



# Overseas Family School High School

**Master Policy:**

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

## Principal's Message

March is a particularly busy academic month for students and teachers. Grade 10 and Grade 12 students finish off their course work for external moderation, and sit mock examinations. Obviously these examinations are excellent for providing a key indicator to the students about what still needs to be achieved before the actual examinations in May 2023.



March is also the time when students in Grade 8, Grade 10 and non-IB Diploma Grade 11 will be completing their course selections online in preparation for the next academic year. I hope that the parent and student meetings to explain our curriculum programs available in Grade 9 and Grade 11 helped you to make an informed decision of your child/ward's schooling at OFS in the next academic year.

This month also saw us welcome back our MUN students from Washington, who not only got to attend the world's largest MUN conference, but also had a special tour of the Whitehouse amongst other famous landmarks. I would like to thank our organisers, Ms. Neisha Pratt and Ms. Hanna Ucko Neill for their continued work in organising such amazing life experiences for our students.

As you can see from the photos and articles every month, numerous students have been representing the school in sporting events, arts activities, community service opportunities and sports trips. Some of these are proposed, organised and led by students. All High School students are expected to take part in both community service and extracurricular activities – they are an integral part of learning.

It is vital that the education of your child or ward is a partnership between you, the teachers and administrators. Therefore, as always, if you have anything that you would like to discuss, particularly in relation to subject choices for next academic year, please do not hesitate to contact me at school by email ([vanessa\\_mcconville@ofs.edu.sg](mailto:vanessa_mcconville@ofs.edu.sg)) or by phone (**6738 0211**).

Vanessa McConville  
High School Principal

### UPCOMING EVENTS IN MARCH 2023

7–17 March: IGCSE Mock Examinations

20 – 24 March: High School Art Exhibition

22 March: 3rd Quarter reports posted home

## IB Diploma News –Education For Life

### GRADE 12

- IB DP examinations: The first day for Grade 12 IB Examinations is **Friday, 28 April 2023**.

Grade 12 IB classes will not run from Friday, 21 April 2023 to the end of the academic year. Teachers of these classes will still be available for student support during the usual scheduled times for their classes.

Grade 12 students taking Grade 11 courses are expected to attend all lessons for their Grade 11 classes, unless they have an IB DP examination at that particular time.

Students who are registered for any May 2023 IB DP examinations will be receiving an examination information package containing: personal examination schedule, examination regulations, requests for IB transcripts to universities. It is best if any IB transcript release requests for universities are submitted to Ms. Maureen Goh before students go on study leave. However, these documents can be submitted up until Monday, 29 May 2023.

### GRADE 11

- The Extended Essay (EE) is underway. Students should have done their first Reflection session and submitted their Final Research Question. Once approval for their question is received, students should begin their research, reading and/or data gathering as appropriate.
- Please encourage your child/ward to be diligent in using proper referencing when undertaking research and to consult the High School Library website when in doubt. Any work that is in violation of the Academic Honesty policy will not be submitted for grading to the IB.
- CAS: All CAS activities undertaken during June/July need to be pre-approved by Ms. Arin Mares-Manton.
- Please keep in mind that in some subjects, internal assessment (IA) work is already being carried out, which will contribute directly to their IB final grade. The key to success is consistent study routines and organisation/planning to meet deadlines.

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

*(Phillip Riordan – IB DP Coordinator)*



*A Midsummer Night's Dream*



## Junior High School News

### FOCUSING ON OUR GRADE 10 STUDENTS

Grade 10 IGCSE registrations are now completed and the Mock IGCSE examinations will soon commence. Once the Mocks are over, teachers will continue to assist the Grade 10 students by giving them feedback on how to improve when answering specific IGCSE questions as well as reviewing examination techniques.

It is worth noting that in the second semester, many subjects 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.

The OFS IGCSE External 2023 Examination Schedule (April through to June) is also viewable on yours and your child's OFS Dashboard.

