"To invent, you need a good imagination and a pile of junk” Thomas Edison

Dear Parents,

When we read any biographies of those scientists, engineers, architects, explorers and inventors whose work has transformed the world in which we live, we often get a picture of driven, solitary individuals working alone in a laboratory or workshop experimenting, testing, tweaking and perfecting their discoveries.

These pioneers belong to an era of individual or small group endeavour and this is far removed from the current work of researchers and scientists. It is very rare to find an individual inventor nowadays. There may be the visionary and leader but, on closer examination, we find that this person is the leader of a large and complex team of researchers working together over many years.

Recently I have become intrigued by the work of Cesar Hidalgo who studies the growth of economies linked to the growth of information and research. His exploration of the work of researchers is as follows:

To advance knowledge, medicine, science, engineering etc. we now need much bigger teams than before. These teams need to be more experienced and qualified. These teams need to be able to work closely together over many years and these researchers need to be older than before. The main reason here is that knowledge has become so big and complex. One recently coined phrase is the ‘personbyte’. This is the knowledge/data capacity that an individual is able to handle just as a computer has a gigabyte or megabyte capacity. Because of the exponential growth of knowledge we need to set up complex teams of highly and variously skilled professionals if a new product or advancement is to happen. If we look at the automotive industry for example we see that mechanics is now just one of the strands needed as cars become computers and robots. Indeed, many leading manufacturers have set up research centres in Silicon Valley so that these developments can be incorporated into future driverless cars. The other trend is that one project may have various research hubs around the world, all working on various strands but driven by a common goal.

This brings us to the fundamental issue: we will be able to achieve very little on our own. No matter how creative, inventive and visionary we may be we will need to build, motivate, enthuse and lead teams to realise any worthwhile project.

It is most likely also that we will need to work in teams in any of our future work places. This may not always be a physical shared work space and future collaboration may happen in a virtual environment with limited physical interaction. However the skills of working in a team are fundamental for future success.

In addition to the requisite academic and research skills that we need we will need the skills of working in teams and I am keen that such team work becomes a key part of what we do throughout OBS. For teams to work we need mutual respect, clarity of purpose, shared goals and the ability to get along. The team spirit that comes from sporting teams, from drama and musical productions, from the Model United Nations & Duke of Edinburgh must continue to be developed and enhanced in those endeavours but they must also flow into the classroom where they are nurtured and strengthened.

Tom McGrath, Headmaster
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

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| 2B | 4F | 4F |
|-----------------------------------|
| Commendation awarded to Alexandre for his tremendous effort in improving his handwriting throughout this year. |
| Commendation awarded to Bruno for his outstanding effort and academic improvement this year |
| Commendation awarded to João for his excellent contributions to the academic and social life of Form 4F throughout the year. |
| Commendation awarded to Miguel for displaying a brilliant attitude towards all areas of school life this year and setting a great example to others. |

| 2H | 2H | 2H |
|-----------------------------------|
| 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. |

ALEXANDRE CARONA | BRUNO WOLLMANN | JOÃO MOREIRA | MIGUEL CASTRO | RODRIGO ZHENG | SARA RICCA GONÇALVES
Congratulations to all Form 5L students for their performance in the recent Checkpoint Examination results. It was fantastic to see how your hard work, determination to succeed and effort over the past two years paid off.

As mentioned during the Primary Leavers Assembly on Monday I believe that you are all capable of doing anything in the world that you want to. Work hard in your next challenge of Secondary school, set goals and do everything in your power to achieve them, and remember how smart you all are! Never doubt your potential, be proud of who you are and always believe in yourself.

Thank you to all students and parents for the past two years. It has been an incredible journey.

