



October 2024



# BCA Newsletter



50<sup>TH</sup> NEWSLETTER

## LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

*How are Van Gogh's emotions reflected in his use of colour?*

*How does Plath use literary devices to convey an authentic experience of depression and psychosis?*

*How did politics, strategy and ethical considerations interact in shaping the evolution of the British aerial bombardment of Germany between 1940 and 1945?*

*To what extent does the length of a bullet affect its drag?*

*Com Joaquim Amat-Piniella utilitza els recursos narratius per representar el patiment als camps de concentració nazi a la seva novel·la concentracionària K.L. Reich?*

*How does the shape of the valves in an engine affect its airflow into the chamber?*

*To what extent can the cant angle affect the efficiency of a wing and winglet system during different phases of a flight?*

*To what extent does physical activity affect mental wellbeing?*

## SOUNDS IMPRESSIVE?

These are not the topics of a university researcher but the titles of the IB Extended Essays recently completed by our Year 13 students, who will form the first graduating cohort in Spring 2025. The Essay is a well known and, by universities, highly valued part of the Diploma Programme. Students develop their own question, following their interests, and complete academic research and produce a 4000 word paper. I am very proud of our students and the staff who have supported them. Our Year 13 students have multiple work priorities right now, are beginning university applications, and are responding very well to all the challenges.

You will see from the activities reported in this newsletter that we continue to take many opportunities to enhance the student learning experience with local visits and engagement with the **culture of Andorra and beyond**: Nursery at Caldea, Year 2 in the forest, a visit by Andorran Olympian Nahuel Carabaña to Year 6, Secondary on an expedition to the Sorteny valley, and Secondary again on a geography trip to Sitges.

This Newsletter is a special one. It's the **50th edition since the school's opening**. This is our seventh year of operation. Gold is the colour for 50. We have taken the opportunity in this edition to reflect on the **achievements and improvements around the school over the last 50 editions of the Newsletter**. You'll see these achievements, in gold letters, throughout this edition. These achievements are the product of a strong partnership between the school and parents to deliver the best possible education for the children. Let's recognise and celebrate these, whilst recognizing that there is more that we can and must do. As the Greek philosopher Heraclitus tells us, change is like a river, never the same and always in motion, just like education.



*Mr Harry Lock  
Principal*

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## 50 STRATEGIC AREAS OF SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT OVER 50 EDITIONS OF THE NEWSLETTER

1. THREE NEW CLASSROOM BLOCKS- 12 CLASSROOMS.
2. THE NEW ASTRO.
3. INSTALLATION OF THREE ADDITIONAL OUTDOOR PICNIC AND SEATING AREAS.
4. NEW ART ROOM, NEW PRIMARY AND SECONDARY LIBRARIES, ADDITIONAL SCIENCE LAB.
5. VERY SIGNIFICANT INVESTMENT IN SCIENCE EQUIPMENT TO SUPPORT A STRONGLY PRACTICAL AND ACTIVE APPROACH TO LEARNING.
6. SPECIALIST FULL TIME PSHE TEACHER AND SEN COORDINATOR.
7. CREATION OF A TREATMENT AND PRIVACY ROOM.
8. PEARSON EDEXCEL EXAM CENTRE -IGCSE- APPROVAL.
9. CAMBRIDGE ENGLISH APPROVED TESTING CENTRE.
10. INTRODUCTION OF THE YEAR 10 PERSONAL PROJECT TO ENRICH THE IGCSE PROGRAMME.

## CYGNETS' TRIP TO CALDEA



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11. ACCREDITATION AS AN INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE WORLD SCHOOL, AUTHORISED TO DELIVER THE PRESTIGIOUS IB DIPLOMA.
12. GROWTH IN THE SIZE OF THE EDUCATIONAL TEAM FROM 16 TO 48 STAFF.
13. EXTENSIVE STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME.



**PENGUINS RECYCLING LESSON WITH SECONDARY GREEN SCHOOL**



14. RECIPROCAL AGREEMENT WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF ANDORRA TO PROVIDE TWO PLACEMENTS ANNUALLY FOR STUDENT TEACHERS SEEKING AN INTERNATIONAL-BRITISH EXPERIENCE.

15. DEFINITION OF HIGH QUALITY LEARNING DEVELOPED WITH STAFF.

## Y1 WRITING LESSON



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16. EMPLOYMENT OF SPECIALIST ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE -EAL- TEACHERS, AND ADDITIONAL EAL SUPPORT ACROSS ALL YEAR GROUPS.

17. INTRODUCTION OF A MASTERY APPROACH ACROSS ALL PRIMARY AND SECONDARY MATHEMATICS, FOLLOWING THE WHITE ROSE PROGRAMME.

## Y2 OUTDOOR LEARNING



18. INTRODUCTION OF A SYSTEMATIC PHONICS -READING- PROGRAMME FROM RECEPTION TO YEAR 3-

19. INTRODUCTION OF TODDL AS THE LEARNING AND COMMUNICATION PLATFORM FOR IGCSE AND IB.

## Y6 SCIENCE - NAHUEL CARABAÑA VISIT



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20. INTRODUCTION OF SEESAW AS THE LEARNING AND COMMUNICATION PLATFORM FOR EARLY YEARS AND PRIMARY.

