



Overseas Family School High School

Master Policy:

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

Principal's Message

A warm welcome to all our new students and families who have arrived this semester and welcome back to the rest of our school community. "Gong Xi Fa Cai" to all our community who celebrate Lunar New Year.

We have had an incredibly exciting start to the second semester as we collaborated with the Sail Grand Prix Inspire team providing our students with the unique experience of attending special STEM workshops with the Sail GP teams at their race technology centers in Changi. Our students not only learned about cutting edge boat technology, but were able to apply this knowledge by designing their own special F50 boats. Furthermore, we received a special visit on campus by the athletes from the sail race teams Great Britain, New Zealand and USA. Hannah Mills (2 x Gold Medal Sailing Olympian and 2021 World's Best Sailor) gave a speech to our students outlining the importance of self-belief, resilience and determination. As part of our special collaboration with the Sail Grand Prix our sustainability group got special access to the race village during the event and ran a special tent promoting clean oceans (Sustainability Goal 14). Creating a range of activities the students outlined the issue of microplastics, advocated alternatives to single-use plastic and asked spectators to make plastic-free pledges in return for a sustainably sourced bamboo straw. The Sail Grand Prix press team interviewed our students live on the big race events screens where they again promoted clean ocean initiatives. Needless to say I was extremely proud of how well they represented the school at such a special event.

Looking forward we have our MUN students attending the Washington MUN Conference as well as our Geographers completing fieldwork in Barcelona. Learning experiences outside the classroom are extremely important in a child's learning and we will continue to work on creating such events and collaboration throughout the coming years.

Aside from these activities the second semester is always very busy academically for our students, as they prepare for IB DP and IB MYP final assessments, as well as their external IB DP and IGCSE examinations. I know they will appreciate the support of both parents and teachers as many of them approach their mocks and final examinations. Please remember to call upon our Student Welfare Advisors if your child/ward needs any strategies to help manage what for some can be a stressful time. We are always here to help!

Finally, as always, if you have anything that you would like to discuss, please do not hesitate to contact me at school by email (vanessa_mconville@ofs.edu.sg) or by phone (6738 0211).



Vanessa McConville
High School Principal



IB Diploma News – Education For Life

Welcome to 2023. I hope that you all had an enjoyable time and the chance to relax. Your child's Semester 1 report will have been sent out in January. We ask that you take the time to discuss the report with your child, to celebrate their strengths and help them to develop plans to improve in any areas of weakness.

GRADE 12

This is the last semester of your child's secondary schooling. As such, it can be a stressful time with examinations fast approaching. Please encourage and support a balance of activities throughout this time to enhance and maintain well-being. Be Well, Do Well.

- The final deadline for the Theory of Knowledge essay is Friday, 17 February, 2022.
- IB Mock Examinations will be held from **27 February – 8 March 2023**. The schedule will be available on the school website and students will receive an individual timetable.
- Language B IB Final Orals will also be timetabled in the weeks between 20 March 2023 – 29 March 2023.
- IB Examination period: 28 April – 19 May 2023.

GRADE 11

- **Extended Essay:** This process started last year in December 2022. Students should have selected their subject and topic early in January 2023 as part of this process. Students will be now be assigned supervisors and will meet with them in late January/February.

On Thursday, 9 February, Grade 11 students will attend a subject based seminar on research skills for their Extended Essay and Internal Assessment requirements.

- **CAS:** Clubs and activities will start after the Lunar New Year break. 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 activities in semester two to meet this target.

We wish all of our students the best for Semester 2.

(Phillip Riordan – IB DP Coordinator)

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Progress/Interim reports posted home: 21 February 2023

IB Diploma Mock Examinations: 27 February – 8 March 2023

Parent-Student-Teacher Conferences: 2 and 3 March 2023 all day; 1 March and 6 March 2023 evening. Format for this event will be announced.

IGCSE Mock Examinations: 7 – 17 March 2023



Junior High School News

Students in Grade 10 are now in the final stages of the registration process for the IGCSE examinations. From 7 to 17 March 2023, we will have our IGCSE Mock examinations; these are run as per the Cambridge regulations. You will receive the examinations your child has been registered for, as well as the mock examination timetable in the post.

Feedback from these examinations will allow teachers to thoroughly prepare students for the final examinations, give them a clearer idea of their forecast IGCSE grades and review examination techniques. In an effort to alleviate student workload, the mock examination results will count as the semester 2 examination grade (in their G2 subjects).

It is worth noting that in the second semester, many subject areas offer additional support/revision sessions during lunchtime, to assist students with refining their understanding of IGCSE content as a whole, but also reviewing the content that was taught in Grade 9. All students registered for IGCSE subjects are encouraged to make use of these additional support sessions.

Presently, on yours and your child's OFS dashboard you will see the final IGCSE examination schedule. Families are encouraged to check the calendar carefully as the written IGCSE examinations for OFS run from 26 April through to 6 June 2023.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about our programs or the up-coming IGCSE examinations.

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

Academic Advisors Update

GRADE 12 PROGRESS

Semester 1 is always a busy semester for our Grade 12 students as they complete their University applications whilst managing their studies. However, their hard work is paying off, and even at this early stage of the process, students have already received acceptances from great institutions such as New York University ED1, Northeastern University ED1, Case Western Reserve University, Whitworth University, University of Edinburgh, University of Warwick, the University of Manchester, Queen Mary University of London, University of Glasgow, University of St. Andrew's ... amongst others. Most decisions from universities (particularly from the US) will not be received until March 2023, but we are very proud of their success! Students have already started applying to Singapore and European universities, and we will continue to support those applications throughout Semester 2.

