“The living owe it to those who no longer can speak to tell their story for them.”

Czeslaw Milosz

Dear Parents,

November is a time of remembrance. During the half-term break many people in Portugal and in other countries visit graveyards to pay respect to deceased relatives and friends during the solemnities of All-Souls and All-Saints. Many of those who follow the British media will have seen the moat of the Tower of London fill with 888,246 red ceramic poppies. Each poppy represents a British military fatality during World War I.

http://poppies.hrp.org.uk/about-the-installation

We are very lucky and privileged people to grow up and live in an environment free of war. There are millions on the edges of Europe that do not enjoy such luxury and our thoughts turn to those in Ukraine, Syria, Iraq and in many other areas of conflict. On November 11th OBS will come together at a morning assembly to pause, reflect and honour those who gave their lives for the freedoms we enjoy. Poppies are on sale in school this week and we encourage pupils to purchase a poppy in a gesture of solidarity.

We also ask for your solidarity as we prepare for the December 3rd Solidarity concert. Mr. Evans is the chief organiser of this event and we ask you to support this excellent display of pupil’s musical talent across Porto’s private schools. Your support can come in terms of purchasing tickets for the event as well as sponsoring some aspect of the event. Please contact mark.evans@obs.edu.pt if you can help in any way.

Over the half term break there was a number of improvements made on site. We installed two new seesaws in the new playground that are safer and more age-appropriate for the younger pupils. We also refurbished the bike shed in primary as well as putting railing around the early years play area. These improvements are already being enjoyed by our youngest pupils. We are now looking at replacing the cover over the playground that has been damaged.

The recent weather has meant that our cross country event has been postponed for a second time and we are now looking at a date in December. We also have the CAISL (American International school of Lisbon) sports tournament coming up next week and I wish all those representing the school much success and fulfilment in wearing the school jersey. To represent one’s school is a special honour and we expect high standards on and off the field. I will also visit the sports tournament next week to support our teams and to attend a meeting of international school principals in Lisbon.

Tom McGrath, Headmaster

SECONDARY NOTICES

NOTICES

All key secondary notices are found at http://www.obs.edu.pt/page.cfm?p=428. Please do check this on a regular basis.
CAS UPDATE

Before half term the Form 11 students ran a 2nd hand book sale to fundraise for this year’s CAS charity. Reacting to their target market they supplemented this with a homemade cake and pizza sale! Some delightful cakes were baked and many pizzas were sold. Overall this sale raised €210. Thank you to all who supported this event and please look out for more CAS fundraising events in the coming weeks!

News from the Big Hand (www.thebighand.org)

Here is an update of a sponsorship programme that the school has embraced for over a year now, and for which it will continue to support in the next couple of years.

This sponsorship project has been organized and promoted by “The Big Hand” in Mozambique, and consists of recruiting “sponsors” that support the health, nutrition and educational program of children living in villages, in the province of Manica, Mozambique. However, the project involves more than simple financial and material support to these children whose welfare was (and in some cases still is) in danger. The “sponsors” are expected to write letters at least three times a year and exchange their thoughts with their sponsored child, in a pedagogical manner.

The Oporto British School initiated this sponsorship in June 2013 with Chelta Roberto, a thirteen-year-old girl from Messica, Mozambique. Chelta was the victim of a crocodile attack, which resulted in the amputation of her right leg. In the future she wants to pursue a career as a nurse – a dream that has come closer to reality with the support of the OBS.

A few weeks ago Mrs Azevedo, parent and school governor, went to visit the Big Hand charity in Mozambique. Here is a report from her visit:

“During my recent stay in Mozambique I had a couple of hours to visit part of the projects run by ”The big Hand” in Chimoio. As you know the OBS is sponsoring a little girl named Chelta there. She came on purpose from one of the neighbouring communities (over 40km’s away) when she heard I was visiting!

The children gave me a beautiful reception with singing and dancing and even presents! Chelta has made a beautiful, huge drawing for OBS, she must have spent a long time on this!

I was very positively impressed by all the progress made by “The big Hand” since my last visit two years ago! Several classrooms have been added or rebuilt with the help of the communities, latrines have been added or improved, fences around the school grounds have been build, to improve safety; wells and clean water supply was put in place.

All children were very happy and confident, learning about the importance of dental hygiene, washing their hands and similar. I could observe the little ones, age 4 to 6, waiting for their afternoon snack, the older ones queuing for hand washing, others playing games (football)”.

Nicole Azevedo

ORGANISATION IS KEY FOR LEARNING

Over the next two weeks the Secondary School will focus on organization and in particular on pupils bringing the right equipment. Please could parents support their child in ensuring they have and bring to school a pencil, ruler, compass, scissors, sharpener, a black or blue pen, glue and an eraser.
LISBON SPORTS FESTIVAL

The School will be participating in the Fall Sports Festival hosted by CAISL in Lisbon, where we will be taking a large number of pupils to compete in Division 3, 4 & 5 girls football and boys basketball. We wish all of our pupils good luck. We are sure that with a positive attitude and excellent teamwork they will make the school proud.

Pupils will leave school at 07:30am on Thursday, 13th November. They will play matches on Thursday 13th, Friday 14th and the morning of Saturday, 15th November. We will return to school at approximately 22:00 on the Saturday.

WHOLE SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY

Unfortunately due to the bad weather we have postponed this event. It will now take place on the 5th December.

ENTERPRISE CLUB

The OBS enterprise club will be setting up a small enterprise for secondary pupils on Friday break times. They will be selling drinks, snacks and stationary. Any profits made will be re-invested in future enterprises and in pupil activities or events.

