Building Teams for the future

This half term the Secondary Section has been a focusing on teamwork and relationships. Forms 6-8 have participated in a range of team building activities in Gerês, Form 9 Duke of Edinburgh students embarked on their first expedition which proved to be a great adventure, Form 11 & 12 have led a range of CAS activities from the OBS Bake Off to a Cancer Awareness Day and Book Sale. There has also been much evidence of teamwork in our assemblies such as 6Ws assembly on Collaboration and in the great range of extra curricular activities we offer. This OBServer edition contains many stories related to teamwork and our aim is to build on this focus over the coming years in preparing children to become active participants in society.

CIS praise OBS

During the second week of October the school had the pleasure of welcoming visitors from the Council of International School. CIS were at the school to carry out a preliminary visit to see if we were ready for our ten-year full visit.

We are happy to report that CIS felt that we were ready for the full CIS visit. CIS praised the school in many key areas including the support we provide for learning, our monitoring of learning and our extra-curricular activities.

Much of this is also represented in our new weekly bulletins, the Secondary OBServer and our website.

Next half term the school will send out a more detailed report related to the CIS pre-visit.
Building relationships for learning and life

A message from the Head of Secondary, P Jones

Our main focus this half term has been on relationships. Relationships are key to a child’s academic and social life. They are the key to their emotional wellbeing as well as their learning. Relationships pull together all the elements that make a child happy, confident and successful.

From the very first moment a baby is born he or she begins to build relationships. First with parents, children learn how to feel secure, communicate and enjoy being with people. Then a little later, toddlers begin to play, talk, watch and imitate. Children then increasingly build relationships with their peers and the different people they come into contact with as they grow in confidence.

Relationships are often the implicit focus of OBS. They are not explicitly examined or assessed and yet it is the ability to forge and further relationships that leads to success in learning. It is the ability to interact and work with other people that universities, employers and society crave for.

I often emphasize the importance of our pupils becoming more resilient, more resourceful, more reciprocal and more reflective. It is through this fifth ‘R’, responsibility, that children (and adults) build on these dispositions, for, without listening, empathizing, collaborating and persevering, we will not be able to share and develop our knowledge for ourselves and society.

Furthering our children’s ability to build relationships and relate to different people through mutual understanding and that other ‘R’, respect, is critical. As educators and as parents one of our first goals must therefore be to support children in developing the skills for positive relationships.

We can do this by respecting children as individuals with rights but also responsibilities. We must recognize their backgrounds, abilities, interests and needs and act as facilitators, coaches and carers in nurturing and initiating activities that encourage them to become more independent and responsible. We must recognize our children’s efforts, celebrate progress and help them learn from mistakes.

Relationships are about joy and pain. Our role is to support children through these emotions in a positive way. With our busy lives at home and our constant focus on syllabus requirements in school this is often easier said than done. However, just taking a little time out to listen to each other and our children can help. With this, children will develop into open minded, caring and responsible adults that are capable of life long learning and bringing about positive change.
Assessment, reporting and recording

Assessment is critical for learning. Its role is to help pupils reflect on their strengths and areas to develop in relation to learning objectives. Throughout the curriculum, the school seeks to use a variety of methods of assessment from formal tests and exams to presentations and debates. This therefore provides pupils a range of opportunities to demonstrate their understanding and skills. Although assessment is on going and a continual process, all pupils do take at least one core assessment through a unit of work. Grades and targets for improvement are recorded on each pupil’s book. We are also trying to support pupils to become more independent and aware of themselves as learners through the sharing of assessment criteria and self and peer assessment. On the 4th November all pupils will be carrying out an academic review during tutor time.

As you are aware, Form 6 to 8, are now embarking on Cambridge Secondary One course. This is an objective based curriculum. To ensure that all pupils and parents are clear about the learning objectives and related assessment criteria we have compiled an Assessment handbook. This will be made available through our website next half term. We also hope to provide parents an opportunity to join us for a short presentation related to the Form 6-8 curriculum and assessment.

A reporting schedule is available on our website. In addition, you will also find here the grade descriptors used in our reports. All grades are based on all evidence available and cumulative assessment not individual assessments (these grades are found on the subject assessment sheets in pupils books).

May I also take this opportunity to thank all Form 6 & 9 parents for the excellent turn out to the parents evening. I hope you found this a positive evening. I encourage all parents to bring their children with them to the meetings as they need to be clear on their areas to develop.

In addition to the scheduled parent-pupil-teacher meetings, all parents are welcome to make appointments to meet with the subject teacher or tutor at any time through the Front Office.

