“Victory at all costs, victory in spite of all terror, victory however long and hard the road may be; for without victory, there is no survival.”

Winston Churchill in commemoration of VE Day May 8th 1945

Dear Parents,

Our external examinations at IB Diploma and at IGCSE are now underway and I extend my best wishes to all our candidates. It is a stressful time for pupils and parents but the feedback has been positive and we are confident that pupils are well prepared for this challenge.

One of my challenges as Headmaster is to focus our energies on those key issues that will make the most positive impact on pupil welfare, wellbeing and learning. We have finite resources available but we have many issues and demands for such resources and my task is to use such resources as prudently and creatively as possible. Much of my focus is now looking at September 2015 to ensure that all is in place to ensure an even more successful and fulfilling year for all our pupils. These can be broken down into a few areas:

First of all facilities:

Our work this summer is targeted towards a major refurbishment of the interior of the primary building. Constructed in 1984 it has served generations of pupils very well but it is in need of a facelift. This will involve a number of projects.

The first focuses on an IT cabling project to upgrade the speed and the reliability of connections across the building. This is also linked to a new IT data centre to ensure a more reliable, faster and robust infrastructure.

The second is to modernise the central corridor of the primary building replacing the floor tiling, refurbishing the walls and upgrading the lighting.

We also plan to provide a much larger space for the incoming Prep class and this learning space will also be modernised.

Finally we plan to expand provision for the primary ICT suite and library enhancing these facilities for meaningful learning.

Some of these changes will result in certain reorganisation and relocation and we are hard at work putting all the logistics in place.

The school facilities need continued investment and these significant improvements will, I believe, enhance student learning and enjoyment. It also demonstrates the school’s commitment to our pupils.

The Board of Governors and I have ambitious plans for this wonderful school and it is important that all our resources are used prudently to further these goals.

I have also mentioned in previous bulletins about building capacity and structures within the school. The recent appointment of Mr André Guardado as Business Manager is a key piece in this jigsaw and we are now proceeding with the recruitment of further staff in their accountancy and finance team as well as in the Site Management Department. We want to provide a quality service of support to our pupils, staff and parents.
Change can sometimes be challenging but for a school to improve we need to embrace change and to see it as necessary for growth and development.

My final exhortation today is about taking responsibility. For this school to reach its full potential I see the development of responsibility as key. The key responsibility of all staff is the care, support and nurturing of all our pupils; school leadership has the responsibility of putting in place the systems, monitoring and supporting staff to ensure this happens. Finally, pupils need to be guided and coached to take responsibility for their own learning and progress. We are already doing much to support this in the school but this will be the key focus going forward.

I am away from school on Friday 8th May and Monday 11th May attending the Council of British International Schools (COBIS) Conference in London.

Tom McGrath, Headmaster

WHOLE SCHOOL NOTICES

VIDA NORTE  www.vidanorte.org

For the month of May the school will be collecting the following baby items:

- FORMULA MILK (STEPS 1 AND 2)
- NAPPIES (SIZES 1, 4 and 5),
- NAPPY CREAM, BABY CREAM,
- BODY LOTION,
- BATH GEL,
- SHAMPOO,
- TOOTHPASTE,
- SALINE SOLUTION,
- COTTON BUDS
- BREASTFEEDING PADS

To donate to Vida Norte. Mª do Rosário Carneiro da Frada (Form 11) will be organising this as part of her long term CAS project. Please leave any items with Vera in the front office or in the collection boxes outside.
PRIMARY NOTICES
HEAD OF PRIMARY COMMENDATION AWARDS

Commendation awarded to Aniela for her fantastic effort and dedication in learning the Portuguese language over these past few months.

Commendation awarded to Marta and Gustavo for their continued excellent use of correct scientific terminology throughout their Science lessons. They have both also greatly improved their ability to effectively work as team members within their small groups.

PRIMARY DATES FOR THE DIARY

12th May - Form 2 Trip to Porto - new date
15th May - Form 3 Trip to Chocolate Factory and Museum
18th May - F4 Portuguese Examinations - 2:00pm
21st May - Reception Trip to Paper and Pencil Factory
25th May-28th May - KS2 Examinations
29th May - Sports Day
18th June - Form 3 Citânia de Briteiros Trip

SECONDARY NOTICES
F9 AND F11 PARENT-TEACHER EVENING ON 06TH MAY

Many thanks to all the parents that attended the parent-teacher meetings on Wednesday. Together we can support your child to ensure they achieve their potential! Thank you for your understanding for the use of Teage Hall as the venue. Please note that due to external examinations and the British Council’s use of the classrooms we had limited options for the venue.

