“There are no constraints on the human mind, no walls around the human spirit, no barriers to our progress except those we ourselves erect.”

Ronald Reagan

Dear Parents,

As part of my role I try to keep up with educational development, research and analysis of student achievement and I am especially interested to learn and reflect on the different strategies that are used to generate the right level of challenge for students to perform to their full potential. My reflections lead me to value three major influences on such performance.

Firstly, our students. When they display positive attitudes to learning, when they remain focused in their lessons and when they complete homework assignments to a very high standard, we are well on our way to success.

When this application is supported and nurtured by experienced, passionate and high-quality teachers who track their progress, inspire them in their learning and support them when needed, success is guaranteed.

However, equally important is the home environment. A home where books are treasured, then reading by children is always high. When parents are interested, supportive and engaged, then we have all the ingredients to ensure high achievement.

Consequently, we encourage our pupils and parents to talk to teachers to seek advice and guidance on how, together we can maximize the learning opportunities and capabilities of every child.

We encourage parents to contact us without waiting for a scheduled parent evening. A quick meeting or phone call can sort many issues out.

I wish to congratulate all those pupils who have taken on leadership roles in the school. These positions are very valuable in developing skills of teamwork, negotiation, public speaking and building confidence and self-esteem. I encourage all pupils to play a full role in the school as you will receive more than you will give.

Our guiding statements overleaf focus on developing the whole person; we want to give many opportunities for our wonderful pupils to shine.

Finally, we sent a survey to parents this week to gain feedback on various aspects of school life. Thank you to all those who have completed these. We include the links once more below for your convenience.

I will present the results of the survey at the first coffee morning of the school year in Teage Hall on Thursday 2nd October at 9am. Do come along to this meeting as I am keen to meet parents and get your valuable feedback.

Primary Survey: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/7G6CMBF
Secondary Survey: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/7NLST8P

Tom McGrath, Headmaster
Vision

Oporto British School is committed to achieving excellence for all

Mission Statement

As the oldest British School in Continental Europe, Oporto British School is committed to providing a high quality international education for its pupils

Ethos

To Strive for Success and To Serve

GUIDING STATEMENTS

All students at OBS will:

- aim for the best possible level of academic achievement according to individual ability.
- work independently and collaboratively.
- take responsibility for their own actions and make informed choices.
- become aware of their responsibilities as kind and thoughtful individuals, mindful of the needs of others, in order to become valued and caring members of the school, local and global communities.
- acquire knowledge, skills and attitudes relevant to the changing world in which they live.
- make a positive contribution as citizens of the wider world, guided by the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Tom McGrath - Headmaster
PRIMARY NOTICES

Congratulations to the following students who have taken on leadership roles in primary.

**HEAD BOY**
António Oliveira

**HEAD GIRL**
Barbara Mendes

**HOUSE CAPTAINS - WINDSOR**
- IOÃO PEDRO DUARTE
- MARIA DUARTE
- ISHAA LAXIMIDAS

**HOUSE CAPTAINS - LANCASTER**
- TOMÁS GIL MATA
- ANIELA MCGRATH
- AFONSO SÁ

**HOUSE CAPTAINS - BRAGANÇA**
- MANUEL NORONHA
- ANA CAROLINA VAZ
- PATRICK BUTCHER
WE WENT ON A BEAR HUNT

This week Form 2 presented an Assembly to the Primary school which focused on the topic of ‘Bears’. Each form then followed clues and then went on a ‘Bear Hunt’ around the school.

Now each class has their own bear which can be used in a variety of ways, but mainly connected to Humanities and the Pastoral side of school life.

As Humanities coordinator, Mrs Bailey will organize several activities throughout the year which will allow the Primary school to develop a greater awareness and interest in the World around them.

The bear will accompany children home on a rota basis for the weekend. It is hoped that they may like to take a photograph of places that they might visit with the class bear. A drawing or written piece of work can then be featured in a class book for the children to share.

If you are travelling abroad it would be interesting for the bear to perhaps accompany you and be photographed by an important landmark. Perhaps a small token such as an air ticket or badge could be bought of the places he has visited. You may like to take the bear to work with for the day and share your interesting job with the class.

Please get in touch with your child’s Form teacher if you would like to contribute in this way, or speak with Mrs Bailey.

Marilyn Bailey

PREP OUTING

Prep will be walking to and visiting Mercado da Foz next week. Butterflies will be going there on Wednesday at 9.30 am and Ladybirds on Thursday at 9.30 am.

Anne-Marie Eastley

BAKE OFF

We are delighted to announce that the Great British School Bake-Off will be held again on 9th October. Last year’s event raised over €400 for our school charities and also gave us the opportunity to sample wonderful baking from lots of members of our school community. From rabbit pies to courgette cake to Margarida’s sumptuous winning chocolate cake, the competition was intense (and tasty!). We will send more details about how to enter the competition and buy tickets for the tasting in next week’s bulletin.

