“Technological progress has merely provided us with more efficient means for going backwards”.

Aldous Huxley

Dear Parents,

From Thursday to Saturday this week a number of our secondary pupils participated in the Oporto Model United Nations 2015.

This annual conference involving 10 Iberian schools, simulates the structure and procedures of the United Nations to address, debate and hopefully resolve pressing world issues.

The students become UN delegates representing various countries and then work to further their state’s perspective at this multi-lateral level.

I thank Mr. Quinn and Mrs. Ferreira for mentoring, supporting and organizing our pupils and I am looking forward to learning of the progress of our aspiring diplomats.

Such events are wonderful opportunities to develop a range of skills;

- Pupils gain confidence in public speaking and debate;
- Literacy skills are honed in the drafting and redrafting of proposals;
- Pupils develop leadership, teamwork and negotiation skills;
- Pupils gain an understanding of the complexity of world issues
- The concept of internationalism and social justice are truly experienced.

Our Form 11 Science pupils also spent some periods off-timetable this week developing their skills in fieldwork and in laboratory analysis and I thank the Science department for supporting the students here.

One area that we strive to improve with parents is regarding communication and information regarding upcoming events. Organising outside events involves a certain amount of essential paperwork so that there is a risk assessment, permission slips are obtained and that bookings and reservations are made.

To ensure that this is a smooth process the school endeavours to do the following:

1. Events are posted on the website calendar and included in the weekly bulletin with a good lead-in time.
2. Permission letters and information is emailed to relevant parents with an appropriate lead-in time.
3. Tutors and event organisers give participating pupils regular reminders.

To improve this further the school commits to do the following:

1. Wherever possible the permission letter will specify the year groups and, if possible, will list the participants.
2. Reminder emails will be sent when we have not received a response.
3. Copies of the permission slip will be available from the front office.
4. On our new website there will be a section where we will archive the various letters to parents in case the email letter has gone astray.

Such measures will I hope make life easier for our teachers, pupils and parents.

One observation however is that our pupils must also take greater responsibility, chasing up parents to sign, asking for permission slips if they go astray and meeting deadlines set. If the school makes all
reasonable efforts to communicate, inform and remind then the failure of participating pupils to adhere to deadlines is for me a sign of selfishness and disrespect. To represent one’s school is a great honour and should be treated appropriately.

This weekend the Board of Governors of Oporto British School together with the Senior Leadership Team of the school will spend a day reflecting on the strategic vision for the school, devising a set of strategic goals to bring the school to its 125th anniversary and to 2020, thus a 2020 vision for the school.

The school has many positives that it can be proud of and we can look to the future with confidence. It is clear that we cannot stand still and there is much to be done in improving facilities, enhancing our curriculum, developing the school spirit and engendering pride in this wonderful school. This week I came across an institution that is a similar vintage to OBS. Kodak developed mass photography initially in the United States by launching the world’s first pocket camera in 1895. With the development of film roll and other innovations Kodak had over 90% market share in the retail camera trade by the 1980’s’ they even invented the first digital camera in 1975. However this new technology led to the demise of this household firm. Their failure to adapt to the new environment led to Kodak filing for bankruptcy in 2012; Kodak still exists in a much reduced capacity. The message here is that even institutions with long and distinguished histories cannot stand still and OBS needs to develop its vision and strategy, communicate this clearly to all stakeholders and embrace change with confidence.

Tom McGrath, Headmaster

WHOLE SCHOOL NOTICES

IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING PHOTOGRAPHS

Throughout the academic year, photographs are taken of pupils taking part in different events and/or activities. We may use these photographs for various publications, our website, promotional material e.g. yearly prospectus and/or banners, and general marketing purposes. If you do not wish your child’s photograph to be used, please email the School Secretary, joana.saraiva@obs.edu.pt. No response will be regarded as providing parental consent for your child’s image to be used in our promotional material. For any website photographs on the public portal we will not include pupils’ names.

COMMUNITY CHOIR

HAPPINESS IS SINGING IN THE CHOIR!

Thursdays 4:10-5:00pm
All welcome!

UNIFORM

Could parents please check the uniform of their children and return any that may have been taken by mistake.
PRIMARY NOTICES

As you may remember, over the past few months I have asked for parents to join with the school to come up with ideas and suggestions for Magis Assemblies (Presentations to inform, excite or challenge the pupils to think about our world in a different way). The pupils attended their first Magis assembly today, which was wonderfully presented by Mrs Azevedo. The presentation explained the differences in a regular school day from a pupil in Mozambique to a pupil at OBS.

This presentation was very well received by the pupils and it definitely made them all think about the differences and challenges faced by boys and girls in different parts of the world.

