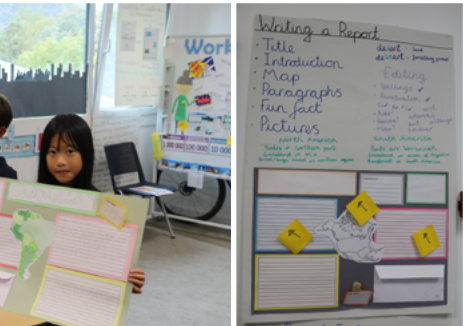
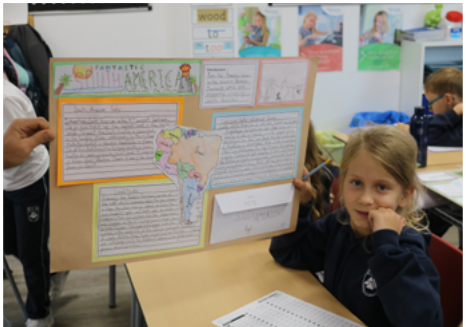
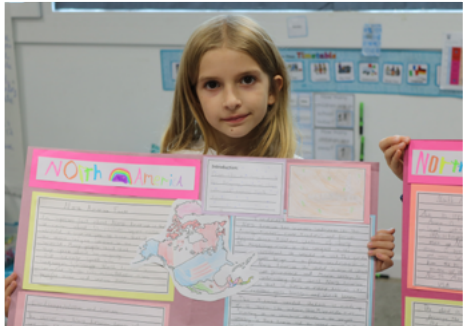




YEAR 3 FOREST



YEAR 5 WRITING



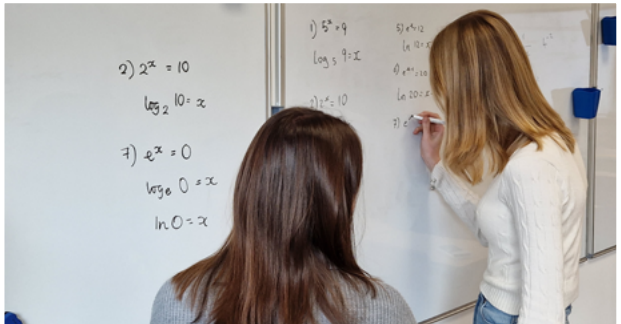
YEAR 6 PERISCOPES



SECONDARY HISTORY CLASS



IB MATHS





PANELLETS IN CATALAN LESSONS



GREEN SCHOOL IN Y5

