Dear Parents,

We are currently investigating the disappearance of a large amount of money and a wallet from a student's coat pocket. I would like to remind all students that their personal belongings are their responsibility. We do not encourage students to bring expensive technology into school nor do we recommend students carrying large amounts of money. If your child needs to bring money to school, please tell them to leave it in a labelled envelope (name and amount) with Vera or Sr Abilio, who will lock it in the school safe.

John Regan, Headmaster

DATES FOR DIARIES

23rd January  
Form 9-12 Trip to Serralves

23rd January  
Form 10 & 12 Mock exams grade reports

25th January  
Photographer in school to sell student photos, from 3 pm

25th January  
Form 10 & 12 Parents’ Evening, 5.30pm

26th January  
Secondary Parents’ Forum

27th, 31st Jan & 1st February  
Escola das Artes Midterm recitals

6th February  
Early Years Parents’ Forum

6th February  
Form 6 & 9 Grades, Form 7 & 8 Full written reports

7th February  
Extraordinary General Meeting of the Association, 6.30pm

8th February  
To Dp or not to DP – presentation at 4.20pm (more details below)

8th February  
IGCSE and IB Options Evening: All parents from Primary and Secondary welcome

13th February  
Primary Parents’ Forum

14th February  
Secondary Cross-Country @Parque da Cidade

16th & 17th February  
Secondary Musical

23rd -25th February  
OPOMUN

24th February  
Primary Carnival & Talent Show

24th February  
Primary Effort Grades

25th Feb-5th March  
Half-term


IGCSE NOVEMBER 2016 MATHEMATICS RESULTS

Congratulations to the ten Form 10 students who sat their IGCSE Mathematics examinations in November 2016. They achieved a very impressive 100% A*-A grades and we congratulate them for their hard work and commitment. Our thanks also to Miss Ruth Drummond for her efforts in preparing the students for their early entry examination. We are also delighted to report that our final 2016 results for IGCSE Mathematics is a very impressive 100% A*-C for all students who were entered in the June and November examinations; this is an exceptional performance. We would like to extend our thanks to the Mathematics department for their dedication and support of the students, along with our congratulations to all of the students for their results.
CAS TRIP TO INDIA, a reflection by Ana Margarida Brandão when she compared the school that we worked at in India to that of the OBS

“Despite the wide range of activities and feelings I had the opportunity to experience in this past week in India; visiting, teaching, playing with and getting to know the children in the Serepa School was undoubtedly the most rewarding and fulfilling day I spent here. The Serepa School is located in a poor, rural village in Agra. As you approach the school walking through the streets you see extreme poverty, houses made solely out of natural resources, animals and people clearly suffering from malnutrition and various other contrasts to our regular life in Foz. However, in the midst of these contrasts lies the most important aspect of a person’s life: happiness. As I walked with trainers and comfortable clothes through the village I passed by children bare foot with a strap of clothes. The children had dirt in their feet and dust in their face and the biggest smiles I have ever seen. When we entered the school, I was able to explore this new world in a greater depth.

The children only had two classrooms, two teachers, two boards, a small place to play outside and rugs. They didn’t even have chairs or tables or a playground and still they were so happy, so grateful, so excited to see us come to them. They were so happy to know we were there for them, so grateful to be able to learn from us, so excited to play our games and sing our songs! It was a whole new world, not of poverty or decay, but a world of happiness and pure, genuine, untainted gratefulness and hope. I saw more hope beneath the eyes of children who have suffered more than most of us ever will in our lives, than I have ever seen in Foz at OBS in the last 13 years. Foz is a privileged, calm, rich both in resources and landscapes area in Porto. OBS is recognized as the best school in Porto with many resources and different opportunities to offer to the students. However, we are much more unhappy in the prestigious, calm lives we lead than the students in the Serepa School who know nothing else outside their little, simple, chaotic universe.

This is the main lesson and comparison I have taken from this trip and is the most significant one I could have ever learnt. It is a lesson I hope to learn constantly and carry out throughout my life”.

To DP or Not to DP

We are inviting you to attend a presentation by Oxford Study Course representative Joyce Halsey. Although it may seem a lifetime away before your son or daughter is deciding on their further education, we believe it is always good to be thinking ahead. Joyce will be revisiting OBS on 8th February and will be speaking to parents about the options available for education at 16. We are one of the few schools in Portugal who offer the IB Diploma programme and would be delighted if you could attend.

