



Overseas Family School High School

Master Policy:

To maintain a happy, safe and effective school for overseas families living in Singapore

Principal's Message

Writing my last news article as High School Principal, after 13 years in that role, is a very special moment for me. Over these years, I have seen thousands of students successfully graduate and move out into the world. It is heart warming to see so many of them return to visit us and to learn from their comments that they loved OFS. And still do. I am looking forward to my new role as Head of School, knowing that I can help maintain that strong bond between our students, parents and teachers.



We should reflect on what we have achieved since August 2018. Most importantly, it is evident that the vast majority of our students are trying to do their best academically. And OFS teachers are always ready to support and encourage them.

Some highlights of the academic year include:

- exceptional external academic results for the IB Diploma and IGCSE
- successful applications to top universities and colleges around the world
- numerous formal and informal concerts, plays and exhibitions, showing the depth of talent in the Arts
- approximately 100 service and extra curricular activities for our students to choose from, and the commitment shown. Student initiative and leadership in this area are now a feature of the program, as well as from Student Voice, who did a very fine job this year
- the high participation rate of students in our sporting program, ensuring a balanced and healthy lifestyle

I would especially like to pay tribute to the High School faculty. The success of this year would not have happened without their hard work and dedication.

To all those students, faculty and families who are leaving OFS, including 204 graduating students, I thank you for your contribution to the school. Some of our graduates have been with us since Pre-Kindergarten.

For those students returning in the new academic year, Dr Simon Dench is ready to welcome you back on 7 August 2019.

To all our families, have a safe and happy holiday. I look forward to continuing to work with you, as ever.

Suzanne Bentin
High School Principal
(suzanne_bentin@ofs.edu.sg)



Yearbook 2019 will be available on 21 May 2019 from the School Shop.

CALENDAR OF HIGH SCHOOL EVENTS

- 30 April - 12 June: IGCSE examinations
- 3 May - 24 May: IB Diploma examinations
- 9 - 17 May: Semester 2 examinations
- 31 May: High School Graduation at 11:00 am (Auditorium)

From the Enrichment Program (EP) Office

OFS Summer Camps 2019 @ OFS Pasir Ris Campus

English Courses for K2 to Grade 11 students

Date: SPP English Intensive Course
(Four weeks from 10 June to 5 July 2019)

HS English Credit Course
(Three weeks from 10 to 28 July 2019)

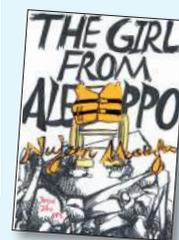
Time: Full-Day Weekday Session (9:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.)

We have an intensive English program for students who wish to improve their English proficiency, and English Credit Course for students who wish to obtain their credits during the school holidays.

Registration Forms are available at the Reception and the EP Office. For further information or to download the Registration Forms, please visit our OFS website

<https://www.ofs.edu.sg/events/2019/summer-programs/>

You may also contact our EP Team at 6738-0211, Extension No. 258/259.



From the Library

On 25 April 2019, members of the OFS High School Book Club, together with our organiser, teacher librarian, Ms. Susan Lussenhop, visited the German European School Singapore to compete in the Readers Cup. We had fun discussing the eight books we had read with the students of many other international schools. We competed in eight different kahoots, each based on a Red Dot Awards book, such as the biography, *The Girl from Aleppo* and *The Book of Dust*. We won third place overall in the competition. And Joyce Zou of Grade 11 was one of the special award winners for book cover designs, for her creation of the cover for *The Girl from Aleppo*.

