“...while we live, while we are among human beings, let us cultivate our humanity” — Seneca

Dear Parents,

With over a quarter of a century in education, as a teacher and later as a school leader, I have always been certain of one thing: I would never be asked to justify my profession. If questioned, it has rather been to explore the rationale for my various travels and postings but never to challenge the rationale that teaching is a noble and fulfilling vocation. There are indeed various irritations and frustrations but these are easily outweighed by the many positives that make it so worthwhile. What is the most stimulating part is that we as teachers, pupils and parents are working towards an ideal: to make us better people and to make the world a better place. These joint themes focus on our shared humanity and what this means.

We go back to the Ancient Greek philosophers to explore this issue of shared humanity. It was Socrates who proclaimed that the true expression of humanity was the capacity to reason and the ability to defend opinions by reasoned argument even when these conflicted with one’s own value system. It was Diogenes who first used the phrase ‘citizen of the world’ or cosmopolitan; we tend to see the phrase as a glossy magazine but for Diogenes it was by stepping outside our familiar, and perhaps untested, assumptions so that we really can understand the world we live in and become truly cosmopolitan.

It was the famous German philosopher, Kant, who elaborated the search for a shared moral system based on universal principles. The key quality of empathy, the ability to put yourself in other people’s shoes and understand how it feels is the essential human quality that he advocates. Kant saw that with the increasing interactions between nations and the spread of universal and shared values that war will diminish as a solution to conflict. International relations proves his point to a degree in that liberal democracies do not go to war with each other. The European project has, despite its many flaws and problems, brought an era of prosperity and peace to much of Europe. It is true however that our shared ideals are being tested like never before.

This week I listened with great interest and admiration to the address by Pope Francis to the Joint Session of Congress in Washington DC. What was striking about the pontiff’s address was his focus on what we share, our common home, the common good, our common values, our common heritage. He also focused on the common desire to build a better future. Pope Francis has the rare gift of proclaiming something profound in very simple language. He does not claim a monopoly on the truth but enters into dialogue. He acknowledges the possible danger of the fundamentalism in all religions, ideologies or economic systems and how brutal crimes have been and continue to be committed even in the name of God and religion. He asks us to guard against the simple reductionism and polarization that divides people into us and them.

As Europe grapples with the challenge of the refugee crisis the values of shared humanity need to take precedent. I finish with Pope Francis’ appeal: ‘In a word, if we want security, let us give security; if we want life, let us give life; if we want opportunities, let us provide opportunities’


Tom McGrath, Headmaster
WHOLE SCHOOL NOTICES

PE AND SPORTS NEWS

CLUBS

Clubs are fully underway with good attendance at all boys Basketball and girls Football as we prepare for the annual Lisbon tournament in November.

This will take place from Thursday November 19 to Saturday November 21.

There are still places available for any budding Volleyball players in the club on Thursday 4.15-5.00 with Mr Soares in the Sports Hall and places available for any aspiring Cricket players in the club on Thursday 4.15-5.00 with Mr Homewood on the Astro-turf. Both of these sports will have, at least, 3 competitive fixtures this year for the first time in recent history.

COMPETITIONS

OBS will be entering a Form 2&3 and a Form 4&5 Football team into the first Porto schools competition this year. The event will be held at the French school on the Saturdays of October 3 and October 10. Mr Packett will be coaching the teams and has selected 2 squads of 7 for each team. Information will be sent to the parents of those selected shortly.

The first house Volleyball competitions begin on Thursday October 22nd in the same format as the National schools competitions held in Lisbon.

Houses from forms 4&5 will select 3 players per house to play 1v1 on Thursday October 22 (am).

Forms 6&7 will play on Thursday October 22 (pm) in a 4v4 format.

Both Forms 8&9 (Friday October 23 (am)) and Forms 10-12 (Friday October 23 (pm)) competing in the standard 6v6 format for the honour of House champions.

Matthew Homewood, Head of PE, Games & Outdoor Activities

UNIFORM SHOP OPENING TIMES

Tuesday: 8:30 to 9:30
Wednesday: 15:00 to 16:30

CANTEEN

The Canteen booking system is now up and running again http://obsvpn.dyndns.info:8085/FormLogin.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2fdefault.aspx. If you have any problems booking your child´s lunches however, please contact Mrs Alice Amaral Marques, who will be more than happy to assist you: canteen@obs.edu.pt
As we continue to progress through the first term you (Forms 2-5) will most likely hear a great deal about Accelerated Reader. This programme, though not intended to teach reading, does reinforce reading skills and supports pupil accountability for their reading process. If you have not yet logged onto the Parent section of the Accelerated Reader web site then please do check with your child’s teacher for the relevant passwords.

Please be aware that there will be a School wide book fair in the Teage Hall on Wednesday, 7th October. This will be a great opportunity for your child to buy some of the latest English language books. Also during the month of October, teachers will be sending home your child’s work books for them to show you what they have been working on in class. Specific information regarding books being sent home will be posted in your child’s class blog.

Our Primary lost property appears to be full of misplaced jumpers and sweatshirts. When you are next in school you may wish to look through the box; we do endeavour to return an item of clothing to children if there is a label on it.

