“Let us be grateful to the people who make us happy; they are the charming gardener who make our souls blossom.”  

Marcel Proust

Dear Parents,

Each week in my bulletin column I endeavour to touch on a theme that is important to us as a school. We have focused recently on our call to serve that is embodied in our school motto and I have incorporated this motto in the header above to remind me and the community of this calling that we have. It is sometimes very easy to applaud ourselves for our efforts to help the less fortunate but for me it is not something to be proud of, it is part of being human, it is part of our being. We approach our Harvest festival on Thursday 23rd October and it is a time to reflect on all the blessings that we enjoy in our lives and we have the opportunity to reach out to others as we collect non-perishable food items to donate to the needy in Porto.

We also have needy in our school. It may not be a need for food, clothing and physical comforts but there can be those who feel left out, who feel lost in a new environment, those who are deliberately excluded, teased and bullied by their peers. I am very proud of our pupils but I have been long enough in education to know that no school is completely free from bullying and from pupils who are not doing ok. We as a community have a particularly duty to see that our young people are ok. Our young people inhabit a world where their ‘peers’ are no longer at the school, or at the football club but, with social media, they’re right across the globe. It’s a world of ‘likes’, thumbs-up, followers, favourites. To be impossibly thin, impossibly cool, impossibly talented, impossibly beautiful, impossibly rich and impossibly famous. At the risk of being impossibly damaged.

That is why it is up to all of us to do all we can to convince our young people that they are already of immeasurable and impossible value, simply because they exist. They do not need to feel the need to compete to be something that they are not. We must help them to cultivate, privately, a sense of self-knowledge, self-awareness and self-worth. We must instil in them the power and value of failure. Because it is here they will find their ability to cope. It is here in this difficult territory of failure they can practice their resilience.

There is an old wisdom that a wound heals from the edges in, it will not heal if is continually scratched and irritated. That is why it is so important for all of us to work to make this a welcoming, inclusive home for all our pupils.

The most important ingredient here is the pupils themselves. In my opening address to secondary pupils I spoke about how powerful they are, they are much more powerful than me. They have the power to make someone feel welcome and included, they have the power to exclude, to hurt and to harm other peers. They can do this by being the leader, they can do this by their passive acceptance and their failure to stand up when they know something is wrong, they can do this by their failure to think of others around them and by their selfishness.

A happy school is one where the engagements between all people in the school are characterised by mutual respect and courtesy at all times. To be an OBS pupil is to embody these values and behaviours. I want all our pupils to be happy. Let us strive together to make this a happy school.

Tom McGrath, Headmaster
WHOLE SCHOOL NOTICES

SOLIDARITY CONCERT, EXPONOR

Many of you will already be aware that OBS is hosting 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 organizing this year’s event we have the opportunity to choose the benefiting charity; we have chosen Acreditar as this year’s beneficiary. The Acreditar organization 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

NON-UNIFORM DAY FOR CHARITY

As mentioned in last week’s bulletin, next Friday, 24th October is going to be a non-uniform day. The theme is “Pretty in Pink” and students are encouraged to dress up accordingly! We will be raising money for not only the Associação Laço but also another charity called “Mama Help” founded in Porto by a member of the school community, Doctor Maria João Cardoso. Pupils will be asked to bring in €1. At the end of the day there will be short parade for the Primary school and the Senior school will be taking an aerial picture of the symbol of the Breast cancer cause: the pink ribbon. We encourage everyone to dress up, wear as much pink (or red and white) as possible and have fun!

Matilda Wall, Pinky Kotecha, Event Organisers
**CIS FEEDBACK**

The school is delighted to report that the recent Council of International Schools (CIS) visit has been successful and CIS has confirmed that we can proceed with re-accreditation. The proposed date for the full re-accreditation visit is scheduled for Spring 2016. Please see our website for the official letter from CIS: [www.obs.edu.pt](http://www.obs.edu.pt)

**HARVEST FESTIVAL DONATIONS**

Please keep sending in your donations of non-perishable food items. Please see the following letter for more information:


Tom McGrath, Headmaster

**SECOND HAND BOOK SALE**

On Wednesday 22\(^{nd}\) October Form 11 will be running a second hand book sale, before and after school and during break/lunchtime. Parents are invited at lunch time between 1:15 -2:10pm in Teage Hall to join us for coffee and refreshments while browsing for a good bargain. All proceeds go towards the Creativity, Action and Service (CAS) Programme for their forthcoming foreign trip.

Adam Simson, CAS Coordinator

**CROSS COUNTRY EVENT**

This has now been re-arranged for Thursday, 06\(^{th}\) November 2014 for Forms 2-12.

**HEADLICE**

As we endeavour to reduce, as much as possible, the spread of head lice we would ask that parents continue to be vigilant when checking their own child’s hair. We will continue to send an email message to parents if there is a report of head lice in a classroom. Should your child have head lice then we ask that you stringently follow the stated medical procedures and then fully check your child’s hair before they return to school.

**PRIMARY NOTICES**

**PRIMARY COMMENDATION AWARDS THIS WEEK**

- **Jorge Soares F3** - Excellent scientific writing as part of a non-fiction writing objective
- **Clara Gonçalves F3** - Excellent Scientific research skills for unit of Bones and Muscles

**TARDINESS**

The number of pupils entering school late on mornings appears to be increasing. Class teachers discuss important daily messages between 8:50am and 8:55am; the first period of the day, which is mainly English, begins at 8:55. Pupils entering class at 9am will have already missed messages and also the introduction to a lesson. Could you please try to ensure that your child’s morning routine will allow him/her to be at school and in class by 8:50am.
HAIR LENGTH

Our school policy states that any pupil with long hair (hair over their collar) will need to wear a hair band. We are noticing that some boys are becoming increasingly close to needing to wear a hair band. I am mentioning the options of ‘hair band’ or ‘hair cut’ to the boys that have longer hair. This policy helps the school ensure that we are focusing on the health and safety of all our pupils. We will contact individual parents where this remains an issue after half-term.

SECONDARY 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.

PARENTS EVENING FOR FORM 6, 9 AND NEW PUPILS (15th OCTOBER)

Thank you to all parents and pupils that attended this evening and for your continued support. If you were unable to see a teacher then please do contact the Front Office to make an appointment.

EU UNIVERSITY PRESENTATION TO IB DIPLOMA STUDENTS

This successful event took place on the 15th October at OBS and provided insight into higher education especially related to the world of business at http://www.euruni.edu/.

CANCER AWARENESS WEEK

The IB pupils will be carrying out an awareness assembly this Tuesday. On Friday there will be a non-uniform day with pupils wearing something pink (or red and white). This will also help further raise awareness of the causes, impacts and management of cancer. Pupils will also be asked to bring in €1 to support a Cancer Research Charity.

Adam Simson, CAS coordinator

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Matilda Wall, Pinky Kotecha, Event Organisers

DATES FOR DIARIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20th October</td>
<td>Prep trip to Casa da Música</td>
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<tr>
<td>23rd October</td>
<td>Harvest Festival 4:30pm, Stella Maris Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>23rd October</td>
<td>Used book sale &amp; coffee - 1:15 - 2:10pm Teage Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>24th October</td>
<td>Non-Uniform day - children can wear pink for charity</td>
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<td>27th to 31st October</td>
<td>Half-term Break - School re-opens Monday, 03rd November</td>
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<tr>
<td>6th November</td>
<td>Confirmed new date for Cross Country Event, Parque da Cidade</td>
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<tr>
<td>10th-14th November</td>
<td>Early Years Admissions Week</td>
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