Dear Parents,

A short visit to London this week to attend the BETT Educational Technology conference was a very fruitful and inspirational experience. This annual exhibition took place at the vast Excel Conference centre in East London and my first response was the scale of its growth since my last visit ten years ago; it seems to have quadrupled in size. The other was how international it had become both in terms of the attendees from all over the world but also in terms of the range of exhibitors. Ten years ago it was almost exclusively a British producer’s showcase while now the exhibitors were from a vast array of countries.

The other observation was how technology itself has changed and developed. While many ‘traditional’ products such as interactive whiteboards, tablets and laptops were showcasing their latest designs and upgrades there was now a much greater presence of products for coding, software applications and most interestingly a much greater focus on devices and processes that enable production and outcomes rather than consumption. Indeed the most valuable stands and displays were where the ‘sales staff’ were school pupils and classroom teachers who had come along to champion the products that were making a profound impact on their teaching and learning. Attending the concert of a school i-band using Apple music technology to produce wonderful entertainment, seeing a digital radio studio and recording studio in operation, observing a teacher using a well-designed programme to record pupil progress in the Early Years were just some of the highlights. I return with luggage full of brochures and catalogues and much food for thought.

My congratulations to our Form 10 pupils who received the results of the IGCSE Mathematics Paper taken in November 2015 this week. I also add my thanks to Mr Cox who has done a superb job in preparing his charges. The headline data makes very happy reading indeed with 81% gaining A*-A grade and 100% gaining A+-B grades. It demonstrates that pupils can achieve very high standards at OBS and we are very proud of their achievements.

Tom McGrath, Headmaster

WHOLE SCHOOL NOTICES

MEDICAL NOTICE

Please be informed that the following symptoms are going around school: Tummy ache, nausea & a headache, diarrhea and in some cases fever.

Lidia Ferreira, First Aider
PRIMARY NOTICES

On Wednesday, 20th January a Child Psychologist presented a seminar at OBS on *Childhood and Sleeping*. The parents that attended all felt that this was very beneficial and we do hope to have another seminar during the summer term. You will be informed via email regarding any future topics for the seminars.

I would also like to remind you of an opportunity we started last year to share any skills or interests with our pupils. Parents, friends or colleagues of OBS family can be offered the opportunity to present a 20-30 minute assembly to pupils on a monthly basis. The topics would be anything that you think pupils would be interested in and something that you can bring your expertise to. We would call these “Magis” assemblies. The word “Magis” is Latin and refers to setting a challenge or ‘lighting a fire’ in a person to make them more inquisitive and wanting to do or learn more. Should you have any interest in offering your services then please do email or speak with me and we can arrange a time on a Friday afternoon at 1:45pm when you can come into school to present your assembly. Please do email me if you are interested in taking part in a Magis assembly.

This half term is quickly coming to an end though we still have the Inter Porto Sports Tournament at CLIP next week. We then have our Carnaval celebration - and I can’t decide whether to be a Parrot, a Cowboy or Princess Jasmine. I’m sure the pupils will all have their costumes superbly prepared for this day. Then to end the half term we have out Talent Show - another very popular event to showcase our pupils abilities.

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend either practising new techniques to get your children to sleep or sewing costumes for Carnaval.

