Dear Parents,

Please find below my address to parents, pupils and staff at yesterday’s Harvest Festival:

“Good afternoon to you all and thank you for joining us for our annual Harvest Festival.

I wish to start my address with one of my favourite poems, one that has a Harvest theme. It is called Picking Blackberries by the Nobel Laureate, Seamus Heaney.

Picking Blackberries
Late August, given heavy rain and sun
For a full week, the blackberries would ripen.
At first, just one, a glossy purple clot
Among others, red, green, hard as a knot.
You ate that first one and its flesh was sweet
Like thickened wine: summer’s blood was in it
Leaving stains upon the tongue and lust for
Picking. Then red ones inked up and that hunger
Sent us out with milk cans, pea tins, jam-pots
Where briars scratched and wet grass bleached our boots.
Round hayfields, cornfields and potato-drills
We trekked and picked until the cans were full,
Until the tinkling bottom had been covered
With green ones, and on top big dark blobs burned
Like a plate of eyes. Our hands were peppered
With thorn pricks, our palms sticky as Bluebeard’s.
We hoarded the fresh berries in the byre.
But when the bath was filled we found a fur,
A rat-grey fungus, glutting on our cache.
The fruit fermented, the sweet flesh would turn sour.
I always felt like crying. It wasn’t fair
That all the lovely canfuls smelt of rot.
Each year I hoped they’d keep, knew they would not.

This poem is important to me because it describes a childhood harvest custom in my family. I lived as a child on a farm in Ireland and once the crop of blackberries had ripened my brother and I and all the children in the area would do as the poet has described:

“Where briars scratched and wet grass bleached our boots.
Round hayfields, cornfields and potato-drills
We trekked and picked until the cans were full”

For me this is a memory of harvest. It is a memory of fingers peppered with thorn pricks and stained purple from the treasure. It is a memory of abundance; it is a memory of the fruit of a golden summer. When I read it I am brought back to my childhood and it evokes the pleasures of harvest.

The poem isn’t just a sweet memory. It also looks at death and decay. The old bath tub is filled with the buckets of harvested blackberries but soon after picking, they rot and begin to smell. The harvest is perishable and the joy of picking turns to sadness.

The poet compares himself to Blackbeard the pirate as in his childhood dreams he has found some hidden treasure, some secret adventure. But his dream turns sour.

There are images of ageing, growing wisdom and the cycle of life and death. The harvest comes to an end and winter looms on the horizon.
We come here today to celebrate the harvest. We live in a time where we buy most of our food in supermarkets, where food, fruit and vegetables are available all year round. Where once strawberries were in season for a few weeks in June they are now easily available whatever time of year. The notion of harvest has lost some of its significance because of this.

In the past the harvest was celebrated as a sign of thanks for the abundance that would see a farming family through the approaching winter. There was no refrigeration or freezers.

Fruit and vegetables would be stewed, pickled, bottled and preserved. Grain would be stored in dry silos. Meat and fish would be smoked and salted.

The joy of having such reserves for a period ahead was one to be celebrated. It was also a time to share the abundance with others less fortunate. Perhaps some of you have harvested, fruit and vegetables this year. Perhaps some of you spend days in the fields in the summer sun.

Perhaps some of you have collected the grapes and trod them underfoot for this year’s vintage. We may be removed from the day to day harvest but we remain close to the land in Northern Portugal. The joy of the harvest is a universal and to experience the satisfaction and thrill outlined in the poem is a very special feeling.

We all though live in a time of abundance. We attend an excellent school. We are well-dressed, well fed and perhaps a little spoiled. We live in a world of infinite possibilities and opportunities. I hope you have never known hunger, I hope you have never known cold.

I hope you all will never experience those feelings. I am similar. I have never known such feelings. But I have met some people who have experienced hunger, cold and scarcity on a daily basis. Because it is not happening to me, because it is not happening to us, this does not mean that it is not happening to others. We see homeless on the streets of Porto, but we sometimes chose not to see. Many of the homeless are young people like you. Through fate and circumstances these children do not experience the abundance and comforts that we take for granted.

When all one’s energy is focused on survival it is difficult to dream. When the next meal is the most important target then it is difficult to imagine the future.

In our time of abundance we are asked to give. Let us open our eyes this harvest time. Let us give thanks in this time of harvest. Let us be joyful in this time of abundance. Let us be mindful of the many blessings that we have and let us always remember those where the joy of harvest is not a reality”.

