Education is not filling a pail but the lighting of a fire.

William Butler Yeats

Dear Parents,

I thank all those involved in a very successful CAISL Sports Tournament last week which I had the opportunity to see during my recent visit to Lisbon. It was also an opportunity to visit CAISL and St Julian’s and to share our ideas. I also attended a meeting of school directors where we worked on some common projects. In mid December we send varsity teams to Lisbon for the next tournament and I wish them success.

I also send my best wishes to our Model United Nations group who have travelled to Valencia to participate in an event where pupils represent various countries to resolve major world issues and to debate, persuade and negotiate in a formal setting. I look forward to hearing of their achievements. Reports so far is that all is going well and I look forward to learning of their achievements.

On Nov 27th at 6.30pm OBS will host the Annual General Meeting of the Board of Governors. This is a formal event where the Report and Accounts of the previous academic year are presented for approval and where some positions on the board and on the Statutory Audit Board are voted upon; full details have been sent to parents in recent weeks. It is an opportunity to become informed on the financial performance of the school as well as its major achievements and developments over the previous academic year. The full report is available on the school website www.obs.edu.pt and can be found in the community section. Please login in using the code OBS2014. Please note that only highlights from the report will be presented as the full report runs to 50 pages. Please also note that I plan to provide various opportunities to parents throughout the academic year to discuss issues of concern and the AGM is not the appropriate forum for such discussions. I look forward to seeing many of you at this event.

With 4 weeks left until the end of term there are a number of events coming up with a festive feel. Please support the Solidarity Concert and tickets are on sale with Ms Vera in the front office. This weekend there is a Christmas Bazaar at the British Club and do go along to support this excellent event, full details are included.

We are also putting together a list of festive events for our pupils at the very end of term and we want the final couple of days at school to be ones where the true meaning of this special holiday comes alive for all our community. The highlight here will be our School Carol Service on Thursday December 18th. Held at Stella Maris Church we will sing carols together and reflect on the forthcoming feast day. The event begins at 4.15pm and we estimate a ceremony of 45 minutes. Please come along to celebrate with us and to exchange Christmas greetings on the penultimate day of the autumn term. Earlier on Thursday 18th December we are planning a special Christmas Lunch for all the secondary school. We will be sending out details shortly but we wish each form group to decorate their Christmas table in a festive way and they will be served a Christmas lunch with their tutor. The canteen and Teage Hall will be used for this purpose and we believe this will be an occasion of good will and friendship following a very busy term. Full details will follow. On Friday 19th December we will have a range of activities culminating in a whole school Christmas assembly in the sports hall. We finish school at 12.35pm on the final day and please note that no after care is available on this afternoon. We wish to limit such breaks from the normal timetable to the final two days and we have much work to do in the coming weeks.

Tom McGrath, Headmaster
PRIMARY NOTICES

PRIMARY COMMENDATION AWARDS THIS WEEK

Commendations to all six children for continued excellent effort and performance with their spelling words

MARIA SILVA SANTOS
MARIANA DUARTE
LEONOR HOMEM
KRISTINA TORCATO
KAEDEN GANDER
LUIS MOTA DUARTE

CAISL FALL SPORTS TOURNAMENT

BASKETBALL
Huge congratulations go to the Division 5 Basketball team as the boys performed admirably throughout the tournament. The highlight was the game against St Dominic’s when our captain scored the winning point with 10 seconds left of the game. Celebrations on the final whistle highlighted the team spirit of the OBS community. The progress made by the team from the initial training sessions to the tournament was awarded with 5th position and winning the Fair Play Cup.

Miss Lee

FOOTBALL
Division 5 girls played eight games. They won three, drew four and lost one. Over the course of the eight games they only conceded one goal! The team played extremely well and finished in fourth place.

Mr Bridges
OBS AND HOME CONNECT WELCOMES FORM 2 AND NEW PARENTS

Parents are now able to view their child’s reading progress with the launch of Home Connect and sign up to receive regular updates. Accelerated Reader’s Home Connect is used with children from Forms 2 to 8 who are encouraged to read a book and take a computerised quiz that assesses the child’s comprehension of the book, characters, events, vocabulary and literacy features. It has already proven to be successful in motivating children to read more and increasing student’s responsibility for their own reading. New pupils and form 2’s login details can be found in your child’s planner/homework diary. Lee.hann@obs.edu.pt

Lee Hann, Accelerated Reader Programme Co-ordinator

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.

FORM 10 & 12 GRADE REPORTS

Grade reports will be issued by November 26th.

Peter Jones, Head of Secondary

CAS MOVIE NIGHT

Form 11 will be hosting a movie night in Teage Hall on Wednesday 26th November from 16:30-18:15. They will be getting in the festive spirit by screening the Christmas classic Home Alone (rating PG). All pupils from primary and secondary are welcome to attend, with popcorn and soft drinks also being sold. Tickets cost €2 each and will be sold on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday break time, as well as on the door. All proceeds will go to the CAS overseas charity.

