

Dear friends,

Well, I'm sure your children have been telling you how busy they all are, and from a teacher's point of view, things are definitely very hectic. The new student council was voted in last week and I'm pleased to introduce Claudia Lomba Viana, Santiago Rente, Katie Patient and Sebastian Tranaeus as the new student council for 2014-15. Well done to them and to their gallant opponents.

The school photographs have been taken and are available for purchase as usual from Mr. Calado at:

<http://www.fotografocarloscalado.com/>

Many thanks for your help in getting your children turned out in full, formal uniform. They always look so smart like this.

Friday saw the traditional OIS Halloween party and we must all say a big thank you to the Parents Club and those members who worked so hard to make it such a success.

We are still having some issues with misplaced uniform and equipment and as laptops/tablets, lunch boxes etc. are so expensive, it surprises me that students can be so careless with their belongings. Might you all be good enough to ensure they put their names on their belongings and are a little more responsible with them?

Remember that we are on half term break from October 24th and that all lockers must be cleared out by Friday.

Best Regards,

Steve Bruce-Lomba

I would like to praise our student body for the sportsmanship shown during the elections for the 2014/15 Student Council. More than 80% of the students voted during 2 days, at lunch time. Unfortunately, due to a human mistake, there was a miscount of 2 comparing the voting body to the ballots. Graciously the team led by Diogo Dias/Gonçalo Andrade accepted defeat against the Alumni led by Claudia Lomba Viana, thus avoiding the repetition of the whole process. Once again the two teams had great programmes for the school year, I am confident that they will work together to incorporate the best of both programmes during 2014-15. A big thank you to all those who, one way or the other were involved in the process.

Chari Empis,

Principal



The Importance of Demystifying Mathematics

“What lesson do you have now?” asks Johnny. “Maths” answers Brenda with a frown.

What is it about Mathematics that so many students struggle with it?

Everybody has an opinion on the matter and EVERYYYYYYBODY is an expert – and yours truly is no exception – so here is mine
For many years my students have heard me over and over again saying “Mathematics is a cumulative and continuous knowledge and although you choose your Diploma subjects at the end of MYP 5, for Mathematics you actually start narrowing your choices from early on”. What I mean by this is that as students move from year to year we are always building new knowledge upon previous knowledge – that is knowledge that should already exist. As Professor Marcus du Sautoy says in the September issue of the IB World magazine “One of the issues with Mathematics is that it is a hierarchical subject. Think of it like building a huge pyramid. You need a solid foundation before you move on to the next layer.... In contrast if you struggle with one era in History class you can move on to the next quite easily” – apologies to Mr. Davies for the History reference....

Also we all know the importance of emotion in the learning process. So it is important that we all demystify mathematics and don't pass to students our own fear and ideas about Mathematics. According to Marcus du Sautoy “It is up to parents, and society at large to try to manage their own anxiety so they don't pass it on to their children”.

As George Orwell said “Who controls the past controls the future. Who controls the present controls the past” – it is paramount that students work in the now to succeed in the future.

I have not failed. I've
just found 10,000
ways that won't work.

- Thomas Edison

André Lopes

Maths Leader

Field trip to engraving studio

Last week, year 12 and 13 went to a small studio in Lisbon that works with linoleum and engraving printers. The artists that work in this studio were very kind and explained how the process works. Some students experimented with this technique.



Pedro Zamith

Arts Leader

Why did the River next to the school (The Barcarena River) flood on Monday?

Cast your mind back to last weekend (11th & 12th Oct); you may remember that it was excellent weather for fish! By that of course I mean that it rained a lot. All of this water had to go somewhere.

Some will have gone straight into the river increasing the rivers discharge (the amount of water in the river). Most of the rain however will have gone onto and into the land surrounding the river.

Some of that rain soaked into the ground, which meant that the water table (google it!) rose up and came closer to the surface. When it rained again on Monday the soil had little ability (like a wet sponge) to absorb more water.

Therefore any additional rainfall would have run over the ground (surface runoff) and gone straight into the river. This of course means that the amount of water in the river (the discharge) quickly shot up and we got a flood.

The school is located at the bottom of a valley. The steep sides of this valley channel most of the rainfall down towards the river adding to the problem. The fact that the schools grounds and the land around Barcarena is somewhat urbanized means that many of the ground surfaces do not have the ability to absorb water, therefore a lot of water flows over these impermeable surfaces and goes straight into the river increasing discharge.

