“The surest way not to fail is to determine to succeed.”

Richard Brinsley Sheridan

Dear Parents,

In last week’s newsletter I reflected on two key anniversaries in 20th century history, the death of Sir Winston Churchill and the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau Nazi Death Camp in Occupied Poland. Reading testimony from survivors of the camp this week has been harrowing but what is remarkable and uplifting is how many survivors went on to live such fruitful and enriching lives. Another image this week has been the new Prime Minister of Greece, Alexis Tsipras, laying red roses at the site of a memorial marking the mass execution of Greek Communists by Nazis in 1944 in Athens. While the symbolism of the event is probably linked to the anti-German and anti-Austerity sentiment of the Syriza party it serves to remind us that history is not dead, lifeless facts but part of the consciousness of us all. The real heroes for me however are those who defy their history and do not allow themselves to be defined by it.

I wish to bring your attention today to the work of the educationalist, Kurt Hahn, who overcame many obstacles and impediments, both physical and political, to make a profound impact on international education. His experience as a German diplomat in World War I had a profound impact on him and he decided to devote himself to educating young minds about the horror of war and of building bridges between nations. Inspired by the philosopher, Kant, he founded the famous school, Salem, in Germany. This institution stood as a symbol of independent thought, rigorous debate and intellectual curiosity. To do so as a German Jew into the mid 1930’s took a great deal of courage but he finally left Germany and settled in Scotland where he founded the renowned boarding school, Gordonstoun. This school became famous for its promotion of sport, outdoor pursuits and team building as key elements in building character and moral courage. One of pupils that he encountered was the future Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh; Prince Philip has become a life-long supporter of Hahn’s vision and many initiatives.

He retired as Headmaster of Gordonstoun in 1952 but this led to a very active retirement indeed. His first activity was to develop a new university preparation curriculum that would combine creativity, action, service, a research essay and a study of the theory of knowledge. His project was developed in the newly established United World College, a boarding school dedicated to the concept of bringing pupils of various nationalities together. This work was the precursor of the IB Diploma Programme that we have as the flagship programme in our school. Under the patronage of Prince Philip he developed the Duke of Edinburgh Awards that recognise teamwork, resilience, perseverance and the setting of individual goals. This is also a world-wide programme that we promote among our pupils.

This was all achieved in the face of much opposition, suspicion and in some cases, extreme hostility and it must also be recognized that Kurt Hahn was a life-long invalid and suffered from a severe reaction to sunlight. He did not allow this affliction deter him from his goals. The United World College now thrives in 14 locations around the world, the IB Diploma Programme becomes more popular every year and the Duke of Edinburgh project goes from strength to strength. Not a bad achievement for a student who due to his illnesses never succeeded in sitting let alone passing an examination despite studies at Oxford, Berlin and Heidelberg. Some little comfort for our current IBDP students who are working so hard at present.

Tom McGrath, Headmaster
PTA
The PTA Annual General Meeting took place on the 29th January, and a new PTA Committee was elected. The members of the new Committee are Tom McGrath, Mark Evans, Peter Jones, Elisabeth Martorell, Inês Wollmann, Pedro Barata Coelho, Raquel Isidoro, Cristina Silva, Paula Paz Dias, Maria Paula Machado, Ana Cristina Gomes and Inês Quelhas Lima. The first meeting of this Committee will take place Thursday, 12th February, and the new officers, Chair, Secretary and Treasurer will be elected by the Committee members.

At this first meeting, the committee will plan the schedule of events for the remainder of the academic year and the start of 2015/2016.

We are reviving this important part of the school and look forward to working with the new committee.

WHOLE SCHOOL HALF-TERM ACTIVE8 INITIATIVE
As we near the Carnival Half-Term, the school would like to announce a partnership with Active8, a company “committed to providing programmes to Active8 children’s physical, cognitive and social skills through new and fun experiences during their school holidays”. They will be providing a week-long programme of fun, healthy, innovative and creative activities from 9.00 to 3.00pm on the school premises during the half term week (February 16th -20th). The cost of this 5 day experience will be €300 per pupil. For more detailed information please contact active8@outlook.pt or Mr Luis Mota on 917450776. You can book a place using the schools online booking system: https://oportobritishschool.parentseveningsystem.co.uk/ and we will inform Mr Mota of your interest in the club. All communication should be directed to Mr Mota.

Luis Mota, Active8

SKIING TRIP TO LA MOLINA 2015
Profº Fernando Soares is organising a skiing trip to La Molina between the 4th 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! https://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!

Rob Gore, Head of Music

MEDICAL NOTICE
The following symptoms have been going around school:
Pupils between the ages of 4 - 8 have been suffering with tummy aches, headaches, a sore throat and some have experienced vomiting and a fever.
Pupils between the ages of 9-18 have had excruciating headaches, nausea and body pain with or without a fever.

Please be aware that children may need approximately a week to recover.

