



# Overseas Family School High School

**Master Policy:**

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

## Principal's Message

This will be my last newsletter article as High School Principal and I therefore would like to take this opportunity to thank all the wonderful families, students and staff for all their support over the course of the last two years. I will not be disappearing from the High School altogether as I will remain the Law Academy Supervisor and of course working with the High School team in my role as Head of School.

I am beyond proud of the High School achievements this year and have enjoyed watching our students taking the lead in both their academics and towards global citizenship.

Some highlights of the academic year include:


- exceptional external academic results for the IGCSE and IB Diploma (6 students with 45 points!)
- Sponsors of the Sail Grand Prix, resulting in visits by the major teams and student STEM sessions
- Continued increase in successful applications to top universities and colleges around the world
- A range of in person arts events (such as CultureFest, Midsummer Night's Dream, Dance Show, International School's Art Show, Battle of the Bands), showing the depth of talent in the Arts our students have.
- New community partnerships supporting our commitment to sustainability such as Ocean Project and NTUC Health Nursing Home, Pasir Ris – our list of community partners just keeps growing
- Increase in educational overseas trips such as Washington, Barcelona and Cambodia as well as outdoor learning by reviving our traditional Grade 9 Camp!
- ACSIS success in a range of our Tiger competitive sports, most notably Basketball and Badminton.
- Widening the amount of course options for our students – now offering IB Diploma Sports Science and Psychology as well as IGCSE Computer Science.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the High School faculty. The success of this year would not have happened without their hard work, dedication and enthusiasm.

To all those students, faculty and families who are leaving OFS, including our graduating students, I thank you for your contribution to the school. We shall miss each student and we will look forward to hearing about their achievements as they move forward.

For those students returning in August, I will look forward to watching your skills and achievements grow in the new academic year.

I wish everyone a wonderful holiday.

  
Vanessa McConville  
High School Principal

Yearbook 2023 will be available at the School Shop from 26 May 2023



YEARBOOK

### CALENDAR OF HIGH SCHOOL EVENT:

18 April – 6 June: IGCSE examinations

We would like to take this opportunity to remind students to empty their lockers by Friday, 9 June 2023.

## IB Diploma News – Education For Life

### GRADE 12

Congratulations to our Grade 12 IB DP students who are completing their IB journey. This cohort is the first to return to the full IB curriculum requirements without the mitigations that the IB initiated in 2020 to counter the effects of Covid. The Covid pandemic has made many aspects of normal school life challenging for a large proportion of the time that this cohort has been in High School. It has been an incredibly demanding time, testing the resilience, perseverance and innovation of all involved. I am sure all their hard work over the last two years will be rewarded and wish all the best to each of them during the next phase of their lives as OFS High School graduates. Please be aware of the deadlines and processes as outlined below:

- Students will be able to access their IB DP results at <http://candidates.ibo.org> on Thursday, 6 July 2023 at 1200 hours GMT, by using their online password information. Candidate codes and passwords are available on the student detail section of the OFS dashboard.
- An email will be sent to all Grade 12 students' OFS email prior to the 6 July 2023 release of results. The email will contain a document outlining the process for remark and retake requests. Students should read this before making enquiries about IB DP results, IB DP transcript requests, IB DP examination re-marking or re-taking IB DP examinations. For further information and assistance, students can contact Ms. Trapti Trivedi at [ib-diploma-coordinator@ofs.edu.sg](mailto:ib-diploma-coordinator@ofs.edu.sg).

### GRADE 11

#### • Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS):

Please be aware that any CAS activities undertaken during June–July 2023 holidays will need to be pre-approved by Ms. Arin Mares-Manton. The deadline for meeting all seven CAS outcomes and completing their CAS Project is in January of 2024.

#### • Extended Essay (EE):

The first draft of the EE should be completed during the June–July 2023 break. I encourage students to develop a timetable that breaks their EE down into smaller tasks to work on in small regular increments – just 30 minutes each week day during the holiday break would add up to 20 hours of effort! Please note that the EE must fully comply with the OFS Academic Integrity Policy.

(Phillip Riordan – IB DP Coordinator)



## Junior High School News

Though the academic year is drawing to a close, our Grade 10 students are still having 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. We are proud of our students' many successes this year and once the examinations are over, I encourage them to take some time to relax during the summer months; it is a very 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 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 product goal needs to be completed by the third week of August. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our parents for their support throughout; it has been a pleasure working with you and your child/ward. May you and your families have a restful and safe summer holiday.

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

## Academic Advisors' News

It has been a busy year for the Academic Advisors, with numerous university information sessions, workshops and guest lecturers taking place throughout the academic year. More recently, we conducted online Country Specific University Information Sessions, which will help our Grade 11 students prepare for their university applications in the upcoming academic year. Before the end of this academic year in June, we will be offering Common Application and Personal Statement Workshops for our Grade 11 students.

