“I am an example of what is possible when girls from the very beginning of their lives are loved and nurtured by people around them. I was surrounded by extraordinary women in my life who taught me about quiet strength and dignity”.

Michelle Obama

Dear Parents,

While this week’s media has been dominated by the Greek financial crisis, the Queen’s birthday and the bicentenary of the Battle of Waterloo, I want to bring your attention to the visit by Michelle Obama, America’s First Lady, to Britain to meet with the British Prime Minister, David Cameron, as part of her campaign to champion education for girls around the world, especially in developing countries. Over the last 7 years she has championed this cause and has made clear arguments on the benefits of this fundamental human right. Earlier this year The Nobel Committee recognised Malala Yousafzai for her efforts in Afghanistan, despite violence, intimidation and an assassination attempt for her work to promote education for girls.

The words of Michelle Obama resonated with me as not so long ago when I was of secondary school age my sisters had more limited opportunities than were available to me. Secondary Education in Ireland remains predominantly segregated into single sex schools and 30 years ago my sisters were prevented from having the opportunity to study the masculine subjects such as Physics, Higher Mathematics and Economics; Biology was offered for those intent on a nursing career.

I was also struck this week by a report I read about a recent Financial Regulation conference in New York, one of the centres of global finance, generally viewed as a male dominated endeavour. The keynote speaker was the US Democratic Senator, and possible US presidential candidate, Elisabeth Warren, who has been a strong advocate of the need for oversight of Wall St. In addition, the panel included Christine Lagarde, Chair of the International Monetary Fund, and Janet Yellen, Chair of the US Federal Reserve. Indeed, all but one of the principal actors in the conference were women. This was not a specific female networking event but a major financial conference and the remarkable thing about the panel was that its composition brought criticism, not for its gender profile, but for the lack of more global representation; all the leading speakers were from Europe or North America- the fact that the vast majority of the experts were women was no longer a matter of note.

It was also the week in which a British Nobel winner in Physics, Tim Hunt, was stripped of his professorship at University College London for his flippant remarks on the unsuitability of females to study science due to their overly emotional nature. He had seemed to have forgotten about Marie Curie, the first and only double Noblist for her work in Chemistry and Physics.

Thus it has been a week of both hope and trepidation for the cause of female education. Those trailblazing women mentioned in my article all had to work far harder than their male counterparts to achieve their ambitions and dreams; there remain millions of girls around the world who are denied the right to read and learn. I urge all our students, boys and girls, to treasure the opportunities that you are afforded; the limit to your ambitions are ones that are self imposed.

Tom McGrath, Headmaster

School closed on Wednesday, 24th June
WHOLE SCHOOL NOTICES

LIVE LOUNGE - 01st JULY

Don't forget to get your tickets for this year's Live Lounge on Wednesday 1st July (18:00-20:00). Come and see the amazing musical talent of our students! Tickets are €4 and the price includes your refreshments. Tickets are going fast so hurry, hurry, hurry! You can get tickets from Vera in the front office.

Rob Gore, Head of Music

MEDICAL NOTICE

Please inform Mrs Lidia Ferreira: Lidia.Ferreira@obs.edu.pt when your child has been diagnosed with any illness, but only when this has been reported by your doctor. We will then be able to accurately inform parents of the symptoms of any illnesses that are going around in school via the Parent Bulletin.

This week we were notified of a virus in Form 5 with the following symptoms: Headaches and a fever.

Lidia Ferreira, School First Aider

HEADMASTER'S COMMENDATION AWARD

Commendation awarded to António for his outstanding achievement of the maximum 6 points in Mathematics, English and Science in the Cambridge Primary Checkpoint Examinations – He is the first student in the school to achieve this.

ANTÓNIO OLIVEIRA
PRIMARY NOTICES

The Primary transition morning on Wednesday proved to be a very rewarding time for the pupils and their new teachers. By the end of the session the pupils were already excitedly talking about next school year. As part of our Pastoral pupil care, Forms 2 and 4 were mixed in preparation for the next school year. This does prove to be a slightly nervous time for some pupils though it is always ultimately beneficial. Again, by the end of transition morning there were smiling faces coming out of all classrooms.

The Form 5 pupils received their Checkpoint results this year and we can report that this has been another very successful year. Both Miss Lee and Mr Bridges, and their support staff have worked very hard over this year to prepare the pupils and they should all be extremely pleased with the results. The results are graded as: 3.0 - 4.0 shows a solid understanding of the concepts; 4.1 - 5.0 shows a very good understanding of the concept; 5.1 - 6.0 shows an excellent understanding of the concept.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>2013-2014 results</th>
<th>2014-2015 results</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>5.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>5.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>4.6</td>
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These examinations are administered without the assistance of the class teachers and they are marked and verified by an outside organisation. Well done to all of the pupils for their superb efforts with these examinations.

As the school year comes to a close the pupils are all involved in many wonderful end-of-year field trips and special activities at school. Please ensure you continue to check your email and read the class blogs to keep fully informed with the activities taking place in your child’s class. If you were not in the audience for the Prep Drama presentation on Wednesday then you missed an amazing production. Well done to all involved in the Prep productions.

Please be aware that Friday, 26th June is the last day for all extra-curricular clubs this term. After Care and Early Birds will continue to run as normal until the end of the school term. Lucy will be sending out the next term activity options around the 28th of August.

