From The Head of Secondary

I normally write a short ‘essay’ on a specific theme for the Secondary OBServer. This edition will save you from that. I will however like to write just a few words. Oporto British School is a school to be treasured. This newsletter is evidence of that. Most schools would be hard pushed to achieve what we have done this term within a year!

Oporto British School continues ensure students are successful in academics. As you will read, once again, our IBDP students exceed world averages with 35 points, and will be moving on to prestigious universities.

Not only this, but OBS ensures students develop into superb artists, musicians and sports people; and students that are fast becoming caring, international minded and principled citizens.

It is these attributes that Oporto British School wishes to continue to foster and develop. Next year we will seek to further support, encourage, inspire and challenge our children.

Have a fantastic summer!

Dr P Jones
Secondary Notices

Exams 2015

We started the year with baseline testing for Forms 6, 9 and 11. These externally assessed computer adaptive tests give us lots of useful information about our students and help us build learning profiles which allow teachers to cater for the needs of our students.

November saw the start of the university entrance examinations; we had students sitting a range of examinations to support their applications to British universities. Some of our Form 12s also took American SAT examinations which are held in Lisbon. Miss Macleod had organised support sessions for all of these examinations over the last 18 months and our students did very well in these examinations. Form 11 also faced their first IBDP style examinations in November; it was a challenging time as they were just two months into the course but they performed very well and have continued to build on this success throughout the year.

We considered moving the IBDP and IGCSE mock examinations to December this year, however after consulting students and parents, we decided to keep these examinations to the usual time in January. It was a busy time for students and their teachers but the effort was worth the results as the students did particularly well. These mock exams allow us to identify areas for development and gaps in knowledge and skills and our students were able to reflect on their performance and improve these areas before the start of May.

A large component of most subjects at IBDP and some subjects at IGCSE is coursework based assessment. We entered Geography coursework for the first time this year and our students were proud of their research project. IGCSE Art students started their practical examinations in January; they produced beautiful work. Students of IGCSE English Language and IGCSE English Literature have to produce a portfolio of work for both subjects. There were some stressful times as the deadline approached but the English department were very pleased with the effort and perseverance of the Form 10 students. Our Music students showed great commitment to their studies, producing outstanding performance and compositions. And our Language students performed brilliantly in their speaking examinations; we are delighted to have so many students speaking three or more language fluently in the Secondary school.

The formal examination period was difficult at times but generally our students left examinations smiling – the IGCSE students left every examination telling me they had definitely achieved an A* in the exam! We wish them and their IBDP colleagues the very best of luck for results day; we know that they will achieve what they have worked so hard for this year.

- IBDP Examination results release: Sunday, 5th July from 15.45
- IBDP – Please follow all advice and emails from NMA and keep to all deadlines
- IGCSE Examination results release: Tuesday, 11th August from 06.01am
- IGCSE - Please use your confidential login to check your results or email Miss Corcoran/Joana Saravia
Congratulations to our IBDP Class of 2015!

IB Diploma Exam Results 2015

Congratulations to Form 12! They have done extremely well with their IB Diploma examination results. An overview of results is provided below with more information to follow. These are provisional results as pupils are currently putting in requests for Enquiries Upon Results (remarks). A year on year results table is also below.

Thank you to all the staff your hard work with the pupils and a special thanks to Miss Macleod!

- 35.07 average points (world average 29.88 points)
- 87.5% pass rate (2 students did not have 12 HL points)
- 34.06 average points inclusive of all pupils
- 81% pupils met or exceeded CEM IBE predictions
- 85% subject results at grade 5-7
- 25% of subject results at grade 7
- 3 students achieved 40+ points.
- +4.07 on CEM IBE (14 pupils CEM (31) vs 14 pupils avg results (35.07)
- +3.87 (16 pupils CEM (30.19) vs 16 pupils avg results (34.06))

Pupils have met their offers for a diverse range of courses at universities in the UK including: Medicine at King’s College London, Law at London School of Economics (LSE), Economics at the University of Warwick, Law at the University of Kent, Business and Management at Royal Holloway, Hospitality Management at Edinburgh Napier University and Media Communications at University of the Arts London (UAL). Applications to Portuguese universities are now underway.
‘If I studied the way I do during finals week all year long, I would be a genius.’