Mark Evans, Head of Primary

PRIMARY PASTORAL WEEKLY REPORT

For the week ending 15th January the house point totals were: Windsor 792, Lancaster 795 and Bragança 909. The individual class winners are listed below. A display with this information can be found in the primary corridor.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Pupil</th>
<th>House</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LIONS</td>
<td>Ricardo Fernandes</td>
<td>Bragança</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TIGERS</td>
<td>Francisca Kersher</td>
<td>Lancaster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2B</td>
<td>Carlota Ferreira</td>
<td>Lancaster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3C</td>
<td>Joana Martins</td>
<td>Windsor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3H</td>
<td>Mateus Moura</td>
<td>Lancaster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4P</td>
<td>Guilherme Lopes</td>
<td>Bragança</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4R</td>
<td>Henrique Wang Yu</td>
<td>Bragança</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gabriel Aguiar Branco</td>
<td>Bragança</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5L</td>
<td>Oliver Charles</td>
<td>Bragança</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rita Santos</td>
<td>Windsoro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5B</td>
<td>Amena Korobi</td>
<td>Lancaster</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This week in assembly the children were introduced to ‘Kelso’s Choices’ through some interactive drama and video. Kelso is frog that helps children solve small interpersonal problems themselves by offering them a selection of choices.
PRIMARY PE LESSONS

The house championships in Archery, Bowls and Petanque start this week for a period of 3 weeks. House pairs will be competing in Petanque and Bowls and individuals will be accumulating points for their houses in Archery. Their best 6-arrow scores will also be used to inform their attainment grades.
PRIMARY CROSS COUNTRY

We nearly avoided the rain on the morning of Tuesday 12th January as the Primary cross country took place at Passeio Alegre. A beautiful mild winters’ morning framed by sun and rainbows saw strong competition in all 4 races. A big thank you to parents, staff and the local freguesia for helping make the event a success.

The overall house champions for this event were Windsor with Bragança second and Lancaster third.

The overall primary sports house championship lead has changed. Windsor now lead Lancaster by 10 points with Bragança a further 10 behind in third.

PRIMARY COMPETITIONS

Next week CLIP will be hosting the annual boys division 5 Football and girls Basketball ‘Benjamin’s festival’. This will take place on Thursday 28th and Friday 29th January. Further Information will be coming to the parents of selected Form 4&5 players at the start of the week as will the schedule of games once we have them. The school will be providing transport from the school to CLIP and return within normal school hours and pupils should arrive at school as normal but wearing PE kit. We wish both squads of players the best of luck in the tournament.

Matt Homewood, Head of PE

PRIMARY DATES FOR THE DIARY

- 28th-29th January - F4-5 Sports Festival at CLIP
- 5th Feb - Carnival Celebration and Talent Show
- 8th-12th February - Half-Term Break
SECONDARY NOTICES

FORM 6-8 STAR OF THE WEEK

Mafalda Santos 8D - for outstanding homework in Maths.

FORM 9-10 STARS OF THE WEEK

Sara Amorim and Carlota Sousa Basto - F9C
For completing excellent practicals in Chemistry

Harriet Mackay 10W for winning the upper secondary girls cross country with magnanimity and
Carlos Barbosa 9W for winning the upper secondary boys cross country with a significant injury

GREAT GIFTED TECHNOLOGY student:
Rui Mathias, Form 10W
Scored 100% in paper 3 ICT IGCSE (website authoring and data analysis) mock examination
IGCSE MATHS SUCCESS!

Congratulations to the eleven Form 10 November entry Mathematics students who collected their results on Tuesday, 19th January. 81% of students achieved A*-A grades and 100% achieved A*-B. We are proud of their achievements and the effort they all put in to succeeding in their first IGCSE examination. Once again, this would not be possible without the input of yourselves and Mr Cox. Thank you for your past, present and future support.

Peter Jones & Ailish Corcoran

WORKING TOWARDS SUCCESS

Thank you to all parents and students that attended the Parents Evening on Wednesday 20th January. Over the next week, students will complete their targets and action plans to address any areas to improve. Specifically, students need to think what they need to do this half term in relation to coursework and IAs.

Students then need to think what they need to improve on in each subject area. They need to be strategic in playing to their strengths but they also need to ensure their understanding of weaker areas and build up their exam technique. As parents and teachers we must support our children in achieving this. However, it is essentially the responsibility of each student to take charge of their own learning and revision and take advantage of the support available.

