



# Overseas Family School High School

**Master Policy:**

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

## Principal's Message

With less than two months left in the academic year, the school's focus, especially for Grade 10 and 12 students, turns toward examinations. These students have taken mock examinations, from which they can evaluate their strengths and weaknesses. Even though this process was very demanding, we believe that it has a significant impact in enabling students to reach their potential in their external examinations. This month we say a fond farewell to our Grade 12s who now go on study leave as they prepare for their final examinations. We shall miss their presence on campus, but will look forward to celebrating with them during their graduation in May.

High School students this month have continued to develop their sense of community through service, the arts, sport and genuine academic effort. Our Law Academy enjoyed a special trip to the Supreme Court, where they were able to observe a real trial in action. Our dancers performed the wonderful 'Last Dance' show and of course we got to enjoy our annual Battle of the Bands which just keeps getting bigger and better each year! Before the April break students got to focus on mindfulness and happiness and organised a range of events for Well-Being week. These events form part of our Positive Education program distributed through the Homepage Program, which help support student wellbeing and development.

April is our dedicated Earth Month and the students have and will continue to participate in activities to highlight our collective responsibility to protect our environment. Supported and encouraged by parents, community engagement can make your children's time at OFS truly positive and fulfilling.

As always if you wish to discuss anything about the High School, please do not hesitate to contact me.

([vanessa\\_mconville@ofs.edu.sg](mailto:vanessa_mconville@ofs.edu.sg)).

Vanessa McConville  
High School Principal



## IB Diploma News – Education For Life

### CHATGPT AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN ASSESSMENT AND EDUCATION

There has been much discussion in the media and in the education community about the effect and the issues created by the arrival of AI tools such as ChatGPT. While these tools have no real "intelligence" (ChatGPT does not know what a word "means" but it knows how it is used), they can very effectively answer questions, write articles, summarize information, and more. Given these capabilities, students can use this technology to help answer questions and write essays. Naturally, this raises concerns for the integrity of student assessment.

Below is the school's current guidance on ChatGPT, which is in line with the IB. Amendments may be made in the future as teachers and students learn to use this technology in effective yet ethical ways.

Students may use ChatGPT or other AI tools as a tool for research.

- Any material from ChatGPT/AI tool that is included in student work must be properly cited -- both via in-text citations and in the bibliography. The citation should also contain the prompt given to the AI tool and the date the AI generated the text.
- If material is taken word-for-word from ChatGPT/AI tool, it must be put in quotes.
- Turnitin and other similar platforms will be used to track and identify the use of AI created work.
- Under no circumstances can students submit work from ChatGPT/AI tools as their own work.

### GRADE 12

Grade 12 students who are registered for any IB DP examination in May 2023 will be receiving an IB Examination Pack via the post. This examination information package contains: personal examination schedule, examination regulations, requests for IB transcripts to universities and PIN codes for viewing their results in July. The PIN code information is the same code used for uploading IB coursework.

All IB transcript requests for universities need to be returned to Ms. Maureen Goh by the published deadlines. Students are encouraged to take this opportunity to have their IB Diploma results released direct and free to six universities. Once the results are released in July, the school is no longer able to help with this and students will need to organise and pay for this service themselves.

Mr. Riordan, the IB DP Coordinator will be holding an assembly with the Grade 12 in P1 on Wednesday, 12 April, to go over all the IB DP Exam information with students.

Study leave for IB examinations: The last formal day for Grade 12 IB courses is Thursday, 20 April 2023. Grade 12 students taking Grade 11 IB courses are expected to attend all lessons for those classes until 12 May 2023, unless they have an IB examination during that particular lesson.

### GRADE 11

In TOK, the Grade 11s are applying critical thinking skills and key concepts to their chosen artefacts for their final submission of the TOK Exhibition, due at the end of April. This is the first official IB TOK submission for this cohort and is worth 33% of their overall TOK grade. The draft submissions were filled with a huge variety of fascinating and thought-provoking artefacts and ideas. We wish them all the best with the final submission.

As always, if you have any questions about IB do not hesitate to contact me at school.

(Phillip Riordan – IB DP Coordinator)

### UPCOMING HIGH SCHOOL EVENTS

29 April: Global Picnic

12 – 23 May: Semester 2 Examinations

26 May: HS Graduation



## Junior High School News

Though the academic year is slowly drawing to a close, our Grade 10 students are still having to push themselves as the external IGCSE examinations are now in full swing. During lesson time, teachers are still preparing and reviewing topics with your child so that they may reach their full potential. For many of our students, the pressure is high, so please do communicate with us, should you or your child need additional support or guidance.

Grade 9 students have now begun their MYP Personal Project: the culminating project designed to showcase their talents, Approaches to Learning skills and growth as IB MYP learners. Choosing a learning and product goal can be challenging, so that is why we strongly recommend that your child chooses a topic or area that they are passionate about. Please take the time to discuss their plans and remind them to communicate with their teacher supervisor who will be working alongside them throughout this journey.