The presentation will be held in the Teage Hall at 16:20 on February 8th. If you require further information please do not hesitate to contact IB Coordinator, Claire Marsden claire.marsden@obs.edu.pt

To DP or Not to DP

Audience: Pre-DP students and their parents Tough decision or obvious choice? With a balanced look at the pros and cons, parents and students will be better equipped to make the right choice for each individual.

Claire Marsden, IBDP Coordinator

FIRST AID

This week we have received 32 reports of the following symptoms: Head ache with and without a fever, nausea and tummy ache. One case of mumps and one of gastroenteritis were also reported.

Lidia Ferreira, First Aider
BAKER BOOKS

All students in Primary and most students in Secondary school, have received book catalogues from Bakerbooks. This year we will not be working with cash but only with online payments. The link in the letter accompanying the catalogue unfortunately has a mistake and does not work. The correct link is: http://parentpay.bakerbooks.co.uk/clubs/OPPOPOR1
You can also use this link to browse for books online where you can specify age and price range.

Bakerbooks offers the school a 25% commission that we can use to buy new library books. We are grateful for all orders you would like to make. The closing date for ordering books is 28-2-2017.

Merle Planten, Library

PRIMARY NOTICES

Dear Parents,

The Music and Drama departments at OBS are definitely a hive of activity at present. We have pupils busily rehearsing for their talent show auditions; preparing for their music recitals and concerts; finishing rehearsals for school plays; and others putting finishing touches to class assemblies. It seems that everybody is involved in some aspect of the creative arts—which is amazing to see.

Though, just as important, are the core academic areas. The pupils continue to be giving a great deal of effort to their core areas and I have been very impressed with the activities taking place as I walk around the school. I would encourage you to look through your child’s books when they take them home at different times in the term. You should be given an opportunity to see, and to comment on, your child’s core subject books at least once every half term.

I hope you have a wonderful weekend. Mark Evans, Head of Primary

PRIMARY PASTORAL WEEKLY REPORT

For the week ending 13th January the house point totals were: Windsor 1222, Lancaster 1112 and Bragança 1098. The individual class winners are listed below.

At the end of last term the children found out which house won the House Point Cup for the Autumn term. It was very close but in the end Bragança, with 13418 points and a pupil average of 231, won the house point race. Everyday children from Forms 1-5 earn house points for hard work, effort and good behaviour. Parents can follow their own child’s progress each week through ‘classdojo’. Please see your child’s teacher if you need access information for classdojo.com.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Pupil</th>
<th>House</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lions</td>
<td>Francisco Martins</td>
<td>Bragança</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Manuel Pimenta</td>
<td>Windsor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tigers</td>
<td>Luis Wang</td>
<td>Windsor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2B</td>
<td>Henrique Rodrigues</td>
<td>Lancaster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2C</td>
<td>Maria Francisca Kercher</td>
<td>Lancaster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3H</td>
<td>Molly Costello</td>
<td>Lancaster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Duarte Santos</td>
<td>Bragança</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Francisco Jervell</td>
<td>Windsor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4B</td>
<td>Barbara Vance</td>
<td>Lancaster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4R</td>
<td>Maria Benedita Pinto Hespanhol</td>
<td>Bragança</td>
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<tr>
<td>5L</td>
<td>Franciscas Cardoso</td>
<td>Lancaster</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bruno Xu</td>
<td>Bragança</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5B</td>
<td>Jack Graham</td>
<td>Windsor</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Class Cup 4R

Jonathan Bridges, Primary Pastoral Coordinator
PRIMARY SECTION TALENT SHOW

As a part of our school Carnaval celebrations on **Friday, February 24th** we will be having a Talent Show to exhibit some of the wonderfully creative aspects of the pupil’s education.

Below is some important information for you and your child:

**WHO**: All pupils from Form 1 to Form 5 can take part in this event. Any child in Prep and Reception can also take part if they are part of a group with older children. Groups should be no more than 8 pupils.

**WHAT**: Any form of talent can be exhibited in the auditions. This could include, singing (solo or group), playing musical instruments, dancing, acting, comedy, magic, and athletic performances. Each performance should only be 2 minutes in length.

**WHEN**: The Final of the talent show will be at 2pm on Friday, 24th February. The auditions will take place during school time on 2nd and 3rd February — in front of a small pupil audience. A panel of adults will choose the 15 acts to take place in the final.

**WHERE**: The school Sports Hall.

**WHY**: Our pupils can be very creative and expressive during their regular school activities. We would like to give as many children as possible an opportunity to express their form of talent on a stage in-front of pupils and parents.

**HOW**: Any pupil wishing to take part in the Talent Show should write their name, act, and equipment required on the application form (class teachers will have these once we start back in January) and then return it to their class teacher. Deadline for all audition entries is **Wednesday 25th, January**.