Any child (and parent) can see a teacher at any time to go over any aspect of learning. Heads of Department are currently analyzing data and developing immediate action plans to further support your child. We already have a range of support sessions and clinics for all students to attend (please see our ECA schedule). Miss Weston, Miss Corcoran and Miss Marsden have also set up homework support sessions that are targeting specific students, but all students are welcome to attend these. The key message is then to now ‘sweat blood’ and make things happen through a clear plan of action.

Peter Jones, Head of Secondary

IB BRIEFING NOTES

This Monday the form 11s were introduced to two exciting projects: the first is their Group 4 Science project which will be based on sustainability in line with our schools’ global goal: Sustainable Cities and Communities and the second is the launch of the Extended Essay. For more information about the extended essay please visit the IBO website.

Following on from this we are happy to have Oxford Study Courses return to the school to deliver a number of sessions to students and parents. This will take place on Tuesday 26th January and the programme is as follows:

10:15 -11.00am: Starting the Extended Essay Form 11
12.40- 13:40pm: Presentation on Study Skills Form 10
2.50-4.00pm: Presentation on Revision and Review/Examiner Tips Form 12s
5.00-5.40pm: Parent presentation - Why do the IB/How to support your IB students through the IB Diploma
This should prove to be a very rewarding day for all involved and we hope to see as many parents as possible at the options evening on Tuesday. OSC have an excellent reputation for delivering IB revision and study courses. For more information on OSC please see the link: https://osc-ib.com/

The Form 12s have now completed their mock examinations and have had their feedback. There was a mix of good and bad news but as is the purpose of mock examinations, they leave staff and students with a clear idea of what needs to be completed in these vital next few months. In order to help our form 12s complete their IAs and fully prepare for the exams staff are offering a number of revision clinics (full timetable to be printed before half term) and the following days students are invited in to school to work on completing their extended essays and TOK work.

Saturday 23rd 11:00 - 14:00 and Saturday 30th 11:00 - 14:00

This is going to be another hectic term and the students are really beginning to feel the pressure. We would like to remind them that meeting deadlines and exam preparation is vital but so is their health. If we use the metaphor of the IB examinations being a marathon it is important to remember that when you are in training you eat well, sleep well, train hard but also have a day off. A game of football, a trip to the cinema or a coffee break with friends can help you to relax and go back to the studies focused and ready!

REMINDERS

IBDP OPTIONS EVENING: 26th JANUARY 5pm-6pm
All F10 students and parents are invited to the IBDP options evening. We are lucky to have a representative from OSC who will explain the benefits of an IBDP education. Ms Marsden and Dr Jones will also go through the options process and answer any questions. If you have not had the chance to read the article Ms Marsden wrote about the benefits of IB Diploma and how it is respected by the most prestigious universities then please do read the attachment. The attachment also outlines how Portuguese universities have acknowledged and improved the situation for students who study for the IB Diploma.

IGCSE OPTIONS EVENING: 26th JANUARY 6pm-7pm
All of F8 students and parents are invited to the IGCSE options evening. This will directly follow the IBDP talk. Ms Corcoran and Dr Jones will outline the advantages of Cambridge IGCSE and studying at OBS. They will also go through the options process.

SECONDARY CROSS COUNTRY
The Parque da Cidade hosted the Secondary Cross Country on Wednesday 12th January and remained dry all day. The majority of runners performed excellently in completing the new larger course with a notable performance from Francisco Barbosa who completed the Upper secondary boys 3000m in an excellent 11 minutes and 29 seconds. All pupils contributed their race positions to the overall house score with unauthorised absentees adding penalty points to the total. A full list of finishing positions can be found on the secondary blog http://secondaryobserver.weebly.com/
The overall house champions for this event were Lancaster with Windsor second and Bragança third. The overall secondary shouse championship lead has changed. Lancaster now led Bragança by 9 points with Windsor a further 3 behind in third.

Form 9b10 (group 1’s) start clay court Tennis lessons during their games lesson time next week. I will bring you photos and a pupil report in the next PE bulletin instalment.