All important information regarding the IGCSE final examinations and the MYP Personal Project can be found on the OFS Dashboard. However, if you have additional questions or cannot find what you are looking for, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at [<nathalie\\_bbrough@ofs.edu.sg>](mailto:nathalie_bbrough@ofs.edu.sg) if you have any questions about our programs or the upcoming IGCSE examinations.

*(Nathalie Buckland-Brough – High School Deputy Principal and IB MYP/IGCSE Coordinator)*

## Student Voice

In Student Voice, we focused on launching this semester with another memorable school dance! This time, we moved the location to the auditorium to allow more space to dance to the up beat music. It was a night that many people were sure to remember and one we hope to recreate next semester. Soon, it was time to say goodbye to our senior presidents, Mihika Mishra and Joshua Ho and welcome our new student body vice president and president, Amish Gupta and Parthivi Koganti who are already hard at work implementing their campaign proposals. The Grade 10 Course Selection Information Session was the first event we hosted without the seniors and many 10th graders were able to clear their doubts on their IB DP courses for next year by talking to the 11th graders. Look out for more events from Student Voice!

*(Sanjita Verkot – Grade 11)*



## Academic Advisors' News

### GRADE 12 STUDENTS

- We will be conducting exit interviews after Spring Break. Students, please complete the survey before coming in for your appointment.
- All the time spent filling in application forms, and gathering documents has paid off, as university offers have started to come in. Students should update BridgeU accordingly. It is important that students make themselves aware of their individual deadlines for acceptance or rejection of offers.
- Before making firm decisions, students are strongly advised to meet and discuss with their AAs.
- Students will be receiving numerous emails regarding their upcoming Graduation. It is vital that students check their OFS email accounts regularly.

### GRADE 11 STUDENTS

- We have just completed our individual meetings with the whole Class of 2024. Students, it is important you narrow down your study area interests and research schools you are interested in applying to.
- The first stage of this process is to attend the online country-specific University Q&A Evenings on Tuesday, 18 and Wednesday, 19 April 2023. We hope these evenings will be useful when deciding which countries you are considering applying to.
- Students who might need IELTS/TOEFL, SAT or ACT scores must start planning when to take them.

### GRADE 10 STUDENTS

- Students have completed their course selections. We had an opportunity to meet many students and parents/guardians over the Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences and during Curriculum Night and were available for consultation during this crucial period to ensure that students are taking the right combination of classes for their unique situation.
- In some cases where teachers have expressed concerns about a student taking a particular class, you might hear from an AA to discuss options.

### TO ALL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

- With the academic year closing, we know that some students will be leaving Singapore to return home or attend schools in other countries. To assist you in the process, we will provide all students with final transcripts and confirmation letters stating the dates you attended OFS and your status at the end of this year.
- We ask that you inform us of your requests as soon as possible so that we may begin preparing all of your documents which will be ready for collection on Friday, 9 June 2023.

*(Tamana Chanrai-Hills – Academic Advisor)*

## Beach Clean Up

A group of HS students go every Friday to clean up the beach at Pasir Ris. They work hard to clear up even the small bits of microplastic that are so harmful to sea life. Good job team!

*(Arin Mares-Manton – CAS Coordinator)*



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## Humanities Field Trip

On Wednesday, 8 March and Thursday, 16 March 2023, Humanities students from SPP Level 3 and from the Grade 9 MYP course visited the National Museum of Singapore. The purpose of the trips was to build on their studies about Singapore's history and to give students the opportunity to investigate historical sources first hand.

SPP Level 3 students were able to study in detail, artefacts relating to their coursework on early Singapore, such as Chinese pottery and Javanese jewellery discovered by archeologists; demonstrating Singapore's importance as a trading settlement in the 14th century.

For the MYP Grade 9 students, studying Singaporean history after 1965, students got to examine evidence first hand of the challenges faced by Singapore after independence and the actions taken to address them. In particular, students were able to study artefacts relating to the creation of National Service, the industrialisation program of the 1960s and the Government's efforts to



address housing shortages and over-population. The students were then able to use some of these historical sources as evidence in their class presentations.

In addition to the Historical Gallery, students were also able to enjoy exhibitions showcasing artwork of Singaporean flora from the 19th century, living conditions during the Japanese occupation in World War Two, growing up in Singapore in the 1950s and 60s, and cultural developments in the 1970s and 80s.

This was a wonderful opportunity for students to study outside of the classroom, bringing Singapore history to life and giving students a valuable perspective on the experiences of people living in Singapore through the ages.

*(Timothy Green – SPP & Humanities Teacher)*

## From The Parent Association (PA) Desk

### The 31st OFS Global Picnic

The Global Picnic is an international fair where all the families in the school get together to celebrate being part of an international community. This year's Global Picnic is very special as it will be a full scale event after three years of absence. It will take place on **Saturday, 29 April 2023**, in our campus.

Come along with your family and enjoy a day of free entertainment, music, dances, demonstrations, bouncy castles and lots of food and refreshments. We have food from around the world for you to sample and plenty of things to see and do.

