“Be thankful for what you have; you’ll end up having more. If you concentrate on what you don’t have, you’ll never, never have enough”.

Oprah Winfrey

Thanksgiving greetings to those of American heritage in the OBS community!

This week our successful Model United Nations group returned from a very productive and enjoyable conference in Valencia, Spain and I thank Mr. Quinn and Ms Ferreira for all their work in organizing the event, accompanying the group of students and for preparing the participants so thoroughly. The art of public speaking and debating skills are ones that are honed and polished in action and it is clear from my feedback from students that they all found the experience one of personal development and enjoyment.

This week we also held the Annual General Meeting of the Board of Governors. I welcome Mr. Charles Symington and Mr. David Bain who were elected to the board and congratulate Mrs. Sophia Rocchi on her re-election. I also welcome Mr. Emanuel Figueiredo who was elected to the Statutory Audit Board. I also thank Mr. Daniel Brás Marques who chaired the Annual General Meeting.

The full Report & Accounts is on our website and can be found in the community section, login:OBS2014 Many of the academic highlights of the previous academic year are covered in this report and in the various communications to the school. I wish therefore to provide a short summary of the financial performance of the school in the previous academic year.

With the background of a fall in student numbers in 2013/2014 of over 3% there was a corresponding fall in income. There was also no fee increase. This led to a very cautious approach to expenditure. Teaching staff numbers remained constant at 59 but there were some reductions in indirect academic costs (staff recruitment, educational materials, staff training and excursions). The most substantial reductions were made in indirect administrative costs with over 130,000 Euros savings found here. It was in IT and building maintenance that the major savings were found. This cautious approach resulted in the posting of a net surplus of 244,000 Euros for the academic year 2013-2014.

Together with the excellent examination performances, this pleasing financial performance gives ground for cautious optimism going forward. This year we have seen an increase in enrolments with 407 pupils enrolled on 1st Sept 2014. The school has no debts or loans and we are in a healthier financial state than in previous years. The school facilities need substantial investment in a number of areas thus projects such as the Blue House, IT infrastructure and other proposals need to be carefully considered to ensure that investments are done in a thoughtful, prudent and strategic way.

Much of this term has been spent behind the scenes improving the reporting, processes and analysis that is needed so that we have the quality data needed to make informed decisions. The Board of Governors is itching to get a capital development plan together to improve our school over the coming years but the focus must be in getting this right. I wish to pay tribute to the board members who give so much of their time to develop our school and it has been a very busy first term for all involved. This work is bearing fruit and we can now begin to put detailed plans forward.

I wish Mr. Gore and his wonderful choir much success as they perform at the Solidarity Concert on Dec 3rd. Do also join us for the Christmas Tree lighting event in Teage Hall on Tuesday 2nd December at the end of the school day.

Tom McGrath, Headmaster
PRIMARY COMMENDATION AWARDS THIS WEEK

Commendations for outstanding effort and participation in their class assembly on habitats (3C and 3J)

AFONSO MOURA     RUI CARDOSO     CARLOTA CARRINGTON

for outstanding improvements with reading

FILipe HUANG

for being an outstanding role model

VITORIA SANTOS     JOANA MARTINS     MARIA SOUTO

for outstanding effort and performance with spelling activities

MATILDE SILVA

For continued excellent work with the Maths activities

HEADMASTER’S COMMENDATION AWARD

for outstanding work in science and independent research

FILIPA PIPRAS
FORM 3 ASSEMBLY
Form 3 presented a wonderful assembly to parents this week. The focus of the assembly was on “habitats” which they had been studying in science.

PUNCTUALITY
A concern has been raised among the staff regarding the number of pupils that are arriving late to school on a regular basis.

I would like to clarify our expectations related to punctuality of all pupils. Punctuality is essential for learning. If a pupil is late for school or for a lesson then this not only disrupts their learning but the learning of others.

All Primary pupils should aim to arrive for school between 08:45am and 8:50 am. At 8:45 am there is a warning bell for pupils to begin lining up outside their classrooms. All pupils are then registered between the 8:50am bell and the 08:55am bell. Period 1 lessons begin at 08:55am.

We understand that there are many reasons out of your, or your child’s, control that affect the time you arrive at school. Though, we would greatly appreciate your support in ensuring your child is prepared to leave your home in an acceptable time to be at school for registration.

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.

IMUN VALENCIA (VALMUN) CONFERENCE

The main issues debated at the MUN conference were related to access to clean water, refugees in the Middle East, the political situation in Ukraine, and Iran’s right to nuclear energy.

Our students made excellent opening speeches and overcame their initial nervousness and grew in confidence as the conference developed. Most students actively participated in lobbying and proposing resolutions. They then actively debated and passed related resolutions and amendments.
VALMUN was a most inclusive conference for middle school pupils and allowed the OBS MUN to extend its sphere of influence down the School to the younger pupils. In that sense we have a strong caucus now who will take over the leadership of the Club when Form 12’s leave.