CLUBS
SURVEY RESULTS

Thank you to the 15 parents who took the time to complete the survey regarding the schools extra-curricular sports club offer. The PE department will be incorporating this into their development plan and taking action to improve the offer in line with your feedback. The headline results from the survey were:

- 78.6% of you rate the experience of after school sports clubs as excellent, very good or good;
- Most pupils join clubs to learn new skills
- The majority of pupils are not members of federated clubs outside of school but would prefer the school to have links with them
- Parents are, on average, happy to spend €30 per month on club membership;
- More sports clubs should be after school and parents would like to see the offer including: fencing, rugby, swimming, dance, tennis, sailing and badminton for both Primary and Secondary.

Matt Homewood, Head of PE

PIZZA PARTY!!!
Last Christmas lunch Form 8B won the “Best Christmas Table” Competition. Decorating the table for Christmas lunch was a great opportunity for team work. Everyone happily contributed with a handcrafted decoration to make sure our table was as festive as possible. The prize was a pizza party which was celebrated last Wednesday 20th January. We all had fun and hope to win again next year!
GREAT GIFTED TECHNOLOGY STUDENT: Rui Mathias, Form 10

The screen shots below show the coding and the resultant pattern generated by Rui Mathias. Well done Rui, you really are an outstanding student!

“So I was bored one night and decided to make graph-drawing software with JavaScript. It doesn’t draw all graphs yet, only functions, but I was happy with it when I was finished. The one you see has been made as small as possible with my current knowledge, with the JavaScript and CSS embedded in it to make the one file work standalone.”

Cristina Bridges, Head of ICT

SECONDARY TERM TWO: KEY DATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term 2a</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mock exam grades report for 10 and 12</td>
<td>Tues 19th Jan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parents evening for 10 and 12</td>
<td>Wed 20th Jan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IGCSE and IBDP information and options evening</td>
<td>Tues 26th Jan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current attainment grade, effort grade report for 6&amp;9</td>
<td>Tues 2nd Feb</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Full written report for 7, 8  
Wed 3rd Feb

Term 2b  

Current attainment grade, effort grade report for 10, 12 (10&12 include IA progress)  
Tues 16th Feb

Full written report for 11  
Wed 17th Feb

Academic Review Day 2  
Wed 17th February

Current attainment grade, effort grade report for 6, 7, 8, 9, 11 (current target grade for exam years only)  
Tues 15th March

CIS visit  
14-18th March

**TRIPS AND EVENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Grade(s)</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Date(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Escola das Artes Mid - Year Recital</td>
<td>1-11</td>
<td>Internal</td>
<td>28th, 29th Jan and 1st Feb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group IV Project</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Internal</td>
<td>Feb 17th and Feb 18th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group IV Presentation</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Internal</td>
<td>Feb 26th pm only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OIS Cross Country</td>
<td>4,5/6,7/8,9</td>
<td>OIS</td>
<td>Wed 3 Feb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUN CLIP</td>
<td>External</td>
<td>Feb</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Cross Country</td>
<td>4,5/6,7/8,9</td>
<td>VIS</td>
<td>Sat 28 Feb with Sat 12 Mar (backup)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Varsity Festival GBB BFB</td>
<td>10,11,12 (Please note this is dependent on progress in IAs)</td>
<td>CLIP / ST JUL</td>
<td>Thu 3 Mar to Sat 5 Mar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Porto Schools Football One</td>
<td>5,6,7</td>
<td>Rosario</td>
<td>7 Mar (Mo)</td>
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<tr>
<td>DofE Qualifying Expedition</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>External</td>
<td>Mar 12th - 13th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Poetry Day</td>
<td>Internal</td>
<td>Mar 15th</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>IB Art Exhibition</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Internal</td>
<td>Mar</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAS trip</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>External</td>
<td>1-10th April</td>
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