Dear Parents,

On Tuesday evening I had the pleasure of attending an event at Casa da Música where the Porto Municipal Authorities launched a book that profiled every primary and secondary school in the Porto region. With such a number of schools it was inevitably a long evening and I thank Shailah Gander, Form 9, who attended the event with me and who accepted a volume of this publication from Porto’s Mayor, Mr. Rui Moreira. What was striking about the event was that OBS was one of the only two schools whose student was in a uniform and Shailah is always who represents us so well. And of course we have a very elegant uniform that defines us to some degree as a school.

A former Headmaster of mine, once gave me wise counsel when he told me on taking on my first headship 10 years ago: You can change the whole curriculum and no one will complain but change the uniform policy at your peril!

There is much truth in this advice and the endeavour to improve the school skirts has had some resistance but I must say there is now a greater adherence to skirt length.

I met with Mrs Jane Symington from the Uniform Shop volunteers this week and we agreed a number of measures that will assist in ensuring greater consistency. Going forward the Uniform Shop will order skirts that are a few centimetres longer; this will ensure that there are fewer issues in getting alterations done. We will also prepare a set of photographs that will illustrate the full uniform in the different seasons, for the different age groups and for boys and girls. This document will also go on our website. I wish to thank the Uniform Shop volunteers for ensuring that we have a uniform that is now so consistent and our pupils are regularly complimented on how well they look.

While we will still work to ensure that girls are wearing a skirt of the appropriate length we realise that there are some logistical problems and delays in supplies so we will extend the grace period. We will not allow situations where skirts are deliberately shortened or altered and please note that all uniform purchases are only through the uniform shop.

On the topic of what defines the British nature of the school, one valuable institution is the OBS Parents Teacher Association. This organisation is one to support parents, pupils, teachers and the work of the school. This year it has not been very active and following a meeting with Mrs. Elizabeth Martorell, current chair, I have, as President of the PTA (the Headmaster holds such a role) decided to call the Annual General Meeting of the PTA on Thursday, 29th January at 9am in Teage Hall. The purpose is to present a report on the activities of 2013/2014, to elect a new committee of at least 7 members and to set some targets for this academic year.

Once this committee has been selected/elected, this committee then elects the officers of Chairperson, Treasurer and Secretary. I ask all available parents to join us for this meeting and to revive this excellent support for the school.

Tom McGrath, Headmaster
WHOLE SCHOOL NOTICES

ARRIVAL
For pupils arriving at school late (after 8:50) they must sign in at the Front Office, as they will have missed registration with their class teacher/ Form tutor.

UNIFORM
On Monday from 3:00pm onwards, weather permitting, all uniform items from the lost property box will be on display on the round seating area near the Front office for parents to collect. Uncollected items of clothing will be donated to a local charity.

CLUB NOTICES - NOTICE FROM ESCOLA DAS ARTES
As preparations really start to get serious for the Trinity music exams which will be in May I would like to give the following information.

Photocopies cannot be used for exams and original copies must be bought. Many instruments have all the exam material in one book but some instruments like the cello, singing and flute have to be separate books with their chosen pieces. All official Trinity music can be bought from official Trinity shop (trinity music exams will take you through to their site and shop) or other good sources are Amazon UK or the CLIP shop inside CLIP school.

Please ask your teachers if you are ready to take an exam and what music you should buy.

PRIMARY NOTICES

COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS
As we endeavour to improve our effectiveness with parent communication I would like to remind you of a few important points:

- Your child’s class blog will be updated, at a minimum, every two weeks.
- Class and subject teachers should be sending home English, Maths, Science and Portuguese books a minimum of twice per half term. Please be aware that teachers may require you to sign to state that you have seen your child’s book.

