To Strive for Success and To Serve

Dear Parents,

The recent days have been busy with our visitors from the Council of International Schools (CIS) and we have received very positive feedback on the readiness of OBS to undertake a full accreditation visit. We will receive a letter shortly from CIS and I will share their reflections on their visit and the key areas of focus as we prepare for the full accreditation.

The School’s motto is “to strive for success and to serve” and it is my vision to bring this ethos alive for the whole school community. When I hear the phrase “to serve” I am reminded of the famous Ignation prayer: “to serve and not to count the cost”. In this era of individualism, it is even more urgent for us to reflect on how privileged we all are. Through an accident of birth we have grown up in a world of plenty, a world where we can achieve our dreams, a world without war, famine, sickness and terror. Others around the world are not so lucky and we are called to understand how lucky we are that we are called to help others.

Our first charity event was a fundraiser for the IB CAS trip scheduled in May 2015. CAS stands for Creativity, Action and Service and it is a core part of the IB Diploma Programme that students not only give of the talents to serve others but they must reflect on this experience and how they have developed from this. It is in giving that we receive. The Great British Bake Off was a delicious beginning to our service projects. Please see details inside.

Mr Simson gives details inside of the IB CAS programme and how our IB students provide service both locally and internationally. You will also see details of our first non-uniform day, organised by our IB students.

We have a few more opportunities to donate in the coming weeks. First of all we ask for donations of non-perishable food items for our Harvest Festival celebration. This is scheduled for Thursday, 23rd October at 4:30 at Stella Maris Church. Our school choir are busy rehearsing some harvest hymns and I am delighted to announce that Rev. Bob Bates, Anglican Chaplain at St James’ Church, Porto will officiate; there is a short note from Rev Bob inside.

We are also getting ready for the Solidarity Concert scheduled for December the 5th at 7:00pm. Our school choir will again perform here and tickets go on sale shortly. This is a fundraiser for the designated charity, “Acreditar”. We ask you to support this very worthy charity event.

On November 11th, in the school gym we will commemorate the centenary of the war “to end all wars” in a Remembrance Assembly. It is by reflecting on the past that we can make a better future. It is the tragic irony of the 20th century, the era of the greatest advances in transport, medicine and human development that it was also the century of unspeakable evil, destruction and genocide. These conditions may seem distant but they remain a reality across the globe and we as a school will pause to reflect on man’s inhumanity to man while recognising the courage and sacrifice of past generations to provide us with the peace that we so often take for granted.

After the autumn half-term we will unveil our Christmas fundraiser and further details will follow in future bulletins.

Tom McGrath, Headmaster
WHOLE SCHOOL NOTICES

THE GREAT BRITISH SCHOOL BAKE OFF

Thank you for all of the wonderful entries we received for the Bake Off this Thursday. 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 have raised over 400 Euros which is a great start. The lucky prize winners are:

- 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

Claudia Conceição and Jennifer Varanda (F11)

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Please keep this date free for our whole school celebration.

OBS will be organising a collection of non-perishable goods beginning on Wednesday. More details will follow.

SOLIDARITY CONCERT, EXPONOR

Many of you will already be aware that OBS is organising this year’s Solidarity Concert at Exponor on Wednesday, 3rd December. This joint choir festival involving the six major Independent Schools of Porto has proven to be a wonderful event and I am sure that it will continue to impress a packed out auditorium this year. The school choir is now close to 60 pupils strong from Primary and Secondary; they have been busy rehearsing every Tuesday since the beginning of term and I am sure that you will be impressed with the performance of our continually improving choir.

As OBS are organising this year’s event we have the opportunity to choose the benefiting charity; we have chosen Acreditar as this year’s beneficiary. The Acreditar organisation care for the non-medical needs of children with cancer though they also support the families dealing with this disease.

The amount of money we can raise for our chosen charity is connected to ticket sales though also to the amount of sponsorship we can receive to cover expenses for the event.

OBS are committed to the success of this community-wide event and we definitely want to offer Acreditar an amount that can make a difference to the children they care for. To achieve our objectives we would like to ask our OBS community to consider offering any form of sponsorship, either personal or professional, towards any of our costs. Example areas of expenditure are:

- Exponor facility rental
- Sound and lighting engineer
- Coach to transport choir
- Printing of brochure and tickets
- T-Shirts for stage staff (IB pupils)
- Stage seating for choir

The more sponsorship we can raise will allow us to offer Acreditar a larger donation from the OBS community. I greatly appreciate your consideration of this request. You may wish to sponsor a specific expenditure or you may choose to sponsor a company advertisement in the brochure. Please do contact myself or Joana Saraiva if you wish to discuss any sponsorship options. All sponsors will be promoted in the event brochure.

