Dear Parents,

The academic year started on September 3rd so we celebrate a month at school today and it has really flown by. The routines of school are now well established and it is important for students and teachers to continue to build on that momentum over the coming weeks before we pause for a half-term break from October 27th - 31st. For your convenience we include a link to the calendar of the school breaks and this can also be found at [http://www.obs.edu.pt/uploaded/calendar/calendar_2014-2015.pdf](http://www.obs.edu.pt/uploaded/calendar/calendar_2014-2015.pdf)

I have attended a number of important meetings during the week. On Tuesday OBS hosted a meeting of the Porto Private Schools and the focus was on establishing a calendar of events for our students. The most immediate of these is the Solidarity Concert on December 3rd, 7pm. we also hosted a meeting for the Portuguese University Coordinators from Porto International Schools, to share good practice and to work together on common issues. Mrs Rita Quintas, School Counsellor, holds this important role in school and works closely with Miss Nikki Macleod, IB Coordinator, to ensure successful applications to Portuguese universities; in this bulletin both Miss Macleod and Mrs Quintas explain more about their work.

Also this week, Dr Jones, Mr Evans and I met with all the newly appointed teaching staff to reflect on their first month’s experience at OBS. It can be a stressful experience relocating to a new school, city and country, and we wanted to gain their feedback on their experiences to date. We were pleased to learn about how positive they were about the school and their students and we learned a great deal about the recruitment and orientation processes that we can refine and enhance for the future.

Teachers and students are more productive and perform to a higher level when external stresses and anxieties are removed or at least reduced and this is very much the focus of this week’s bulletin. The school provides a variety of resources through counselling, pastoral care and pastoral programmes, learning support and English as an additional language support to assist pupils to engage fully with the curriculum. We also have a vibrant Portuguese language, literature and cultural dimension to our school and we wish to celebrate this Portuguese identity and to ensure that all students leave our school at least bilingual and bi-literate; many will actually be multilingual. In our bulletin we will feature regular updates on Portuguese in the school.

This week I also hosted the first coffee morning of the year where I presented some findings of the recent parent survey. I thank all parents who completed this survey and we had 116 responses. The general feedback is very positive about the school but there are also important messages to us in areas that need improvement. At the coffee morning there was also a helpful question and answer session and I am keen to continue this is on a monthly basis. We are posting the survey responses online at: [http://www.obs.edu.pt/uploaded/News_Letters/primary_survey_sept_2014.pdf](http://www.obs.edu.pt/uploaded/News_Letters/primary_survey_sept_2014.pdf) (Primary results) and [http://www.obs.edu.pt/uploaded/News_Letters/Secondary_Survey_sept_2014.pdf](http://www.obs.edu.pt/uploaded/News_Letters/Secondary_Survey_sept_2014.pdf) (Secondary results).

We have also been very busy this week ensuring that we are ready for the Council of International Schools (CIS) visit that begins this Sunday, October 5th. Two accreditation leaders from CIS, Dr. Lesley Staff and Ms Chris Bayliss will spend three full days in the school with a tour of the site and an introductory presentation on Sunday. During this time they will meet the various working committees that have reflected on various aspects of the school such as Teaching & Learning, Governance, Operations, Support Services and Health & Safety. There will be workshops on the accreditation process and if the visiting team feels we are ready then a full accreditation visit will be scheduled. This current visit will set the focus and targets for the full accreditation visit. On our website the school hosts reports of previous accreditation visits and we will be sharing the findings with the school community.

Tom McGrath, Headmaster
GREAT BRITISH SCHOOL BAKE OFF!

Form 11 pupils have organised a bakery competition to raise money as part of their CAS project which will be donated to the charity organisation they are working with. This will happen on Thursday, 9th of October in Teage Hall from 15:30 - 17:30. The competition is open to all members of the community.

If you wish to participate in the bake-off you must complete the entry form attached to the bulletin and return it to Vera by Wednesday, 8th of October.

The rules of the competition are as follows:

1. All entries must be baked; they can be sweet or savoury
2. All entries must have flour (or flour substitute); we encourage the use of Fair Trade products.
3. Single person entries (no help from others)
4. No professionally made cakes may be entered into the competition
5. No entry form: no entry
6. Cakes containing nuts must be labelled

If you would like to taste the entries, you can purchase a ticket

- €5 adults
- €2 children/teenagers

Tickets will be on sale at the door of Teage Hall on Thursday, 9th October from 16.10

The judges will select the top ten entries by 17.00 on Thursday, 9th of October. The results will be announced by 16.10 on Friday, 10th of October. The judges’ decision is final. All entries will be judged anonymously.