Miss Lee, Proud Form 5L Teacher

**PRIVARY DATES FOR THE DIARY**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<td>29th June</td>
<td>Form 1 Trip to Parque Biológico de Gaia</td>
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<td>30th June</td>
<td>F2-F5 Parque da Pasteleira outing</td>
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<td>01st July</td>
<td>Prep and Reception´s trip to Quinta do Seixo</td>
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<td>01st July</td>
<td>Live Lounge</td>
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<td>03rd July</td>
<td>Speech Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>03rd September</td>
<td>Uniform Shop special opening 10:00 - 14:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>07th September</td>
<td>School starts back</td>
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SECONDARY NOTICES

END OF TERM

End of year reports will be sent out by Thursday 2nd July. These will have current grades on them, but, most importantly, they will have comments by subject teachers and tutors on them related to learning targets for the future. Please do read these with care. As a school we have already begun to identify any intervention that may be needed, but your support as parents, is key to ensuring your child achieves their potential and strives for excellence.

On the first day back of the new academic year, we will be launching a new system of Pupil Reviews. This meeting will involve each pupil, the tutor or a mentor and yourselves. It will last for about 15 minutes. During this meeting, there will be a chance to go through a ‘home-school’ agreement that clarifies our roles in ensuring the best for your child. It will also be a chance to review previous learning and set targets and an action plan for future learning. There will also be an opportunity to discuss any issues related to attendance, punctuality, behaviour and well being.

This meeting will be followed by another similar one half way through the year to reflect and review progress. We will of course continue with normal parent-teacher meetings and, as always, all teachers are willing to meet with pupils and parents at any other time to discuss learning and well being.

Oporto British School believes that learning goes beyond the classroom and exams. Next week, you will receive a copy of the OBS yearbook and also a Summer Term edition of the Secondary OBServer. The OBServer will be packed full of photos from all of the events and activities of this term such as the Morocco CAS trip, our appeal for Nepal, CARMUN, a Fm 7 Theatre Trip, Maths challenge, Fm 11 Gredos Fieldtrip, Form 9 Geography fieldtrip, a House Cricket competition, a film competition and a Lisbon Form 6 trip.

Peter Jones, Head of Secondary

SECONDARY ACTIVITY WEEK

Thank you to all parents who have supported the Activity Week and also returned slips for the various trips and activities next week. The week looks like a fantastic opportunity to break down some subject barriers, learn beyond the classroom and develop an understanding of sustainability.

May I please remind pupils and parents that although it is Activity Week, pupils are still representing the school and therefore do need to ensure they wear the correct school uniform or PE uniform apart from on the Fun Trip on the Thursday. At all times, pupils are also expected to behave in a respectful and courteous manner.

The school will also provide alternative work for English, Maths and Science for pupils who are not attending the activities or trips.

Once again, thank you for all of your support. 

Peter Jones, Head of Secondary
OBS SHORT FILM COMPETITION

This year I was glad to receive 42 short films to enter the OBS Short Film Competition and it was difficult to shortlist the best to enter the Final on Thursday 25th June.

Based on Creativity and IT skills the winners this year are:

Form 6  Draw My Life (2'04) by Jessica
Form 7  Motivation For Tomorrow (1'50) by Maria, Leonor, Inês, Matilde and Margarida
Form 8  Tomorrow (2´48) by Beatriz, Sara, Carlota and Mariana

Cristina Bridges, Head of ICT

BOOK AMNESTY

We kindly request that your son/daughter returns any books they have borrowed from teachers this year. It would be very helpful for stock-taking purposes if they could return any textbooks or other materials by Thursday, 2nd July. They may also have some books from last year; we would be delighted if they could return these either to Vera’s office or the Senior Library.

Thank you for your understanding and we appreciate your help in maintaining our Secondary resources.

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://obslive.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
SECONDARY DATES FOR THE DIARY

29th June - 02nd July  
Sustainability week

29th June - 02nd July  
Form 9 History Trip to Cadiz

30th June  
Form 6 Serralves Trip

01st July  
Live Lounge at 6:00pm

01st July  
Sustainability and Art exhibition

03rd July  
Speech Day

03rd September  
Uniform Shop special opening 10:00 - 14:00

07th September  
School re-starts