Dear Parents,

In my column this week I wish to focus on safety and courtesy in school. As Headmaster my principal duty is to keep your child/ren safe when they are under our care and we strive to do this in many ways.

We have a Health & Safety Officer, Raquel Nunes, who works closely with me and our facilities staff to ensure that we have a safe and secure site. Her duties among others is conducting regular safety audits, recommending safety measures, ensuring all fire evacuation procedures and signage is in place and up to date. Ms Nunes also works in the science laboratory as Laboratory Technician and ensures that all safety procedures are followed here. We are regularly reviewing procedures and facilities and even over the autumn break we have some improvement plans.

For all recruitment in the school we ensure there is a thorough vetting system so that new staff has been screened carefully and last May I attended a special workshop hosted by the Council of British International Schools (COBIS) on enhanced safety procedures in recruitment. All staff complete an orientation programme on child protection that involves presentations, on-line resources and all staff need to complete this certification before commencing employment.

For the site security we contract the services of Charon Security and this company supplies us with our on-site security guard, Sr. Abilio and they also monitor our site outside school hours. To improve our security provision we extended the on-site security to 7pm to ensure that there is security available for those attending after-school activities and clubs; of course for special events we extend this even further.

This week we learned of another horrific mass shooting incident in an Oregon Community College and we need to be very vigilant in ensuring our school remains a safe place. With the Principals of other international schools in Portugal and in liaison with the private schools association in Porto we have been sharing best practice, receiving advice from embassy security personnel and receiving regular updates on the security situation.

External threats are ones we need to keep monitoring but internal issues must also be our focus. A child’s happiness at school is often connected with how safe he/she feels. Through teacher monitors at playtime and through our work with students we wish to maintain a community of pupils and teachers where there is an atmosphere of respect, courtesy and care. One area I wish to stress is that certain bathrooms are designated for specific age ranges. While the primary bathrooms may be convenient for some secondary pupils these are not available to them. I will be stressing this message with staff and pupils and in our signage going forward and I ask for understanding and compliance from our older pupils.

We have a beautiful school uniform and it is worn with pride. When a pupil is in school uniform, inside or outside school they are representing the school and we have high expectations of pupils in this uniform. We expect manners and courtesy, care and consideration. We will not tolerate boorish, selfish behaviour and the use of bad language. Working together we can ensure that OBS continues to enjoy a deserved reputation for all that is good in a British international education.

Tom McGrath, Headmaster
WHOLE SCHOOL NOTICES

SCHOOL CALENDAR
We have updated the format of our school calendar to a Google Calendar. This is on our website. Please click here to see it: http://www.obs.edu.pt/en/our-school/calendar/

TRAFFIC CONGESTION
May we politely remind you of the potential problem of traffic congestion, illegal parking in front of the school and driving in a manner that may result in a serious injury. Please respect each other at pick up and drop off times at Oporto British School. As a school we do not want to be in a position where one of our pupils, parents or staff is injured or involved in a fatal accident occurring in front of the school. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in this matter.

Please be informed that the police have been fining a number of parents for illegal parking.

WINTER UNIFORM
A reminder to all parents that pupils must wear the winter school uniform after half-term. You can purchase this in the uniform shop.

Here is our link to our school uniform guide and policy.


For prep & Reception the long sleeved white polo shirts are acceptable and we do not ask for a tie. From Form 1 upwards students should wear a white shirt with a collar, and tie.

Please be informed that the red winter jacket is recommended but not compulsory.

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

NATIONAL CHESS CHAMPION!!

Congratulations to Filipa Pipiras, Form 5, National Chess Champion (U-10’s) and part of the National Chess Championship Team.

She will be representing Portugal in the World Championship in Greece at the end of October.

Mark Evans, Head of Primary

PRIMARY PE & SPORTS NEWS

COMPETITIONS

We wish the best of luck to the Form 2&3 and Form 4&5 5-a-side Football teams at the Porto schools tournament at LFIP (French school) this Saturday. The tournament will run over 2 Saturday mornings (Oct 3 & 10) and is organised by the PTA of LFIP.

PLAYERS LATEST NEWS: All players will need to bring their ID card on Saturday. Parents of Form 2&3 players may also wish to stay as the schedule this week is only for one OBS game. They will be finished by 10.15.

If you can come along and support, please do. Your voices make the difference to our future football stars.