Prizes: The Oporto British School Top Baker Trophy and a range of prizes.

For more information you can email either Mr Simson or Miss Corcoran.

Miss Corcoran

PRIMARY NOTICES

LEARNING SUPPORT

At Oporto British School we value the contribution that every pupil can make and we welcome diversity. We are dedicated to offering an inclusive curriculum which seeks to remove any barriers to learning, increases curricular access for all and ultimately raises the achievement, enjoyment and attainment of all pupils who are entrusted in our care.

Many learners, at some point during their education, will experience a need for further assistance. The vast majority of these pupils will have their needs met through normal classroom arrangements and appropriate differentiation - placing particular value on each individual’s strengths, interests and learning needs. However, in some cases, it may also be appropriate for a pupil to receive additional support provided by an adult from the Learning Support Team and/or the use of different resources to help support them in fulfilling their potential.
The type, duration, and nature of the support that is provided within school is reviewed regularly, as is the ongoing training and professional development opportunities for staff which result from the thoughtful and thorough consideration of the needs of our pupils.

The support on offer at OBS is student-centred and need driven, therefore there is a wide range of support currently being deployed, examples of which may incorporate any of the following:

- Devising, fulfilling and reviewing personalised learning plans
- Targeted core subject support or enrichment and extension sessions (both within class and/or in a one to one or small group withdrawn settings).
- Facilitating access to specialist computer programmes to target literacy and numeracy competence.
- One to one or small group spelling tuition
- Provision of a range of activities and clubs at lunchtime and afterschool
- Language enrichment sessions - pre-teaching and consolidation work
- Guided Reading - providing small group reading opportunities
- Self esteem, positive self image and emotional literacy development
- Transition support (between Form groups, key stages and future progression beyond school life)
- Organisational and study skill support
- Fine and gross motor skill guidance and practice (e.g. handwriting, word processing, coordination refinement and practical skill support)
- Life skill instruction
- Academic/ Essay writing and coursework support
- Provision of advice, resources and strategy support to promote the independence and inclusion of pupils who may have barriers to overcome in their learning or have a specific learning challenge. Exam Access arrangement support.

What does remain constant in all cases where additional support is required, is that the impact of any intervention or assistance is most effective when home and school are in regular communication and when expectations are consistent and clear. Thank you for your continued support in doing this.

Emma Torcato, Head of Learning Support

PRIMARY BASELINE TESTING

This week in Primary we have been carrying out some baseline testing with Reception, Form 2 and Form 4. The children complete diagnostic computerised tests to inform their teachers about their strengths and weaknesses. This is used to develop personalised learning programmes for our students.

Nearly all of the Accelerated Reader Star tests have been completed by the students. Reading and taking quizzes are now in full flow. The Star tests give us more information to ensure that your child is on the correct reading level and where we need to help them improve in the future.

Mrs Costello, Primary Academic Coordinator
MODERN LANGUAGES - PRIMARY

Primary Modern Languages include Portuguese, Portuguese as a foreign Language, French, Portuguese Studies and Portuguese History.

Organisation of school curriculum

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Form</th>
<th>Lessons per Week</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Portuguese</td>
<td>Prep</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reception</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>F1-F5</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French</td>
<td>F5</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portuguese Studies</td>
<td>F4-F5</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portuguese History</td>
<td>F5</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Teachers follow the Portuguese National curriculum:

- “Orientações curriculares para e Educação Pré-escolar”
- “Programa de Português do Ensino Básico” (março 2009)
- “Metas curriculares de Português” (agosto 2012) for all documents see: [www.dgidc.min-edu.pt](http://www.dgidc.min-edu.pt)

This last document defines the essential skills that students should acquire in each school year and focus on what is essential.

We also follow the orientations from the “Ministério da Educação- Documento curricular de referência” for each subject when teaching French, Portuguese as a foreign Language, Portuguese Studies and Portuguese History.

Please follow the link for the Portuguese curriculum maps in Primary:


Luisa Barbosa, Head of Modern Languages Primary

PUPIL COUNCIL

The Primary Pupil Council is now up and running for this academic year. Each class from Form 1-5 has voted for two representatives to speak on their behalf at Pupil Council meetings. The Head Boy and Girl run the meeting, acting as chair or secretary. An agenda is produced and minutes are published after each meeting. There is a display board at the entrance of the primary building with a photograph of each representative, the latest agenda and set of minutes. With this in place the pupils have a mechanism to voice their concerns and help improve their learning environment.