GRADE 11

With Grade 12 students well on the way with their University applications, our attention now focuses on our Grade 11 students. Students will start attending appointments with their Academic Advisor (AA) to plan their future goals, courses and university/college applications. We advise students to research all possibilities open to them to make the most out of this meeting. This is the time to get questions answered and learn about available pathways.

GRADE 10

Grade 10 students are in the process of thinking about course options for Grade 11. Your AA will be available to see you during Parent-Student-Teacher Conferences to discuss any questions you may have about your options. Please make sure you tick the AA box when selecting your appointments. We advise parents/guardians to attend the curriculum night to understand the course topics and units their child/ward will study if he/she elects for that subject.

(Tamana Chanrai-Hills – Academic Advisor)

NTUC Nursing Volunteer

Our High School students spread some holiday cheer last month at NTUC Health Nursing Home (Pasir Ris). Our students held a tree decorating contest and shared some Christmas treats. The High School choir sang some carols and there was even a visit from Santa to pass out some goodie bags.

(Arin Mares-Manton – CAS Coordinator)



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SPP Celebration December 2022



On Friday, 9 December 2022, Level 3 students from Grades 9, 10 and 11 came together to celebrate the completion of their time in the Study Preparation Program before they join mainstream classes this semester. In front of SPP teachers and other staff, two students, Miyagawa Koki from Grade 11 and Liu Mingxin from Grade 10 gave wonderful speeches on behalf of their classmates about their experiences in SPP before all the students received their certificates from Ms. McConville. It was a privilege to be part of the students' SPP journey and we look forward to seeing all of them as they start their new mainstream classes.

(Timothy Green – SPP & Humanities Teacher)



Student Voice

Student Voice had an eventful semester last year with December to Remember being a memorable event for students to relax and enjoy after their exam. Candy grams were delivered to students (and teachers!) from their peers with thoughtful and kind messages. On Thursday, 15 December, Student Voice members went around to different classrooms to share the holiday spirit by singing famous Christmas carols to their fellow classmates with enthusiastic responses from teachers. On the same day, during High School lunch time, members set up a surprise bake stand for High Schoolers to feast upon with delicious pies and brownies. To our delight, by the time the bell rang for class, the entire bake stand was cleared!

(Grade 11 Sanjita Verkot – on behalf of Student Voice)



'IN' Art Exhibition 2022–23

The annual 'IN' Art Exhibition Opening, held at the Australian High Commission in Singapore, was once again a night to remember. 'IN' 2022 is a live exhibition showcasing students' artwork from over 14 participating International Schools across the island. We are beyond excited and proud to share that 10 of our Grade 12 IB Art students are representing Overseas Family School at the exhibition and currently have their beautiful artworks on display. 'IN' 2022 is all about inclusion, diversity, and appreciating pieces from all over the world, created by talented students from a range of different nationalities and backgrounds. This experience for our Grade 12 IB students was unforgettable and we believe that it serves as an excellent motivator and inspiration for all of our current High School Art students, regardless of age or grade level.

(Maja Vidanovic – Art Teacher)





From The Parent Association (PA) Desk

GLOBAL PICNIC 2023

The annual Global Picnic, an international fair where all the families in the school get together to celebrate being part of an international culture, will take place on Saturday, 29 April 2023.

We are in the process of contacting Country Coordinators of your nationality. A Country Coordinator works with the Parent Association and organises other parents of the same nationality to contribute to the food and activities tables.

The first meeting for the Country Coordinators will be on **Thursday, 16 February 2023**, from **10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.** in **PA Lounge**, on Level 4 of the Administration Block.

Please join us if you would like to volunteer to represent your country.

If you have any queries, please do write to us at parent_association@ofs.edu.sg. Stay safe and stay healthy.

OFS Tigers

Congratulations to our OFS Tigers Captains and Vice-Captains who will be leading our Season 2 sports teams!



BASKETBALL

- Girls 19U Captain: Adya Sharma
- Girls 19U Vice Captain: Jaehyun Lim
- Boys 19U Captain: Naael Mufti
- Boys 19U Vice Captain: Zane Bharucha
- Boys 16U Captain: Joshua Li

GYMNASTICS

- Girls Team Captain: Asha Balaji

RUGBY

- Boys 19U Captain: Harley Mackinnon
- Boys 19U Vice Captain: Leonardo Torchetti
- Captain 16U: Jordan Spencer

SWIMMING

- Girls Team Captain: Soumya Bhagavatula
- Girls Team Vice Captain: Lening Liang
- Boys Team Captain: Jiunn Hern Lim

TENNIS

- Girls Team Captain: Liron Loiter
- Boys Team Captain: Savit Agarwal

TOUCH FOOTBALL

- Captain: Rhea Singh
- Vice Captain: Kashish Das

(Gil Levy – Head of Competitive Sports)

Connecting concepts to skill development



'This quarter, students from the MYP PHE course explored the ideas of Movement & Adaptation through peer coaching during the Net Games unit. Students from the IGCSE PE course started the year developing their Track & Field skills and Swimming techniques, alongside with Sports Psychology lessons in the classroom. Scan the QR Code to watch our students in action!

(Anne Goh – Physical Health Education SAL)



Sail Grand Prix