### GRADE 12 UNIVERSITY OFFERS

Our Grade 12 students have started to secure offers to study at a wide range of excellent undergraduate courses from universities in various countries. Many offers are still pending but these are just a selection of universities that have offered places to OFS students.

**UK: University of Edinburgh, UCL, Warwick, Manchester, Durham, Queen Mary, St Andrews, King's College, Canada: UofT,**

**USA: Johns Hopkins University, Purdue, University of Washington, University of Virginia, UC Davis, UC Irvine, UIUC, New York University, Northeastern, Savannah College of Art and Design,**

**Australia: University of Sydney, University of Melbourne**

**Hong Kong: HKUST**

*(Tamana Chanrai-Hills – Academic Advisor)*

## MYP Personal Project

Over the past two years, Charlotte Kautt, our MYP Personal Project Coordinator, has produced a wide range of student and teacher training materials to prepare our students for their Personal Project following the new Guide introduced in 2021. Charlotte has also created a highly informative website sharing her material with OFS students, parents, and teachers. We are very proud to announce, that as a result of her hard work, Charlotte has been invited by the IB to create a series of videos to explain the various stages of the Personal Project to students. These videos are now made available by IB as part of their updated Teacher Support Material for the Personal Project. OFS students and parents can access these on the OFS Personal Project website.

*(Charlotte Kautt – MYP Personal Project Coordinator)*



## OFS Red Cross Youth Chapter

On Saturday, 15 April, Singapore Red Cross held a conference at Victoria School, where a few of our students from the OFS Red Cross Chapter volunteered to create and hold a game booth. It was a great experience for our students to see how Red Cross operates in Singapore and in other schools.

## Volunteers to NTUC Health Nursing home

On Tuesdays, our HS volunteers head to NTUC Health Nursing home in Pasir Ris to conduct chair exercises for the residents. Good to get everyone moving!



## Earth Month

April is Earth Month! The OFS Interact Club planned several events to help the High School celebrate Earth Month. They created this "Wave of Plastic" to help promote our theme of "Life Below Water: The Problem with Plastic". We hope it will make people think twice about buying and using single-use plastic and swap that out for more sustainable options.

*(Arin Mares-Manton – CAS Coordinator)*



## 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, 10 August 2023**  
**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](mailto:parent_association@ofs.edu.sg)

Have a wonderful holiday.

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## IB Diploma Program Visual Arts Exhibition 2023

The IB2 Visual Arts students recently curated an exhibition of the artworks they have produced throughout their past two years in this course. Each student's collection of pieces contributes to 40% of their final grade in this program, so it represents a significant undertaking for each of the student artists. However, the exhibition is also a celebration of each student's conceptual journey and creative application of media and techniques to craft their intentions into a visual form. The exhibition featured a diverse and impressive collection of artwork created by our very own talented students. There were over 200 pieces on display in the exhibition, collectively they covered a diverse range of creative forms, including; digital and traditional drawings, textile works, sculptural forms, film work, painting, printmaking and installations. Each work of art displayed was unique, representing the individual style and perspective of the young artist who created it.



We wish to congratulate the exhibiting artists on their achievements and warmly thank the OFS community for visiting the shows and providing thoughtful feedback to the students and Art teachers. We also need to acknowledge the tremendous support of all the OFS assistants who constructed our wonderful display boards and supported us with the heavy moving and technology; we could not have done it without you!

*(Maja Vidanovic & Lara Pang – Art Teachers)*



## Battle of the Bands 2023

This year's Battle of the Bands was bigger, brighter, bolder and better. We were pleased to introduce our partners for this year's Battle of The Bands "Songwork International" ([www.songwork.online](http://www.songwork.online)), music industry professionals at the forefront of music education and industry, who are providing mentoring, studio sessions, support and prizes to the value of

\$5,000. The team have worked with artists as brilliant and diverse as Dua Lipa, Ed Sheeran, Arctic Monkeys, Snow Patrol, Chris Brown and Nayeon. Participating bands performed to a live audience at the OFS Black Box Studio on Thursday, 30 March and the winners performed at the OFS Global Picnic in April. It was an exciting time for the young rockers at OFS!

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



*The Winning Band 'The Dead Rainbows' [30 March 2023]*

## Geography Field Trip

On Wednesday, 29 March, Grade 9 Geography students undertook a 14km journey (with assistance from the OFS school bus) to collect data for their IGCSE coursework. Over the course of the day, the students stopped at nine sites between Pasir Ris and Chinatown to gather information on patterns of land use, service provision, and environmental quality. Back in the classroom, they will analyse their data using traditional geographic theories and models, as well as exploring how regeneration and sustainable management policies shape Singapore's urban landscape. This report provides exciting opportunities for developing methodological design skills and for conducting statistical and spatial analysis. IB Geography students who continue with the subject in Grade 11 will have further opportunities to hone their fieldwork skills during their trip to Barcelona.

