And I shall have some peace there, for peace comes dropping slow.’  WB Yeats

Dear Parents,

My column this week is somewhat of an indulgence as it refers to my home country of Ireland and an historic visit to the western seaboard of the emerald isle by His Royal Highness, Prince Charles this week. I trust that this message of forgiveness and friendship brings you all hope.

My own idyllic childhood in Ireland was also witness to a time when Irish people experienced moments of great tragedy and shame, many related to events in Northern Ireland. One such event was in 1979 when Lord Mountbatten, the last viceroy of India, and an elderly gentleman of 79, with a great love of Ireland, was blown up in his holiday fishing boat. It was an event that shocked the country and caused outrage in Britain. This week Prince Charles, the nephew of Lord Mountbatten, travelled to Sligo to pay homage to his uncle and his mentor. Up to recent years such a visit was not possible for political and security reasons.

I include extracts of his very moving and personal address in Sligo this week.

“In August 1979, my much-loved great uncle, Lord Mountbatten, was killed alongside his young grandson and my godson, Nicholas, and his friend, Paul Maxwell, and Nicholas’s grandmother, the Dowager Lady Brabourne.”

“At the time I could not imagine how we would come to terms with the anguish of such a deep loss since, for me, Lord Mountbatten represented the grandfather I never had. So it seemed as if the foundations of all that we held dear in life had been torn apart irreparably.”

“Through this dreadful experience, though, I now understand in a profound way the agonies borne by so many others in these islands, of whatever faith, denomination or political tradition.”

“Despite the tragedy of August 1979, the memories that Lord Mountbatten’s family have of Classiebawn Castle and Mullaghmore, going right back to 1946, are of great happiness. I look forward to seeing, at last, the place that he and they so loved and to meeting its inhabitants.”

“Many of them showed the most extraordinary outpouring of compassion and support to both Lord Mountbatten’s and Paul Maxwell’s families in the aftermath of the bombing. Their loving kindness has done much to aid the healing process.”

“I am only too deeply aware of the long history of suffering which Ireland has endured, not just in recent decades but over the course of its history. It is a history which, I know, has caused much pain and much resentment in a world of imperfect human beings where it is always too easy to over-generalize and to attribute blame.”

“At the end of the day, however, we should never forget that our acquaintance has been long; and we can turn that knowing into something new and creative. We need no longer be victims of our difficult history with each other. Without glossing over the pain of the past, we can, I believe, integrate our history and memory in order to reap their subtle harvest of possibility. Imagination, after all, is the mother of possibility. Let us, then, endeavour to become the subjects of our history and not its prisoners.”

“As a grandfather now myself, I pray that his words can apply to all those who have been so hurt and scarred by the troubles of the past, so that all of us who inhabit these Atlantic islands may leave our grandchildren a legacy of lasting peace, forgiveness and friendship.”

Tom McGrath, Headmaster
WHOLE SCHOOL NOTICES

LIVE LOUNGE - 01st JULY

The choir is busy rehearsing for a performance at ‘Live Lounge’ to be held in School on Wednesday 1st July. They will be singing a mixture of songs and hope to give a fantastic performance! A small number have also been selected to sing for the Queen’s Birthday Party at the British Club.

Rob Gore, Head of Music

TICKETS FOR THE “PIRATES OF THE CURRY BEAN” PLAY

Tickets are available for the Form 5 production of “Pirates of the Curry Bean”. This is a superb play packed with music, dance, drama, comedy and action. If you enjoy the theatre then this is a production not to be missed.

This year’s production will be performed at the Nevogilde Theatre - Rua Sá Albergaria 30. We have two performances that are open to the public: Thursday, 4th June and Friday, 5th June; both performances begin at 7pm and they should be finished by 8:15pm.

You can request tickets by email from Miss Lee (sarah.lee@obs.edu.pt) or you can ask Vera or Maggie in the school office. All tickets are free though we ask that if you are unable to attend the performance then you return the tickets to school.

VIDA NORTE

Next week (25th-29th May) is the last week of the Vida Norte baby goods collection. Thank you for the products donated so far - please don’t forget this opportunity to make a donation to help the less fortunate in our community.