Your active participation and pride in your culture is what makes this jamboree a unique experience for the OFS family. So do bring along your camera, sunhat, best smile and not forgetting your OFS Security Pass. Thank you and we look forward to seeing you on that day!



## HERstory club

On Wednesday, 8 March 2023, the HERstory club at OFS collaborated with United Women Singapore to conduct a financial literacy workshop for the students. This workshop provided many young female students with valuable information on basic savings skills, investment, banking, and alternative means of income generation. The workshop was highly beneficial and rewarding, equipping us with skills and knowledge that would typically be learned only after starting work. Through group activities, constructive conversations, and teamwork, we even brainstormed potential investment opportunities suitable for young women. Overall, this workshop was an enriching experience that enhanced our financial literacy and prepared us for future investments – the HERstory club is so thankful for this opportunity and experience.

*(Veda Warriar – Grade 11)*

## The Last Dance

On Friday, 24 March, High School Dance presented a diverse show consisting of the students' choreographic and performance works from their MYP and Diploma Dance classes. The show, entitled 'The Last Dance', included original choreographies from all of the departing Grade 12 Dancers. The MYP and Grade 11 dancers presented a variety of performance dancers, showing their improved technical skills and creative abilities. 'The Last Dance' was, with regret, my final Dance show at OFS, but it has been a joy to grow the department over the last ten years. I believe that Dance has the power to connect and energise communities and I feel that HS Dance has fulfilled that role in a variety of ways.

*(Heather Garside – Dance Teacher)*





## OFS takes it all: 74th National School Individual Chess Championship 2023

A record-breaking number of 1364 students successfully competed in the recent 74th National School Individual Chess Championship. After gruelling nine rounds of rapid chess, the winners in the various age-groups were determined:

OFS' best performing HS players were **Saachi Nishandar, Sumiran Bansal, Liu Zichen** and **Shaulov Tomer** in the U16 category. In the U20 category **Ilyas Kuttykadam, Samay Sachar** and **Kabir Singh** were strongest.

OFS was the most successful International School throughout all 12 categories, earning 22 medals and trophies against the best chess players in Singapore. Congratulations to all 146 OFS players for giving their very best and taking this important milestone.

*(Philipp Ziegler and Dijana Dengler – Chess Teachers)*



## IGCSE Physical Education Coursework

As Quarter 3 comes to a close, our IGCSE PE students finish the final touches filming the 4 sports of their choice. Some of the sports our students will showcase includes Cross-Country running, Soccer, Volleyball, Weight Training, Badminton, Netball, Basketball and Swimming.

*(Anne Goh – Subject Area Leader: Physical Education)*



## OFS Tigers Swim Team – Singapore National Age Groups

The OFS Tigers Swim Team recently competed for 9 grueling days, taking part in a total of 137 events! There were significant improvements in personal best times achieved and school records being broken whilst competing amongst the very best of the best swimmers in Singapore. Impressively, the Grade 10 swimmers managed to compete at "The Nationals" whilst also sitting their IGCSE Mock Exams. Their results they have achieved have been equally magnificent with almost all swimmers achieving 6s, 7s and some – even a few 8s in their academics.

**Jill Meines (Grade 9)** raced in 15 events and was spectacular in being crowned

- **National Champion with the Gold the 1500m Freestyle**

Jill also swam to

- **Silver Medallist in the 400m Individual Medley "B" – Final**
- **Bronze Medallist in the 800m Freestyle – Super Final**
- **5th in the 200m Breaststroke – "B" Final**
- **6th in the 50m Freestyle – "B" Final**
- **and among the Top 10 in the country on a wide range of events**

**Yawen Yang (Grade 10)** finished amongst the Top 5 in Singapore on both the 400m Individual Medley and 1500m Freestyle, while **Mykhail Denysenko (Grade 10)** and **Uday Suri (Grade 10)** were amongst the Top 10 finishers on the 1500m and 800m Freestyle.

### OFS TIGERS CAPTAINS – SEASON 3

Congratulations and good luck to the following High School students nominated as OFS Tigers Captains of their respective competitive sports for Season 3.

#### Badminton:

- **16U Boys – Arsh AGARWAL**
- **16U Girls – Qiantong (Jenny) ZHOU**
- **19U Boys – Itish JASWAL**
- **19U Girls – Pahal CHADHA**

#### Gymnastics:

- **Asha Balaji**

#### Softball:

- **19U Captain – Antariksh Sharma**
- **19 Vice-Captain – Het Mehta**

#### Swimming:

- **Captain – Jiunn Hern Lim**
- **Vice-Captain – Mykhail Denysenko**
- **Captain – Soumya Bhagavatula**
- **Vice-Captain – Lening Liang**

#### Track and Field:

- **19U Boys – Shashwat Bhandari**
- **19U Girls – Sarasa Nishiumura**
- **16U Girls – Omer Segal**

*(Gil Levy – Head of Competitive Sport)*