SECONDARY NOTICES

TEAM BUILDING TRIP

We are happy to say that despite the weather, Form 6 pupils enjoyed and learnt much on the Gerês Team Building Trip. At present our Form 7 pupils are now developing their skills in collaboration.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH EXPEDITION

On October 4th - 5th, 2014 Mr. Hooley will lead a Duke of Edinburgh Practice expedition to Mindelo. During this expedition students will be hiking, camping, cooking and navigating out in the open and utilising all the skills they have learnt so far. The purpose of this practice expedition is to train and prepare candidates for the summer assessed expedition where the Bronze Award can be awarded (assuming all criteria are met).

The Duke of Edinburgh’s Award is the world’s leading achievement award for young people. Its ethos is to enable every young person of every background to succeed, regardless of any barriers. It provides a
balanced programme of activities that develops the whole person - mind, body and soul - in an environment of social interaction and team-working. Taking part builds confidence and develops self-esteem. It requires persistence, commitment and has a lasting impact on the attitudes and outlook of all young people who complete the award.

**GUEST SPEAKER TALKS TO IB DIPLOMA STUDENTS: DR CARLA BLUHM**

Professor Carla Bluhm is visiting the University Fernando Pessoa in Porto for 6 weeks from the College of Coastal Georgia. Professor Bluhm is Chair of the Scientific Committee hosting the 1st World Congress on Facial Expression of Emotion in Porto in October. She offered to come in to speak to our students about her area of specialization; face transplantations and the impact on identity and emotion. The students found her presentation to be extremely engaging and particularly enjoyed recreating a face transplant on foam heads using playdough and foam. We thank Professor Bluhm for her time.

**PUPIL COUNCIL**

The pupil council will have their first meeting of the year on Tuesday, 30th September. At this meeting it is the chance for pupils to have a voice in curricular and extra-curricular matters. On the agenda for the meeting so far are wet breaks, a tuck shop proposal and House events.

**SUPPORT FOR HOMEWORK**

There is a daily Homework Club run by our Prefects in the library from 4.15 until 5.00pm for pupils to use computers, books and complete homework. There are also a number of clinics and clubs that all pupils from Form 6 to IB can attend for support. These are listed on the extra-curricular activity schedule [http://www.obs.edu.pt/page.cfm?p=422](http://www.obs.edu.pt/page.cfm?p=422)

**FORM 10 AND 12 MOCK EXAMS**

These will now take place from the 6th January 2015 not as originally scheduled at the end of December.

**PORTUGUESE STUDIES ´CINEMA TRIP**

Form 11 students will be going to the cinema this coming Tuesday in order to watch “Os Maias” (in the morning) and “Os gatos não têm vertigens” (in the afternoon). Both films are related to parts 1 and 3 of the Portuguese Language and Literature syllabus.

**RUGBY**

Please be informed that the Extra Curricular Rugby Club with Mr Fielder on Tuesdays from 4:10 to 5:00 on the field is open to F6 and F7 boys. If you are interested in signing your child up for this, please email: matthew.homewood@obs.edu.pt

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Peter Jones, Head of Secondary
GENERAL INFORMATION

CLASS PHOTOGRAPHS
All of the class photos have now been completed and most individual photos have been taken too. Any others will be done next week. Thank you for your cooperation.

ADMISSIONS FOR OTHER SIBLINGS
If you have other children you would like to enrol in our Prep 2015-2016 class (born in 2011), please fill in the Application Form: http://www.obs.edu.pt/uploaded/Forms/application_form_2013.pdf and email it to Lucy.Packett@obs.edu.pt or drop it off at school with the registration fee of €70.00. You will be contacted in October to bring your child in for our admissions week between the 10th and the 15th of November 2014.

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. This week we have arranged for a nurse to check for lice in the form groups where cases have been reported.

Lídia Ferreira

UNIFORM SHOP OPENING TIMES
Tuesday: 8:30 to 9:30
Wednesday: 15:00 to 16:30

PARENT CONTACT DETAILS
Please would you ensure you inform the school as a matter of priority if any of your contact details change. It is very important that we are able to contact you should we need to at any time.

DATES FOR DIARIES
02nd -03rd October Form 8 Team building trip in Gerês
02nd October Coffee Morning with Headmaster 9:00am
04th - 05th October Duke of Edinburgh practice expedition
06th October Primary EC Swimming lessons begin
06th -08th October Council of International Schools (CIS) Prep Visit
09th October Great British School Bake-Off
23rd October Harvest Festival 4.30pm, Stella Maris Church
27th - 31st October Half-term Break