2015 CAS OVERSEAS OUTREACH PROGRAMME www.atlasculturalfoundation.org/

This year the CAS students will be supporting the Atlas Cultural Foundation in Morocco. They will be fundraising and then visiting the charity in April 2015 as part of their CAS long term project. The mission of the Atlas Cultural Foundation (ACF) is to collaborate with rural Moroccans to improve their quality of life in the fields of cultural preservation, community education, and public health. ACF works in Morocco’s remote Atlas Mountains and is currently focused on development in the region of Zawiya Ahansal. Isolated within rugged mountains, Zawiya Ahansal’s 15,000 inhabitants are among the poorest people in North Africa; living with a minimum of health care and formal education. Working with a holistic, integrated approach to development, ACF understands that community needs cannot be solved in isolation because they are all interrelated. ACF facilitates successful projects by focusing on the problems of the entire region and matching experienced partners, local, international or governmental, with community needs. Start-up resources, training and knowledge are provided for long-term, sustainable impact. The ACF is a non-denominational and non-political organisation. We would like to thank all those that support us in our fundraising efforts in this year; OBS has a proud tradition of supporting charities from all around the world.

Adam Simson, CAS Coordinator
MUSIC TO MY EARS
Form 9 and 10 visited Casa da Musica to listen to an open rehearsal of the Symphony Orchestra of Porto. Pupils also participated in an exciting Gamelan workshop. The gamelan is a traditional ensemble from Indonesia, made up predominantly of percussive instruments.

CAISL FALL SPORTS TOURNAMENT
The Fall Sports Tournament was an excellent experience for everyone this year. We brought smaller squads than usual meaning that everyone really had to pull together as a team and work towards our goal of finishing in the top 5 in each division. Mr Bridges said that in his eleven years of attending Lisbon tournaments he felt that this was the one in which we were most consistently competitive in all competitions.

The Girls football teams are going from strength to strength and despite our Division 3 super goalie’s injury, they managed to finish in the middle of their group. We wish Alyça a speedy recovery and hope to see her back on the pitch soon. Division 4 also played brilliantly and we are proud of their teamwork and commitment. Both teams finished fourth in their divisions, narrowly missing out on medal places.

Boys basketball was successful too and we saw some real talent on the court. Division 4 boys came second which was a major achievement and they celebrated heartily on the way back to Porto. Division 4 boys, the “workhorses” played brilliantly and had some fantastic results.

We are immensely proud of all our sportspeople and we’re all looking forward to repeating this success with the Varsity trip later this term.

Miss Corcoran and Mr Weeks

CAMBRIDGE IGCSE CERTIFICATES

Form 11 received their IGCSE certificates. Once again, well done Class of 2014 on your outstanding results!
IMUN VALENCIA TRIP
We wish all of the IMUN participants a good visit to Valencia and every success in the forthcoming debates.

Peter Jones, Head of Secondary

DUKE OF EDINBURGH
Participants receive their Bronze Awards from Luísa Beirão

Mark Hooley, Duke of Edinburgh Leader

WHOLE SCHOOL NOTICES
SOLIDARITY CONCERT
The tickets for the Solidarity Concert are going fast, though we do still have tickets left over. The last day for ticket sales will be Wednesday, 26th November; at this time I will offer any leftover tickets to the other five schools. This will be a wonderful event for the family to start the Christmas season and we do hope that you can join us at Exponor on 3rd December.

ESCOLA DAS ARTES AT OBS
Escola das Artes works with the Trinity College London exam system. If you are planning to go to university in the UK, from grade 6 onwards you are awarded UCAS points which will help your university application whatever subject you plan to study. A grade 6 pass will give you 15 UCAS points up to 75 points for a grade 8 distinction in both classical and pop/rock exams. The exams are in May, so plenty of time to get working for next year’s exams. Talk to your instrumental teacher if you would like to follow the Trinity system or contact us at escoladasartesobs@hotmail.com.

Escola das Artes Teachers
BAGOS DE OURO - CHARITY JAZZ EVENT

Atualmente presente nos concelhos de São João da Pesqueira, Tabuaço, Sabrosa e Alijó, a Associação Bagos d’Ouro apoia diretamente 44 crianças e jovens e respetivas famílias, num total de 167 pessoas, acompanhando o seu percurso ao nível da Educação, Nutrição e Saúde até à inserção na vida ativa. A Associação Bagos d’Ouro é uma IPSS que tem como principal missão promover a Educação de crianças e jovens carenciados do Douro, como forma de combate à exclusão social.

A noite de 1 de Dezembro é feita de solidariedade na Casa da Música. Pelas 21h30, os aCidJazz Project sobem ao palco para atuar em nome de uma causa maior.

Um surpreendente José Cid a tocar jazz e blues, num concerto de Natal solidário cuja receita de bilheteira reverte integralmente a favor Associação Bagos d’Ouro.

Bilhetes à venda no site da Casa da Música:

MEDICAL

Please be informed that the following symptoms are going around school: Acute abdominal pain, headaches with nausea / possibility of vomiting but without a fever.

Lidia Ferreira, First Aider

COMMUNITY CHOIR

The Community Choir has started again on Thursdays from 16:10-16:45. Any parents who would like to join us are very welcome! If you would like any more information then please get in touch - rob.gore@obs.edu.pt

Rob Gore, Head of Music

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Once again, the Ladies’ Guild will be running their Christmas Bazaar at the Oporto Cricket and Lawn Tennis Club on Saturday, 22nd November at 14:00. Please note all members of the community are welcome to attend.

Janet Burnett
NEXT WEEK’S LUNCH MENU

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<th>DATE</th>
<th>MEAL TYPE</th>
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<td>26-Nov</td>
<td>Sopa/Soup</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<td>Carne/Meat</td>
<td>Esparguete à Bolonhesa com Tomate e Cenoura Raspada</td>
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<td>Feijoada de Cogumelos</td>
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<td>Sopa/Soup</td>
<td>Brócolos e Cenoura</td>
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DATES FOR THE DIARY

26th November  CAS Movie night - Teage Hall
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 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