Again, we would like to thank Mrs Azevedo for preparing and presenting this first Magis Assembly. Should you have any interest in presenting a 20-30 minute Magis Assembly then please do let me know and we can discuss possible dates for the coming terms.

Mark Evans, Head of Primary

HEAD OF PRIMARY COMMENDATION AWARD

Commendation for Francisco’s excellent effort with his Portuguese reading activities. He has now successfully read his first book in Portuguese 1L

Commendation for Molly’s continued excellent effort with independent work, especially with fact finding for Science and Humanities 1L

Commendation for Jorge’s excellent scientific writing this term and for producing a wonderful poem about the Water Cycle 3C

Commendation for David’s continued excellent independent Maths work and superb fact-finding in Humanities 1L

Commendation for their continued excellent effort with his Maths activities; especially good work with the equivalent fractions unit 3C

Commendation for their continued excellent effort with his Maths activities; especially good work with the equivalent fractions unit 3C

FRANCISCO JERVELL

MOLLY COSTELLO

DAVID GUGISCH

JORGE EASTLEY

HENRIQUE MOURA

STEFANO GAMBARO

PEDRO FERNANDES
SECONDARY NOTICES

FEBRUARY SECONDARY OBSERVER

If you have not read the February Secondary OBSERVER then please do. It is available at http://www.obs.edu.pt/uploaded/Secondary/Newsletters/Feb_2015_OBServer_email.pdf. This is a MUST read! It has much news, information and notices related to curriculum, exams and extra-curricular events. It also contains up to date calendars on the last page.

IBDP EXTENDED ESSAYS AND TOK DEADLINE: 6th MARCH

All students must hand in their EE and Tok essay by this date without fail otherwise they risk failing the diploma. Tok FINAL PRESENTATIONS will take place on the 10th March.

EXAM TIMETABLES

These have been emailed out to parents. A paper copy has also been provided to each pupil. Timetables can also be found at

FORM 10 AND FORM 12 STUDY LEAVE

- Form 10 Study Leave will begin on the week of the 27th April. It is therefore essential that pupils attend lessons in the two weeks after Easter that are set aside for revision purposes.

- Form 12 Study Leave will begin on the week of the 20th April. However, teachers are available to support Form 12 students after this date. In addition, some students will be invited to attend revision sessions in school by individual subject teachers.

FORM 8 PARENTS EVENING AND IGCSE INFORMATION EVENING - 4th MARCH

Please make your appointments using the online booking system. From 6.30-7.00pm there will be a short presentation to provide information on the IGCSE programme and options process.

CAS UPDATE

Twelve Form 11 students will be travelling to Morocco in April to work with the following charity www.atlasculturalfoundation.org

This is their long term project, an integral part of their CAS programme for the IB diploma. They have raised over €2000 so far which will be donated to charities in Morocco that they believe make a difference to people’s lives there. Upcoming fundraisers this half term:

- Please look out for further events in the next half term. These will include the annual prize draw and Red Nose Day.

OBS ANNUAL PRIZE DRAW

In order to raise more funds to help the charities, we are holding our annual Prize Draw on Wednesday, 22nd April 2015. Whilst we do have some prizes already donated, it would be very much appreciated if you would be willing to donate a prize for this event. This does not need to be anything significant and, in fact, small prizes between the values of €5 to €15 would be most welcome. If you are able to donate
a prize or have any questions regarding this Prize Draw, please contact Mr Simson on adam.simson@obs.edu.pt at your convenience. Thank you in anticipation for your support and generosity in helping our Morocco 2015 Team.

**RED NOSE DAY  www.narizvermelho.pt**

Our CAS students also support local charities as well as overseas ones. On Friday 27th March (the last day of term) the secondary school will be holding some events to support Red Nose Day. Please keep your eye out for further information. Thank you for supporting our fundraising events.

Form 11 CAS team and Mr Simson (CAS Coordinator)

**BUSY WEEK IN SECONDARY**

*It has been a very busy week in Secondary!* Form 11 took part in many experiments and investigations related to the local coastline and River Douro as part of their Group 4 project. The MUN are currently debating at the annual **OPOMUN conference**. DoE students will be on their final expedition this weekend. All these stories will be featured in the next **Secondary OBSERVER**

Peter Jones, Head of Secondary

**DATES FOR THE DIARY**

- 28th Feb-01st March  
  Duke of Edinburgh Expedition
- 02nd March  
  Prep Trip to Casa da Música
- 04th March  
  Parents’ Evening for Form 8 pupils and IGCSE Information evening
- 19th March  
  Reception trip to Casa da Música
- 26th March  
  Effort and Attainment report cards
- 26th-27th March  
  Primary Parent Evenings
- 27th March  
  Secondary Sports Day - Leça