



# Overseas Family School High School

**Master Policy:**

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

## Principal's Message

As I compose this message, our High School students have successfully completed their first semester examinations. It has, therefore, been a busy time for those students and it is extremely important that they can now look forward to the upcoming break, take a respite from screens, and explore constructive ways to relax and unwind.

The school has been abuzz with excitement this month, particularly during our Internationalism Celebration 'CultureFest' held in our auditorium. The students showcased outstanding performances of cultural music and dance, and it was a lovely opportunity to again connect with our parent community.

Reflecting on the action-packed first semester, the students engaged in a variety of activities, including the Grade 9 Camp, Personal Project and Extended Essay Exhibitions, PSAT, UKMT, MUN Conferences, TEDx, Unplugged, Chess Tournaments, OFS Tigers Sports events, the School Dance, and so much more!

As January approaches, changes are on the horizon for our student body. SPP students will move up a level or join the mainstream, while others will embark on new adventures around the world. We extend our best wishes to all these students for their contributions to Overseas Family School and look forward to welcoming new families to our community.

Wishing everyone a safe and joyful semester break! We eagerly anticipate collaborating with you again starting Monday, 8 January 2024, with a plethora of exciting programs and projects in store to enrich our students' learning and foster growth in the new year!

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to email me ([adam\\_ashton@ofs.edu.sg](mailto:adam_ashton@ofs.edu.sg)).

**Adam Ashton**  
High School Principal



## IB Diploma News – Education For Life

### GRADE 12

Below are some important dates for students in semester two:

- The final submission of the Theory of Knowledge essay is due on Friday, 12 January 2024. Students were given formal written feedback on their draft submissions in December.
- Completed Theory of Knowledge Essays and the Extended Essays will be submitted to IB online by late February 2024.
- IB Mock Examinations will be held from Monday, 26 February to Wednesday, 6 March 2024. The schedule will be available on the school website and students will receive an individual timetable. Language B Orals will also be timetabled after this time.
- IB Examination period: Wednesday, 24 April to Friday, 17 May 2024. Students doing full IB Diploma and/or a full Grade 12 course will have study leave from Wednesday, 17 April 2024.

### Extended Essay

During the Grade 12 assembly on 16 November 2023, we celebrated the submission of the completed Extended Essay. Mr. Lee Woollard, our Extended Essay Coordinator, congratulated students for their efforts in this aspect, and thanked all the EE supervisors for their guidance and support. In addition, some of our students received certificates for demonstrating excellent communication and research skills in the Extended Essay Exhibition.



### DP Corner Club

DP Corner, a club run by a group of Grade 12 students, successfully completed their CAS service engagement. They are commended for their enthusiasm and commitment in organising Grade 12 assemblies centered around student interest.

*From left to right: Suhani Potnis, Yuri Appadoo, Tylae De Moustier, Ishaan Narain, Ms. Trapti Trivedi, Pahwa Nisht, Saanvi Satpute, Grace Wong, Kamyia Jain, Komal Jeengar and Anushka Singh.*



## GRADE 11

### Extended Essay

The Extended Essay process formally started on Tuesday, 5 December 2023, with introductory subject seminars. All students will need to have selected their subject and topic in January 2024. They will be assigned a supervisor who will guide them through their EE journey.

### Creativity Activity and Service

By the end of Grade 11, students should have completed 2/3 of their CAS requirements. It is essential that students plan and select sufficient engagements in semester two to meet this target.

If you have any questions regarding the IB Diploma and courses, please feel free to contact me at the school or at my email address ([trapti\\_trivedi@ofs.edu.sg](mailto:trapti_trivedi@ofs.edu.sg)) and/or Mr. Woollard, IB DP Assistant Coordinator & Extended Essay Coordinator ([lee\\_woollard@ofs.edu.sg](mailto:lee_woollard@ofs.edu.sg)).

*(Trapti Trivedi – IB DP Coordinator)*

## Junior High School News

As we approach the midpoint of the academic year, it is time to reflect on the progress our students in Grades 9 and 10 have made since August. The International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program (IB MYP) has served as the foundation of their educational journey, fostering academic and holistic growth.

A highlight of these past few months has been witnessing the start of new connections and friendships among our students. These relationships go beyond the classroom, enriching their overall school experience.

Beyond academics, our students have thrived in various extracurricular activities, gaining new skills and discovering hidden talents. Whether it is through our Tigers teams, the arts, MUN or our community service activities, they have embraced opportunities that go beyond conventional learning. These experiences contribute significantly to their personal growth, nurturing well-rounded individuals ready to tackle challenges with resilience and confidence.

Students' dedication during the semester examinations is commendable, especially for Grade 9 students facing these assessments for the first time and Grade 10s bringing their seasoned approach in the second year. These experiences serve as invaluable preparation for the forthcoming external IGCSE examinations scheduled from April to June. The rigor of these examinations aligns perfectly with the high standards we hold at OFS, and we are confident in our students' abilities to rise to the occasion.

As we celebrate the achievements of our students and look ahead to a promising second semester, we would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a peaceful holiday season.