POTENTIAL PLUS

I’m pleased to announce that the school is to renew its annual membership to Potential Plus UK, previously known as The National Association of Gifted Children. We are always looking at ways to develop partnerships for parents to maximize the potential of our students. One of our responsibilities is to provide differentiated opportunities and experiences. We will be extending these opportunities for all students and their families by enabling access to Potential Plus UK’s educational support services. The service works closely with Warwick University’s IGGY’s global network for gifted students from 13 – 18 year olds. Some of our secondary aged students are already registered with this network. The service provides access to dedicated interactive activities, as well as creative and critical thinking activities with an online support service for bright young students and their families to connect with different learning experiences that goes beyond the classroom. Families can access the Family Area with an Associate Family Membership allowing access to all areas. For further information, please visit: [www.potentialplus.org](http://www.potentialplus.org) For information regarding their approaches to learning, please visit: [http://i-explore.net7](http://i-explore.net7) If this is of interest, please email me at: mark.crowhurst@obs.edu.pt I will provide an information sheet containing a username and password with step-by-step instructions on how to get started. This will register your family for a free Associate Membership. Last year, this proved to be more appropriate and relevant for our Primary aged students, however it’s available for all students. I hope this initiative is of interest and if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. If required, I will arrange another Coffee Morning presentation.

Mark Crowhurst, Primary Learning Development
SECONDARY NOTICES

Dear Parents,

Casa da Música Concert
This week students from both sections have been busy preparing for the Casa da Música concert that takes place on Friday. Many thanks go to Shana Paterson and Felipe Oliveira for their hard work as well as the enthusiasm of the kids.

Students Results
Student results have been published for the November Examination period and we are extremely happy to be celebrating some excellent results. OBS now boasts 100% A* to C in Maths, 100% A* to C in Portuguese and 96% A* to C in English

F 10 & 11 Careers talk of a doctor by Marina Rodrigues.
Students in F10 and F11 were very lucky to speak to Dr Marina Rodrigues about the role of a Doctor and more importantly what is required to qualify for the job and the type of skills required to be successful. In addition, with her experience in careers, she was also able to help students with questions about chosen career options and the courses, universities and routes that would best suit individual needs.

F11&12 Portuguese trip to Camilo Castelo Branco
Many thanks to the Portuguese Department for organizing the trip to Braga and giving students in F11 & 12 the opportunity to travel to Braga and visit the Museum of Camilo Ferreira Botelho Castelo Branco. I am sure the students learnt about this famous 19th Century writer and enjoyed the outing.

Miro exhibition
Looking forward to next week, Miss Castro and Corcoran have been busy planning to take students from F9-12 to a guided tour of the Miro exhibition at Serralves on Monday, 23rd January, departing 11:10 on foot and returning by 13:00.

I am 11
We are excited to be launching the I AM ELEVEN project, introduced to us through Miss Marsden, in the nearest future. The project’s aim is to connect 11 year olds around the world through sharing their commonalities and dreams. If you have received a permission slip, please read it carefully and only reply if DO NOT wish your child to participate (via email, anastasia.denisova@obs.edu.pt)

We are looking forward to next week which includes:
Mon 23rd F10 & 12 receive mock reports
Wed 25th 1730 F10 & F 12 Parents’ Evening (SH)
Thur 26th Secondary Parents’ Forum
Fri 27th Escola de Artes mid Year Recitals (until 1st February)

Robert Hewett, Head of Secondary
END OF YEAR EXAMINATIONS

May 2017 Examination timetables
The Form 12 IBDP examination timetables will be emailed to all students today. The IGCSE timetable will also be emailed separately to all Form 10 students (and early entry students in Forms 8 and 9).
The email will also an information letter and the upcoming deadlines for all subjects.

Form 9 and 11 End of Year Examinations
The end of year examinations for Forms 9 and 11 will run from Monday, 5th June until Friday, 9th June. The full timetable will be published before the Easter holidays. Students will have formal examinations in all subjects. Examinations will be held in the Sports Hall.
Results will be published on Monday, 26th June.

Form 6, 7 and 8 End of Year Examinations
The end of year examinations for Forms 6, 7 and 8 will run from Monday, 5th June until Wednesday, 14th June. The timetable will be published before the Easter holidays. Students will have formal examinations in the Sports Hall in the following subjects: English, Mathematics, Science and Portuguese. All other subjects will hold their end of year assessments in class time.
Results will be published for the core subjects on Monday, 26th June.

Ailish Corcoran, Head of 6-10 & Exams Officer