(Lina Walid S Altoaimi, Grade 10 – Book Club Member)



IB Diploma News – Education For Life

GRADE 12

- Congratulations to our grade 12 IB DP students who are completing their final IB examinations. I am sure all their hard work over the last two years will be rewarded. Best wishes to each of them during the next phase of their lives as High School graduates.
- Students will be able to access their IB results at <http://candidates.ibo.org> on Saturday, 6 July 2019 at 1200 hours GMT, by using their online password information.
- Students who have forgotten their online passwords can contact Ms. Maureen Goh (maureen_goh@ofs.edu.sg) in the High School office for this information.
- After results are released, students should contact me (phillip_riordan@ofs.edu.sg) if they have any queries about IB results, IB transcript requests, IB examination re-marking or re-taking IB examinations.
An email will be sent to students' OFS email on the 6 July 2019 outlining the process for remark and retake requests.
- **IB 'Re-take' registration deadline for the November 2019 examination session: Monday, 29 July 2019.**
- **IB 'Enquiry upon Results' (re-marking) request deadline: Sunday, 15 September 2019.**
- **IB 'Re-take' registration deadline for the May 2020 examination session: Friday, 15 November 2019.**
- Hard copy IB Diplomas and certificates will be delivered to the school in September 2019. If you will not be in Singapore to pick up these documents, please make sure your contact details with our OFS Registration Office (Mrs. Soma Mathews) are up to date.

GRADE 11

- Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS): Students should be working steadily on their CAS activities. All CAS activities undertaken during June-July 2019 holidays need to be pre-approved by Ms. Arin Mares.
- Extended Essay (EE):
 - The first draft of the EE should be completed during the June-July 2019 break. Students are encouraged to keep in email contact with their EE supervisor over the break so that, if needed, they can get support.
 - Please note that the EE must fully comply with the OFS Academic Honesty and Personal Integrity policy.

(Phillip Riordan – IB DP Coordinator)

MYP Personal Project Support



The Personal Project Support Group has started the process of helping the Grade 9 students in their Personal Project. They are a team of hardworking Grade 10 students who are eager to assist the 9th Graders in their journey, as they follow their motto: **'We care because we've been there!'** Workshops have been conducted by the student group to engage the Grade 9 students in Approaches to Learning (ATL)

skills, the various Global Contexts and Learner Profile attributes, which are all vital for the Personal Project. The team is well equipped to provide assistance to the students during lunchtime Personal Project Support sessions, under the guidance of Personal Project Coordinator, Ms. Trapti Trivedi. Grade 9 students are encouraged to clear their doubts during these lunchtime sessions to make it easier for themselves in this 8-month long journey.

Personal Project Lunch Time Sessions: Wednesday and Friday, 1:40pm to 2:20pm in classroom S07-03. The group has been working very hard to devise new ways to convey instructions to the students, regarding accessing and navigating through the recently implemented IB Program Manager on the OFS website. To inform the Grade 9 students about their deadlines, the Personal Project Support Group has initiated a social media solution, which has been successful. The group will continue to provide support to the Grade 9 students until they finish their journey in October 2019.

(Vidita Chogle – Grade 10 Personal Project Support Group)

Junior High School News

Though the academic year is drawing to a close, our Grade 10 students are continuing to push themselves as the external IGCSE examinations are now in full swing. For many, the pressure is high, so please do communicate with us, should you or your child need additional support or guidance.

Overall, we are proud of your children's successes and once the examinations are over, I encourage them to take some time to relax during the upcoming summer months; it is a well-deserved break.

Grade 9 students now have a thorough understanding of the expectations of what it is to be a High School student. There has been significant personal growth and next academic year, they will be considered the role models of the Junior High School. This summer holiday will be slightly different to ones experienced in the past, as they will be focused on their "MYP Personal Project". Please be reminded that your child's Personal Project goal needs to be completed by the second week of the new academic year, in August 2019.

When I look back on this year, it has been a very good one in many respects. Your children have taken on new challenges and initiatives being IB Risk Takers along the way. Within the Junior High School, "caring" has been an overarching quality visible in our community and it has been a real pleasure watching our students be there for each other at all times.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and to wish you and your families a wonderful summer holiday.

