

We would like to begin this letter wishing you and your families a happy New Year 2018!

This is the first communication from Group of Parents BSB AMPA in 2018 and we want to offer you a summary of everything that has been done since last September 2017 up to now.

The Group of Parents AMPA continues to work very intensely to solve issues that require an immediate reaction from the school, as well as those that are more global and concern many parents of the BSB community since ages.

First of all, we would like to tell you that the organizational processes to formalize the creation of the Group of Parents AMPA are ongoing. We already have the CIF (legal fiscal number) and we are about to open the bank account, which will allow those who have chosen to pay the annual fee by bank transfer, to do it without problems.

Secondly, as we have promised you in the associates meeting at the end of September, the Group of Parents AMPA has been holding meetings with the school management monthly. Those meetings are attended by the parents who have availability at the time (usually the meetings take place on a weekday morning) and the heads of several departments of the BSB (Ms. Hughes, Mr. Petrie, Ms. Overton and others). For such meetings the representatives of the Group of Parents AMPA usually prepare a list of problems of different topics. Likewise, the issues we had discussed at previous meetings are constantly monitored to check if there is any improvement.

The most salient issues that have been discussed in the four meetings with management in the first quarter of this school year are the following:

1. The fees issue has obviously been the most important for most parents, which is why at each meeting held, it has been the first item on the list. Although the BSB did not fulfill its commitment of providing them in September 2017, as promised to parents at the end of last May at the meeting of the school theater, we consider that the fact of having sent the fees for 2018/19 in January, is already a remarkable advance. Another

important point is that despite the promise to raise the fees the nearest to the cost of life, the rise has not been as radical as last year's. Anyway from the Group of Parents AMPA will ask for an explanation on why the rise in some courses is more than 4 percent and if they intend to implement this increase annually;

2. Since the main purpose of the school is to provide an excellent education, which is regularly promised to parents, the second most discussed topic is precisely the educational process and the problems related to it. Within this area the following issues have been discussed:

a. The capacities of some of the teachers, of whom many complaints from parents and students have been transmitted to the school. For example, we have been insisting for months that changes needs to be made in the IT department (Secondary and Pre-U). Students complain that they have no support in their daily learning and there is an impossibility of solving doubts beyond referring to tutorials from Internet. As a result of this, the results of last year's exams are unacceptable. As a result, many Y13 students are close to the fail and unable to access their chosen universities. At this moment the school has not taken any action in this regard.

Another example is the level of some of the language teaching staff that teach some languages without being native speakers.

b. Support class. The simple fact of studying in a private school already presupposes a high level of teaching and personalized attention necessary to solve any problem that may arise. We believe that instead of charging 50 euros for a support class it would be more logical to raise the general level of education so that there was no need for such classes. The BSB has declined to change this situation. By now, just a little internal survey has been made regarding this issue.

c. Repeated absenteeism of teachers that causes some very serious problems especially in Secondary and Pre-U. Many do not realize it, but the percentage of classes that are lost is very high and has disastrous consequences for students

both from the academic and emotional point of view (loss of motivation, unnecessary relaxation during the school day, etc.).

Little success have had the continuous requests by the Group of Parents AMPA to notify parents about possible absences of teachers, try to reduce them or at least replace absent teachers by others who are not only in class and actually provide classes of sufficient quality.

d. In-depth analysis of the results of external examinations is another issue that raises much concern. Although in the periodic meetings the percentages of the student's notes are exposed to the parents, there is no transparency whatsoever in this matter.

No information is given about the procedure in the cases of not being able to pass one or several subjects in the key courses and how many students have to repeat or sign up for a preparatory course (i.e. year 12 foundation course) to be able to move forward. Also very often the comparative analysis between the BSB and other British schools is done based on public schools in the United Kingdom data, not private schools, to which we should be comparing, which confuses the parents and does not show the real situation in the BSB. On several occasions it has been requested that this comparison be made with private schools, which would help to detect the true level of the school. We are waiting for the next meetings to be able to check if our requests are finally answered.

e. The organizational issues have also been discussed, such as establishing easy and direct contact between all teachers and parents in order to quickly solve the problems and doubts that may arise daily. We have to say that direct communication methods are improving.

f. Summer exams planning improvement, to avoid undesirable situations like, for example, last June when Pre-U students, who had to take their final exams in extreme heat (more than 30 degrees in the classroom) without air conditioning. We hope that this situation will not be repeated.

g. Lack of sports activities focused on girls. Most of the activities are rather masculine and some feminine ones have to be organized to maintain balance in this matter.