IBDP 2016

This year Form 11 have started all of their IBDP subjects and have developed IB Learner Profile characteristics. No doubt the IBDP has posed some challenges however, they have remained balanced throughout and have certainly become more knowledgeable across their six chosen subjects. After their service trip to Morocco they have become more open minded. Living and working in a foreign country allowed them to be risk-takers and working in the community they were caring towards young children and communicated well with each other to help build a local traditional community building. More recently their science trip to Gredos and their Visual Art trip has given them opportunities to develop their critical and creative thinking skills. Their Theory of Knowledge lessons have allowed them to be reflective inquirers. They have begun their university applications and hold high aspirations about their futures.

We welcome a principled group of new prefects to be our pupil leadership team next year.
Current Form 9 have made a fantastic start to their first year of IGCSE. Students now need to look carefully at the comments on their reports and continue to aim high. The Academic Review day will support reflection and action.

Over the Summer, all pupils must ensure that they complete or improve their IGCSE coursework in English Language, Literature and Geography. This will give them the best possible head start before the final exams.

2015-16: Key messages and notices

- We welcome new pupils and Form 6 next year!
- We will be broadening our curriculum. Computing will be introduced as a double lesson for Form 6 to 8 and to further creativity, we will be introducing a double period of music and drama for Form 6&7.
- Tutor lists and any class or set changes will be communicated through the Summer Break
- The 7th September is an ACADEMIC REVIEW DAY where the pupils and parents will meet their Tutor or mentor to go over Learning Targets for the term as well as a Home-School Agreement, ICT Code of Conduct. 15 minute appointments will be made and pupils and parents only come in for this time.
- Provisional calendars with key events, trips, reporting dates and parents evenings, reporting will be posted on our website and emailed to you through the Summer Break
- All other notices will also be emailed through the Summer Break
Student Leaders

Head Girls:

Ana Filipe Teixera Bela
Rita Capão Filipe

House Captains

Jennifer Varanda
Windsor
Mã de Rosário
Carneiro da Prada
Lancaster
Vitor Baptista
Bragança

Events Prefect:
Filipa Santos

Pupil Council Prefect:
Claudia Conceição
Staff leaving us (2015)

It is always a sad time to say goodbye to teachers especially such professional and dedicated teachers that are leaving OBS this year.

**Nikki Macleod** has been a superb IBDP Coordinator. She has been relentless in trying to ensure all IBDP students achieve their potential. Miss Macleod led last years Form 12 to an extremely impressive 35 points. She has also coached and supported students with their university applications and careers. We now wish Miss Macleod all our best in her new post as Head of Sixth Form at British International School of Kuala Lumpur.

**Adam Simson** has been an outstanding teacher of Mathematics. Over the last two years he has engaged students of all abilities and interests. He is able to hook students into maths without them even realizing it. Mr Simson will be moving on as a Mathematics Teacher, also to Kuala Lumpar, and of course we wish him and Miss Macleod all our best and all our best in their marriage and life together.

**Robert Gore**, Head of Music, has only been with us for one year. In that short space of time he has accomplished much from events such as the Solidarity Concert and Live Lounge. However, what some people do not see, is the dedication he has to teaching music to all pupils. He is amazing in what he can get students to achieve in just 40 minutes per week! Mr Gore will be leaving with his fiancé, Miss Tipper, to be a Head of Music at JFK School, Switzerland. We wish Mr Gore and Miss Tipper every success and happiness together.

**Emma Torcato**, Head of Learning Support, has been one of the most professional and dedicated coordinators that I have worked with. Mrs Torcato aims to ensure that every child, no matter their capabilities or needs, achieves. Mrs Torcato, will be a Primary Class Teacher and Head of Learning Support at Algarve Bilingual School, Portugal.
While it is sad to say goodbye to teachers (and pupils!), it is nice to welcome new teachers, with new ideas and strengths. We are very fortunate to welcome some very experienced teachers to OBS. All of these teachers have already been to OBS and met with staff and students to ensure that there is a smooth transition and handover from one person to another. This will ensure that your child’s learning will be promoted and not negatively impacted upon.

Claire Marsden

Miss Marsden will be leading the IBDP programme and ensuring that all Form 11 and 12 students are learning effectively. Miss Marsden has a wealth of experience from various international schools and has been teaching the IB Diploma for many years. Miss Marsden is very excited about the position and working at OBS. She knows that she has some fantastic students to work with and cannot wait to get started.