This time of the year is also an important one for our Grade 10s because they have to make important decisions regarding their IB Diploma Subject Choices. It is an opportunity for them to reflect; they are urged to consider their passions, areas of

strength, and to communicate with their teachers and Academic Advisor regarding options that will support their future endeavours. For your reference, all of our Subject Area Curriculum Sheets are available on your OFS Dashboard.

### FOCUSING ON OUR GRADE 9 STUDENTS

This time of the year brings about new challenges and wonderful opportunities for our Grade 9 mainstream students as we embark on our culminating MYP Personal Project (PP) journey. With a combination of workshops, PP Student Support and a parent evening led by our MYP PP Coordinator, Ms. Charlotte Kautt, we hope to start the process as smoothly as possible. The PP is when we see our students grow through the application of the Approaches to Learning (ATL) and the development of them as an IB Learner.

Feel free to visit the PP website available on the OFS Dashboard for all pertinent information and examples.

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

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

## Academic Advisors Update

### GRADE 12 UNIVERSITY ACCEPTANCE OFFER



Many of our Grade 12 students are still receiving acceptances. We are very proud to announce Yeo Eun (Jasmine) Yoon has been accepted into Johns Hopkins University. Congratulations, Jasmine!

### UNIVERSITY INFORMATION SESSION IN APRIL

We will hold online country-specific university information sessions in April if your child is considering applying to Australia, Canada, the UK, the US, Korea, Japan or any English Language University in Asia. More information about the dates and times will become available. These sessions are open to students and parents from all grades, especially Grade 11s.

### UNIVERSITY INFORMATION SESSIONS

Since semester two, several universities have visited us (EU Business School, University of Adelaide, Queens University, and St. George's University of London). We highly encourage all students and parents to take advantage of these sessions even if they are not thinking of applying to that specific university, as they will be able to find out more about a specific program they are interested in as well as ask questions about entry requirements such as the Personal Statement for the UK and other supplementary essays required for the US.

*(Tamana Chanrai-Hills – Academic Advisor)*

## Book Week 6 –10 February

On the 10 February the OFS High School halls came alive with book week characters. I did not think that we could top last year's efforts but teaching staff really got involved. In particular, the English/Language A/SPP department combined forces and Ms. Stewart wrote a script which included student jurors of the Council of the Authors of the Imagination. Everybody seemed to enjoy the opportunity to dress up as a character from a literature text and demonstrate their creative skills.

Another highlight of the week was when our High School students read to the Kindergarten students. It was a lovely experience and it was wonderful to see the smiles on the students' faces. Drop everything and read also provided our High School students with an opportunity to read for leisure in class for a change, and not a text book!

Additionally, our Student Body President, Joshua Ho, and two grade Eleven students, Parthivi Koganti and Vivaan Kapoor, read live to the Elementary School via YouTube. This was well received by the Elementary students at OFS.



To cross time and space on the wings of imagination through literature is something to be always valued.

*(Ms. Catherine Brady – MYP/IB Diploma Language, Literature Teacher and HS Teacher Librarian)*

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## MUN News

February has been a very busy month for MUN with NAIMUN LX, SIMUN XVIII and MY-MUNOFS XIII.

### NAIMUN LX

On 13 February 2023, 22 students and 3 teachers left for Washington DC. The main purpose of the trip was to attend NAIMUN LX, a four day Model United Nations Conference (16-19 February). Our High School students were among the 3,000 students from 20 countries attending NAIMUN LX, run by Georgetown University students.



During the conference delegates were addressed by Admiral John Kirby, the Coordinator for Strategic Communications at the National Security Council. During his speech, the Admiral stressed the importance of cooperation and multilateralism when dealing with immediate and long-term threats and spoke about the importance of flexibility and perseverance when facing challenges in your own life and your career.