FORM 6-8 SUMMER ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE

Along with this week’s bulletin, parents will be emailed the summer assessment schedules for Forms 6 - 8 and a revision booklet. Pupils will be provided a hard copy. The revision booklet outlines tips for revision, contains revision checklists and clarifies our grading system. English, Maths and Science exams will take place during the week beginning 25th May in the Sports Hall. Portuguese will also take place during this week apart from Form 6 which is on the 18th May. Other assessments or exams will
take place from the 2nd June during normal lesson time. These changes have been made to reduce pressure on pupils.

**FORM 9 & 11 EXAMINATION TIMETABLE**

Form 9 and 11 formal examinations will take place in the Sports Hall from Monday, May 25th to Friday, May 30th (inclusive). Timetables will be emailed to parents and students will be provided a hard copy. The timetables have been reviewed by Form 9 and Form 11 students and they are happy with the spread of subjects per day. Form 11 students are on study leave. Form 9 students are expected to be on site between 8.45 and 16.10 as usual. All students should be in full uniform. Students have or will be provided revision checklists by the subject teacher for each subject.

If you have any questions on exams or examination schedule please contact Miss Corcoran: Ailish.Corcoran@obs.edu.pt

Ailish Corcoran, Academic Coordinator

**THE WORST THINGS PARENTS CAN SAY TO TEENAGERS TAKING EXAMS**

The exam season is here. For families living in the exam zone, it’s a tricky time. Emotions are running high. Nerves are frayed. Parents try to be encouraging and supportive - and that’s usually a sure-fire way of starting an argument. There is nothing that says it’s the exam season better than the sound of a teenager’s door being slammed.

So what are the worst things you can say?

1. There are only two things that parents can ever say to teenagers taking their exams. The wrong thing. And the wrong thing. Whatever you say is going to irritate them. Accept it. Even accepting it, that’s irritating too.


**IB WORLD STUDENT CONFERENCE**

Form 10 and 11 pupils and parents have received a letter from me this week inviting them to take a look at the IB World Student conference which is scheduled to take place in Barcelona this year from July 5-11.

As the conference is being held so close to Porto, OBS would like to take advantage of this unique opportunity by offering the opportunity for a pupil to attend the conference. The OBS PTA will sponsor the cost of the registration fee for the conference as well as return flights.

More information about the conference can be found here: [http://grados.salleurl.edu/ibwsc/](http://grados.salleurl.edu/ibwsc/).

Students who go to Barcelona will hear from inspiring speakers, participate in excursions and - most importantly - collaborate to discuss ‘technology in a global society’, the theme for the conference.

If you are in Form 10 or 11 and are interested in attending this conference please let Miss Macleod know as soon as possible.
LIVE LOUNGE

We would like to celebrate the amazing talent we have here at OBS with a ‘Live Lounge’ at the end of the School Year. Students (and also parents and staff!) can perform in an informal concert, which will take place on an evening to be decided (between 22nd June and 1st July). The act does not have to be just music and can be a solo or a group performance. Students can pick up a form to express their interest from the Music Room. Please encourage your talented children to participate!

Rob Gore, Head of Music

READING LIST

As you know, reading is a key focus area for Secondary students this year. We have made superb progress with many of our young readers, some of whom are reading two or even three books a week now. We aim to develop a lifelong love of reading among our all students and we are frequently asked for suggestions for reading. Here are some links to excellent sites which offer short summaries and recommendations for reading.

