Dear Parents,

I head off to Lisbon this morning to see our various teams in action at the Lisbon Sports Tournament. So far we have had very positive news with our girls teams undefeated in basketball and our boys doing well in football. I wish to thank all the coaches who have been so busy preparing the groups and I look forward to supporting the players. In Lisbon I will also meet the principals of other international schools at a meeting where we will discuss common themes and issues.

On Monday we welcome some candidates for the position of IB Diploma Coordinator to the school for formal interviews and we expect to make an appointment here shortly.

I am also pleased to announce the appointment of Mr André Guardado as our new Business Manager. Mr Guardado has many years of experience as CFO with Arriva both in Portugal and in Spain and he will bring us many skills in improving our customer service in the Finance Department, ensuring quality processes and implementing detailed planning for school capital development projects. I am delighted to welcome Mr Guardado to the team and I wish him much success and happiness at OBS.

I also thank Ms Teresa Quelhas from Deloitte who has acted as Interim Business Manager since last July. It has been a great pleasure to work with her over this time and the school has had good stewardship in this period. We are now in a better situation going forward.

In the Summer term our focus turns to examinations and already a number of IGCSE examinations have taken place in Art and ICT. Next week we have the Primary Checkpoint Examinations for Form 5 and I wish them all the success their work deserves. I thank Miss Lee, Mr Bridges and Miss Robinson for their thorough preparation of these students.

We are also finalising plans for the summer refurbishments and we look to have details out in the coming weeks.

I add that I am available to meet any parent who has a concern or a suggestion and please contact joana.saraiva@obs.edu.pt to make an appointment.

Tom McGrath, Headmaster
WHOLE SCHOOL NOTICES

PTA

Apologies if you received SPAM mail from the PTA email address. This has now been rectified.

PRIMARY NOTICES

Our summer term is now upon us and we definitely have a very busy term ahead of us. I would recommend that you do check out the calendar of events on the school website to ensure that you are aware of any important dates for your child. If you are not aware that we have a new school website I also suggest that you do take a look at it- it is the same web address. Our intention is to ensure that we have all information that present and future parents may require. Please do offer any suggestions if you feel we should add some specific information.

I am presently typing this newsletter from Lisbon as I am helping to supervise the OBS contingent at the sports tournament. The OBS pupils are exhibiting wonderful behaviour and are a credit to their school and their parents. Please follow this link for recent results and photos:


This coming term is extremely important for all pupils as teachers endeavour to complete their curricula prior to the end of year examinations. Please do contact your child’s teacher if you require any specific information regarding preparation for examinations.

Mark Evans, Head of Primary

UNESCO WORLD BOOK AND COPYRIGHT DAY

On Friday 24th the Primary Section will celebrate UNESCO World Book and Copyright Day. Children are invited to come to school dressed as a character from their favourite story book. There will be special activities during the day. Your child’s teacher will inform you if their class has any special arrangements.

Jonathan Bridges, Primary English Coordinator
CAMBRIDGE PRIMARY CHECKPOINTS

Next week (21st - 23rd April) the Form 5 pupils will sit their first external exams: the Cambridge Primary Checkpoints. It is always important to be in school on time, but is crucial next week. The exam will start at the stated times and we cannot wait for late arrivals.

This is the second year Oporto British School has used Cambridge Primary Checkpoint, an innovative diagnostic testing service. It has been designed to give comprehensive feedback on a learner’s strengths and weaknesses in the key curriculum areas - English, Mathematics and Science. Our Form 6 pupils will then move into the Cambridge Secondary system in September.

We wish them all luck in their exams and hope that all of their hard work pays off.

Lesley Costello (Primary Academic Coordinator)

PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

Children, staff and parents are invited to enter our whole school photography competition. The title and theme is ‘This is the beautiful place that I live in…….”

To see current entries you can visit http://obsphotographycompetition.weebly.com/staff-photos.html

To enter, please send Primary entries to james.harrison@obs.edu.pt and Senior entries to cristina.castro@obs.edu.pt

To ensure everyone has the opportunity to submit photographs we have decided to extend the closing date to Friday, 22nd May. The site is up and running and all photos that have been submitted should now be on the site. If they are not, please would you email Mr Harrison or re-send your entry to Mr Harrison directly, so that we can get this up as soon as possible.

There are been some fantastic entries, please do check out the site when possible.