The Pressure is on but support is on hand!

Form 10 and 12 have received their latest grades. These have predicted, current and target grades on them. All pupils must aim to work towards their target grade. We now have just one and a half terms left before pupils begin their final IGCSE or IBDP examinations. This is a time of high pressure but this can be alleviated through effective planning. It is therefore critical that all students have a clear long term, medium term and short term action plan and that they have a place and time when they can concentrate on their studies away from distraction. All pupils must aim to keep to coursework deadlines, complete homework, use the support provided by departments such as attending clinics and revision sessions. Help is also on hand to manage stress levels through the tutor and school counselor. Your child is not alone but must take responsibility for themselves and the final hurdles they have ahead of them. Together, we can ensure the success of your child.
Follow the Leader: DofE expedition

Day 1:
On day one we arrived at Mindelo Metro Station at 10am ready to begin our practice expedition. We had all packed our rucksacks with the essentials that we would need – water, food, warm clothes, sleeping bags and tents. As a team we decided which direction to go first to check point one using our map skills and team work discussion. Going from check point to check point we really appreciated the lovely scenery and fresh air that countryside brings – always following the countryside code. It was beginning to get really tiring towards checkpoint 6 as we had already walked 11km, but we kept going as a group, supporting each other and sometimes even singing along the way☺. By 5pm on the first day we had arrived at the campsite and we were all happy to be alive☺. No time to waste though, we put our tents up sleeping bags down, had a wash and began cooking the lovely food we had bought before the expedition – including pasta, sausages and even some groups had tuna burgers☺. At 10.30pm we went to sleep to wake up early for the next days walking.

Day 2:
On day 2 we woke up at 7.30 – even before the teachers did. We cooked our breakfast, packed our tents away and we eager to set off for next days walking as the weather was so beautiful. Day 2 was largely walking near the beach, going from checkpoint to checkpoint. By this time we were realising the great skills we were developing on the Duke Of Edinburgh program – team work, independence, loyalty, endurance, determination and social awareness. By 12.45pm we had arrived back at Mindelo Metro Station all tired after a great weekends walking. We would like to give a big thanks to Mr. Hooley, Mr. Simson, Mr. Crehan and Miss. Macleod, without whom this great experience wouldn’t have been possible☺

By Louis Blackburn and Maria do Carmo Form 9
Developing Team Players: Getting active in Gerês

Over the first three weeks of term, pupils of Form 6, 7 and 8 participated in team-building trips to the beautiful Gerês region. The aim of the trips was to help develop pupils’ abilities in collaboration and interdependence. They also sought to help build relationships within the new Form groups. As Lauren describes below, it was a fun experience that will last long in the memories of our pupils.

Form 7 in Gerês

On the 25th of September to the 26th of September we went on a fun team-building trip. We had to be in school ready to leave at 8:30am to go to Gerês, close to Ponte de Lima. We had a lot of music and everyone was cheerful and singing in the back. We didn't stop at the hotel because we went straight to the canoeing. We met our instructors Luís, Tiago and Tiago. The Form 7's were all paired up to go down the river and 8 waterfalls. It was a fun experience for all of us. Some people toppled over, the water was freezing and I spotted some small fish. After the canoes, all of us went to a restaurant to have lunch, which was delicious. Right after lunch we started some more activities – bow and arrow and football. Next, we got on to the bus and made our way to the hostel where we were staying. It was a nice place. The only thing that was ‘strange’ was that there was only one bathroom, one for girls, one for boys. We had one hour to get ready before going to dinner. We all went to a restaurant for dinner and we went and came back walking. As soon as we got to the hostel, we went down to the breakfast area where we had a quiz game made by our teachers. Following the fun game, we had until 11:00pm to stay in the rooms to get to sleep.
On the second and last day, our teachers came by our rooms to wake us up and told us to get ready. We all got dressed and went downstairs for breakfast. Straight after our breakfast, we went for a walk across to Ponte de Lima. Form 7 had a walk across the bridge and went to a space to do activities in their year group. With Mr. Gore, one activity was to pass through a hoop holding hands and the other was to get a ball in partners between our backs and we had to get to the trees without touching the ball.

With Miss Denisova and Mrs. Dahl, we had to cross from one side of the path to another with only 6 feet or hands on the ground, helping each other get through. Our teachers then made it so that we could visit the Toy Museum. It was nice seeing all the different toys!

We crossed back over the bridge for lunch and then headed back to the hostel to get our bags. After everything was on the bus, we left to come back to Porto. The problem was that there was a huge, huge bee on the bus, but it didn’t harm anyone on the way. We arrived at school at more or less 3:00 pm. It was an amazing trip!