Paul Gilliland

Mr Gilliland will be joining the Humanities Department. His main specialism is Economics and Business Management. He has also taught Geography. Mr Gilliland has much experience in teaching and examining the IB Diploma. He is clear about his expectations and is eager to start working with your children.

Ruth Drummond

Miss Drummond will be joining the Mathematics Department. She is joining us from a very strong school in Scotland. Miss Drummond has already met many of the students at OBS and says that they are very motivated learners who need challenge.

Shana Patterson

Miss Patterson will be leading the Music Department. She is joining us from a very strong school in London. Miss Patterson will also be introducing drama to Form’s 6 & 7. Creativity, drama and music are key areas that OBS are building on, and Miss Patterson is keen to lead these developments.

Mark Crowhurst

Mr Crowhurst will be the new Head of Learning Support. He will be responsible for having oversight of all areas related to ‘inclusion’. Mr Crowhurst is very knowledgeable and experienced, especially in SEN. He has already met with a number of parents, teachers and pupils and seeks to ensure all students have equal opportunities to learn.
F11 experienced a wide range of fieldwork experience in IB ESS, Geography and Biology in the Serra de Gredos Mountains while they were on the recent residential field trip in Spain. They studied freshwater ecosystems and rock lichen at altitudes ranging from 1450 to 2100m above sea level, as well as investigating glaciation, belt transects and the Lincoln Index. In addition they experienced extra-curricular activities such as archery, mountain biking and a tree top zipline adventure. They were a delightful group to take on this excursion and they genuinely enjoyed the experience (including the nightly hot chocolate!).
On the 12th of June the Form 9 Geography cohort embarked on their coursework investigation to research if the Rio Ferreira correlates with the Bradshaw River Theoretical Model. The students were initially provided with a demonstration from Mr Hooley and Dr. Jones on how to collect data and for which significant features to look out for that could have an impact on the variable of the river. Students divided themselves into research groups and collected the data they needed on channel width, channel depth, river velocity and bedload shape and size. It was really pleasing to witness all the students’ work so hard for each other and in such an independent way. What was pleasing for me was the level of enthusiasm at the end of trip after the students had finished collecting data. For many, if not all, it was their first time of experiencing any real physical geography data collection in the field, and it was really great to see them develop their organisational and communicational skills as well as their ability to collect data. The students now will spend the summer period writing up their coursework in an effort to achieve an early completion come the end of September next year. A great coursework trip and I was so happy to see all the students get so much from it.

Many thanks Form 9 Geography
Mr. Hooley, Teacher of Geography
Day 1: When we got to the airport we were welcomed by our guides. We were taken to our hotel and then went to find out about the Moroccan culture. We toured the market and the main square and went out for both lunch and dinner, tasting typical food. Our guides told us a bit about their customs as well as rules that we should follow as a respect to the Muslim religion such as the clothing (no legs or shoulders showing). We slept in a riad, a Moroccan guest house.

Day 2: After an early wake, we went to visit an Islamic school from the 15th century. I found it very different from anything I had seen and it was very interesting to learn about the Islamic history. We then went to a spice shop where we were introduced to different spices/creams and their functions, buying some to take home. Afterwards, we got into a van for a 5 hour travel to the Atlas Mountains, where we would complete our service days. We stopped for lunch on the way. When we got to Zaouiat Ahansal, we had a warm welcome from the foundation's manager, translator and the guest house's family with tea, peanuts and popcorn. We got to know them as well as the place and then had dinner at the guest house. We were introduced to the next days' plan and socialized for a while with everyone before going to sleep.

Day 3: First service day. We split ourselves into 2 different groups. Our group began with construction in the morning. We hiked through the mountains until we reached the building being made. When we got there, our job was to take out the excess cement in between the wall stones using a metal stick. The local workers were very welcoming and gave us tea with biscuits for a small break. After hiking back to the guest house and having lunch, we went on a hike through the countryside, getting to know their amazing views as well as the history behind Zaouiat Ahansal. It was fascinating and the running water between the huge green mountains is an indescribable view.

