

25 May 2016

Tom McGrath
Headmaster
Oporto British School
Rua da Cerca, 326-350, 4150-201 Porto, Portugal

Subject: Award of CIS Re-Accreditation

Dear Tom,

The Council of International Schools' Accreditation Service and its Advisors have now completed their study of the report submitted by the March 2016 CIS Visiting Team and considered its recommendation with regard to your school's status within the accreditation process.

I am pleased to inform you that the Council of International Schools has decided to award CIS re-accreditation to Oporto British School with immediate effect. Warmest congratulations to you, your staff, and the entire school community on this achievement.

In reaching their decision, CIS took into account the Visiting Team's commendations which were based on evidence of excellent and effective alignment with the standards for CIS accreditation. In granting the award of accreditation, CIS felt that the commendations – or strengths of the school – far outweighed any areas in which the school was deficient. Of particular note is the school's work on its Guiding Statements whereby the revision of these has led to a wide understanding and better all-round support for the students; the appropriate definition of internationalism pertinent to all members of the school community; many improvements to student learning and a desire to make the school a welcoming and safe place for students; and the improvements to the facilities.

These strengths should be celebrated by the school community. The complete list appears in the Visiting Team Report.

Although the Visiting Team clearly viewed the school very positively, it made many recommendations. The school will need to address these in the coming years. The Visiting Team was particularly concerned with areas needing development in teaching and learning, including meeting the learning needs of every student; the training and evaluation of the Board; the review of salaries to ensure recruitment and retention of good staff; and the ensuring of the long term financial stability of the school.

These challenges should be addressed by the school community. The complete list appears in the Visiting Team Report.

The next routine stage of the accreditation process for the school will be the submission of the First Report on Progress & Planning (FRPP) by 1st March 2018. Guidance on how to write the FRPP can be found in the FRPP Booklet which will be made available to you by the CIS Accreditation Office.

You may now publish the fact that the School has been re-accredited by the Council of International Schools. An official CIS leaflet entitled 'Your Child is at an Accredited School' is available for distribution in your school community if you wish. Please contact our Accreditation staff at accreditation@cois.org if this is of interest to you.

To celebrate the granting of re-accreditation, a plaque and certificate will be awarded to the school. Staff from the Accreditation Office will contact you on this matter.



I look forward to reading how the school has addressed all the Visiting Team recommendations when the FRPP is submitted in March 2018. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact Dr Lesley Stagg, the CIS School Support & Evaluation Officer responsible for your school (lesleystagg@cois.org), or me (grahamranger@cois.org), if there is any point that is unclear or on which you need further advice.

Once again Tom, congratulations to everyone at the school on achieving CIS re-accredited status.

With my best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Graham Ranger', written over a diagonal line.

Dr Graham Ranger
Director of School Support & Evaluation
Council of International Schools (CIS)

c.c. Lesley Stagg, CIS School Support & Evaluation Officer
Katie Sandwell, CIS School Services Advisor

Please note: You should have access to the Visiting Team Report to which this letter refers. If this is not the case, please contact our Accreditation Staff at accreditation@cois.org.