“Let us therefore brace ourselves to our duties, and so bear ourselves, that if the British Empire and its Commonwealth last for a thousand years, men will still say, ‘This was their finest hour’.”
Winston Churchill, 1940

Dear Parents,

This Saturday January 24th marks the 50th anniversary of the death of Winston Churchill; he died in 1965 at the age of 91. A truly remarkable man, writer, historian, painter, politician and statesman he was one of the most influential people in modern British history. Such was the high regard for his services to his country that he was given a lavish State funeral, a very rare honour in British history.

His finest hour came on his appointment as Prime Minister in May 1940 and it was the moment when Britain stood alone against the Nazi regime. His stirring words inspired a nation and his astute use of the British Royal Air Force prevented a Nazi invasion. His work with Roosevelt and later Stalin to defeat Hitler was again a masterful performance.

What must be borne in mind is that Churchill had been elected to Parliament in 1900 thus when he finally became Prime Minister it was at an age when most people retire. In addition, it was at a time of great stress, demanding a work regime that would have exhausted a much younger man. Throughout the 1930’s Churchill was seen as a forgotten figure. He was overlooked for a ministerial position and his speeches pointing to the dangers of Hitler were, for many years, seen out of tune with the pacifist sentiments of that decade. It was his steadfastness and clarity of message that meant that he was the person to turn to when all seemed lost in the early years of the war.

His writing led to a Nobel Prize for Literature in 1953 “for his mastery of historical and biographical description as well as for brilliant oratory in defending exalted human values”.

This month we also commemorate the 70th anniversary of the liberation of the death camp Auschwitz-Birkenau in Nazi-occupied Poland. The Soviet Red Army found 3,000 camp survivors and revealed the true horror of the genocide against the Jews and other enemies of Hitler and the use of gas chambers to carry out mass killings. Due to the time that has passed, fewer and fewer camp survivors are still alive but their testimony remains so important for us to understand the horrors of war, the danger of racism and extreme ideologies.

It is by remembering that we can avoid repeating the errors of the past.

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.

SKIING TRIP TO LA MOLINA 2015
Profº Fernando Soares is organising a skiing trip to La Molina between the 14th of February and Saturday the 21st of February 2015. For further information on this trip please contact Fernando Soares directly on: 914556688 or by email: fs.sportskills@gmail.com Please also visit his Facebook page! http://www.facebook.com/FS.sports.academy. Please note this is a privately organised event and not a school run trip.

COMMUNITY CHOIR
We have a small - but happy - group of teachers and parents who have a sing every Thursday from 4:10-5:00 in the Music Room. If you are free then why not give it a try! No pressure! Just come along for a bit of fun and to enjoy singing together. All welcome!

PRIMARY NOTICES

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.
Commendation awarded to Aniela for her outstanding progress in surpassing her target in the Accelerated Reader Programme

Commendation awarded to Filipe for making an extra effort to speak in English at all times during the lesson

Commendation awarded to Barbara for initiating and leading a fundraising event to raise over €140 for a local children’s charity

Commendation awarded to Filipe for making an extra effort to speak in English at all times during the lesson

Commendation awarded to Azra’s effort and progress in independent writing and spelling

Commendation awarded to Isabel for her excellent effort and progress in the Mathematics curriculum

Commendation awarded to Sofia for her effort towards homework and spelling practice

Commendation awarded to Matilde for her effort and in the care she takes in presenting her work

Commendation awarded to Aniela for her outstanding progress in surpassing her target in the Accelerated Reader Programme

Commendation awarded to Filipe for making an extra effort to speak in English at all times during the lesson

Commendation awarded to Sofia for her effort towards homework and spelling practice

Commendation awarded to Filipe for making an extra effort to speak in English at all times during the lesson
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.
In addition, all key dates, letters, guidance can be found in the relevant areas of http://www.obs.edu.pt/page.cfm?p=7

FORM 10 &12 REPORTS AND PARENTS EVENING
Thank you to all parents and pupils that attended the evening. It was particularly good because so many pupils did attend and we would encourage all pupils of all ages to attend these events.