PRIMARY PUPIL COUNCIL
As part of the Primary Pupil Council charity activities this year, we are planning on raising money for the Associação A Casa do Caminho, which is a residential home for children in danger in Porto. Pupils in the Primary School intend to sell origami pieces of their Guinness Origami World Record attempt in the school community next week. The pupil council intends to offer the origami pieces for €1.00 on Monday and Tuesday of next week. If you would like to support this activity then we ask that your child comes to school with €1.00 on Monday.

Barbara Mendes, Primary Head Girl
Mr David Padden, Primary Pupil Council Teacher Representative
INVITATION TO RUN AN ASSEMBLY - THE MAGIS ASSEMBLIES (REMINDER)

I wish to propose a new event that parents could help support. Parents, friends or colleagues of OBS family can be offered the opportunity to present a 20-30 minute assembly to pupils on a monthly basis. The topics would be anything that you think pupils would be interested in and something that you can bring your expertise to. We would call these “Magis” assemblies. The word “Magis” is Latin and refers to setting a challenge or ‘lighting a fire’ in a person to make them more inquisitive and wanting to do or learn more. Should you have any interest in offering your services then please do email or speak with me and we can arrange a time on a Friday morning when you can come into school to present your assembly. We can start this programme as soon as we have willing volunteers.

TALENT SHOW

We have many pupils very interested in the upcoming Talent Show. As a reminder, all auditions will be on 28th or 29th January. I will inform pupils of the specific day at the beginning of that week.

HEAD OF PRIMARY COMMENDATION AWARD

Commendation for an excellent attitude and progress with the Reading Box programme

Commendations for continued neat and accurate work in their Maths books throughout this school year

RODRIGO GIL MATA 3J

MARIA SOUTO

MARIA SILVA SANTOS

JOANA MARTINS

KRISTINA TORCATO

LEONOR HOMEM

MATILDE CARDOSO

Mark Evans, Head of Primary
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.

SECONDARY NEWSLETTER
The Winter edition of the OBServer is available at http://www.obs.edu.pt/. Please do read this if you have not done so already.

FORM 10 & 12 REPORTS & PARENTS EVENING
Grade reports will be sent to parents on the 19th and you are able to discuss these and other matters on the 21st January (5.30-7.30pm). This is a very important parents evening to ensure each child is on track to achieve the best results they are capable of.

TUTOR TIME
After an excellent assembly by 8H on ‘Goals for life’, pupils will be carrying out some activities in tutor time related to ‘Resourcefulness’. Who will be able to identify the person who lost their wallet?

FORM 9 PORTUGUESE TRIP
Fm 9s Modern Language students will be going on an Educational visit to Braga. Pupils will visit the Sé de Braga (Capela dos Reis, Capela de S. Geraldo, Capela da Glória e Coro Alto) in the morning and in the afternoon they will go to the Auditório Vita where they will watch the play ‘Auto da Barca do Inferno’ from the author Gil Vicente (part of the Portuguese National Curriculum for Form 9). We anticipate returning to school at approximately 4.30 pm.

UNITOUR Porto IBDP: Some IBDP students will be attending this event on the 31st January.

CAS TRIP TO MOROCCO
Many students have signed up to a long term service project in Morocco. As part of this they will be visiting and supporting a community in Southern Morocco in the week of 12th April.

HOMEWORK
Could all parents ensure they check and sign homework diaries every weekend.

IGCSE GEOGRAPHY FIELDTRIP
The IGCSE Geography trip to Rio Ferreira has been booked for Monday, 26th January.

Peter Jones, Head of Secondary
DATES FOR THE DIARY

21\textsuperscript{st} January  Parents Evening for F10 and F12
26\textsuperscript{th} January  F10 Geography Trip
26\textsuperscript{th} January  F5 Benjamin Sports Festival at CLIP
29\textsuperscript{th} January  IB Open Evening
29\textsuperscript{th} January  Annual General Meeting of PTA, 9:00am Teage Hall
04\textsuperscript{th} February  Whole School book fair
12\textsuperscript{th} February  Primary Talent Show
13\textsuperscript{th} February  NO SCHOOL - INSET day for Staff