Students were also given the opportunity to engage in a number of different cultural events and activities. This included attending a Washington Capitals ice hockey game, and a visit to the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History & Culture, where they were able to learn more about the history of slavery and segregation and the effect it continues to have today. Following their visit to the museum, students walked around the Washington Monument, the World War II Memorial, the Lincoln Memorial and the Korean War Memorial.

One of the highlights of the trip was a visit to the White House which included a tour of the East Wing, featuring a number of spectacular rooms including the Vermeil Room, Blue Room, Red Room, the State Dining Room and the China Room. During the tour students had the opportunity to engage with members of the United States Secret Service, who answered a variety of questions. This was a once in a lifetime opportunity for all involved.

The trip had something for everyone. Our Grade 11 students were taken to Georgetown University, where they were able to get a feel for the campus and what it had to offer.

### SIMUN XVIII

Our High School sent a delegation to the International French School, 16-18 February. Congratulations to Madhav Sabhu who was awarded the best delegate in his committee.

(Neisha Pratt – MUN Lead Coordinator)



## Intermediate UKMT Results

The UKMT (United Kingdom Mathematics Trust) is a Maths Challenge that over 200,000 students from 3000 schools around the world take part in. It is a multiple-choice problem solving paper with intriguing questions designed to stimulate interest in mathematics.

At OFS, there were 135 Grade 9 and 10 students who participated in the Intermediate Maths Challenge on 2nd February.

This year an impressive 82% of our students received a certificate.

**30 gold certificates**   **42 silver certificates**   **39 bronze certificates**



DAI Ximeng

A special congratulations to **DAI Ximeng** and **CHO Minhyung** who were the top scorers in Grade 9, and also to **LIM Gun**, **CHENG Jiaming** and **UEDA Toru** who were the top scorers in Grade 10.

**DAI Ximeng** also qualified for the Hamilton Olympiad follow-on round on 16th March.

Congratulations to all participating students.

How would you do on the challenge? Try the question below!

13. The mean of  $p$  and  $q$  is 13; the mean of  $q$  and  $r$  is 16; the mean of  $r$  and  $p$  is 7.  
What is the mean of  $p$ ,  $q$  and  $r$ ?

A 12                      B 13                      C 14                      D 15                      E 16

(Excerpt from the Intermediate UKMT Challenge 2023)                      Answer: A

(Jessica Reader – Subject Area Leader: Mathematics (G9/G10))

## A Midsummer Night's Dream

February saw the High School proudly present William Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* to parents, teachers and students alike in the intimate space that is The Black Box Theatre. The stellar cast and crew featured students from Grades 9 to 12, taking on roles not only as performers but also as assistant directors, sound directors, lighting technicians and make-up artists.



This production was a visual feast to behold, consisting of spectacular sets, costumes and most extraordinary talent! Students learned what it is to be part of a theatrical experience and the commitment that is necessary to get it ready for an audience. The students dedicated many hours, days, weeks and months of their free time to ensure this production would be one to be remembered.

Students formed unique bonds and made new friends with peers of all ages, creating lifelong memories, never to be forgotten. Here are just a few of the comments made by students, once the show came down: "I will never ever forget everything I have learned and all the people who I learned so much from" Yesica Hernando (Grade 10); "The sense of camaraderie and sense of support is like no other" Zahra Aga (Grade 11); "It's truly been an unforgettable experience and something that I will carry with me as I leave" Joshua Ho (Grade 12); "I'm never going to forget this wonderful experience and all the awesome memories I've made" Sara Vyas (Grade 9). We hope you enjoy looking at some of these 'memories' captured by our school photographer, Wisnu Yudhanto.

(Louise Ballantyne – Director/IBDP & MYP Theatre Teacher)





## OFS TIGERS

OFS Tigers have enjoyed a hugely successful Season 2 of ACSIS Sports with many of our teams across the sports placing amongst the Top 5 in the ACSIS League.

Congratulations to all our teams and coaches and chaperones for your work this season. Thank you for representing the OFS Tigers teams and Overseas Family School with such pride and passion.