Though Exponor seats 940 people, we will be limited to around 150 seats as all schools require an equal share. We will inform you of the procedure for ticket sales towards the end of October. Please be aware that parents of choir members will be offered first choice.

Mark Evans, Head of Primary

GREETINGS FROM REV. BOB BATES, ST JAMES´CHURCH

It is a pleasure to be able to introduce myself to you through this newsletter. I am Fr Bob Bates, and was recently licensed to be the Church of England Chaplain here in Porto. Our church is St James’, located towards the city centre, but my wife, Diane, and I live in Foz do Douro, just a ten minute walk from the School, and I'm delighted that Mr McGrath has asked me to be involved in some of the School’s activities, particularly the Harvest and Christmas services. I hope to be able to visit from time to time and get to know you all, and to work with you to build on the traditional links between Oporto British School, and St James´.

All are welcome to visit us at any time, we look forward to building new friendships with you. If you’d like to get in touch, phone 228 329 001 or email me on revbob@apo.pt

Fr Bob Bates

NON-UNIFORM DAY FOR CHARITY

On Friday 24th October, there will a non-uniform day for both the Primary and Secondary sections in order to raise funds for the “Laço Associação de Solidariade Social” a Portuguese charity promoting awareness about breast cancer in Portugal. We would like each student to bring in €1 to go towards this. In return students are encouraged to wear an item of pink clothing. Furthermore, at the end of the day there will be a fashion show and a dynamic presentation in order to explain the work of the charity fully, which we encourage parents to participate in. Further information will be enclosed over the next week.

Matilda Wall, Pinky Kotecha, Event Organisers

PRIMARY CHOIR, SENIOR CHOIR AND COMMUNITY CHOIR

The Primary choir is serving the School well by attending every Tuesday after-School (16:15-17:00). We are busy preparing for the Harvest Festival (23rd October), Christmas Carol Service (18th December) and also for the Solidarity Concert on December 3rd. The Solidarity Concert is a big event which is being led by OBS this year and involves six International Schools in the area who come together to perform a choral concert at Exponor. The theme of this year’s concert is ‘Peace and Unity’.

I have been very pleased with the Primary Choir and extremely pleased with the new Senior Choir who are meeting in the Music Room at 13:15 every Tuesday lunchtime. I would like to see even more students serving the school and striving for success with their singing and to come along! Please encourage your children.
The Community Choir will start again after Half-Term on Thursdays between 16:10 and 16:45 in the Music Room. This is open to Parents and I would like to invite anyone with an interest in singing to come along.

If you would like any more information then please just get in touch with me at rob.gore@obs.edu.pt

Mr Rob Gore, Head of Music

WHOLE SCHOOL BOOK FAIR

OBS will be hosting our termly book fair from the UK, on Wednesday, 15th October. This is managed by Mr Craig Preston and will be held in the Secondary Library

If you would like your son or daughter to purchase books, we recommend sending a minimum of €8.00 in cash on Wednesday morning.

As the book fair will be open until 17.00hrs, parents are very welcome to look around when collecting children.

Linda Wilson, School Librarian

SPORTS DEPARTMENT

Our first big event is the Cross Country Championships for F2 to F12 pupils next Friday, 17th October.

For further details please click here: http://www.obs.edu.pt/page.cfm?p=1

Matt Homewood, Head of PE and Games

PRIMARY NOTICES

PRIMARY PASTORAL

All Primary children are divided into one of three houses. Windsor (blue), Lancaster (red) or Bragança (green). These house are integral in our behavioural reward system. When children behave well or work hard they can be awarded up to three house points. These points are tallied up by class teachers at the end of every week. An individual winner from each class is awarded a certificate in assembly each week and the totals for each house are carried forward to decide the overall winning house at the end of each term. Every house has two Form 5 House Captains who sign the certificates, help to motivate the children in their house and assist in running house events. Earlier this term we divided into house groups for a fun ‘teamwork’ themed assembly. ‘Houses’ are a traditional feature of British schools and are a feature of OBS the Primary children respond positively to.

Jonathan Bridges, Primary Pastoral Coordinator

AFTER CARE

We would like to inform parents that Aftercare is only able to provide snacks after 4.30pm. Children are able to bring their own snacks to eat prior to 4:30pm. We would also like to remind parents that when they come to pick up their child/children if they could inform us that they are here and please wait outside the room and we will send the child/children out. Should you have any question please do contact: margarida.machado@obs.edu.pt or Lucy.shore@obs.edu.pt .