3. The school uniform has also been a very controversial topic. First of all, we have had many complaints about the fabric and models' quality which is also far to be fair in price. Constant change of the supplier does not favor a good service for a good price. Secondly, although the provider has been changed several times, parents have had and continue to have problems when ordering and picking up of the uniforms. At the beginning of the school year, the Group of Parents AMPA proposed that a representative of the provider should come to the school periodically so that parents could place orders and pick them up at the school. This has been done, but not without some other problem.

In addition, a well-organized second-hand uniform exchange has been proposed and the Group of Parents AMPA has offered any necessary assistance.

4. The school lunch service arises also many complaints. It has been proposed to carry out an analysis of drinking water in the school, as well as checking the absence of products that may cause allergies in the vending machines in the school premises. In addition, it has been asked to control the nutritional balance in the meals (the amount of salt, sugar, etc.). We also request to unify different standards that exist in the Castelldefels and Sitges campuses.

5. The prices of school trips have been another matter to clarify and we talked about the need to make them more transparent. In some cases it is asked to pay for activities that are free for other schools (museums, libraries, etc.). At the moment we do not see any improvement in the matter.

6. The safety of students when entering / leaving school and also during and after extracurricular activities. It has been required to implement an adequate system to provide the safety of the children at all times. On January 17, 2018 a representative of the AMPA attended the meeting with the school to try to improve the planning of entry and exit of children. It was exposed that in spite of having of 5 minutes stripes for the exit of the different year groups, between early years

and year 6, there is great concentration of parents, especially on Fridays, which results in an uncontrolled exit. For this reason, since the AMPA has been proposed that the delivery is divided into the two existing exits. One of them in C / Ginesta, the usual point of entry and exit from school and the other point in Paseo Pitort, right next to the parking lot of Gran Vía Mar sports center. This way, the concentration of parents will be reduced by half and in the case of parents who have children in both places of collection, they may access one point to the other through the inner zone of the school.

At both delivery spots, the collection system will not vary in terms of teaching staff and contact with the school representatives and there will be control staff in both sides.

In addition it was exposed that not all staff members are wearing reflective vests, this would be solved if all of them would be wearing jackets with STAFF logo on them to be easily identified. This change, which will only affect the pick up mainly on Fridays, will improve the distribution of vehicle traffic since the collection point of Pg. Del Pitort is very close to the parking in the university area. Regarding all the above we are waiting for confirmation from the management but we can advance that the proposal has been received positively by the representatives of the school. Regarding security measures that, despite having improved, continue to be lacking, work will continue on subsequent meetings.

7. It was requested to create an Anti-Bullying Program and to carry out continuous monitoring of this problem since there are many cases of harassment that occur in the BSB. The school hired a company to detect and solve bullying situations. We will follow up on this matter.

8. At the beginning of the school year, we were notified of several robberies that had occurred at school. After having spoken with Mr. Petrie, the school solved this problem.

9. We have followed the reconstruction of the playground for Primary and we were explained the causes of the delay in its completion. Currently the reconstruction should be finished.

10. In addition, we are following up the construction of the new Pre-U building. The school promised to provide us the actual completion dates and the operation plan for both sites when the new building is finished.

11. We have demanded more security when publishing in social media, advertising or printing any photo containing the students of the BSB. Even if the parents have given their permission, the school should ensure its proper use. The current policy is being revised.

12. We have talked about the possibility of using the school grounds to celebrate the activities of the Group of Parents AMPA. Last November we organized a very interesting workshop together with “Educar Disfrutando”, about positive education. The school was open to do it inside the school premises (the library) and some of the staff actively participated on it. This has led to a series of workshops that will be announced very soon and open to everyone interested. We hope that there will be more similar events soon.

13. The Group of Parents AMPA has asked the school to investigate the possible creation of a fund so that the student can finish his studies at the BSB in the event of the death of his / her parents. An insurance policy was also proposed as a solution. For now, we are still waiting for a response.

14. The creation of a business plan to improve the operation of the school and avoid disproportionate increases in the future was proposed. We are also waiting for this to be answered.

As you can see, there are many topics that we treat monthly. We would like the school to give more possibilities and more space to the Group of Parents AMPA to carry out all our long-term plans and future ideas. We understand that this is a completely new situation for the school the situation and perhaps they will have to get used to it and learn to involve parents not only participating in the celebrations' organization, but also in the control and monitoring of the development and excellence of all areas of daily school life.

We invite you to visit our website [www.bsbparents.com](http://www.bsbparents.com) where you can find the basic information of the Association (as the statutes, for example) and all the

latest news. You can always contact us for any doubt you might have or any problem you would like to arise to the school

We thank you for your continued support and interest. We continue working to make the BSB the school our children deserve.