Should you have any questions about IB MYP or IGCSE, please do not hesitate to reach out to us at ([ab\\_palacios@ofs.edu.sg](mailto:ab_palacios@ofs.edu.sg)) or ([c\\_fuentestorruella@ofs.edu.sg](mailto:c_fuentestorruella@ofs.edu.sg)).

*(Aida Blat Palacios – Grade 10 Coordinator and IB MYP/IGCSE Coordinator and Clara Fuentes Torruella – Grade 9 Coordinator, Personal Project Coordinator and IB MYP/IGCSE Assistant Coordinator)*

## IB Evaluation

In September, OFS hosted a virtual International Baccalaureate (IB) Evaluation Visit. Our Middle Years Program (MYP) and Diploma Program (DP) for the IB are both evaluated every five years by a visiting team of educators. The visiting educators spoke with OFS leadership, teachers, students, and parents regarding the IB educational experience at OFS. The review highlighted that the IB philosophy and our school philosophy are closely aligned. We received great feedback and are excited to share the key findings with our community:

- The school's mission centers on fostering the lifelong learning of every member within the community through initiatives like establishing a Student Welfare and Learning Support Centre.
- A "worldwide family approach" permeates the school system, promoting diversity, critical thinking and lifelong learning so that students can function well in a globalised economy and a culturally diverse society.
- The school fosters an open culture for student-teacher discussions, where teachers guide students to explore areas of interest, reflect on learning, and collaborate with peers, enhancing personalised and meaningful learning experiences.
- The school thrives under dedicated leadership and IB coordinators, committed to high-quality professional learning, guidance, and support.
- Diverse subject options were introduced in both MYP and DP.
- The school provides extensive support for students and families making transitions into, and out of, the school and between programs and learning stages. This support is provided in the form of advice, counseling and information.

We would like to thank all the staff, parents and students who helped, either before and/or during the visit, to make it such a success.

*(Aida Blat Palacios – Grade 10 Coordinator and IB MYP/IGCSE Coordinator and Trapti Trivedi – Grade 12 Coordinator and IB DP Coordinator)*

## Academic Advisors Update

We are now processing applications that are going out to universities all over the world. Our students will get the results of their applications during the months from December 2023 to April 2024.

Several Grade 12 students have received and are preparing for interviews at Oxford, Cambridge and UK Medical and Vet programs. We have had some students already receiving offers from University of Twente (Psychology), HAN University of Applied Sciences (Communications), University of Manchester (Chemistry, Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Computer Science), Durham University (Education Studies), University of Bristol (Chemistry), Cardiff University (Biomedical Sciences) and others.

### PSAT Result

The PSAT (Preliminary SAT) was held on Tuesday, 24 October and results were available on 16 November. Our students outperformed global averages in both reading and mathematics. On average, our students scored 1177 out of 1520 across all grade levels, while the global average was 933 out of 1520. In reading, our school's average score was 573 out of 760, compared to a global average of 471. Similarly, in Mathematics, our students averaged 604 out of 760, while the global average was 463.

*(Tamana Chanrai-Hills – Academic Advisor)*

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## MUNOFS XVI (3 – 5 November 2023)

We find ourselves at the conclusion of yet another remarkable conference MUNOFS XVI, characterised by a diverse array of committees, including the new addition of the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organisation (UNPO). The tireless dedication of our Executive Committee and the exemplary leadership of our Secretary-General, Vivaan Kapoor, over the past year have been instrumental in the meticulous preparation and successful execution of this conference, which brought together more than 400 delegates across 13 committees.

This year, our commitment to expanding the international reach of our conference continued, as we welcomed additional schools from abroad into our MUNOFS family. Notable additions include Knox Grammar School from Australia, Brillantmont International from Switzerland, and Dunya IB School from Azerbaijan.

It is time to bid farewell to several of our Executive Committee members in Grade 12:

<b>Secretary-General:</b>	<b>Vivaan Kapoor</b>	<b>Deputy Conference Manager:</b>	<b>Aashman Jain</b>
<b>Deputy-Secretary-General:</b>	<b>Adya Sharma</b>	<b>Club Manager:</b>	<b>Itish Jaiswal</b>
<b>Conference Manager:</b>	<b>Melisse Mathews</b>		

Their invaluable contributions, hard work and unwavering dedication has left an indelible mark on MUNOFS.

I would personally like to thank Vivaan for his passion, dedication and devotion over the past four years. It has been a privilege to witness his remarkable MUN journey and substantial growth since entering the High School in Grade 9.

*(Neisha Pratt – Deputy Principal and MUN Coordinator)*

## From The Parent Association (PA) Desk

As Semester 1 draws to a close, we would like to take this opportunity to express how grateful we are for all your support. Happy holidays to all of you, and may your new year be filled with happiness and success.

We look forward to seeing all of you again in January 2024. If you are travelling, have a fun trip! Stay safe and stay healthy.