EIGHT WEEKS TO GO
Form 10&12 pupils now have eight weeks left before the Easter holiday. This half term, Form 12 students need to complete any outstanding IAs, EEs and ToK assessments. Next half term, the school will offer various revision or support classes after school. We are also finalizing the plans for any other support and revision that may take place after the Easter break.

UNIVERSITY GUIDANCE
Form 12 pupils and parents have been sent guidance related to:
- Responding to offers on UCAS (earliest deadline May 6th)
- Student Finance UK (can be completed from February and latest deadline end of May)
- University in the USA
- University in the UK (this is primarily aimed at Form 10 and 11 students and parents)

Form 11 pupils and parents have been sent guidance related to:
- UK University Guidance
- USA University Guidance
- Summer School Information
- University Fair in Lisbon

Form 9&10 pupils and parents have been sent guidance related to:
- UK University Guidance
- USA University Guidance
- Summer School Information

This will also be discussed at the IB Diploma open evening at 5pm on Thursday 29th January. If you have any queries about this then please contact Miss Macleod (overseas universities) or Mrs Qunitas (Portuguese Universities).

A letter has gone out to Form 10, 11 and 12 parents about USA University guidance. If any other parents would like a copy of the letter please get in touch with Vera who will send one on.
FORM 10 IGCSE STUDENTS

With the mock examinations now complete, we are concentrating on preparations for the examinations in May/June. English, English Literature, Geography and Music all have coursework elements which must be completed according to the timetable below. Spanish, Portuguese B and French all have speaking examinations and these will take place during March. Art and ICT students will sit their practical examinations during April. We stagger the dates of the practical examinations and coursework so that students have plenty of time to prepare and also to revise for their written examinations. Please see the important dates below that your child needs to take careful note of. We will notify you by email if there are any changes to these dates. We will also notify you by email if your child misses any of the deadlines we have set in place.

If you have any questions about specific subjects, please contact the subject teacher directly. If you have any queries about the examinations, please contact Miss Corcoran.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Deadline/Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 14th January</td>
<td>Art examination paper to students</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, 26th Jan</td>
<td>Geography field trip</td>
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<tr>
<td>13th - 23rd February</td>
<td>Half term</td>
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<td>27th February</td>
<td>English Language coursework deadline</td>
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<tr>
<td>27th February</td>
<td>Geography coursework deadline</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week beginning 9th March</td>
<td>Music solo performance</td>
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<tr>
<td>16th March</td>
<td>Spanish speaking examination</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week beginning 16th March</td>
<td>Music ensemble recording</td>
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<td>16th - 17th March</td>
<td>Portuguese B speaking examination</td>
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<tr>
<td>17th March</td>
<td>French speaking examination</td>
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<tr>
<td>20th March</td>
<td>Music composition deadline</td>
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<tr>
<td>28th March to 13th April</td>
<td>Easter holidays</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, 13th April</td>
<td>ICT practical A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 15th April</td>
<td>ICT practical B</td>
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<tr>
<td>14th, 15th, 16th April</td>
<td>Art practical examinations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, 4th May</td>
<td>IB examinations commence</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, 5th May</td>
<td>IGCSE examinations commence</td>
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CAS UPDATE

Thirteen Form 11 students will be travelling to Morocco in April to work with the following charity [www.atlasculturalfoundation.org](http://www.atlasculturalfoundation.org). This is their long term project, an integral part of their CAS programme for the IB diploma. They have raised over €700 so far which will be donated to charities in Morocco that they believe make a difference to people’s lives there. Upcoming fundraisers this half term:
CAS SPONSORED SPELLING
Forms 2 -7 have been challenged to learn either 30 or 50 words for a spelling challenge to raise money for our CAS oversees charity. The words are all related to Morocco and developing countries. Please support our fundraiser by sponsoring and encouraging your child to learn as many spellings as possible. How many did you get right?

CAS BAKE SALE
On Wednesday, 28th January the Form 11s will be baking and selling their goods at break and lunch time (and afterschool if there are any cakes left!). Make sure you have some change with you to purchase some of their quality baked produce.

