Dear Parents,

From our recent strategy meeting involving the Board of Governors and the senior Leadership Team the role of music, drama and the arts were seen as key areas to develop in the school.

From the Early Years our pupils have the opportunity to experiment with various media and produce artistic work to the IB Diploma Programme where we see students produce impressive portfolios of work as well as reflect on artistic trends and how artists communicate. Reflection is one of the key skills that the modern successful learner demonstrates and it is in the arts subjects that there is often the greatest opportunity to develop such skills.

Many educational studies have highlighted the clear correlation between proficiency in a musical instrument and academic performance at school. The development of the brain is clearly enhanced by musical practice and the qualities of perseverance, patience and dedication in the pursuit of excellence are certainly transferable skills in academics. It is also a wonderful talent to develop and we are pleased that so many of our students learn to play an instrument in our collaboration with Escola das Artes.

We wish to make drama a very important part of both our academic curriculum and the extra-curricular offering that we provide. We want to develop pupils who are confident to present in front of large audiences and it is through drama and musicals that the spirit of a school comes alive. It is also important in our promotion of literacy skills and in developing a love of theatre and performing.

While there are many positive points in the school we wish to move towards a more complete and expanded offering in all these areas. I hope to unveil developments in the coming weeks. We are also finalizing the schedule of fees for the next academic year and we hope to publish these shortly. We do remind parents that we do require a term’s notice of withdrawal from the school thus please let us know in writing of such a withdrawal by March 27th to ensure that your deposit can be returned. Returning parents do not need to inform the school.

This week has been a busy one for Final Year IBDP students with deadlines for Extended Essays and Theory of Knowledge essays and I thank Ms Macleod and other staff for their assistance here. I also extend our congratulations to Mr Harrison on the birth of his daughter and I extend my condolences to Miss Corcoran on the recent death of her grandmother.

Tom McGrath, Headmaster
WHOLE SCHOOL NOTICES

IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING PHOTOGRAPHS

Throughout the academic year, photographs are taken of pupils taking part in different events and/or activities. We may use these photographs for various publications, our website, promotional material e.g. yearly prospectus and/or banners, and general marketing purposes. If you do not wish your child’s photograph to be used, please email the School Secretary, joana.saraiva@obs.edu.pt. No response will be regarded as providing parental consent for your child’s image to be used in our promotional material. For any website photographs on the public portal we will not include pupils’ names.

WITHDRAWAL NOTICE

May I remind you that, should you wish to withdraw your child(ren) at the end of the school year, the deadline for giving written notice of withdrawal is 5.00pm on Monday, 13th April (excluding Form 12).

Failure to deliver the aforementioned written notice will incur in the payment of the appropriate fee of the following term/loss of the Refundable Deposit.

UNIFORM

Could parents please check the uniform of their children and return any that may have been taken by mistake.

PRIMARY NOTICES

Please check your emails to ensure that you have received information regarding the upcoming Primary Parent Evenings on 25th and 26th March. You should receive your child’s latest Effort and Attainment Report on 24th March via email.

We are in the beginning stages of preparing for our Major Form 5 play this year. The pupils will be performing “Pirates of the Curry Bean” at a local theatre in Nevogilde on 04th and 05th June. Please ensure you are free to come along to the Theatre for our last major Primary event of the school year. Ticket information will be sent after the Easter break.

Mark Evans, Head of Primary

FORM 3-5 CREATIVE WRITING COMPETITION

Form 3-5 pupils were challenged to a creative writing competition. The theme was winter. Entries came in various styles including poetry and narrative texts. All the participants were awarded a certificate in the Primary assembly. Three winners were selected and were presented with a special writing book prize. Congratulations to Aniela McGrath 5B, Filipa Pipiras 4F and Lara Machado 4F. I will leave you with a extract from Aniela’s ‘Winter Time’ poem, one of the winning entries. Reading it makes me glad Spring has arrived.

“Fingers trembling,
Nose dribbling,
Breath Steaming,
Branches shivering,
Walkers hunched,
Snow crunched,
Arctic wind sharp as a knife,
Slicing pedestrians as they struggle by”

Jonathan Bridges, Primary English Coordinator
CHOIR - PROFESSIONAL MUSIC TRACK

Our fantastic Primary School Choir were very fortunate to have been invited to sing on a special track recorded in a professional music studio. The choir recorded the backing vocals for the band ‘We Trust’ and the song is called ‘The Future’. They recorded last year and the song has just been released!

It can be found on youtube [www.youtube.com/watch?v=nlIA1-7N8og&index=4&list=PLG19vrwzBvorFmjuZVqky_ksxfrEx4cTA](www.youtube.com/watch?v=nlIA1-7N8og&index=4&list=PLG19vrwzBvorFmjuZVqky_ksxfrEx4cTA) or just search for We Trust - The Future.