After Care team

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.

COLLECTION OF PUPILS AFTER SCHOOL

All pupils must be collected from OBS by 5pm. This is because the school has no security or person in the Front Office after 5pm. If a pupil is involved in a specific club or activity with a member of staff then they must be collected immediately after this activity at the school gate.

PUPIL GRADE REPORTS
These will be issued on the 14th October via email. Effort grades are issued to all Form groups other than Form 10 and 12. Attainment grades for all pupils will be issued next half term. Form 10 and 12 will also receive predicted grades based on baseline data and teacher assessment and a target grade which the pupil should aspire to.

PARENTS EVENING FOR FORM 6, 9 AND NEW PUPILS

This is taking place on the 15th October from 5.30pm to 7.30pm in the Sports Hall. All parents should have received a web link to make appointments for the parents evening. If you have not received this then please contact the Front Office. If you are unable to attend the meeting but would still like to discuss your child’s progress then do make via the Front Office with the Form Tutor or Subject Teacher.

FORM 10 AND 12 GRADE REPORTS AND PARENTS EVENING

These dates have now changed due to the mock examinations changing. Grade reports will be issued on the 19th January and the parents evening will follow on the 21st January. A full calendar of exams and reports can be found at http://www.obs.edu.pt/page.cfm?p=433.

CREATIVITY ACTION SERVICE (CAS) UPDATE

In June this year the current Form 12 students completed their CAS trip to Chintsa, South Africa. A full account of their amazing experience can be found on the student blog www.obslive.weebly.com/south-africa-2014.html. Prior to the trip the students coordinated numerous fund raising activities including a bake off, valentines disco, prize draw, sponsored spelling, t-shirt sales and many other events. The incredible support from the OBS community resulted in €4500 being raised. On their return from South Africa the students decided how they wanted to donate the funds. This was a collaborative decision by the students, with the charities that they believed were doing the most valuable work in this township being chosen. The donations were divided between two charities; €4000 to Friends of Chintsa www.friendsofchintsa.org and €500 to African Angels www.charitysa.co.za/african-angels-trust.html.

Please see the email below from Michael Denison from South Africa:

“Hi the Oporto Team,

Whoooo!!! This is quite a boost for our work! It is difficult in an email to express how incredible such generosity contributes to so many lives through projects. I am very touched by the effort you and the group have made to raise this money.

I hope you are all still holding onto strong memories of being in Chintsa. I’d like to thank you for the time and energy that was put into making the trip to South Africa a success. From a project point of view, the group is to be commended for their high quality work. Please keep an eye on Volunteer Africa and Friends of Chintsa facebook pages so that you can track the developments. We have a very busy period coming up and will be active in four different schools as well as running a computer literacy holiday club. Finally, a massive thank you for the sport equipment donation. This will provide a major boost to cricket in the area and as mentioned, I hope to mobilise a project next year to put in cricket nets.

Please pass on Chintsa’s sincerest appreciation to each and every person who has been involved in this process, it truly is brilliant”.

CAS TRIP 2014/15

We have had our first CAS fundraising activity for this year’s group. The OBS Bake off! This took place on Thursday 9th October.

Next fundraising event: Book Sale - Thursday 23rd October (all day).

THE BIG HAND

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. We sent the latest news from The Big Hand in our
summer newsletter. Please find all the latest news from this organisation which we continue to support on the following links.


Adam Simson, CAS co-ordinator

**IB DIPLOMA RESULTS**

The table below outlines the success at IB Diploma over the past 6 years. The average points score and pass rate of OBS remains above the World Average.

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<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of Candidates</th>
<th>OBS Diplomas Awarded Pass Rate %</th>
<th>World Pass Rate %</th>
<th>OBS Average Points Score</th>
<th>World Average Points Score</th>
<th>Top 3 marks</th>
<th>Number of students with 40+ points</th>
<th>% of students with 40+ points</th>
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Nikki Macleod, IB Co-ordinator

**DATES FOR DIARIES**

13th October	Reception trip to Casa da Música
15th October	Whole School Book Fair
17th October	Cross Country Event, Parque da Cidade
20th October	Prep trip to Casa da Música
23rd October	Harvest Festival 4:30pm, Stella Maris Church
23rd October	Whole School book sale
24th October	Non-Uniform day - children can wear pink for charity
27th-31st October	Half-term Break - School re-opens Monday, 03rd November
20-24th November	VALMUN Trip