*(David Pellowe – Subject Area Leader: Humanities)*



## Visit to Pulau Ubin

On Thursday, 30 March, Humanities students from the Grade 10 MYP course visited the island of Pulau Ubin as part of their studies about Sustainable Futures and Tourism. The purpose of the trip was to investigate environmental sustainability and sustainable tourism. After taking boats across the Straits of Johor, students began their investigations in the village area around the ferry terminal to assess its sustainable management, taking measurements of the noise levels, number of pedestrians, amount of litter, soil erosion and signage observed. The students then walked through the jungle to the Chek Jawa Nature Reserve, allowing them to see the natural flora and fauna on the island. The students took similar measurements in the nature reserve as they did around the ferry terminal, giving them the necessary data for writing a report back in the classroom comparing the environmental sustainability of both sites. After a well-deserved lunch, the students made their way back to the ferry terminal, tired but happy. This was a wonderful opportunity for students to study a practical example of environmental sustainability and sustainable tourism in action and was much enjoyed by all involved.

*(Timothy Green – SPP & Humanities Teacher)*





## Annual Uniform & Stationery Sale – Academic Year 2023-2024

No purchases without recently issued OFS security pass. Please contact the school at **6738 0211** if you have not received your pass

### ONLINE ORDER

Duration: From Monday, 10 July to Wednesday, 2 August 2023

Website: <https://www.ofs.edu.sg/my-ofs/schoolshop/OnlineSchoolShop.jsp>

Delivery service is available at S\$30.00 per trip.

### ON-SITE SALE

Duration: From Monday, 24 July to Friday, 11 August 2023

Venue: OFS School Shop located at Level 2, Administration Block A

**Important: All purchases will be charged to your Family Account only.**

For more information, please visit: <https://www.ofs.edu.sg/events/2023/annual-uniform-stationery-sale/>

## Student Voice

In Student Voice, we spent our time planning for our upcoming spirit week with the theme "Game On!". With fun activities and creative dress up themes, we are excited to raise everyone's spirits! We also had to say goodbye to our grade 12 students. Our wonderful Art and Banners department created a beautiful banner to wish them good luck for their final IB exams in May and their goals after their graduation.

*(Sanjita Verkot – Grade 11)*

## French Cuisine experience for Grade 12 French B Students

On Tuesday, 18 April, 26 Grade 12 students went to Entre-nous Crêperie to experience the French cuisine. This field trip allowed the students to taste the delicious savoury and sweet crepes, typical cuisine from Brittany, in the North West of France. As IB learners, our students are expected to make cultural links during their course. We hope that the experience at the French restaurant has helped them to broaden their perspectives. At OFS, we also



are convinced that learning a new language goes beyond learning grammar and conjugations. We encourage students to embrace other cultures through food and customs appreciations. Taking part in the real life-situations or discovering the culture of the language they are learning are assets that will not only allow our students to shine in their examinations but also prepare them for their future life as a global citizen.

*(Nitisha Hazareesing – Subject Area Leader – Foreign Language)*



## Checkmate to Racism

Well done to all our OFS students who competed in the 3rd edition of "Checkmate to Racism", an international online chess event held on 25 March 2023. OFS took a fantastic second place, only behind East Anglian Junior Chess from the UK, but ahead of the other 11 teams from South America, Europe and Asia. Most successful High School students were Tanish Bengani, Kunaal Sood and Itish Jaiswal. Once again big thank you to all students for making a stand against racism.

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



## MYP Aquatics Unit

In Quarter 4, our MYP PHE students dove into the new Aquatics unit to explore Leadership and Cooperation with the Grade 9 looking at Movement in Artistic Swimming; and the Grade 10 engaged in Water Polo.

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



## OFS Tigers

OFS Tigers Sports have been immensely successful in Season 3 and across this first year as a member school of ACSIS. OFS Tiger's Captain Antariksh and Vice Captain Het led our OFS Tigers Softball Team to the runner's up trophy and silver medal in the ACSIS Championship! On par with our softball team, Pahal Chadha (Girls' Captain) and Itish Jaiswal (Boys' Captain) of the 19U Badminton Team have finished the season amongst the top 3 school in ACSIS, whilst Captain Shashwat Bhandari and Sarasa Nishimura's High School Track and field Teams together with Melisse Mathews' 19U and Valentina Lupas' 16U Netball Teams continue to improve, progress and chalk up some hard fought and well-deserved wins in the ACSIS League and Championships. The OFS Tigers have had an extraordinary first venture in the ACSIS Sports Leagues and Championships. These High School teams have set the bar very high for our younger players and teams to strive toward and so we are even more excited for the next academic year's competitive sports seasons where we will look to build on our inaugural success, build depth into our programs as well as potentially introduce some new ACSIS sports to our current provision. Well done OFS Tigers High School Teams! We are so proud of you all!

*(Gil Levy – Head of Competitive Sport)*