Matthew Homewood, Head of PE, Games & Outdoor Activities

GLOBAL GOALS IN THE PRIMARY SCHOOL

On Monday, September 21st, Form 2B presented an Assembly to the Primary School. It was closely linked to our whole school initiative, in conjunction with a Worldwide project entitled Global Goals.

World leaders have committed to 17 Global Goals to achieve 3 extraordinary things in the next 15 years.

End extreme poverty,

Fight inequality and justice,

Fix Climate Change

The Global Goals for sustainable development could get these things done. In all countries. For all people. If the Goals are going to work, everyone needs to know about them.

Form 2 began their investigation around the school and the locality. The message was that we can all help to make our World a better place and it really does start with every one of us.

As this project is so closely linked with the Humanities work already covered in school, Mrs Bailey, the Humanities Coordinator, gave each class a cardboard box and the challenge to use this to create part of a display around one of the 17 Goals.
By the end of the Term, the Primary school will display Goals from each of the year groups and hopefully raise children’s awareness of the wonderful World around them.

Marilyn Bailey, Form 2 Teacher

### PRIMARY PASTORAL WEEKLY REPORT

On a weekly basis, children can earn house points for excellent work, effort or behaviour. The child with the most points from each class is awarded a certificate in assembly and the totals for each house are added up. For the week ending 25\textsuperscript{th} September totals were: Windsor 750, Lancaster 868 and Bragança 790. The individual class winners are listed below. A display with this information, for the children to see, can be found in the primary corridor.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Pupil</th>
<th>House</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LIONS</td>
<td>Alberto Abreu</td>
<td>Lancaster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TIGERS</td>
<td>Maria Sampaio</td>
<td>Windsor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2B</td>
<td>Sofia Barros</td>
<td>Bragança</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Maria Silva</td>
<td>Windsor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3C</td>
<td>Sara Ricca Gonçalves</td>
<td>Lancaster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3H</td>
<td>Luisa Brandão</td>
<td>Windsor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4P</td>
<td>Francisca Cardoso</td>
<td>Lancaster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4R</td>
<td>Manuel Liz</td>
<td>Lancaster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5L</td>
<td>Adriana Pellizzari</td>
<td>Windsor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rita Santos</td>
<td>Windsor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5B</td>
<td>Lara Machado</td>
<td>Lancaster</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Jonathan Bridges (Primary Pastoral Coordinator)
SECONDARY NOTICES

FORM 6-8 STAR OF THE WEEK
MARIANA BARROS FROM 6D FOR OUTSTANDING WORK IN PORTUGUESE

FORM 9-10 STAR OF THE WEEK
BENEDITA BACELAR FROM 10W FOR HER EXCELLENT PIECE OF CREATIVE WRITING IN PORTUGUESE

FORM 6 PARENTS´ INFORMATION AFTERNOON - 28TH SEPTEMBER 2015
Thank you to everyone who attended the Form 6 Parents’ Meeting on Monday, 28th. We found it very helpful to hear your questions and learn more about the transition to Secondary school from your perspectives. There were lots of good ideas generated and we have already started addressing them. We have prioritised the queries regarding assessment, curriculum and homework; more information about this will follow shortly from Dr Jones. We have also taken on board suggestions for more social activities and look forward to inviting you all to a wider variety of events during the year. Do please refer to the weekly Parent Bulletin as it will include invites, information, photographs and key dates and do please contact me, Miss Denisova or Miss Patterson if you have any questions or comments. We look forward to seeing you again at Parents’ Evening on 14th October.

FORM 6 AND 9 PARENTS´ EVENING: 14th OCTOBER
All parents should now be able to make appointments to see the subject teachers. Form 6 parents will receive a ‘Who’s who?’ information sheet. Dr Jones will also deliver a short presentation at 6.15pm in the Teage Hall on ‘Assessment, reporting and recording’ for Form 6.

Miss Corcoran & Miss Denisova
GRADE REPORTS

- Fm 6, 7, 8, 9, 11: These pupils will receive effort grades only. All of these pupils will receive attainment at the end of the term when there is sufficient evidence to provide reliable grades from a range of assessments.
- Fm 10&12: These pupils will receive current attainment, current target, current predicted, effort.

FORM 10 STUDY SKILLS AND EXAMINATIONS

This week during tutorial and registration time, Form 10 learned more about Study Skills. They were asked to complete the following questionnaire at home [http://vark-learn.com/the-vark-questionnaire/] to help them identify their learning style. They also watched a short video ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3_bQUSFzLI4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3_bQUSFzLI4)) which gave lots of helpful tips on how to revise according to learning styles. Their teachers will also give specific advice and examples of how to revise for their subjects during the year. We have asked Form 10s to reflect on their study space and how they are revising; this will be followed up by discussions during lessons and tutorials.