Tom McGrath, Headmaster

WHOLE SCHOOL NOTICES

EARLY YEARS' ADMISSIONS WEEK - 9-13TH NOVEMBER

Our OBS Early Years’ Admissions Week will be taking place from 9th-13th November. This is for pupils starting Prep & Reception in 2016-2017. This will kick off with an “Open coffee morning” for parents on Thursday, 5th November at 9:00 in Teage Hall. Please invite non-OBS parents who may be interested.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR - DONATION OF TOYS

Once again, the Ladies’ Guild will be running their Christmas Bazaar at the Oporto Cricket and Lawn Tennis Club on Saturday, 21st November. If your children have any toys or games that they would like to donate, these should be brought to school by Friday, 20th November. They will be sold at the toy stall and all proceeds will be given to charity. Please note all members of the community are welcome to attend.
NEW PARENTS´ COFFEE MORNING

If you are new to the school, we would like to invite you to a coffee morning with the Headmaster on Monday, 02nd November at 10:00am. This will take place in the Secondary Art Room. All new parents welcome!

UNIFORM

Please be informed that unfortunately there has been a delay with the order of OBS pullovers and they may not arrive until as late as Christmas. Apologies for the delay; we will inform you as soon as the order arrives.

HOUSE LOGO COMPETITION

Closing date: 10th November

To be judged by a selection of people including the House captains, School Council Rep’s, Ms Castro, Mr Bridges, Mr Homewood and Ms Gander.

- Are you interested in graphic design? Could you design a logo for your House?
- If the answer is yes, and your design wins, then you could go down in OBS history!
- Your logo will be used in all House Events and on a soon to be launched House T-Shirt.
- If you win the competition you will also win €20 Fnac Voucher
- The competition is open to all Form groups.
- The logo can be designed using ICT or done by hand.
- The logo should be clear, simple and catchy.
- You logo needs to be printed on paper with your name, House and Form clearly written on the back of the sheet. You may also email your logo to Mathew.homewood@obs.edu.pt

Matthew Homewood, Head of PE, Games & Outdoor Activities

PRIMARY NOTICES

As we come to the end of the first half term we can reflect on a very successful start to the year. The Primary choir has continued to excel with their performances so far, with many more also planned for the Christmas period; all we need to do now is to get a few more boys into the choir! Our sporting teams have been busily training for upcoming Inter Porto and Portugal events the coaches tell me that all teams are training hard for these competitions. You will soon be receiving information about the Parent Evenings in November to give you an opportunity to discuss your child’s progress with their teacher.

We do hope that you continue to feel fully informed of events as we endeavour to improve communications between school and home. The class blogs continue to be a great tool for parents to be informed of class activities; our bulletin will give you all little more insight into future events; the school comms will continue to send important information to you... and I am pleased to announce that I now have 170 friends on Facebook (OBS Primary); I will continue to use Facebook to send photographs of special or interesting events happening around school. The Facebook site will only accept parents or relatives. Unfortunately this is not for the use of children.
This break time, as a part of School Spirit Day, some pupils from Form 3 planned, prepared and produced a bake sale with home-made bracelets to sell for charity. I, unfortunately, was not able to push my way to the front of the line to buy one of the cupcakes - they sold out almost instantly, though I did have a relatively large slice of chocolate and yoghurt cake - it was delicious. The girls also made some beautiful bracelets and necklaces that were also very popular. The total amount made was 112 euros. Thank you to the Form 3 pupils for preparing this event. The money will be sent to a Porto Orphanage.

On behalf of all of the Primary staff we hope that you have a relaxing half term break and we look forward to seeing everyone in their Winter uniforms on November 2nd.