(Nathalie Buckland-Brough – High School Deputy Principal and IB MYPIIGCSE Coordinator)



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“Ambassador for a Day” Experience

Recently our female students were given the once in a lifetime opportunity to work with an ambassador in Singapore for a day, sponsored by Expat Living Magazine. This was a carry-over from our High School Book Week when we had the privilege of having one of the writers from Expat Living, Ms. Melinda Murphy, come to OFS; she organised this opportunity for the Singapore international school community. After nearly a hundred applications from all over the island, there were three girls chosen from OFS to take part.

Rubab Khan (G12) was chosen to work with Her Excellency, Anita Nergaard, Norwegian Ambassador to Singapore. Rubab had the exciting opportunity to meet with the delegation from the Norwegian Maritime Authority visiting at Marina Bay Sands and learn about Maritime Law. She also attended their annual grand maritime party – Norway Night – at the Fullerton Bay Hotel. Rubab commented, “... it was beyond my expectations. Not only did I gain teachings from Mrs. Nergaard, her walk of life, and the grace and professionalism with which she carries herself, but I also received exposure to 20 other ambassadors, the managing Director of Microsoft Singapore, brilliant start-ups and much more!”

Tanishka Trivedi (G11) worked alongside the New Zealand High Commissioner, Her Excellency, Ms. Joanne Tyndall and members of the New Zealand High Commission. Much of the day centered around the topic of Climate Change, something Tanishka is concerned about.

Finally, Thulsa Moosa Miqdhaha (G10) was partnered with Her Excellency, Dorte Bech Vizard, the ambassador of Denmark for Singapore and Brunei. Her day started at 5:30am with ANZAC day services in Kranji. She went on to participate in many opportunities and learned much about Denmark such as: how the embassy works, sustainability, public relations, trade, business and duties of the ambassador. Thulsa remarked that, “One thing I have definitely taken away from this experience is that once you have the opportunity to do something like this, you will never forget it for the rest of your life, so have faith in yourself, take the chance and if you don’t get it the first time, don’t give up.”



Ms. Susan Lussenhop, the teacher librarian, liaised with Expat Living, to bring the ‘Female Ambassador for a Day’ experience to our OFS students.

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(Ms. Susan Lussenhop – Teacher Librarian)

Earth Club “Eco-Bricks”

The High School Earth Club has been creating “Eco-Bricks” as part of its Earth Month Project. This is an idea initially suggested by Ecobricks.org (<https://www.ecobricks.org>). This involves collecting plastic wrappers, cling wrap and small bags and stuffing them into plastic bottles until the bottle is filled completely. The idea behind ‘Eco-Bricks’ is that plastic wrappers and cling wrap cannot be easily recycled and often are blown

off landfill, ending up in the ocean. These plastics are mistaken for food by oceanic filter-feeders or washed up onto beaches. The ‘Ecobrick’ plastic bottles and their stuffed contents do not biodegrade, making ideal bricks. They can be used to make many innovative structures ranging from stools, benches and planters, to entire houses. Earth Club will continue this project next semester and begin liaising with charities to donate Eco-Brick bottles and make further structures.

(Jessica Fitzgibbon – Science teacher & Earth Club Supervising Teacher)

OFS and Bendemeer Secondary School Student Exchange - The convergence of two different school systems

The OFS-Bendemeer Student Exchange has, over the years, strengthened relationships within the local school community and broadened the academic horizons of the group of students who visit each other’s schools on a regular school day. Each student is assigned a buddy from the other school and the pairs guide each other through the daily routine of the two different academic systems.

The Bendemeerians visited OFS first and, as expected, were dumbfounded by the size of the campus and its facilities as well as by the sheer vibrancy of the multi-ethnic mix of students. On the other hand, OFS students appreciated the unity and cohesiveness of the whole school assembly, in the open, addressing competitions, safety rules, and upcoming events. Bendemeerians were amazed by the number of languages that were taught and the different sports that were explored in PE at OFS and OFS students were awed by how advanced and complicated Mathematics and Sciences were at Bendemeer.