SUMMER SCHOOL INFORMATION

Summer schools are run around the world for students from Form 8 upwards. These courses can be useful preparation for further study, leadership courses and for older students to prepare or study for the IBDP. Below is a list of providers who have given information to the school so far this year.

Cambridge Leadership Academy (www.cambridgeleadershipacademy.org.uk)
- Youth Leadership Summer Programme 2 - 8 August 2015. Forms 10-12

Oxbridge Academic Programs (www.oxbridgeprograms.com)

Lanterra Education (www.lanternaeducation.com)
- IB Winter Revision and Spring Exam Preparation Courses in the UK and Sweden. Form 12 students.
- IB Summer Mid IB and Pre-IB Summer Courses in the UK and Sweden. Forms 10 and 11.

Oxford Study Courses (OSC) (www.osc-ib.com)
- Pre IBDP Summer Schools. Oxford, UK (July, August) and Harvard and MIT, USA (July). Form 10
- Mid IBDP Summer Courses. Cambridge, UK (July, August) and Harvard and MIT, USA (July). Form 11
- IBDP Revision Courses. Oxford, UK (April) Form 12

St Clare’s Oxford (http://www.stclares.ac.uk/summer)
Spoleto Study Abroad (http://www.spoletostudyabroad.com/index.html)

- Visual Arts, Vocal Music, Creative Writing, Photography, Drama, Instrumental Music and Filmmaking.
- Ages 15 - 19, held in Spoleto, central Italy.

Nikki Macleod, Head of IB

DUKE OF EDINBURGH

Unfortunately, due to the erratic weather conditions at present and the future weather forecast for the end of this month the Duke of Edinburgh qualifying expedition has had to be postponed until after the Christmas holidays. This decision has been made to ensure the safety of the students whilst on expedition. The new dates for the expedition will be sent out upon our return to school in the spring term. Training sessions on Tuesdays after school will still continue from 4:20pm - 5.20pm. I take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support for your child and the Duke of Edinburgh programme.

Mr. Hooley, Duke of Edinburgh leader

PRIMARY NOTICES

EARLY YEARS ADMISSIONS WEEK - 10-15TH NOVEMBER

Our OBS Early Years Admissions Week will be taking place this week. This is for pupils starting Prep, Reception and F1 next academic year - 2015-2016. This will kick off with a Coffee Morning for prospective parents on Monday, 10th November at 9:00 in the Senior Art Room.

PRIMARY COMMENDATION AWARDS THIS WEEK

DUARTE SANTOS 1T
Outstanding improvements with typing accuracy and speed

LOURENÇO LEITE - 3C
Excellent work in English, specifically with sentence structure and report writing objectives.

WHOLE SCHOOL NOTICES

FALL SPORTS FESTIVAL LISBON - F4-F9 AND AUTUMN CUP

Next week sees a 76 strong squad travelling to the Fall Sports Festival Lisbon between Thursday 13 & Saturday 15 November in Girls Football and Boys Basketball. We have reduced squad sizes this year and made selection to represent the school, more stringent. This is to ensure more playing time for those selected, to reflect the high standards we expect from student representatives and to reinforce that playing for OBS is an honour that has been earned in both sporting ability and pupil attitude.

Those not attending the festival this time will be involved in the inaugural Autumn Cup on Friday 14 November. This will be held at the school all day and will involve both Girls football and Boys Basketball tournaments split into 2 categories - The Junior Cup (forms 4,5,6) and Senior cup (forms
Squads will be formed of 8 players that must comprise of at least 2 members from each form. These squads will play throughout the day for the honour of becoming the first Junior or Senior Autumn Cup winners.

Good luck to OBS teams and Autumn Cup players in striving for success

Matt Homewood, Head of PE and Games

SOLIDARITY CONCERT - ADVERTISING

If you still wish to advertise in the Solidarity Concert Programme please be aware that Wednesday, November 12th is the deadline date.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Once again, the Ladies' Guild will be running their Christmas Bazaar at the Oporto Cricket and Lawn Tennis Club, Saturday, 22nd November. If your children have any toys or games that they would like to donate, these should be brought to school by Friday, 21st November. They will be sold at the toy stall and all proceeds will be given to charity. Please note all members of the community are welcome to attend.

MESSAGE OF GRATITUDE FROM THE RED CROSS

“Em nome da delegação do Porto da Cruz Vermelha Portuguesa, venho por este meio agradecer a V. Exª a doação feita a favor desta Delegação, enviando em anexo o recibo,(...) no valor de €310.21 (trezentos e dez euros e vinte e um centimos), bem como afirmar-lhe a importância do seu gesto para o cumprimento da nossa Missão. A Cruz Vermelha como organização sem fins lucrativos, precisa que nos “ajudem a ajudar”.

Dra Joana Salinas, Cruz Vermelha

DATES FOR DIARIES

10th-14th November  Early Years Admissions Week
11th November      Remembrance Day Assembly
12th November      Reception Trip to Transport Exhibition
13th - 15th November F4 to F9 Lisbon Sports Tournament
13th November      F2 to F5 Magusto Trip
17th November      Prep & Rec trip to Casa da Música
20th November      Early Years’ Pyjama Day Event
21st November      F3 & F4 Zoo Trip
20th-24th November F8 to F10 VALMUN Trip
02nd December      PTA Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony
02nd and 04th December Primary Parents Evening
03rd December      Solidarity Concert
05th December      Cross Country Event
05th December      Grandparents Day - Prep to F1
11-13th December   Varsity Boys Basketball Tournament Lisbon
18th December      Carol Service
19th December      End of Autumn term - school ends at 12:35pm
05th January      Spring Term Starts