VALENTINES DISCO (DATE TO BE CONFIRMED)
In the last week of half term the Form 11 will be encouraging fellow pupils to unleash their inner cupid and buy their valentine a carnation (or 2!). They will also run a valentine´s disco afterschool. Watch this space to find out the date of disco night!

FORM 9 PORTUGUESE TRIP
Form 9 Modern Language students had a very enjoyable time in Braga. Pupils went to the Sé de Braga and also watched a play ‘Auto da Barca do Inferno’ from the author Gil Vicente.

PE NOTICE
Please would parents ensure that their children have the proper sports uniform for all PE and Games lessons? In addition, if a pupil is injured and therefore unable to participate in sport activities then they must have a note. If there is any concern related to uniform, attendance and punctuality or behaviour in PE then parents will be contacted and a detention after school on Monday will be set.

HOMEWORK
Could all parents ensure they check homework diaries every weekend and sign these please?

DATES FOR THE DIARY
F10 IGCSE Geography fieldtrip - 26th January
IB Diploma information evening: 5.30pm on Thursday, 29th January

Peter Jones, Head of Secondary

SUMMER SCHOOL INFORMATION
Summer schools are run around the world for students from Form 8 upwards. These courses can be useful preparation for further study, leadership courses and for older students to prepare or study for the IBDP. Below is a list of providers who have given information to the school so far this year.

Cambridge Leadership Academy (www.cambridgeleadershipacademy.org.uk)
• Youth Leadership Summer Programme 2 - 8 August 2015. Forms 10-12.
European University ([http://www.euruni.edu/euruni/Programs/International-Summer-School.html](http://www.euruni.edu/euruni/Programs/International-Summer-School.html))
- For students aged 15 and older.
- Barcelona, 5 - 18 July.

- European Summer Special for future doctors, nurses, dentists and midwives. Throughout June, July and August.
- Warsaw, Poland Students aged 16 or 17
- Pula, Croatia students aged 18 and over

ISSOS ([http://www.summerschoolscotland.com/](http://www.summerschoolscotland.com/))
- St Andrews and Cambridge, includes pre-IB, other academic pursuits and activities.

Lanterna Education ([www.lanternaeducation.com](http://www.lanternaeducation.com))
- IB Winter Revision and Spring Exam Preparation Courses in the UK and Sweden. Form 12.
- IB Summer Mid IB and Pre-IB Summer Courses in the UK and Sweden. Forms 10 and 11.

Oxbridge Academic Programs ([www.oxbridgeprograms.com](http://www.oxbridgeprograms.com))

Oxford Royale Academy ([http://www.oxford-royale.co.uk/](http://www.oxford-royale.co.uk/))
- Including SAT, IELTS, UK University, engineering, medical and law School prep. Ages 13-18.

Oxford Study Courses (OSC) ([www.osc-ib.com](http://www.osc-ib.com))
- Pre-IBDP Summer Schools. Oxford, UK (July, August) and Harvard and MIT, USA (July). Form 10.
- Mid IBDP Summer Courses. Cambridge, UK (July, August) and Harvard and MIT, USA (July). Form 11.

St Clare´s Oxford ([http://www.stclares.ac.uk/summer](http://www.stclares.ac.uk/summer))

Spoleto Study Abroad ([http://www.spoletostudyabroad.com/index.html](http://www.spoletostudyabroad.com/index.html))
- Arts and Humanities Programs for students in historic Italy. Ages 15-19.

- Pre IB and mid IB programmes. F10-11 students.

Nikki Macleod, Head of IBDP
DATES FOR THE DIARY

26th January  
F10 Geography Trip

28th January  
CAS Cake Sale

29th & 30th January  
Benjamin Sports Festival at CLIP

29th January at 5:30pm  
IBDP Open Evening

29th January  
Annual General Meeting of PTA, 9:00am Teage Hall

04th February  
Whole School book fair

09th February  
F4 Trip to Conimbriga

12th February  
Primary Talent Show

13th February  
NO SCHOOL – INSET day for Staff

16th-20th Feb  
Half Term

28th Feb-01st March  
Duke of Edinburgh Expedition