21. INTRODUCTION OF STUDENT LED CONFERENCES IN PRIMARY.



## Y8 SCIENCE LESSON



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22. INTRODUCTION OF STANDARDISED TESTING ACROSS THE SCHOOL TO LINK TO EXTERNAL AND GLOBAL STANDARDS IN A RIGOROUS WAY: CAT4, BASE PROGRESS, NGRT.
23. UNIFROG INTRODUCED TO SUPPORT CAREERS AND UNIVERSITY RESEARCH AND CHOICES.

## Y9 BASKETBALL LESSON



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24. SPLITTING OF LANGUAGE ACQUISITION IN CATALAN, SPANISH AND FRENCH INTO A AND B STREAMS, AND INCLUSION OF LITERATURE.

25. NEW BCA VALUES DEVELOPED.

26. INTRODUCTION OF LEARNER PROFILE AWARDS.



27. INTRODUCTION OF SECONDARY CLUBS WITHIN THE SCHOOL DAY.

28. ECO-SCHOOL ACCREDITATION.

29. UNCEF-FRIENDLY SCHOOL ACCREDITATION.

30. FIVE MAJOR SCHOOL PERFORMANCES STAGED.

## DUKE OF EDINBURGH BRONZE AWARD TRIP TO SORTENY



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31. SERVICE LEARNING ROLLED OUT ACROSS THE SCHOOL WITH LINKS ESTABLISHED WITH MULTIPLE LOCAL CHARITIES.

32. TWO HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL BCA COMMUNITY FAIRS, STRONGLY SUPPORTED BY PARENTS.



33. DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD SCHEME. BRONZE AND SILVER AWARDS UP AND RUNNING.

34. DEVELOPMENT OF A PRIMARY AND SECONDARY RESIDENTIAL FIELD TRIP PROGRAMME.

35. PARENT REPRESENTATIVES SYSTEM.

## GEOGRAPHY FIELD STUDIES AT THE COAST



## SECONDARY HOUSE FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT



- 36. BATONROUTE APP TO ENSURE EFFICIENT OPERATION OF THE BUSES.
- 37. OUTDOOR LEARNING NOW PART OF THE WEEKLY SCHEDULE FOR ALL EARLY YEARS AND PRIMARY CLASSES.
- 38. GROWTH IN THE SCHOOL FROM 37 TO OVER 260 CHILDREN.



39. REFURBISHMENT OF NURSERY AND RECEPTION CLASSROOMS.

40. FREQUENT PARENT WORKSHOPS ON DIVERSE TOPICS: PHONICS, ONLINE SAFETY, SEX EDUCATION, LANGUAGE EDUCATION, CURRICULUM INFO.

41. STRONG LINKS ESTABLISHED WITH THE MINISTRY TO DEAL WITH ANY CONCERNS OVER SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AND BULLYING.



42. STRONG LINKS ESTABLISHED WITH OUTSIDE AGENCIES TO SUPPORT STUDENTS EXPERIENCING SIGNIFICANT SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DIFFICULTIES OR SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS.

43. FIELD TRIPS FAR AND WIDE: CATALUNYA, LONDON, PORTUGAL, PERU.



## AUTUMN MOOD



- 44. REGISTERED UCAS CENTRE -UK UNIVERSITY APPLICATIONS-
- 45. THE HOUSE SYSTEM INTRODUCED.
- 46. ANNUAL SPORTS DAYS INTRODUCED- THREE SO FAR.

BCA - WHERE HAPPY CHILDREN LEARN BEST!



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- 47. INTRODUCTION OF 1:1 CHROMEBOOK PROGRAMME FROM YEAR 10 UPWARDS. ALL STUDENTS IN THE SCHOOL HAVE READY ACCESS TO AN IPAD OR CHROMEBOOK.
- 48. HOSTED VISITS BY THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR AND THE CAP DE GOVERN.

## NOTICES

World Children's Day, 20th November

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Escola Amiga  
**UNICEF**

**The British College of Andorra**  
forma part de la xarxa de centres d'escoles amigues d'UNICEF.  
Distintiu otorgat per UNICEF Andorra.

**unicef**   
Comité d'Andorra

As an Escola Amiga UNICEF, we will be incorporating this day into our teaching plans. The theme this year is "Inclusion, for every child".

You may find the BCA approach to inclusion clearly set out in our Inclusion Policy, 2022, published on the website and on the Parent Portal.

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49. SIX YEARS OF CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT, CLASSROOM TEACHING AND STUDENT LEARNING.

50. THERE'S PLENTY MORE TO DO!