Day 4: My group had all day tutoring for the second day of service, going to different schools in the morning and afternoon. We also went out for lunch to a very beautiful place in between both schools. In the morning we taught younger students whereas in the afternoon the children were older and louder! However, teaching in both schools was an unique experience that taught me so much.
Day 5 For our last day of service we all went to the construction site in the morning. Our jobs for the morning were to place stones where there were gaps on the walls, taking soil out of the ground using an axe, placing it in a wheelbarrow without large stones using shovels and a sieve, transport the wheelbarrow down to the building entrance, pass the soil into buckets and take the buckets inside the building to throw the soil into one big pile which will later be used to make the plaster. After having lunch in the guest house, we split into the groups, each going to a different school for our last service session. We handed out gifts we had brought from home and played games such as dodge ball which was great fun! Saying goodbye was really hard both for us and them as even though we only met a couple of times, they were really welcoming. When we got to the guest house, the family had prepared a party with cakes and tea followed by a feast at dinner. We then had local people singing the typical Moroccan songs and dancing as well as village children and adults coming to join and watch. We danced a lot and I found their Moroccan folk songs and dance great fun!

Day 6: After a very hard goodbye, we got into the van for an approximate four hour trip to the adventure park. We stopped on the way to have lunch and observe the beautiful Ozoud waterfalls where we took some pictures and also got to see a couple of wild monkeys. After another 2 hours in the van, we finally got to the park. It was already late afternoon so we got to know the place and went straight to dinner. After dinner we all put on our bathing suits and went straight for a night swim in the swimming pool. Afterwards we ended the night with a bonfire where awards were given by votes including best builder, teacher... I won miss motivator, teacher and Berber. We then reminded ourselves of the funniest moments in the trip and went to sleep. It was a great opportunity to get closer to each other and was great fun!

Day 7: After a great breakfast, we went straight to do the monkey bridges and zip lines at the adventure park. It was a great opportunity to observe the beauty of Morocco. After a swim at the pool, we had lunch and headed back to Marrakech. We went directly to the Hamman Baths which was a completely new experience for me. Even though it felt awkward at first, it was really refreshing and we got to know another Moroccan custom. We then went on a small camel ride which was also a first for me. I found camels really beautiful and it was great fun to ride on one. Afterwards, we went to shop our last Moroccan gifts at the souks as well as having one last orange juice. For dinner, we went to an amazing Moroccan restaurant which included a typical horse and Arabic show. Even though it was more touristic, we were still able to experience the Moroccan music, clothes, food and shows. When we returned to the hotel, we all gathered in a room for the hard goodbye. We watched a photo presentation made by Justin and got a bracelet each to keep as a memory of this amazing experience. We all shared nice things about the others from the trip and said our last words. After some hours of sleep, we headed to the airport and had our final and definite goodbye to both our three amazing guides which became our friends and to Morocco.
Reflection:

The construction made me realize how lucky we are for the development in technology as well as gaining a lot of respect for the men who do that every day. The tutoring made me realize that we are really lucky for the opportunities we are given. Also, the engage students had for learning and the happiness they felt when doing it made me grateful for the doors that are open for me. They also taught me how simple things such as playing or talking with others is what causes true happiness. I hadn't seen that much warmth coming from people who barely knew me and that much happiness with true laughter in a while. The environment is definitely something that can no longer be found in the city and it was nice to have that without even thinking about computer, Internet or my daily world.

By Rita Filipe

**Nepal earthquake sends shudders down our spine**

Amongst many other areas of support, OBS students have provided over €250 to a charity in Nepal that seeks to help the poorest of the poor and most vulnerable and to a charity linked to a previous CAS trip to Chitwan, Nepal.

Money however is not everything. OBS aims to ensure that students to develop into more global citizens aware of their role and place in the world, recognizing inequality, and the need to address this.
Work Experience, 2015

Form 10 has been very busy finding out about what real work really is over the last few weeks. This will provide them an insight into different workplaces, develop their abilities in becoming more responsible young adults and the importance of building relationships and teams.

Many thanks to Professora Raquel for coordinating all the placements!
Form 6 Trip to Lisbon
**Maths Challenge**

Towards the end of the Easter term an elite selection of mathematicians from Form 6 and 7 sat the United Kingdom Junior Maths Challenge.

The UKMT Individual Maths Challenges are lively, intriguing multiple choice question papers, which are designed to stimulate interest in maths in large numbers of pupils.

The three levels cover the secondary school range 11-18 and together they attract over 600,000 entries from over 4,000 schools and colleges.

Gold, silver and bronze certificates are awarded to 40% of participants nationally in the Junior challenge.

