“Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few”

Winston Churchill, 1940

Dear Parents,

This week marked the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of The Battle of Britain, when the Royal Air Force valiantly and very successfully defended Britain from a concerted and sustained aerial attack by the Nazi German Luftwaffe in World War II. It was a time of Britain’s isolation during the war when western continental Europe was dominated by Hitler and the United States had not yet entered the war. Churchill’s famous words encapsulated the sense of thanks, relief and renewed hope and emboldened the resistance when earlier there were murmurs of capitulation.

Words are very important and I have featured the eloquence of Winston Churchill a number of times in my bulletins. He had a very unique talent to encourage and inspire, often in the darkest hours. Words can however also be used to hurt, to belittle and to discourage. In education we are called to search for and to reveal the truth. It can mean discovering some unpleasant truths and we as teachers should not shirk from advice, criticism and, at times, censure. There is thus a balancing act between how to share advice and direction while ensuring that the words do not cause pain and upset. Certain cultures have a very direct style of dealing with such situations while the Anglo-Saxon style has been to couch such criticism in euphemisms and diplomatic language.

Recent articles on the harsh work practices in the global online retailer, Amazon reported on a culture of aggressive and humiliating treatment of workers who had not reached set targets; this led to some debate on whether such methods were actually effective. Clearly Amazon is a highly successful company but I would not like to work in such an environment and they do have a high staff turnover.

Bill Clinton was once asked what advice he would give students and he responded: “Don’t take criticism personally, take it seriously!” These are wise words and I believe it is the approach we wish to adopt as the modus operandi in our school. We wish to encourage, counsel, support and guide but we must not be shy to alert students when a piece of work falls below expectation and needs to be redone, when the performance of a student does not match the potential that we see, when the effort and application is not as we expect. We are not helping students by building up a false sense of security of the expectations of the workplace, we must be demanding and challenging of students.

This challenge must be in a supportive and encouraging environment where the pupils know that we believe in them and they work with us to confirm our faith in them; there is no place for sarcasm, irony and negativity. I address this message to pupils specifically. As I mentioned to primary pupils at the opening assembly, it is the pupils who are the most powerful people in our school. It is the pupils who will make new arrivals feel welcome or isolated. It is by the words that they use that classmates will feel encouraged and motivated or feel bullied and down-trodden. It is by their words that pupils feel integrated or excluded.

Thus my message today is to encourage all to use their words carefully and wisely.

Tom McGrath, Headmaster
WHOLE SCHOOL NOTICES

UNIFORM SHOP OPENING TIMES
Tuesday: 8:30 to 9:30
Wednesday: 15:00 to 16:30

CHANGE TO PARENT CONTACT DETAILS
If your email address or mobile phone number has changed recently, please ensure you inform the school as a matter of priority so that we can update our files. Please email: Vera.Silva@obs.edu.pt

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

PRIMARY NOTICES

We have now completed two weeks of this new school year and all of the pupils appear to have quickly settled in to the school routine. Thank you to everyone that attended the Parent evening last week; I hope that it gave you an insight into your child’s very busy day and to the expectations from the teachers. Hopefully you have also had an opportunity to check out your child’s class blog to inform you of any upcoming events or activities among other curriculum information.

We are trialling Facebook (OBS Primary) as a means of showcasing important Primary school events throughout the year. We already have many “friends” so please do join our group if you use Facebook. For your information, our site is set up so that we do not see any other posts you may make to your “friends”. Only comments that you may choose to make regarding photographs we post will be visible.

The Form 5 pupils returned from a wonderful team building activity camp at Diver Lanhoso at the end of last week. We are expecting a great deal of pupil leadership from this group throughout the year and I do believe that we have a very capable group of Form 5 children that will be superb role models for the Primary School.

As the year progresses we will continue to add events to the school calendar on the website. Please do look at this calendar to ensure that you do not miss any important events.

I am always very willing to make myself available to talk with you should you have any concerns or queries regarding your child’s education at OBS. Please do email me directly to arrange a time; I am available most mornings between 9am and 9:30am.

We would like to welcome Miss Antonia Barbopolou to our staff for the remainder of this term. Miss Barbopolou is an Erasmus student from Greece and she will be assisting classes throughout Primary for the duration of her stay at OBS.