The forest and vegetation next to the school do help by absorbing some rainfall and stopping it from getting into the river. So it was a combination of factors that led to the flood.



Elliott, Wayne. "Flash Flooding a 'freak Event'" http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/3572360.stm. BBC, 17 Aug. 2004. Web. 17 Oct. 2014.

Dominic Bates

Humanities Leader

Year 11 Music and Drama

On October 9 music and drama came alive for the Year 11 students who attended an early session of the award winning musical, "Cats". The multi-event venue, Praça de Touros in Campo Pequeno, was the perfect backdrop for the production. Through this performance of "Cats" students were able to see how the poems of T.S. Eliot could be brought to life through creativity and imagination.



Ramona Dietrich

Technology Subject Leader

CAS

Parents and students, alike, often have questions about what CAS is and why it is important to the International Baccalaureate. This article will briefly outline the philosophy and goals, what CAS is and is not, and the benefits of CAS.

Creativity, Action and Service (CAS) is a one of three core elements for the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma. The philosophy is that "...if you believe in something, you must not just think or talk or write, but must act." (Peterson) A goal of IB is to "...develop internationally minded people who, recognize their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet." (IB Learner Profile) CAS enables students to put their skills, talents and interests to work; first, to maintain balance in life, which is part of the IB Learner Profile; and second, to contribute to the betterment of the school, the community and society at large.

To help students develop these ideals, by participating in all three aspects of CAS throughout the 18 months of the Diploma program, they will address the eight required learning objectives. For CAS credit, each activity must address one to four of the learning objectives. They are encouraged to look for ways to combine two or more, for each activity. For example, if a student likes a particular sport, (s)he could combine both physical activity and service, by teaching it to children in the community.

Additionally, students must regularly reflect on what they are doing, and adapt future plans to what they learn from the reflections. It is this reflective part of the process that has direct implications for their future.

So what are good CAS projects? They are ones that allows the student to grow intellectually, develop physically and socially. They require commitment over an extended period of time. It is possible, although not required, that a student may have one or two projects that extend the entire 18 months. What CAS is not, is a one-off activity or one that is "mundane repetitive action," and cannot be firmly linked to the learning outcomes.

So why is CAS so valuable? The benefits of CAS are numerous. CAS is experiential learning. It teaches social responsibility, goal setting and self-reflection. Equally important, CAS is what sets a student apart from the crowd. When applying to universities, they are competing with others with similar backgrounds, education and grades. Universities today are looking for students who stand out because they know how to set goals, how to persevere and understand the importance of social responsibility. Many universities around the world now offer scholarships specifically based on these traits. Through the CAS program at OIS, students create a portfolio of their accomplishments and lessons learned, which are the key to those opportunities. In short, CAS creates the informed, caring, successful leaders of the future.

For more detailed information about CAS and how you can get involved, visit the OIS website or contact the CAS Coordinator, John Brown at john.brown@oeirasinternationalschool.com

John Brown

CAS Coordinator

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
					1	2
					Mid-Term Break	Mid-Term Break
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Girls Varsity Football X CAISL at CAISL 4:30pm	Boys D3 & D4 Basketball X German school at OIS 4:30	Parent's evening Year 10-11 Iberian Model United Nations Conference	Iberian Model United Nations Conference Boys Basketball D3,D4 & Varsity X St. Dominic's at OIS 4:30 Year 13 CCB Field Trip	Iberian Model United Nations Conference School Production Rehearsal 9:00 to 13:00	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	Boys Varsity Volleyball X St. António at St. António 4:30	4-6pm Positive Teaching in-service	Sports Festival Girls D3 Football at CAISL all day. Parent's evening Year 8-9	Sports Festival Girls D4 Football at CAISL all day.	Sports Festival Boys Basketball + Girls Football D3+D4 at CAISL	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Girls Football X St. Dominic's at OIS				Varsity Boys & Girls Volleyball X German School At G.S all day Tournament	School Production Rehearsal 9:00 to 13:00 Year 6&7 Tournament	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
		Boys Basketball D3 & D4 X St. Dominic's at St. Dominic's	ISA Cup Algarve Varsity Boys + Girls at Brown's Club Algarve	ISA Cup Algarve Varsity Boys + Girls at Brown's Club Algarve	ISA Cup Algarve Varsity Boys + Girls at Brown's Club Algarve School Production Rehearsal 9:00 to 17:00	