James Harrison, Primary Art coordinator

SECONDARY NOTICES

THE SECONDARY OBSERVER

The March Secondary OBServer is available on the school website. This is a MUST read! It has much news, information and notices related to curriculum, exams and extra-curricular events. It also contains up to date calendars on the last page. Please ensure that you read this with care. http://www.obs.edu.pt/en/news/

GCSE AND IBDP OPTIONS

The deadline for final forms to be handed in was the 14th April. Initial option choice forms will be used for timetabling after the 21st April if final option forms have not been handed received.

IBDP DRESS CODE

All IBDP students should wear business dress to school and to all examinations. Full details of the dress code can be found at http://www.obs.edu.pt/en/our-students/student-life/uniform/. If a student is not following this dress code then they will be asked to go home and change.
STUDY SKILLS
Form 9 were provided a valuable study skills session yesterday by Lantern education.

HOMEWORK CLUB
As well as our 12 new computers in the library, we now have a dedicated library and homework supervisor in the library from 4:15-5:00pm

Welcome back to Form 11 from their CAS adventures!

LISBON GAMES

Please see the website for the latest news from St Julian’s (Please follow this link for recent results and photos: http://www.obs.edu.pt/en/news/lisbon-sports-tournament-16th-18th-april/. Full stories will be in the forthcoming bulletin or Secondary OBServer. Thank you to all staff who gave up their time to support our pupils.

CONGRATULATIONS TO RUI MATHIAS
Rui took part in the Kangaroo Maths contest at the Maths Olympiad finals recently and achieved 112.5 out of 150 points. Well done Rui!

OBS HOUSE ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS (27th March)
A very successful day of games was held. Many thanks to Mr Homewood for organising this day.
The final results were:
Windsor 120
Lancaster 90
Braganca 70
FURTHER REMINDERS

- **Lunch Times**: May we remind parents and pupils that Form 6-10 are not allowed out at school during break or lunch times unless they are met by a parent or have permission to go straight home. This must be in writing and given to Vera at the Front Office.

- **Attendance**: Attendance is essential for learning. Any attendance below 95% is a concern and anything below 85% is a major concern. It is therefore critical that all holidays and other activities take place during the school holidays. These dates are published on the school website. If it is critical that a pupil is away from school such as for a funeral then the parents must contact the Head of Secondary. In general, if a pupil does have an extended holiday then this will be recorded as ‘unauthorised’.


- Please encourage your child to bring a water bottle to school

TERM THREE SECONDARY CALENDAR

INTERNAL EXAMINATIONS

- Form 6-8 English, Maths, Science Exams: May 25th - 30th (all other subjects are to be taken in class by the 19th June and grades entered by the 24th June)

- 9 & 11 Summer Examinations: May 25th - 30th

REPORTING DATES

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<th>Term 3a</th>
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<td>Current attainment grade, effort grade report for 9, 11</td>
<td>Tues 5th May</td>
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<tr>
<td>Current attainment grade, effort grade report for 6, 7, 8</td>
<td>Tues 12th May</td>
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<td>Parents evening for 11 and 9</td>
<td>Wed 6th May</td>
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<td>Term 3b</td>
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<td>Full written report for 6, 7, 8, 9, 11</td>
<td>1st July</td>
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SECONDARY TRIPS AND EVENTS

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<td>CAS</td>
<td>Morocco</td>
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<td>Form 10-12 revision week</td>
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<td>12th to 19th Apr</td>
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<td>SPRING SPORTS FESTIVAL Bask FEM/Foot MAS</td>
<td>6,7,8,9</td>
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<td>Form 12 study leave</td>
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<td>Form 10 study leave</td>
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<td>27th Apr</td>
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<td>MUN Carvalhos</td>
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<td>23rd Apr-24th Apr</td>
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<td>Trinity Exams CLIP</td>
<td>External</td>
<td>Week of 25th May</td>
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<td>Gredos Trip</td>
<td>Form 11</td>
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<td>From 5 to 6 transition day</td>
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<td>Work Experience</td>
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<td>Escola das Artes Recital</td>
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**SECONDARY OBSERVER**


**DATES FOR THE DIARY**

- **20th April**: Extra-Curricular Summer Term Clubs start back
- **21st - 24th April**: Form 5 Checkpoint Examinations
- **23-24th April**: MUN at Carvalhos
- **24th April**: F5 outing - Mini Golf
- **24th April**: World Book Day
- **30th April**: Training day for Staff - No School for pupils
- **01st May**: Bank Holiday