Mark Evans, Head of Primary

PRIMARY PASTORAL WEEKLY REPORT

For the week ending 16th October the house point totals were: Windsor 753, Lancaster 869 and Bragança 901. The individual class winners are listed below. A display with this information can be found in the primary corridor.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Pupil</th>
<th>House</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LIONS</td>
<td>Beatriz Ferreira</td>
<td>Windsor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TIGERS</td>
<td>Sofia Fernandes</td>
<td>Lancaster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2B</td>
<td>David Machado</td>
<td>Bragança</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3C</td>
<td>Joana Martins</td>
<td>Windsor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3H</td>
<td>Maria Silva Santos</td>
<td>Windsor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4P</td>
<td>Bruno Xu</td>
<td>Bragança</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Alejandra Otero Bozzano</td>
<td>Windsor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4R</td>
<td>Beatriz Pinho</td>
<td>Lancaster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5L</td>
<td>Gonçalo Horta</td>
<td>Bragança</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5B</td>
<td>Davashan Kanabar</td>
<td>Windsor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Jonathan Bridges (Primary Pastoral Coordinator)

EYFS

It has been wonderful to see how well our new children in Prep and Reception have settled into life at OBS. They happily follow their class routines and it is lovely to see new friendships forming. I am sure they must all be tired and are looking forward to a well deserved break. I would like to emphasize the importance of a good bedtime routine and an early night in order for the children to be fresh and alert for school the next day. We look forward to welcoming your children back after half term.

Anne-Marie Eastley, EYFS Coordinator
HALF TERM MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF SECONDARY

I feel that the Secondary Section this half term has made a very good start to the academic year 2015-16. As teachers we have focused on developing students thinking skills in our lessons to ensure that pupils are developing into more critical and reflective learners. Skills such as reasoning, information processing and evaluation are all essential for academic success and lifelong learning. I have observed some excellent lessons where students are focused on the tasks set, working in groups and asking questions that dig deep.

In the last bulletin you will have seen the list of students who have achieved the highest average effort scores. These students are leading the way in showing a positive attitude towards their learning. Overall, average effort scores across year groups and Houses are good (see the graphs below). However, there is always scope for further improvement. All students must stay focused on their target grades and areas to improve. Next half term we will begin ‘cycle two’ of our mentoring meetings. These meetings are an opportunity for parents, the student and the tutor to celebrate success and reflect on what specific areas need to be improved upon.

Next half term we will seek to build on the progress we are making towards developing thinking skills. The other area we must continue to build on, linked to the IB Learner Profile, is the development of skills in collaboration. We learn best when doing things and when we are working with a partner or in a group we can share ideas, develop strategies and evaluate more effectively.

Collaboration is not just important for learning. It is important for our wellbeing. Building relationships and working with different people of different ages, backgrounds and beliefs is crucial. We are naturally ‘social animals’ and we must help students develop skills in listening and empathy along with collaboration. OBS seeks to achieve this through the curriculum and through other avenues and activities. I encourage all students to take full advantage of the opportunities OBS provides.
This half term, we have seen some fantastic work happening in music, students participating in the Duke of Edinburgh trial expedition, students being awarded Duke of Edinburgh Bronze medals from the Duke of Braganca, IBDP students participating in a COBIS Student Leadership conference in Madrid, students debating global issues at a MUN conference in London, students organising a range of events such as the Halloween party (to build our sense of community), fundraise for charities like refood and compete in competitions such as volleyball.

Next half term, we will be introducing drama to Form 6&7 and running a drama club. There will be a performance event towards Christmas, an MUN conference in Valencia, a cricket tournament at CAISL and the Lisbon games and competitions.

Overall, let us celebrate our successes, learn from mistakes, learn from each other and support one another.

Have a good half term break.

Dr P Jones, Head of Secondary

Average Effort per Year group

House Effort Points (excluding House Volleyball)
ATTENDANCE MATTERS

If a pupil is not in school then they are not learning. At present we do have some serious concerns related to some pupils’ attendance. All pupils MUST aim for 96% and above attendance. Please support your child and the school in ensuring they are on time and present for all lessons. Do contact the Form Tutor in relation to any concerns or for further support.

COBIS STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE MADRID

Adapted from a posted from https://www.cobis.org.uk/cf_news/view.cfm?newsid=211 10/14/2015 09:07AM

COBIS and King’s Group welcomed student leaders from 13 COBIS schools (including OBS) to the COBIS/King’s Group Student Leadership Weekend hosted by King’s College, Madrid - 9-11 October 2015. 29 students from schools in 9 countries attended the conference which included workshops and sessions from leading speakers on What is Student Leadership?, Social Media Challenge, Public Speaking and Presentation Skills and more.

COBIS CPD and Events Officer, Amy Carter, attended the event and was delighted to see COBIS student leaders fully engage and immerse themselves in the programme as well as having an opportunity to meet and network with fellow students from around the world. Alongside the inspiring and interactive sessions, King’s Group colleagues delivered a Wide Game: 1920s Themed Murder Mystery Challenge which was a particular hit with the students who paired off to unscramble the riddles and solve the mystery.