### BADMINTON

- 11U Girls Badminton Team A – ACSIS CHAMPIONS – Trophy Winners and Gold Medalists!
- 11U Girls Badminton Team B – ACSIS CHAMPIONS – Trophy Winners and Gold Medalists!
- 11U Boys Badminton Team – 4th

### BASKETBALL

- 19U Boys Basketball Team – ACSIS CHAMPIONS – Trophy Winners and Gold Medalists!
- 16U Boys Basketball Team – ACSIS Runners up – Silver Medalists!
- 12U Girls Basketball Team – 5th
- 12U Boys Basketball Team – 6th
- 19U Girls Basketball Team – 6th

### CRICKET

- 12U Boys Cricket Team – ACSIS Runners up – Silver Medalists

### FOOTBALL

- 14U Boys Football Team – 4th
- 11U Boys Football Team – 5th
- 11U Girls Football Team – 5th
- 10U Boys Football Team – 5th

### GYMNASTICS – DRAGONS INVITATIONAL

- Vaishnavi Rachapudi – Bronze Medalist on Beam – UWC Invitational
- Bar Tenenbaum Katan – 4th place on Beam and Floor and 6th in the All Round Points

### NETBALL

- 14U Girls Netball Team – 4th

### RUGBY

- 16U Boys Rugby Team – 3rd and Bronze Medalists!
- 19U Boys Rugby Team – 4th

### SWIMMING – ACSIS MS CHAMPIONSHIPS

- Casharell Kraan – 3 Silver Medals – Runner Up Top Point Scorer 11U-12U Girls
- Hanchen Qiang – 3 Silver Medals – Runner Up Top Point 11U-12U Boys
- Naya Verma – 3 Bronze Medals – Runner Up Top Point Scorer 13U-14U Girls

### TENNIS

- 19U Boys Tennis Team – 3rd and Bronze Medalists!
- 19U Girls Tennis Team – 5th

### TOUCH FOOTBALL

- 19U Girls Touch Football Team – 5th

AC SIS Season 3 competitions are underway and we are really excited about the potential of all our OFS Tigers students.

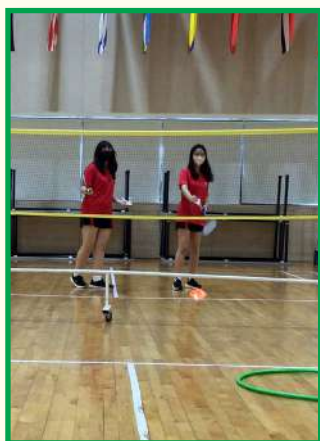
(Gil Levy - Head of Competitive Sport)



## Net Games Unit

'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 1 PE course dived into their Volleyball unit where they look at how effective adaptation requires connection across a variety of environments.

(Anne Goh – Subject Area Leader: Physical Education)



## From The Parent Association (PA) Desk

### GLOBAL PICNIC 2023: SECOND MEETING FOR COUNTRY COORDINATORS

The annual Global Picnic, an international fair where all the families in the School get together to celebrate as one international community, will take place on Saturday, 29 April 2023. This is a great opportunity for you to represent your country by bringing popular traditional food to your country table, performing a musical or dance number which represents your country, or sharing an activity from your culture.

We invite you to come join us and represent your country. If you have any family recipe item or activity from your culture to share, please come along and help.

The second and final meeting for the Country Coordinators will be on:

**Date:** Thursday, 16 March 2023  
**Time:** 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.  
**Venue:** Parent Lounge (Level 4 of Administration Block)

If you would like to volunteer to represent your country, please email the Parent Association at ([parent\\_association@ofs.edu.sg](mailto:parent_association@ofs.edu.sg)).

More information regarding the Global Picnic is available on the school website (<https://www.ofs.edu.sg/about/pa/events/global-picnic/>).