Lauryn Butcher 7G
Thank you for all of the wonderful entries we received for the Bake Off on Thursday 9th October. There were fantastic treats ranging from Focaccia to yummy brownie muffins, wonderfully decorated “show stoppers” and tasty crumbles. Form 11 really enjoyed organising the event and kicking off fundraising for our CAS trip. We want to thank everyone who entered a bake and everyone who bought tickets to taste the treats. A special thanks also to Mr Simson, Miss Corcoran, Mrs Gander and the judges for supporting us in organising this event. We are happy to say that with the book sale and bake off, we raised €200!

Claudia Conceicao and Jennifer Varanda

The lucky prize-winners were:

- Primary Section Winner: Mafalda Moniz 4P
- Secondary Section Winner: Rita Lobo 11S
- Presentation Winners: Laura Azevedo 5B and Rita Ganda 4P
- Teacher Winner: Mrs Madeleine Williamson

**Rita’s recipe**

- One pack of digestive biscuits
- 1 tbsp of flour
- 1 can of condensed milk
- cream
- one pack of butter
- Crush biscuits
- Add flour
- Add quarter of the butter
- Mould into cake tin
- Heat milk, melt butter in this and mix
- Whip cream and top cake
- Place in fridge for 3 hours
- Enjoy!
The Ultimate UK Tour

Between June 27th and July 1st a group of year 6, 7's and 8's flew to Birmingham with Mr Homewood & Mrs Tucker to take part in the UK National Schools Year 8 and under championships in, what was, the first ever Portuguese junior team to take part in any Ultimate championship.

Ultimate is one of the fastest growing new sports in the world and combines the non-contact team play of Basketball with the invasion objective of American Football. Our squad of 10 boys and 2 girls competed on Saturday against 7 established school teams in Division 2 and, despite only limited practice after school during Ultimate club performed excellently as summarised by Tomas Lascasas (7G)

“On Saturday we played in the UKU national schools championships. As this was our first tournament we did not know what to expect. On the first two games we thought that there was no possibility of us winning the tournament but after lunch we got our heads up and aimed to win all the remaining games. We won the next 3! The last game against the Airbadgers, we lost 6-2 but we never gave up, we always give our best and in the end we got 4th, which for us was a big achievement”
On Sunday, the team was entered into the UK National youth club championships against teams on under 17 which was designed as a chance to play against the higher standards needed if they were to continue in the sport. With no expectation of victory the squad again excelled and managed to win one of their 3 games before being eliminated. The division also included members of the UK under 17 squad that won Gold at the European championships at the end of July! At the end of every game the teams get together to commend each other on their play and play mini games to get to know each other better. This is part of the ‘Spirit of the Game’ which is an integral part of the sport that focuses on fair play, conflict resolution and the respectful way in which it is played.

The squad also managed to experience some different culture whilst away eating Indian, Mexican and Japanese food, mixing with the multitude of faiths in Birmingham city centre at the Bullring and involving themselves in live theatre in Stratford-upon-Avon outside William Shakespeare's birthplace. The squad also enjoyed some ten pin bowling, shopping and paintball during their non-playing time.

The trip was finished off with some leisurely boating on the Avon to cap off what was an exceptional first Ultimate visit to the UK. Students were ambassadors to the school and I hope they learned many things from their experience. Si Hill (Chief Executive of UKU) and Ben Heywood (Competitions Manager for UKU) commended both their spirit, technical skill and have warmly invited the school to enter again next year. We have also been invited to visit Gildredge House (a new year 4 to year 12 school) in Eastbourne, on the south coast for a multi sports tour next year. www.gildredgehouse.org.

Squad: (Team photo above (year)) – (back) Rui Mathias (9), Francisco Noronha (7), Filipe Chiou (9) – captain on Sunday, Guilhereme Moreira (7) – captain on Saturday, Lourenco Almeida (9), Diogo Bijueteber (7), (front) Tomas Lascasas (8), Beatriz Bela (7), Tomas Jervell, Joao da Silva (7), Ines Abreu (7), Joao Carlos Gomes (7)
Music to our ears

Jessica Zhu of Form 9 plays a fantastic introduction for the Secondary Assembly. Jessica played ‘Saint-Saens – Allegro Appassionato’ for Cello and Piano. She showed pupils not only what a fantastic musician she was but also what perseverance means and that practice does mean perfect. Well done Jessica! We are sure that we will hear more from you in the future.