Mark Evans, Head of Primary
EARLY BIRDS AND AFTER CARE

Our Early Bird and After Care programme is continuing as normal from last year though there is one change for you to be aware of: The After Care base will now be in the Playroom opposite Prep Ladybirds and not in the canteen. When collecting your children please come directly to the Playroom to collect your child.

We welcome Sofia Goldstraw Fernandes as After-Care Coordinator: aftercare@obs.edu.pt

Mark Evans, Head of Primary

PRIMARY PASTORAL WEEKLY REPORT

All pupils from Form 1 to 5 are placed in one of three houses. These include: Windsor (blue), Lancaster (red) and Bragança (green). This system is typical of a British education and helps enhance our pastoral provision. We have several house-based events planned for each term. 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 13th September: Windsor scored 513, Lancaster scored 586 and Bragança scored 605. 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>1 LIONS</td>
<td>Francisco Oliveira</td>
<td>Lancaster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 TIGERS</td>
<td>Grace King</td>
<td>Bragança</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2B</td>
<td>Filipe Huang</td>
<td>Bragança</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dylan Kanabar</td>
<td>Windsor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3C</td>
<td>Maria Souto</td>
<td>Lancaster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3H</td>
<td>Kaeden Gander</td>
<td>Bragança</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4P</td>
<td>Rafael Martins</td>
<td>Bragança</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4R</td>
<td>Carlota Carrington</td>
<td>Bragança</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Henrique Wang Yu</td>
<td>Bragança</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5L</td>
<td>Pedro Costa</td>
<td>Windsor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rita Santos</td>
<td>Windsor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5B</td>
<td>Miguel Castro</td>
<td>Lancaster</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SECONDARY NOTICES

NOTICES

- Diaries: All pupils now have a student planner. Please check this every weekend and sign. Do add any messages or notes here for the Form Tutor. Some pages to possibly check:
  - p 19 Grade tracker
  - p 21 Targets
  - p 27 Stars
  - p 30 Concerns
- Tutor/Mentor Meetings: These will begin 21st September
- November exams: The deadline has now passed for any students wishing to be entered for these examinations
- IMUN: The Valencia conference letter has been sent out.
- Careers: If any parent is able to give up their time to provide a talk or presentation to Fm 9-12 pupils related to their profession then please contact claire.marsden@obs.edu.pt or mariam.gander@obs.edu.pt We would really appreciate your input.
- Homework Club and collection for pupils: May we politely remind you that all secondary pupils must be collected by 5.00pm. There is no supervision after this time and the school cannot take responsibility for the safety of your child.
- Lunch times and after school: Please provide written permission to Ms Vera in the Front Office for your child to go home by themselves at lunch or after school.
- Home-School agreements and ICT agreements: We thank all parents and pupils for their support in this agreement. If there are any agreements not yet handed in then please hand these to the tutor on Monday.

IB Diploma Programme

All our form 12 students will be busy preparing or polishing their personal statements and refining their search for their next step once leaving OBS. As the deadline for university applications for medicine gets ever closer, the UCAS clinic will be open on Thursday 24th September with Ms Smith and Miss Marsden.

Exercise plays a vital role in alleviating stress and focusing the mind. From this Friday onwards the form 12 are encouraged to join staff in an after school pilates class.

Form 11 are rising to the challenge of being IB students and accepting the responsibilities that go with this. They have been a great help this week during the wet breaks and are preparing to start the process of mentoring and supporting the younger pupils during homework club.

It was lovely to meet Form 11 parents last week and it proved to be a great opportunity to share ideas and offer support to members of the OBS community.

Dates for your diary:

- 9th to 11th October: A small group of Form 11 pupils will participate trip at COBIS Leadership conference in Madrid.
- 15th October: International College Fair at the Crowne Hotel, Boavista, Porto.

Miss Marsden, IBDP Coordinator
DATES FOR DIARIES

07th October          School Book Fair in Teage Hall
28th October-18th November  IGCSE and possible IBDP resit Examinations
03rd-04th October          Duke of Edinburgh practice expedition
22nd October          Harvest Festival Celebration at Stella Maris Church
23rd October          School Spirit Day - more information will follow
26th-30th October         Half-term Break