Adam Simson, CAS coordinator

BRITISH COUNCIL SUMMER COURSES

For information on summer courses please click here: http://www.britishcouncil.pt/ingles/cursos-verao. If you would like more information, please e-mail the customer services team: porto.enquiries@pt.britishcouncil.org
PRIMARY NOTICES

HEAD OF PRIMARY COMMENDATION AWARDS

Commendation awarded to Nicolau, Matilde, Ricardo and Henrique for being able to identify and pronounce correctly the “100 most frequently used words”. This is a superb achievement for a pupil in Reception.

Reception Pandas

NICOLAU RIBEIRO  MATILDE SILVA  RICARDO FERNANDES  HENRIQUE RODRIGUES

Commendation awarded to Lourenço for the impressive improvement of his independent English work throughout this year.

3C

Commendation awarded to Maria Inês for her continued excellent independent work in Humanities throughout this year.

2B

LOURENÇO LEITE  MARIA INÊS GRAÇA

END OF YEAR CAMBRIDGE PROGRESSION TESTS

Next week the Form 2-4 children will be taking their, internally assessed, end of year Cambridge Progression tests. These test them on the work they have done in English, Mathematics and Science this year. Each form will have 2 papers for English and Science and 3 for Mathematics, which includes a mental test. Form 1 will also be doing some internal testing for English, Mathematics and Science, which are based on the Stage 2 learning objectives. We wish all the pupils the best of luck and hope that they get the results that they have worked hard all year for.

Lesley Costello, Primary Academic Coordinator
CURRICULUM INNOVATION AND VALPs (VERTICALLY ARTICULATED LEARNING PARTNERS)

The pupils in Form 5B have now completed the third in a series of peer learning sessions with 2H and the first with 2B. 5L are currently planning a session to deliver to Form 3C. We have given this initiative the acronym VALP or Vertically Articulated Learning Partners. In ability groups, the Form 5 pupils plan a lesson. They have to include an interactive warm up game, an activity that teaches the objective, a worksheet (that they produce themselves) and a mini-test to check understanding. Topics covered so far include fractions, time and addition. The planning phase for each session requires careful supervision and takes several lessons. The benefits of this initiative are many and include:

- Leadership
- Communication
- Consolidated mathematical understanding
- Creativity

Feedback from younger and older pupils as well as other teachers has all been extremely positive.

Jonathan Bridges, Primary Pastoral Coordinator

PRIMARY SPORTS DAY

You may be aware that the Primary Sports Day was originally planned for 29th May. However, we are now unable to use the British Club on this date. We have now changed the Sports Day to Friday, 19th June. We will continue to use the British Club for this event and more information regarding the structure of the day will be sent to you closer to the time. The event should run between 10am and 3pm.

Matt Homewood, Head of PE and Games

PRIMARY DATES FOR THE DIARY

25th May-28th May  
KS2 Examinations

28th May  
Portuguese Examination for F2 pupils

17th June  
Book Fair

18th June  
Form 3 Citânia de Briteiros Trip

18th June  
Form 5 Trip to Parque Biológico

19th June  
Primary Sports Day

26th June  
Form 5 Parque Aquático Trip

03rd July  
End of School Year and Speech Day
CONGRATULATIONS

Well done to the F12 students for completing all of their exams. We look forward to the results on the 05th July.

SECONDARY NOTICES

LAUREATE INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITIES, CASA DA MUSICA, 27TH MAY

On Wednesday 27th May Laureate International Universities will host presentations in Porto at Casa da Música. These presentations will focus on the two main disciplines which the Laureate Group excel in; Hospitality Management (Les Roches | Glion | Blue Mountains | Kendall College) and Architecture, Art & Design (NABA Milano | Domus Academy | NewSchool of Architecture + Design | Santa Fe University of Art and Design | Media Design School). Presentations will last from 3pm - 8.30pm.

Please let me know if you would like more information about these events or if you would like to register.

Miss Macleod, Deputy Head (IBDP Coordinator)
SECONARY DATES FOR THE DIARY

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