Psychology of Plastic Surgery

Dr. Carla Bluhm, famed surgeon gave a very insightful lecture related to people who have suffered physically and emotionally. Dr. Carla Bluhm conducted the second face transplant in the United States. She led discussions with IB students on how psychological support and plastic surgery can help. Indeed, the main focus of the talk was related to the intersection of medicine and psychology.
Harvest Festival

On the 23rd October, OBS held its traditional celebration of thanksgiving. It is a festival celebrated all around the world in many different ways but the main emphasis is on being grateful for what we have and of giving to those who may be in more need than ourselves. Thank you to all pupils and parents for joining in this celebration and your kind donations of food.

Pretty in Pink

On the 24th October the school went PINK. The day sought to raise awareness of the causes, consequences and management of cancer. To help draw awareness, a short assembly was held and the Secondary Section formed the pink ribbon symbol for breast cancer. Pupils also raised much money for the Associação Laço and "Mama Help" founded in Porto.

House Cross Country

It was a disappointment to have to postpone the cross country on Friday October 17th due to forecast severe weather. In our constant strides to introduce whole school events, such as the cross country, we have to take into account the safety and enjoyment of all participants from forms 2 to 12. In this case, the risks to the event were apparently high and, despite an ironically beautiful morning on the Friday, the rain returned in the afternoon. Instead we look forward to Thursday 6th November and we pray for good running weather on a new slightly longer course and with plans to bring you a spectacular video summary of the day. Year 11 CAS students will be helping in the organising and running of the event for the first time and we hope that many of you will be able to join us in supporting strong competition in the 10 races this year.
Head of Secondary
Roll of Honour for Effort
October 2014

Form 12
KOTECHA Pinky
WALL Matilda
ALVES Teresa
DUARTE BRANDÃO Eduarda

Form 11
ARAÚJO Joana
CARNEIRO DA FRADA Mª do Rosário
TEIXEIRA BELA Ana Filipe

Form 10
CAIADO Maria João
MOTA PRETO Diogo
BALDAIA Catarina

Form 9
BRANDÃO Ana Margarida
ALVES Mercedes
KOTECHA Niki
RAMOS Marta

Form 8
SOUZA BASTO Carlota
AMORIM Sara
SÁ Mariana

Form 7
BUTCHER Lauryn
CUNHA José Bernardo
YANG Jessi
YE Julia

Form 6
MAK Adriana
BALDAIA Antero
SILVA Lourenço
ZHUANG Ziheng
In order to build relationships communication is key. Nothing can beat a face-to-face conversation! However, we know that pupils, teachers and parents have busy lives. To help with communication we are busy developing our website area. This aims to clarify all of the questions you may have related to curriculum, homework, exams, trips and much more. It also contains all of the key notices that are updated at least every two weeks and news events that are updated half termly. Please do feedback to me on how to further improve our website and use this as a tool for communication.
Calendar Dates

Term One, second half term.

Examinations

- External IGCSE exams: 24th October to 14th November
- External IBDP exams: 4th November to 21st November
  (Teage Hall will be out of use during this period depending on numbers of re-sits and entries)
- Internal Form 11 Progress Examinations: 17th-21st November

Reporting Schedule

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<th>Term 1b</th>
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<tr>
<td>Current attainment grade, current target grade, current predicted grade, effort grade report for 10 and 12</td>
<td>Tues 26th November</td>
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<tr>
<td>Current attainment grade, exam grade, effort grade report for 11</td>
<td>Tues 2nd December</td>
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<tr>
<td>Current attainment grade, effort grade report for 6, 7 (current target grade for exam years only)</td>
<td>Tues 9th December</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parents evening for 7 and 11</td>
<td>Wed 10th December</td>
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<tr>
<td>Full written report for 8 and 9</td>
<td>Wed 17th December</td>
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Trips and Events

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<th>FALL SPORTS FESTIVAL Bask MASC/Foot FEM</th>
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<th>CAISL</th>
<th>13,14,15 Nov</th>
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<tr>
<td>Autumn Cup</td>
<td>6,7,8,9</td>
<td>Leca da Palmeira SC</td>
<td>14th Nov</td>
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<td>IMUN Conference</td>
<td>8, 9, 10</td>
<td>Valencia</td>
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<td>DofE qualifying expedition</td>
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<td>1st and 2nd Dec</td>
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<td>Solidarity Concert</td>
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<td>3rd Dec</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOYS BASKET BALL VARSITY Bask MASC/Foot FEM</td>
<td>10,11,12 (Please note this is dependent on progress in IAs)</td>
<td>ST JUL / CAISL</td>
<td>11,12,13 Dec</td>
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