A RECOMMENDED READING LIST FOR FORMS 7, 8

* = suitable for more mature readers
O = try other titles by this author too

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adams, Douglas O</td>
<td>The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy</td>
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<td>Adams, Richard</td>
<td>Watership Down</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aiken, Joan O</td>
<td>Go Saddle the Sea</td>
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<td>Alcock, Vivien</td>
<td>The Cuckoo Sister</td>
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<td>Alcott, Louisa M O</td>
<td>Little Women</td>
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<td>Almond, David O</td>
<td>Kit’s Wilderness</td>
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<td>Arksey, Neil</td>
<td>Playing on the Edge</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ashley, Bernard O</td>
<td>Running Scared</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bawden, Nina O</td>
<td>Carrie’s War</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boyne, John</td>
<td>Boy in the Striped Pyjamas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brontë, Charlotte *</td>
<td>Jane Eyre</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brontë, Emily *</td>
<td>Wuthering Heights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brown, Christy</td>
<td>My Left Foot</td>
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<tr>
<td>Burgess, Melvin</td>
<td>The Ghost Behind the Wall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Burnett, Frances Hodgson</td>
<td>The Secret Garden</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colfer, Eoin</td>
<td>Artemis Fowl series</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cross, Gillian O</td>
<td>Calling A Dead Man</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crossley-Holland, Kevin</td>
<td>The Seeing Stone</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dahl, Roald O</td>
<td>Going Solo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dann, Colin</td>
<td>The Animals of Farthing Wood</td>
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<tr>
<td>Davies, Andrew</td>
<td>Conrad’s War</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dickens, Charles</td>
<td>*O Christmas Carol</td>
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<tr>
<td>Doyle, Sir Arthur Conan</td>
<td>Sherlock Holmes Stories</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elboz, Stephen</td>
<td>A Land Without Magic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fine, Anne</td>
<td>O Very Different</td>
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<tr>
<td>Frank, Anne</td>
<td>The Diary of a Young Girl</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gallico, Paul</td>
<td>The Snow Goose</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gavin, Jamila</td>
<td>* Coram Boy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gavin, Jamila</td>
<td>* The Blood Stone</td>
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<tr>
<td>Geras, Adèle</td>
<td>* Troy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gibbons, Alan</td>
<td>O Shadow of the Minotaur</td>
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<tr>
<td>Haddix</td>
<td>Margaret P Running Out of Time</td>
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Hardy, Thomas *  The Wessex Tales
Higson, Charlie  Silverfin
Hinton, Nigel  Collision Course
Hobb, Robin  The Farseer Trilogy
Horowitz, Anthony  Stormbreaker
Howarth, Lesley  Maphead
Hughes, Ted  The Iron Man
Jacques, Brian  Redwall
Johnson, Catherine  Hero
Jordan, Robert  The Wheel of Time
Lewis, C.S.  The Narnia Series
Lingard, Joan  O The Twelfth of July
Lively, Penelope  The Ghost of Thomas Kempe
MacPhail, C  Another Me
Magorian, Michelle  Goodnight Mr Tom
McNab, A  A Boy Soldier
Morgan, Nicola  Mondays Are Red
Morpurgo, Michael  O Dear Olly
Muchamore, Robert  Cherub Series
Naidoo, Beverley  Out of Bounds
Nicholson, William  The Windsinger
Nix, Garth  The Keys to the Kingdom
Oppel, Kenneth  Silverwing
Orwell, George *  Animal Farm
Paulsen, Gary  O Hatchet
Pausewang, Gudrun  The Final Journey
Pearce, Phillipa  Tom’s Midnight Garden
Pike, Christopher  O The Starlight Crystal
Pratchett, Terry  Johnny and the Bomb
Pratchett, Terry  The Amazing Maurice and His Educated Rodent
Price, Willard  South Sea Adventure
Pullman, Philip *  His Dark Materials Series
Pullman, Philip (easier)  Clockwork, or All Wound Up
Pullman, Philip  Ruby in the Smoke
Rees, Celia  The Bailey Game
Sachar, Louis  Holes
Shan, Darren  Lord Loss
Simpson, Joe  Touching the Void
Somper, Justin  Vampirates
Stevenson, R.L.  O Kidnapped
Stoker, Bram  Dracula
Stroud, Jonathan  Buried Fire
Swindells, Robert  O Brother in the Land
Tolkein, J.R.R. O  The Hobbit
Tolkein, J.R.R.O  Lord of the Rings
Twain, Mark O  The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn
Verne, Jules O  20,000 Leagues Under the Sea
Wells, H.G. O  War of the Worlds
Wyndham, John *0  The Day of the Triffids
Yen, Mah  A Chinese Cinderella
Yolens, Jane  The Devil’s Arithmetic
Zindel, Paul  Bats
This list includes a mixture of modern books (several have been published within the last few years) and classic stories, which have been enjoyed by many generations. If you're not sure what to choose ask your English teacher or the Librarian to help you—between them, they will have read all of these!

Suitable for students in Forms 9 - 12
http://www.goodreads.com/list/show/27664.Top_100_Books_to_Read_Before_College_
http://www.bbc.co.uk/arts/bigread/top100.shtml
http://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/books/4248401/100-novels-everyone-should-read.html
http://www.theguardian.com/books/2003/oct/12/features.fiction

Mark Weeks & Ailish Corcoran, English Teachers

SECONDARY DATES FOR THE DIARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25th May - 02nd June</td>
<td>Internal Examinations</td>
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<tr>
<td>29th June-02nd July</td>
<td>Form 9 History Trip to Cadiz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30th June</td>
<td>Form 6 Serralves Trip</td>
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