On Thursday a selection of the Primary Choir were asked to perform the British and Portuguese national anthems at the Queen’s Birthday celebration at the British Club. The choir performed superbly with the anthems and they were also able to perform one of their repertoire of songs, which received an excellent response from the audience, including the British Ambassador to Portugal.

Mark Evans, Head of Primary
PREP ASSEMBLY

Thank you to all the children for their wonderful performance in the Prep assembly to parents on Wednesday. I was so proud of their hard work during rehearsals and the way they sang and spoke during the performance. They were stars!!

Anne-Marie Eastley, Early Years Coordinator

HEAD OF PRIMARY COMMENDATION AWARDS

Commendation awarded to Beatriz and Francisca for their continued excellent performance with the ICT based Mathematics activities

Commendation awarded to Catarina for the continued excellent performance and effort with all of her Mathematics activities

Commendation awarded to Sofia for her continued excellent handwriting throughout this year.

Commendation awarded to Rodrigo for the excellent improvement in his focus and the quality of work he is producing in a number of subject areas.

Commendation awarded to Sara for her increased participation & engagement with her learning in literacy/humanities, which amongst other positive outcomes, has resulted in her attaining full marks in a recent comprehension activity.

Beatriz Mendes  Francisca Cardoso  Catarina Reis  Sofia Barros

Rodrigo Zheng  Sara Ricca Gonçalves
PRIMARY CHOIR
Well done to our selected Primary Choir who sang brilliantly at the British Club to celebrate the Queen’s Birthday. They sang the Great British and Portuguese National Anthems and entertained the crowd with an original song.

FORM 5 TRIP TO PARQUE BIOLÓGICO
Form 5 had a wonderful day out at Parque Biologico de Gaia on Thursday 18th June. It was a combined Science and Geography field trip. Mr. Hooley (Senior Geography teacher) came along and did some KS3 transition work with the children that they really enjoyed. The pupils also used the day to consolidate two of the Form 5 Science topics: ‘Caring for the Environment’ and ‘Food Chains’. Please go to mrjbridges.edublogs.org to see more photographs.

PORTUGUESE POETRY ASSEMBLY - ASSEMBLEIA SOBRE A POESIA
Na segunda-feira, dia 15 de junho, os alunos do 1º ao 5º ano realizaram uma assembleia sobre poesia. Foi feita uma apresentação em powerpoint pelos alunos do 5º ano e ouvimos a declaração de poemas feita por alguns alunos de todas as classes.

Profª Luísa Barbosa, Head of Portuguese Department
PRIMARY DATES FOR THE DIARY

26th June            Form 5 Parque Aquático Trip
26th June            Extra-curricular Clubs finish for the Summer Term
29th June            Form 1 Trip to Parque Biológico de Gaia
30th June            F2-F5 Parque da Pasteleira outing
01st July            Prep and Reception’s trip to Quinta do Seixo
01st July            Live Lounge
03rd July            Speech Day

SECONDARY NOTICES

SECONDARY SCHOOL SUSTAINABILITY WEEK

As you know during the last week of term secondary teachers have organised a range of trips and activities for your child to take part in. From Monday to Thursday there are various trips and activities that are occurring in and outside school. In order for your child to attend these it is important that you complete and sign the attached permission form and agree to the payment for any transport or entry fees. The deadline was this Friday, 19th June and the provisional bookings have been made, based on the number of the slips returned. If you have not returned the permission slip for your child, but would like them to attend the trips, please complete the form and send it to Miss Denisova or Lucy Packett urgently by the end of Monday 22nd June, so that the provisional arrangements can be altered.

Dr Peter Jones, Head of Secondary

UK NATIONAL UNPLUGGING DAY - 28 JUNE

In celebration of the second annual National Unplugging Day in the UK on Sunday 28th June 2015, we are all being encouraged to take a break from technology and put down our smartphones, tablets and computers for 24 hours to experience life unplugged.

Parenting experts warn that digital distractions are harming relationships, stopping the young from developing face-to-face communication skills and teaching children that disappearing into digital devices for hours, is a healthy and acceptable activity.

Although we recognise the value and importance of technology in today’s society this initiative is to encourage people of all ages to embrace a healthy lifestyle by regularly setting aside time away from their digital devices.

Cristina Bridges, Head of ICT
SUMMER READING

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.

**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

**Suitable for students in Forms 6 - 8**

http://obslave.weebly.com/english.html

These websites are all focused on reviewing teenage literature, and many give you the opportunity to submit your reviews once you've read a book!

http://www.teenreads.com

http://www.readingmatters.co.uk

http://www.theguardian.com/books/teen-books

http://www.cool-reads.co.uk


Ailish Corcoran, Academic Coordinator
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>22nd June</td>
<td>F6 Trip to Lisbon</td>
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<tr>
<td>23rd June</td>
<td>Afternoon visit from F12 leavers’ 2014</td>
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<td>25th June</td>
<td>F6-8 Short Film Competition</td>
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<td>26th June</td>
<td>F9 IGCSE Maths Day</td>
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<td>26th June</td>
<td>IB Ball</td>
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<td>29th June - 02nd July</td>
<td>Sustainability week</td>
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<td>29th June-02nd July</td>
<td>Form 9 History Trip to Cadiz</td>
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<tr>
<td>30th June</td>
<td>Form 6 Serralves Trip</td>
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<td>01st July</td>
<td>Live Lounge at 6:00pm</td>
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<td>01st July</td>
<td>Sustainability and Art exhibition</td>
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<td>03rd July</td>
<td>Speech Day</td>
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<td>07th September</td>
<td>School re-starts</td>
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