Jonathan Bridges, Primary Pastoral Coordinator

SECONDARY NOTICES

SPANISH IGCSE AND IB DP

Mrs Alvear will be on maternity leave for the next six months. In place of Mrs Alvear, we are fortunate to have Mrs Freire who will be teaching Form 10 and 12 and Ms Benitez (BEd) who will be teaching Form 9 and 11. More detailed biographies on Mrs Feire and Ms Benitez will be available on our website soon. Mrs Alvear has liaised with both teachers to ensure that there is a smooth transition. In addition, Professora Manuela is supporting and monitoring standards in Spanish.

PARENTS’ EVENING 15th OCTOBER IN SPORTS HALL - 5:30 TO 7:30 PM

This evening is focused on Form 6 & 9 pupils with a focus on learning and their transition to the Secondary Section or IGCSEs. All parents of new pupils at OBS are also invited to attend the meeting to find out how their children are settling in.
GRADE REPORTS 15th OCTOBER

Form 10 & 12 pupils will receive grades for current attainment, predicted and aspirational target grades and effort. All other Forms will receive an effort grade at this stage. At the end of term, all pupils will receive more detailed grades related to attainment and targets.

SUPPORT FOR LEARNING

Mrs Lee Hann is currently running a reading club to support literacy. This runs in the library at 8.30am. Please also do not forget to check your child’s progress on the Accelerated Reader programme.

There are also many subject clinics available for your child to attend where they can get extra help for class and homework. These are all free of charge. In addition, all pupils are able to meet their teachers for other support at other times.

STUDENT COUNCIL

The Student Council met this week and discussed a range of issues including the library, homework, a possible tuck shop and activities during wet break. Minutes and actions from these meetings will be posted to all pupils.

Peter Jones, Head of Secondary

CAREERS EVENTS FOR FORM 10 AND 11 PUPILS

Epoc Careers organises careers conferences for students. They have places available at their next events in London:

- Improve Your Chances of Becoming a Doctor, 31 January 2015
- Improve Your Chances of Becoming a Lawyer, 14 March 2015

Full details, including costs, location and booking places, are available at www.epoc.org.uk.

Nikki Macleod, Head of IB

SCHOOL COUNSELLOR

I wish to introduce myself as the School Counsellor.

I am a qualified Educational Psychologist and I have been working at OBS since 2008. My work is across Primary and Secondary and is designed to contribute to the educational and personal student project, taking into account the diversity of these characteristics and needs including teachers, family and community.

Specifically, my main roles in OBS are to provide psychological and educational support, educational and vocational guidance and to support the development of interpersonal relationships within the school system and between it and the community.

I would also like to thank Mrs. Anja Dahl for the excellent work during my absence.

If you wish to talk to me, please contact me through the email: rita.quintas@obs.edu.pt.

Rita Quintas Neto, Educational Psychologist

UCAS APPLICATIONS

Form 12 is currently working hard on completing their applications to UK Universities through UCAS (University & College Admissions Service). The diagram below shows the basic process when applying to the UK. There is a much earlier deadline than the Portuguese system. The pupils choose a maximum of 5 courses to apply to and then write a personal statement outlining why the university should choose them. This is accompanied with teacher grade predictions and a school reference.
IBDP students are given lots of support in this process. It is introduced as early as Form 10 (in fact this week I did a PSHE session on UCAS with Form 8M) and this is when the students start to understand what is required to apply to the UK. They then receive one to one support from tutors, teachers, the IBDP Coordinator and the Head of Secondary and Head of School on course and university selection as well as personal statement writing. Writing the perfect personal statement can takes lots of editing and redrafting with input from friends and family! We have new career guidance software “Fast Tomato” which we will also be introducing across the Secondary Section through PSHE and so this should also support pupils in making informed decisions for life after OBS.

For a clearer view of the flow chart please click on this link: http://www.ucas.com/sites/default/files/application-flowchart.pdf

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

The Secondary Section has a great group of IB Diploma students leading the student leadership team. Our Head Girl Pinky Kotecha and Head Boy João Pedro Carvalho look forward to fulfilling their election manifesto. So far Pinky has started up an Eco Committee and is looking for members from all Forms throughout the Secondary Section. Matilda Wall is our Events Prefect and has already started planning a charity day and possible house t-shirt design contest. Eduarda Duarte Brandão is the Head of Student Council and is looking forward to the first meeting of the group next week. We also have three House Captains; Luciana Ayres De Campos for Braganza, Maria Medeiros for Lancaster and Teresa Alves for Windsor.