Furthermore, Bendemeer students do not study in air-conditioned classrooms and are not allowed to play sports during recess; however, they are allowed to use their phones. OFS students found the Bendemeer Timetable of classes of variable time durations very flexible and useful. At the end of the day, students of both schools learned they should cherish and appreciate the amenities provided to them in their Schools as well as acquire a collaborative, open-minded and generous spirit – ensuring these newly-forged relationships and memories will last forever.

(Mohammad Saif Zia – Grade 9)





Annual Uniform & Stationery Sale — 2019-2020 Academic Year

Online Order

Duration: From 15 July (Monday) to 1 August (Thursday)
Website: OFS School Shop webpage will be open from Monday, 15 July 2019.

Earliest collection at School Shop will be from Monday, 22 July 2019 onwards. Delivery service is available at S\$30.00 per trip. Please allow 4 working days for your online orders to be processed.

On-Site Sale

Duration: From 22 July (Monday) to 16 August (Friday)
Venue: OFS School Shop located at Level 2, Administration Block A
Time: 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Mondays to Fridays)
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (Saturdays)
(Closed on Sundays and Public Holidays)

All purchases will be charged to your Family Account only.

<https://www.ofs.edu.sg/events/2019/annual-uniform-stationery-sale/>

From The Parent Association (PA) Desk

WELCOME ALL NEW PARENTS COFFEE MORNING

As the academic year draws to a close, the PA wishes all of you a very happy and safe summer. We hope you have enjoyed the events we organised this year, and look forward to seeing all of you again during the "Welcome All New Parents Coffee Morning".

Date: Thursday, 15 August 2019
Time: 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Venue: Parent Lounge
(Level 4 of Administration Block)

Until then, if you have any comment or suggestion, please feel free to contact our Chairperson by email at: parent_association@ofs.edu.sg.

Have a wonderful holiday.

Bianca Mayorga Memorial Battle of the Bands

Battle of the Bands was and always will be the best place for OFS bands to perform and express their talents to their peers, teachers, and family. This year, we had seven bands (including the guest band) performing. The bands this year were **The Unknown Machine**, **White Chocolate**, **SMRT**, **Disintegration**, **Violet Angels** and **Chaos Theory**. Each performance showcased the talent and hard work each of these bands had put into their practice sessions over the past two months.

We give a special thanks to Mr. Mel Ferdinands (bass and vocals), Mr. Joe Ferdinands (guitar and vocals), Ms. Ivy Toh (Advocate for Female Drummers) for judging the bands that played, and performing a piece at Battle of the Bands, to Mr. JD for announcing the winners, to Mr. Geoffrey Dell (Student Voice supervising teacher) and Alexander Lambine (Grade 11) for judging the final results and, of course, all those who helped to organise the event, Ms. Sarah Malloch, Mr. Damien Williams and Mr. Oliver Ramos.

Best Vocalist: Lucy McConville of White Chocolate and Violet Angels
Best Drummer: Malhar Kamat of Chaos Theory
Best Guitarist: Nikhil Kumar of Chaos Theory



And lastly, this year's Battle of the Bands 2019 winner goes to **Chaos Theory**. Every band that performed had something awesome and special to bring to Battle of the Bands. Congratulations to everyone who played. And on a final note, Rest in Peace, Bianca.

(Lucas Charles Robins – Grade 10)



Recent Sports News

The massive surge in interest in girls' rugby this season has been tremendous. We have a combined squad of more than 40 girls from Middle and High School developing the skills required for competition. While the sport for females is still in its infancy in Singapore, our girls took advantage of opportunities for training with international superstars as well as competition in the lead up to the Singapore leg of the International Sevens Series.

Though Season 2 officially ended for High School students at the start of the April break, to allow them to prepare for their examinations, we still have some students competing at tournaments during May. Grade 9 14U basketballers (Tanya Pandey, Mehak Narayan and Anushka Shinde) competed in the SAS "Tip and Rip" tournament claiming bronze ahead of strong international and local school teams. Our 16U table tennis team will take on SJII in late May.

(Jason Lawrence – Dean of Physical Advancement)