## Cambodia Outreach Club



The Cambodia Outreach Club met during Friday lunch breaks to produce teaching aids for the ODA educators who teach in rural Siem Reap. Our club members have been very busy planning and making flash cards and hand-puppets, all of which will be sent with the next OFS service team who visit Cambodia. The members showed excellent commitment in playing their part towards achieving quality education, the fourth of seventeen sustainable development goals, established by the United Nations in September 2015. Sneha Srikrishnan and Katyayani Singh, the co-leaders of the club, and all the members, are commended for their fine efforts.

*(Eugene Burger – Club Supervisor)*



## Frantic Assembly Theatre Workshop



On Friday, 3 November, the IB DP Theatre and Dance students were invited to participate in a fun and innovative movement-based workshop led by renowned UK professional theatre company, Frantic Assembly, in conjunction with Singapore Repertory Theatre (SRT). Students attended a 3-hour physical theatre workshop, developing physical theatre skills and lifting techniques, that culminated in being able to create a meaningful movement based performance piece.

*(Louise Ballantyne – IB DP and MYP Theatre Teacher)*





## UKMT Senior Mathematics Challenge – Wednesday, 4 October 2023

72 Grade 11 and 12 students participated in the 2023 online version of the UKMT Senior Mathematics Challenge. Our students once again performed at an exceptionally high level with over 20% of OFS students achieving the coveted Gold Level Award (world average approx. 9%), and over 90% achieving an award. Overall 16 students achieved the top Gold Level Certificate, 26 achieved a Silver Level and 23 Bronze Level. A special mention to this year's top scorer, Grade 12 student Tanish Bengani, who was highest in the school with an outstanding score of 120/125. Honourable mentions also to **Junta Hirayama (Grade 12)** and **Towako Honda (Grade 11)**, who both achieved very impressive scores of over 100. Well done to all those who participated, improving their problem solving techniques and critical thinking skills in the process. If you fancy a go at the 2023 Challenge, please follow the link below: <https://ukmt.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/SMC-2023-Paper.pdf>

*(Colin Hornell – IB Mathematics Subject Area Leader)*



## Diwali Celebration

High School students celebrated Diwali in November with a fun event at lunch. Students enjoyed listening to music, painting pottery, applying henna in traditional designs, and sampling some traditional Indian sweets!

## Beach Clean Up

Every Friday, a group of High School students head down to Pasir Ris Beach to conduct a beach clean up. Students work hard to clear the beaches of the plastics and rubbish they find there. They know that not only are these items bad for the environment, but can also be harmful to sea life. Singapore beaches are also home to the unique mangrove trees that shelter many species of plants and animals. Plastics and rubbish can get caught in the long roots of the mangroves and can make these areas uninhabitable for the various plants and animals that call that habitat home. The High School students are happy to be able to do their part to help clear the beaches and save the marine life.

*(Arin Mares-Manton – CAS & Events Coordinator)*



## Unplugged 2023

On Wednesday, 15 November, we were captivated by our very own singer song-writers and musicians in this year's Unplugged event. The musicians were from all grade levels and entertained us with some smooth classics from different musical genres. We had some arrangements of 'Can't Help Falling in Love' by Elvis, 'Love Yourself' by Justin Bieber, 'Somewhere Only We Know' by Keane, 'Pray' by Sam Smith, 'High and Dry' by Radiohead, 'Rewrite the Stars' from The Greatest Showman, and ended with everyone singing and bopping to 'Never Gonna Give You Up' by Rick Astley.

We were lucky enough to also hear some original compositions created by the performers. Kylene sang 'Into Your Arms' and 'Lyla', which were both mesmerising and captivating. Akaash sang an original song composed by his brother's band called 'Some Day'. This also was very moving and lyrical. The event was hosted in S06-07 and the fairy lights and candles added to the chill vibes. It was so lovely to hear and see so many students perform with such clarity and confidence. Here's to Unplugged 2023 and all the fabulous performers! Well done, musicians: Charvi, Diya, Rohan, Aishwarya, Jane, Anna, Veda, Myra, Arshi, Adwita, Jan, Peter, Stella, Sofia, Kylene and Akaash!



*(Sarah Malloch – The Arts Subject Area Leader)*



## OFS Tigers

OFS Tigers High School Teams have been sensational in Season 1 of the ACSIS League and ACSIS Championships. Competing for the very first time in OFS history, the 19U Volleyball Girls Team has been crowned ACSIS Champions, while the 16U Girls Team took the ACSIS bronze medals while the 19U Boys finished in a solid 4th place. The Boys 16U Football Team are silver medalists, with their second place finish, while the Boys 19U Football Team were impressive in their improvement from last season and finished in a hard fought 3rd place overall with the Bronze medal. High School Swimmers, Jill Meines, Naya Verma, Jiunn Hern Lim and Mykhailo Denysenko were extraordinary at The Singapore Swimming Nationals, which were held during the High School exam period and saw them qualify for multiple finals and place among the Top 10, Top 5 and Top 3 positions within the country. With Season 2 ACSIS underway – the bar has been set for our High School Teams competing in Basketball, Rugby, Touch, Tennis and Swimming. Let's go Tigers!

*(Gil Levy – Head of Competitive Sport)*