Lidia Ferreira, First Aider
**PRIMARY NOTICES**

**HEAD OF PRIMARY COMMENDATION AWARDS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Commendation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rodrigo Rocha</td>
<td>Awarded to Rodrigo for his excellent effort and motivation towards the Mathematics activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tatiana Torcató</td>
<td>Awarded to Tatiana for superb progress with learning the Portuguese Language 1L</td>
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<tr>
<td>Henrique Yu</td>
<td>Awarded to Henrique for being a superb role model for his class throughout this school year 3J</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manuel Liz</td>
<td>Awarded to Manuel for being extremely conscientious and committed to doing his best in all activities 3J</td>
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**CLASS MEETING**

The Primary School wishes to switch from a 10th February Effort and Attainment card report to a general meeting with your child's Tutor. We feel this will be a more beneficial opportunity to be updated.

This class meeting will take place **Tuesday, 10th February** between 5pm and 6pm (different for EYFS). This class meeting will give the teacher an opportunity to discuss progress the class is making, challenges ahead and also any specific concerns he / she may have.

I would also like to remind you that we are still having individual parent evenings on 25th and 26th March. Effort and Attainment cards will also be updated at this time.

**EYFS PARENTS ONLY - CLASS MEETING**

Due to many of you having siblings in the older Forms we would like to offer you this same opportunity as above, but on Monday, 9th or Tuesday 10th February at 8:30am. Your children may attend Early Birds during this time.

**SECONdARY NOTICES**

**NOTICES**

All key secondary notices are found at [http://www.obs.edu.pt/page.cfm?p=428](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](http://www.obs.edu.pt/page.cfm?p=7)

**FORMS 10 & 12**

Students now have 7 weeks of school left until the Easter Break. It is imperative that all students complete their IAs, ToK and EEs by this half term so that they can begin to focus on their revision.
IB DIPLOMA EVENING

Form 10 pupils and parents were invited to an open evening where Miss Macleod provided information related to the IB Diploma and universities. Please do also check http://www.obs.edu.pt/page.cfm?p=421 or email nikki.macleod@obs.edu.pt.

FORM 11 EXTENDED ESSAY

Form 11 students were introduced to the Extended Essay in their tutorial lesson. Students are now beginning to review the subject they may wish to complete their extended essay in. We will complete another session on this in tutorial next week.

Further subject specific information about the extended essay can be found here: http://xmltwo.ibo.org/publications/DP/Group0/d_0_eeeyy_gui_1012_1/html/production-app3.ibo.org/publication/258/part/1/chapter/1.html?IBVal=LZ1AOBADR1Q1A26QFNF5&CFTOKEN=20175547&jsessionid=bc30a5934d879024b7585ec3d107a7520357

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to João Moreira da Silva from last year’s Form 12 who has successfully gained a place to study medicine at Imperial College London starting this September. João worked extremely hard to achieve 43 points on the IB Diploma Programme. João would like to thank all of the teachers and tutors who supported him throughout his time at OBS.

Nikki Macleod, Deputy Head of Secondary (IBDP Coordinator)

SECONDARY EXTRA-CURRICULAR FOOTBALL

As a pilot for a new 2015-2016 initiative to better prepare the school’s representative football players for 11-a-side tournaments, I am pleased to announce a change to the Extra-Curricular club offer. Starting from the week beginning February 2nd, boys’ football for Forms 8 to 12 will move from Wednesdays to Thursdays and will be based on the artificial pitch at the Parque da Cidade. A bus will be provided to transfer club members from the school to the Parque at 16.15. The session, with two school coaches, will run until 17.30 on Thursdays. We ask that parents pick their children up from the Parque at 17.30. As a result of this change, Boys Football for Forms 6 & 7 will now move to Wednesdays at the school, with their new coach Mr Packett.

Matt Homewood, Head of PE and Games

CAS UPDATE

Thirteen Form 11 students will be travelling to Morocco in April to work with the following charity 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.

Adam Simson, CAS Co-ordinator
VALENTINES DISCO - WEDNESDAY 11TH FEBRUARY

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 valentines disco afterschool. Tickets will be on sale from next week at €2. A variety of food and drink will be sold on the evening as well.

F5 and below 15:30 - 17:30
F6 and above 19:00 - 21:00

CAS BAKE SALE

On Wednesday 28th January the Form 11s sold their baked goods at break and lunch time. They raised €140 for their long term project - well done Form 11!

Adam Simson, CAS Co-ordinator

FORM 10 GEOGRAPHY TRIP

Form 10 Geographers completed fieldwork on Rio Ferreira on Monday. Now they are presenting and analysing their results for their coursework which will be due by the end of half term. More on the trip will be featured in the February OBSer Driver Secondary Newsletter.

Peter Jones, Head of Secondary

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.

Matt Homewood, Head of PE & Games

DATES FOR THE DIARY

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>04th February</td>
<td>Whole School Book Fair</td>
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<tr>
<td>09th February</td>
<td>F4 Trip to Conimbriga</td>
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<tr>
<td>12th February</td>
<td>Primary Talent Show and Carnaval Celebration</td>
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<tr>
<td>13th February</td>
<td>NO SCHOOL - INSET day for Staff</td>
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<tr>
<td>16th-20th February</td>
<td>Half Term</td>
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<td>28th Feb-01st March</td>
<td>Duke of Edinburgh Expedition</td>
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