Go on...have a listen! Well done to our excellent singers!

Rob Gore, Head of Music

HEAD OF PRIMARY COMMENDATION AWARDS

- Commendation for Teresa’s continued excellent effort with handwriting, especially with her last two stories about the cow, the donkey and the pig.
  - Teresa Agrellos
  - Commendation for Rodrigo’s excellent work in identifying the style and features of different letter types
  - Rodrigo Zheng
  - Commendation for Salvador’s outstanding work with time and calculating time intervals.
  - Salvador Guimarães

- Commendation for Joseph’s super collaborative teamwork - both actively seeking and positively responding to the ideas of others.
  - Joseph King
  - Commendation for Carlota’s positive attitude and 100% effort in all she does
  - Carlota Coutinhas

- Commendation awarded to Mariana for writing an excellent imaginative story in her English Progression Test.
  - Mariana Barros

- Commendation awarded to Vitória for writing an excellent biography in her English Progression Test.
  - Vitória Santos
PRIMARY PORTUGUESE LANGUAGE COMMENDATIONS - 5B and 5L

DAVID ROCCHI
JOÃO PEDRO
JOÃO GERALDES
MARIA DUARTE
ANA CAROLINA
KIARA LOUREIRO
MATILDE LIZ

Excelente apresentação de trabalho na disciplina de História de Portugal

Profª Luisa Barbosa, Head of Modern Languages

SECONDARY NOTICES

GENERAL NOTICES
Uniform: Could parents please check the uniform of their children and return any that may have been taken by mistake.

FORM 8 PARENTS EVENING AND IGCSE INFORMATION EVENING:
Thank you to all parents, pupils and teachers for making this a constructive evening. Please do complete the initial option forms by the 10th March. See http://www.obs.edu.pt/page.cfm?p=420 or contact Miss Corcoran or Dr Jones if you need any further information.

FORM 7 MUSIC PERFORMANCES
Some excellent performances were held during music lessons this week. Well done to Form 7 who are showing some real musical talent and increasing confidence. Next week the assembly will focus on music! Many thanks to Mr Gore for his continued development of this important area.

GROUP 4 PRESENTATIONS
Well done to Form 11 for some excellent presentations related to their investigations on the River Douro and Atlantic Ocean.
MUN AT CLIP:
OBS MUN debated many issues at the conference. They represented the school and themselves very well and are developing into more active critical citizens!

DUKE OF EDINBURGH EXPEDITION
A wet and wonderful weekend was had by all participants in the DoE expedition. ALL passed by showing great resilience and resourcefulness!


UK UNIVERSITY MONTHLY PARENT NEWSLETTER, DIRECTLY FROM UCAS
UCAS is the organisation that processes all full-time applications to UK universities and colleges. It is there to support you - as well as your son or daughter - through every step of the application process. UCAS sends all applicants a monthly newsletter, full of useful information, reminders, advice and competitions. But did you know you can get information from UCAS too?

You can sign up to monthly parent newsletters quickly and simply online. They’re completely FREE and contain timely information and advice about your son or daughter’s journey to higher education and what you can do to support them.

For further information about the UCAS process, take a look at the advice for parents on ucas.com.

CAS UPDATE
Twelve 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 €2000 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:

OBS ANNUAL PRIZE DRAW
In order to raise more funds to help the charities, we are holding our annual Prize Draw on Wednesday, 22nd April 2015. Whilst we do have some prizes already donated, it would be very much appreciated if you would be willing to donate a prize for this event. This does not need to be anything significant and, in fact, small prizes between the values of €5 to €15 would be most welcome. If you are able to donate a prize or have any questions regarding this Prize Draw, please contact Mr Simson on adam.simson@obs.edu.pt at your convenience. Thank you in anticipation for your support and generosity in helping our Morocco 2015 Team.
RED NOSE DAY  www.narizvermelho.pt

Our CAS students support local charities as well as charities that are overseas. On Thursday 26th March the secondary school will be holding some events to support Red Nose Day. Please keep your eye out for further information. Thank you for supporting our fundraising events,

Form 11 CAS team and Mr Simson (CAS Coordinator)

DATES FOR THE DIARY

19th March  Reception trip to Casa da Música
19th -21st March  Varsity Sports Tournament in Lisbon
24th March  Effort and Attainment report cards
25th-26th March  Primary Parent Evenings
27th March  Secondary Sports Day - Leça
20th March  Extra Curricular Spring term Clubs end
27th March  End of Spring Term
13th April  Summer term begins