A huge congratulations to all our certificate winners, 3 Gold, 5 Silver and 9 Bronze - a fantastic effort!

As a result of his participation in the "Mathematical Kangaroo" contest, whilst taking part in the national final of the Portuguese Mathematical Olympiad, Rui Mathias (9W) has been awarded a prize. This prize is the opportunity to participate in the Summer University of the University of Coimbra from 19th to 24th July, with all expenses paid (except for travel to and from Coimbra). The programme of this Summer University includes a series of sessions on a variety of different applications of mathematics, some recreational, others more serious, at a level suitable for youngsters of Rui's age.
Form 9 teaching music in the Primary Section
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**: MotivationForTomorrow (1’50) by Maria, Leonor, Inês, Matilde and Margarida

**Form 8**: Tomorrow (2’48) by Beatriz, Sara, Carlota and Mariana

**FORM 6**

[Images of winners' films]

**FORM 7**

[Images of winners' films]

**FORM 8**

[Images of winners' films]
Celebrating Art

A selection of budding OBS Artisists participated in an Art Competition in partnership with St James’ Church. The winners are

- Ana Filipa Teixeira
- Lauryn Butcher
- Filipa Santos

Two commendations went to

- Megha Jain
- Jessica Zhu

Art Day: OBS invited an expert artist in gold leaf who worked with a range of students and parents.

The technique involved using gold leaf and egg tempera painting with a theme inspired Giotto’s angels from Padua.

Many thanks to Cristina Castro.
OBS Cultural Trip to Spain and Gibraltar
Activity Week

Activity Week was mainly focused on the theme of sustainability. Activities included: solar ovens, team building games, visits to Sealife, Serralves, Maia Zoo, Art Day and a cultural trip to Spain.

Many thanks to Miss Denisova for coordinating the week and all staff for organizing the events.

We would like to build on this theme and similar activities next year by forming a student committee to organize next year’s events!
Lisbon Sports Festival: Division 4 bring back GOLD!
House Cricket, 2015

The first limited overs house cricket festival at the school produced some intense competition, some intelligent tactical play and a huge amount of enjoyment from all those who took part.

The Oporto Lawn Tennis & Cricket Club hosted the event which was split into forms 6&7 in the morning and forms 8 and above in the afternoon. Pupils were applying the skills learned within PE lessons into a true game setting for the first time. Pupils also adapted to the spirit of cricket by playing with sportsmanship and respect. They also enjoyed a traditional cricket tea together.

Lancaster House won the morning’s intermediate cricket title with particularly notable bowling performances from Adam Mackay and Diogo Oliveira. The best batters of the morning were Diogo Oliveira and Tomas Jervell.

In the afternoon, with bowling harder and faster, helmets and pads were worn and batters found it increasingly difficult to score. This lead to a nervy end to a close competition with Lancaster house just winning the senior cricket title on ‘run rate’. Good bowling performances from the afternoon came from Tomas Rocchi and Raj Thakrar with some powerful batting from Tomas Goncalves and Bernardo Carrington.

By Mr Homewood
Lancaster are Secondary House Winners

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<th>Overall</th>
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Head of Secondary End of Year Commendations for Consistent Effort

Form 6-8

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Antero Baldaia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Priana Natavarlal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adriana Mak</td>
<td>6W</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carla Otero Bozzano</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ziheng Zhuang</td>
<td>6W</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maria Matilde Brás Marques</td>
<td>7D</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leonor Oliveira</td>
<td>7D</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lauryn Butcher</td>
<td>7G</td>
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<tr>
<td>José Bernardo Cunha</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mafalda Santos</td>
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<tr>
<td>Margarida Alves</td>
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<td>Daniela Chiou</td>
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<td>Alyça Self-Mendes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sara Amorim</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mariana Sá</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carlota Sousa Basto</td>
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These students have shown a positive attitude to their learning throughout. They have shown dedication, perseverance and a relentless desire to achieve their best!

Well Done!

IGCSE

<table>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Susana Encarnação</td>
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<td>Niki Kotecha</td>
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<td>Olivia Quintas</td>
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IBDP

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<td>Pinky Kotecha</td>
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<td>Matilda Wall</td>
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# Attendance Matters

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<td>JAIN Megha</td>
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</table>

The students listed below have all achieved an attendance of 95% or above. All students must aim for this! Attendance is key to learning.
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

From Ailish Corcoran, Academic Coordinator