Mark Evans, Head of Prep & Primary Section
Mark.Evans@obs.edu.pt

PRIMARY PASTORAL WEEKLY REPORT

On Friday 25th September the first meeting of the Primary Pupil Council was held. Each class voted for two representatives. Some of the underlying principles for the pupil council are:

- Pupils are given the opportunity to actively participate in what is happening at the school through a decision making process that values their input.
- Pupils are given the opportunity to experience leadership roles and take on responsibilities.
- Pupils are provided with the opportunity to learn valuable skills such as communication, negotiation liaison, decision-making skills, democratic voting and meeting procedures.

All pupils from Form 1 to 5 are placed in one of three houses. These include: Windsor (blue), Lancaster (red) and Bragança (green). This week saw the Form 5 pupils try out for house captain. The pupils prepared a short presentation that they performed in assembly on Monday. Some candidates even made posters and flyers to promote themselves as captain for their house. After the assembly, the children voted. The results are below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Windsor</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Filipa Pipiras</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guilherme Isidoro</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joana Enneking</td>
<td>(vice)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lancaster</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>João Pedro Bastos</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maria André Santos</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salvador Koehler</td>
<td>(vice)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
On a weekly basis, children can earn house points for excellent work, effort or behaviour. The child with the most points from each class is awarded a certificate in assembly and the totals for each house are added up. For the week ending 18th September the running totals are: Windsor 766, Lancaster 815 and Bragança 923. The individual class winners are listed below. A display with this information, for the children to see, can be found in the primary corridor.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>House Point Winner</th>
<th>House</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LIONS</td>
<td>Charlotte Decoret</td>
<td>Bragança</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TIGERS</td>
<td>Clara Ferreira</td>
<td>Bragança</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2B</td>
<td>Molly Costello</td>
<td>Lancaster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3C</td>
<td>Alexandre Carona</td>
<td>Bragança</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3H</td>
<td>Zhanbo Lin</td>
<td>Bragança</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4P</td>
<td>Catarina Reis</td>
<td>Windsor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4R</td>
<td>Afonso Moura</td>
<td>Windsor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Maria Bastos</td>
<td>Bragança</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5L</td>
<td>Bruno Wollman</td>
<td>Lancaster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shawn Li</td>
<td>Windsor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5B</td>
<td>Maria André Santos</td>
<td>Lancaster</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Jonathan Bridges (Primary Pastoral Coordinator)

SECONDARY NOTICES

We are now three weeks into the term and pupils are settling into the routines of school and are focused on their learning. As you know one of the key areas we are aiming to develop is the relationship between yourself, your child and teachers. We have introduced Mentor Meetings and are now in full swing of ‘cycle one’. I hope that you and your child find these sessions useful in sharing successes and areas to build on.

In addition, we have held an IBDP coffee morning to allow parents an opportunity to meet Ms Marsden, our new IBDP coordinator, and ask any initial questions. We will also be holding a Form 6 parents’ afternoon and an EAL parents’ morning next week. I hope that these will also help to build bridges and ensure that we are all working together to ensure your child is happy and learning effectively.

Dr Peter Jones, Head of Secondary
NOTICES

- Tutor/Mentor Meetings: All parents should have received a letter from their child stating the date the meeting. All meetings are from 8.40am prompt. Please return the acknowledgement slip to the tutor.

New dates for your diary

- Form 6 parents afternoon: 28th September at 4.30pm.
- EAL parent coffee morning: 29th September at 8.50am with Mark Crowhurst and his EAL team.
- MUN London conference: 16th to 20th October

CAREER PRESENTATION

I would like to invite you to put together a brief presentation for our senior students; this is to assist them with their career options. The objective of the presentation is to give students an insight into the real world of work. We look forward to receiving you. Many thanks, Mariam Gander: mariam.gander@obs.edu.pt

CAREER PRESENTATION - BRIEF OUTLINE / STRUCTURE

| 1. Introduction | ➢ Speaker to introduce himself/herself.  
|                 | ➢ Briefly explain what they do for a living.  
|                 | ➢ Explain where their businesses are based. |
| 2. Information about this career | ➢ Talk about their job and what is the typical day to day occurrences e.g. what time does work begin and finish?  
|                             | ➢ How long it takes to qualify in this field E.g. University and professional courses combined.  
|                             | ➢ What subjects are required to do this job or would be useful to be studied at school? |
| 3. Career Remuneration possibilities | ➢ How much can you earn in this career? (More or less)  
|                               | ➢ What other rewards can this career offer? |
| 4. Conclusion of presentation | ➢ Explain the importance of education and give students one tip(advice) you wish someone had told you when you were at school.  
|                             | ➢ End the presentation |

- The age range of the students is 15 - 17 years of age.
- The presentation must be delivered in English (although the students are all Portuguese)
- The language used in and during the presentation should be simple so that students can fully access and understand what is being communicated to them.
- The presentation should be about 15 - 20 minutes long so that students are also given time to ask questions at the end.
- The availability dates and times are as follows:
DATES FOR DIARIES

28th September at 4.30pm
Meeting for F6 Parents

29th September at 8.50am
EAL Parent coffee morning

02nd -04th October
Duke of Edinburgh practice expedition

07th October
Whole School Book Fair

22nd October
Harvest Festival Celebration at Stella Maris Church

23rd October
School Spirit Day - more information will follow

26th-30th October
Half-term Break

28th October-18th November
Date range November examination session IGCSE and IBDP