On the social and cultural side, our hosts were splendid, offering a plethora of games activities, a disco and a wonderful walking tour of old Valencia. The architecture and history of the town were fascinating and much appreciated by the students. The tour of central Madrid was also very interesting and the girls actually got to Top Shop! The meals out in restaurants were splendid and all tastes were catered for.

Overall, the event was an excellent experience for our students who rose to the occasion and were splendid in both their conduct and collaboration.

**FILM NIGHT**

The Form 11 CAS pupil’s film event was very successful. All pupils had a really good time watching ‘Home Alone’. The pupils raised over €100!

Adam Simson, CAS Coordinator

**7D ASSEMBLY**

7D presented an excellent assembly on the importance of empathy. This links to our Term Theme and focus on ‘Building Relationships’.

**ECO COMMITTEE**

Members of the eco committee met to discuss initial plans to help OBS become more environmentally sustainable. One of the first main focuses will be related to waste and litter.

**STUDENT COUNCIL**

The Student Council will meet this coming Tuesday and discuss a range of issues and events including the final days leading up to Christmas.

**FORM 11 CAS EVENING**

An information session related to the Morocco CAS trip will take place on the 10th December. Parents evening appointments therefore need to take place before or after this meeting.

**FORM 11 GRADES REPORTS**

Grade reports will be issued by the 3rd December. This will include attainment grades and Form 11 assessment grades.

**HEALTHY EATING WORKSHOP**

Healthy Eating workshop for Forms 10 - 12, 04th December at 4:30pm. A chef and a nutritionist will be giving advice to students on how to eat a balanced healthy diet and demonstrating some recipes.
STAR ACHIEVERS

The following pupils have received a BRONZE certificate for achieving 10 or more stars. Stars are awarded to pupils who have shown that extra spark in classwork, homework, discussion, attitude and support for others in the community. Well done to all these pupils! We are sure there will be more star achievers soon.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>6N</th>
<th>6W</th>
<th>7G</th>
<th>7D</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maria 17</td>
<td>Ziheng - 27</td>
<td>Mafalda 13</td>
<td>Manuel 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antero 12</td>
<td>Adriana 27</td>
<td></td>
<td>Pedro 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Megha 13</td>
<td>Carolina - 10</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ines 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mafalda 12</td>
<td>Jie - 16</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ana 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emma 11</td>
<td>Jerry -19</td>
<td></td>
<td>Joana 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lorenzo 14</td>
<td>Maria - 11</td>
<td></td>
<td>Maria Matilde 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mathilde - 29</td>
<td></td>
<td>Leonor 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mateus 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Guilherme 19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HOUSE LOGO COMPETITION

The first OBS ‘House Logo Competition’ will be taking place over the next few weeks. Students will have the opportunity to design logos for their respective houses and compete to have their logo chosen to be put on the new OBS house sports t-shirts, using skills learnt in their ICT and Art lessons. These t-shirts will be available in blue, red and green according to students’ houses. There will be a panel of judges who will nominate the best logo from each house, that will used on the t-shirts that will then be available for all students to buy. Prices to be confirmed.

The rules are as follows:

- Students can work in groups of up to three people.
- Only two colours can be used in your logo:
  - Windsor: white and blue
  - Lancaster: white and red
  - Bragança: white and green
- The maximum size for the logo is 15cm x 10cm.
- The resolution has to be of at least 300dpi.
- The logo has to include the house name or initial (W, L or B).
- The logos can be hand drawn but preferably computer generated.

The deadline is the 18th December.

The winners from each house will receive house points and a free t-shirt with their logo on it.
CHESS RESULTS

Pupils achieved excellent results in November’s Chess tournament (22nd November):

- Filipa Pipiras came in 8th place in the Portuguese under 10’s category
- Filipe Encarnação came in 49th place in the Portuguese under 12’s category
- Joseph King achieved 2nd place in the Portuguese under 8’s category.
LISBON SPORTS TOURNAMENT - MISSING KIT

Please be informed that some of the Sports kit has not been returned to school. We would be grateful if you would return the following items at your earliest convenience. Thank you.

Football shirts
9, 10, 40, 41, 44
Shorts
9, 10, 37, 38, 40, 44

Matt Homewood, Head of PE and Games

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

A Christmas Concert will be held for charity at the CASA DA MÚSICA on Tuesday, 27th of December at 6:00pm. This is in aid of Mama Help. Please see the poster for more information.

MEDICAL

This week students have continued with the following symptoms:
Acute abdominal pain, headaches with nausea / possible vomiting and a new symptom, a sore throat, but without a fever.

Lídia Ferreira, Pediatric First Aider

DATES FOR THE DIARY

02nd December F2 Trip to Paper Factory
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 Assembly - Prep to F1
11-13th December Varsity Boys Basketball Tournament Lisbon
12th December Autumn EC Clubs end, Spring EC clubs start on 12th January 2015
18th December Carol Service
19th December End of Autumn term - school ends at 12:35pm
05th January Spring Term Starts