The Form 10 students sitting their Mathematics examination now have their Statement of Entry and timetable. Please refer to the detailed letter sent last week for information regarding examinations start times.

FEEDBACK FROM CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL’S CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 2015

I recently attended the Cambridge Schools’ Conference in Cambridge. This year’s theme was “Education Fit for the Future” and the keynote speakers offered insights into how teaching and learning could and might develop over the coming decades. One speaker, Tony Little (former Headmaster of Eton), spoke of the changes to Eton over the centuries, concluding that the moral purpose of education has essentially remained the same, despite the many technological advances since Eton was founded in 1440. Interestingly, Mr. Little said he would abolish IGCSEs except in English and Maths as over his 40 years in education, he has never understood their purpose. IGCSEs, which our students sit in Form 10, are an important milestone for our students. Throughout the conference, delegates were reminded of the need for IGCSE preparation to engage students and prepare them to use real world skills by giving context to learning. At the Q&A session with the Board of Directors of Cambridge Examinations, it was explicitly stated that only students who can demonstrate deep learning can aspire to the A* grade. There have been changes to formats and the range of challenge across subject areas in an effort to remove predictability and ensure students have adequate opportunities to prove deep learning. This is something your children’s teachers will also aim to do by providing challenging homework and classwork to improve their capacity to approach unusual problems creatively.

Ailish Corcoran
STUDENT COUNCIL

At OBS we value student’s voice. To try and improve the way that we listen to students we have now divided the council into three ‘key stages’. These are Fm 6-8, 9-10 and 11-12. We hope that this will help each age group have a greater say in curriculum and co-curricular matters. Claudia, in Form 12, the Student Council Chair, will manage all of the meetings. She will be supported by the Senior Tutors; Ms Denisova and Ms Weston. Claudia will also hold a meeting once a term with all age groups. This week we have had our school council elections. Below you can see who’s who in the Form 6-8 school council. Next week we will publish the Form 9-10 and Form 11-12 councils.

OUR F6-8 STUDENT COUNCIL:

LUNCH TIMES

We have changed the duty rota to reflect the Astroturf & Extra-Curricular activities schedule. These changes were made after consultation with students and feedback from parents.

SECONDARY DATES FOR THE DIARY

- Grade reports: 13th October
- COBIS Student Leadership Madrid: 9th to 11th October
- Form 6 and 9 parents evening: 14th October
- DoE awards presentation: 15th October
- University fair: 15th October
- SATs advisors visit: 16th October
- MUN London conference: 16th to 20th October
- House volleyball: 22nd -23rd October
- Harvest Festival: 22nd October
- Non uniform day: 23rd October
- ToK day: 2nd November

Peter Jones, Head of Secondary
SECONDARY PE & SPORTS NEWS

LESSONS
Secondary pupils are in the process of completing their fitness profile for the start of the 2015-2016 academic year. Part of this section of the curriculum in PE is to help pupils identify what else they could do to improve their specific fitness and health in and outside of school. Week 5 sees the start of the Volleyball skills section of the curriculum where pupils will be tested using 4 Skills Challenges specific to their age group (attached).

CLUBS
Clubs continue to be well attended and we hope to field a 12 strong Cricket team during the Fall sports festival in Lisbon. This inaugural mixed under 15 side will compete against St Julian’s in the first of 2 limited over fixtures this year. If your son or daughter is not involved in the boys basketball and girls football squads, they are more than welcome to start training with the Cricket squad on Thursdays after school on the Astro-turf with Mr Homewood (4.15-5.00).

Matthew Homewood, Head of PE, Games & Outdoor Activities

DUKE OF EDINBURGH
The Duke Of Edinburgh presentation will take place on Oct 15th at Palacio do Freixo at 5:00 pm - if people would like to attend, please email Mr Hooley: mark.hooley@obs.edu.pt by the 9th Oct.

Mark Hooley, Duke of Edinburgh Programme Coordinator

WHOLE SCHOOL DATES FOR DIARIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>07th October</td>
<td>Whole School Book Fair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22nd October</td>
<td>Harvest Festival Celebration at Stella Maris Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>23rd October</td>
<td>Red Spirit Day - more information will follow</td>
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<tr>
<td>26th-30th October</td>
<td>Half-term Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28th October-18th November</td>
<td>Date range November examination session IGCSE and IBDP</td>
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