We would like to thank Ms Marsden, COBIS and colleagues at King’s Group for organising this hugely successful event for the student leaders and wish all students who attended good luck for this academic year, in their exams and their future.

- To view photos of the event, please see our Flickr page and our Facebook page. To view videos of the Student Leadership Weekend, produced by the students, please see our YouTube Channel.

(Photo: Students dressed up for the 1920s themed Murder Mystery Challenge - taken by James Slocombe, King’s College, Madrid.)
MUN CONFERENCE LONDON

F11 OBS MUN debated many global issues currently affecting society and the environment. These included issues related to hydraulic fracturing, the rise of ISIS, the question of Guantanamo Bay, Euthanasia and transgender issues. The students were excellent representatives of the school. Emanuel and Hemang provided superb opening speeches. All developed their ability to argue and debate. Below are two links to the conference. More news on the conference will feature in forthcoming Secondary News. The next MUN conference will be in Valencia. At this conference, younger students will get the opportunity to further their skills and understanding as global citizens.

A big thank you to Mr Quinn for organising and leading the OBS MUN.
http://mun.royalrussell.co.uk and http://www.royalrussell.co.uk/Old-Russellians

SECONDARY DATES FOR THE SECOND HALF OF TERM ONE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trip or Event</th>
<th>Form Groups</th>
<th>Internal/External</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Term One</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ToK Day</td>
<td>11&amp;12</td>
<td>Internal</td>
<td>2nd Nov</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House Football (G) Basketball (B)</td>
<td>8,9</td>
<td>Internal</td>
<td>11th Nov</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Varsity Volleyball Festival (tbc)</td>
<td>10,11,12</td>
<td>DSL</td>
<td>Fri 6th Nov to Sat 7th Nov</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IMUN Conference</td>
<td>8, 9, 10</td>
<td>Valencia</td>
<td>19th to 23 Nov</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU University Visit</td>
<td>11, 12</td>
<td>Internal</td>
<td>24th Nov</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall Sports Festival BBB GFB</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>CAISL</td>
<td>Thu 19th Nov to Sat 21st Nov</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cricket - St Julian´s</td>
<td>6,7, 8, 6,7</td>
<td>CAISL</td>
<td>Fri 27th Nov</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solidarity Concert</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1st Dec</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Varsity Festival BBB GFB</td>
<td>10,11,12</td>
<td>ST JUL / CAISL</td>
<td>Thu 10 Dec to Sat 12 Dec</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carol Service</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>17th Dec</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

REPORTING AND RECORDING SCHEDULE 2015-16

| Current attainment grade, effort grade report for, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12 (current target grade for exam years only) | Mon 7th Dec |
| Parents evening for 7, 8 and 11                                                                         | Wed 9th Dec |
| Full written report for 6 and 9                                                                            | Wed 16th Dec |
COMPUTING WITHOUT COMPUTERS! And How Much ‘Screen Time’ Is Too Much?

This year we introduced a new subject: Computing.

Computing equips students to use computational thinking and creativity while developing deep links with mathematics, science and design and technology, and provides insights into both natural and artificial systems.

This term we have introduced fundamental building blocks of computer science...without using computers.

Computer literacy is vital in today’s world. Computing is an essential part of well-rounded academic preparation. However our students spend a lot of their free time online.

According to a Cambridge University study teenagers who spend an hour per day watching TV, using the internet or playing computer games perform poorly at GCSE. Teenagers who spent an hour per day looking at screens saw their GCSE performance drop – a fall equivalent to two grades (for example, from a B to a D). The Guardian. (2015)

DATES FOR THE DIARY

- Half-term break - 26th -30th October
- 2nd November at 10:00 New parents coffee morning
- 4th November, EYFS outing to Serralves
- 5th November at 9:00 Coffee Morning (for parents interested in Prep & Reception 2016)
- 13th November Primary Science Day
- 19th-21st November Lisbon Sports Tournament
- 19th -23rd November Valencia MUN Conference
- 27th November Form 4 play
- 1st December - Solidarity Concert
- 2nd & 3rd December Primary parent evening
- 7th December - Reception Nativity play
- 7th December - Christmas tree lighting service
- Carol Service - 17th December, Stella Maris Church