Nikki Macleod, Head of IB

PORTUGUESE UNIVERSITIES LIAISON

Sabemos que a aproximação do acesso ao ensino superior pode trazer aos nossos alunos alguma ansiedade e preocupação. É o aproximar de uma nova etapa, um novo rumo, repleto de novos desafios.

Assim, para os alunos que pretendem continuar os seus estudos académicos em Portugal, como “Portuguese Universities Liaison Coordinator”, estarei disponível não apenas para fornecer informação referente aos requisitos de candidatura às Universidades em Portugal e aconselhar disciplinas ou combinações das mesmas necessárias para áreas específicas, mas também para organizar e encaminhar os pedidos de equivalência para o Ministério da Educação e acompanhar todo o processo de candidatura ao Ensino Superior Português.

Ainda neste período lectivo reunirei com os alunos do Form 12, para uma primeira abordagem a este processo e esclarecimento de dúvidas que entretanto possam surgir.

De salientar que estarei disponível para reunir com alunos e pais sobre este assunto, às segundafeiras, das 14:10 h às 16:15h. Assim, caso pretendam agendar reunião, podem faze-lo através do email rita.quintas@obs.edu.pt.

Rita Quintas Neto, Portuguese Universities Liaison

DEPARTAMENTO DE PORTUGUÊS

O Departamento de Línguas e Culturas Modernas visa desenvolver gradualmente as competências comunicativas, tendo como meta a valorização e apreciação de diversas línguas e povos, respondendo a necessidades e expectativas de uma sociedade pluricultural.

Em Português como língua materna, os alunos seguem o Currículo Nacional até ao final do 9º ano, tomando contacto não só com autores portugueses, mas também de outros países lusófonos. A disciplina é complementada por outra de importância fundamental para o conhecimento e compreensão do país: História de Portugal.
Posteriormente, para que os nossos alunos não percam o contacto com autores portugueses de suma importância quando ingressam o IB e escolhem Língua e Literatura, procuramos eleger obras que estejam integradas no programa nacional.

A par do domínio da língua materna, a capacidade de comunicar em outras línguas é, no mundo interdependente em que vivemos, uma mais-valia para o exercício da cidadania de forma activa. Além disso, o domínio de competências de comunicação em várias línguas potencia o alargamento das nossas mundividências, pois permite o acesso a outras culturas, outros valores, modos de viver e de pensar. Assim sendo, os alunos estudam Francês até ao final do 8º ano, podendo ainda continuar nos anos seguintes, bem como escolher Espanhol a partir do 9º.

Tornar-se competente em línguas significa não só poder comunicar de forma adequada e estruturar pensamento próprio, como também apropriar-se de um conjunto de conhecimentos sobre variadas culturas, conducente ao respeito e valorização do ser humano.

Manuela Oliveira, Head of Modern Languages

WET BREAK ACTIVITIES

We have decided to pilot a new schedule for wet breaks based on activities rather than Form groups. We will now have a ‘Music and chat’ room, a quite room for reading or work and a ‘Film’ room. In addition, the Sports Hall will be open for use. If you have any board games, computer games and DVDs to support these activities please bring them to the Front Office.

SPORTS EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Please be aware that some of the club activities and times have changed. The new schedule is available at http://www.obs.edu.pt/page.cfm?p=422.

TRIPS AND EVENTS

The latest version of the schedule for this year can be found at http://www.obs.edu.pt/page.cfm?p=416.

Peter Jones, Head of Secondary

GENERAL INFORMATION

BRITISH COUNCIL COURSES

As part of the school’s partnership with the British Council, OBS parents are entitled to a 10% discount for any British Council courses either based here at the school or at the central Porto venue, on Rua do Breiner. The British Council’s first term is already open and places are available. For more information visit their website: http://www.britishcouncil.pt/en/english/book-course

MEDICAL

Please be informed that the following symptoms are going around school: acute abdominal pain, headaches and nausea and, in some cases vomiting.

There is an official list of First Aiders which is placed on the medical room door and in various locations around the school, the Front Office being one of them.

At the beginning of the school year, teaching staff explained to pupils where they should go if they are unwell or hurt. All children now know how to make their own way to the first aid room.

Lidia Ferreira

DATES FOR DIARIES

06th October  Primary EC Swimming lessons begin
06th-08th October  Council of International Schools (CIS) Prep Visit
09th October  Great British School Bake-Off
17th October  Cross Country Event, Parque da Cidade
23rd October  Harvest Festival 4:30pm, Stella Maris Church
27th-31st October  Half-term Break - School re-opens Monday, 03rd November