



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 hearty welcome to all our new students and families joining us this semester, and a warm welcome back to the rest of our school community. "Gong Xi Fa Cai" to those in our community celebrating Lunar New Year.



The second semester is consistently bustling with academic activities for our students, as they gear up for IB DP and IB MYP final assessments, along with their external IB DP and IGCSE examinations. Their preparations for mock and final examinations will undoubtedly benefit from the support of both parents and teachers.

The High School remains a hub of activity, with the Arts department already showcasing the Musical Soirée and the theatre production of Arsenic and Old Lace. The remarkable talent and creativity displayed by our students never cease to amaze me. Additionally, Book Week proved to be both enjoyable and educational, culminating in a school-wide dress-up day with some truly fantastic costumes!

University offers are slowly starting to roll in, and we are thrilled to share that two of our students have received offers from both Dartmouth College and Brown University, prestigious 'Ivy League' universities in the U.S. as well as another gaining a place at University of Cambridge. This further strengthens our impressive university placement track record, which includes institutions such as Johns Hopkins, UCLA, Carnegie Mellon, NYU, Georgia Tech, Michigan, Oxford, LSE, Imperial, UCL, Manchester, Edinburgh, NUS, NTU, Sydney, Melbourne, McGill, UBC, Toronto, and many other top global universities.

Planning for the next academic year is well underway. We held our Grade 8 Curriculum Night on 23 January 2024, with a special focus on the transition from Grade 8 to Grade 9. The Grade 10 Curriculum Night on 6 February will provide detailed information about the transition into Grade 11 in Senior High School as well as the IB Diploma.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to email me (adam_ashton@ofs.edu.sg).

Adam Ashton
High School Principal



IB Diploma News – Education For Life

Wishing everyone a wonderful 2024! The Semester 1 reports were dispatched in January. Kindly set aside some time to engage in a conversation with your child about the report, acknowledging their strengths and discussing the strategies to enhance any identified areas for improvement.

GRADE 12

This marks the final semester of your child's High School journey. With the final examinations approaching soon, this can be a challenging period. I encourage you to provide support including a well-rounded range of activities during this crucial time, which will help sustain your child/ward's overall well-being.

The IB Mock Examinations are scheduled to take place from Monday, 26 February to Wednesday, 6 March 2024. You can find the detailed schedule on the school website and each student has received an individual timetable. Additionally, the Language B IB Final Orals are set scheduled between 18 March and 22 March 2024.

The official IB Examination period: Wednesday, 24 April to Friday, 17 May 2024.

GRADE 11

Extended Essay

The Extended Essay process commenced in December 2023. Students attended an Extended Essay Carousel session to help understand subject specific expectations. Students were expected to have chosen their subject and topic by early January 2024. Supervisors were assigned, and students met with them in late January. In January, Grade 11 students also participated in a subject-specific seminar focusing on the necessary research skills requirement for their Extended Essay.



CAS

Clubs and activities resumed in the last week of January. By the conclusion of Grade 11, students should have fulfilled 2/3 of their CAS requirements. It is crucial for students to plan and select adequate activities in the second semester to meet this goal. We extend our best wishes to all students for a successful Semester 2.

If you have any questions regarding the IB Diploma and courses, please feel free to contact me at anytime at my email address (trapti_trivedi@ofs.edu.sg) and/or Lee Woollard, IB DP Assistant Coordinator & Extended Essay Coordinator (lee_woollard@ofs.edu.sg).

(Trapti Trivedi – IB DP Coordinator)



Junior High School News

Encouraged by the IB Learner Profile’s emphasis on reflection, Grades 9 and 10 students are urged to assess their progress as the second semester begins. We encourage students to reflect on the goals they set in August, aiming to fulfil, if not exceed them. This self-assessment is particularly crucial for Grade 10 students, who should scrutinise their examination experiences, identifying areas for further revision before the IGCSE Mock Examinations in March.

Students will have the opportunity to practice for their registered examinations during the Mock IGCSE examination period from 5 to 15 March 2024, following Cambridge regulations. The detailed timetable is accessible on the OFS Dashboard. Families are advised to review these dates diligently. Official Cambridge IGCSE written examinations for OFS are scheduled from 26 April to 6 June 2024.

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) and/or (c_fuentestorruella@ofs.edu.sg).

(Aida Blat Palacios – Grade 10 Coordinator 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 University of Cambridge, Dartmouth College, Brown University, Purdue University, King’s College London, University of Edinburgh, University of Manchester, Durham University, the University of Melbourne, University of Warwick, and the University of Birmingham to name a few.

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 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.

(Tamana Chanrai-Hills – Academic Advisor)

December to Remember

Student Voice hosted the ‘December to Remember’ event to create a joyful and exciting atmosphere to wrap up Semester One. The event kicked off with students receiving candy-grams with short messages from their friends. On Thursday, 14 December, everyone had the chance to dress up in holiday themed clothes, eat some treats, and listen to festive music at lunch. The day ended with some popcorn at Movie Night, where ‘Home Alone 2’ was screened. Throughout Friday, 15 December morning, Student Voice and Choir spread some cheer by carolling throughout the school. During lunch, there were live musical performances while students decorated gingerbread houses. Finally, the High School assembly showcased all of the talent at OFS, including a variety of musical performances, a short story reading, recognition for peer tutors, and a remarkable dance, involving both students and teachers! We are looking forward to making memories with you all through more fun events like this, in Semester Two!

(Austin Riedeman – Science Teacher and Teacher in charge of Student Voice)



From The Parent Association (PA) Desk

CHINESE NEW YEAR COFFEE MORNING

The Parent Association (PA) invites all parents to a special Chinese New Year themed Coffee Morning, right after the auspicious Lion and Dragon Dance. The Lion and Dragon Dance will take place at OFS Basketball Court, from 10:30am to 11:00am.

Date: Thursday, 22 February 2024

Time: 11:00am – 1:00pm

Venue: Parent Lounge (Level 4 of the Administration Building)

Let us celebrate the Chinese New Year together and get to know its various traditions, and rituals. Watch out for more details to be shared on the PA webpage soon.

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Celebrating Success: Study Preparation Program (SPP) Students Transitioning to Mainstream Classes



We are thrilled to share the exciting news of our SPP Level 3 students in High School, marking their successful transition into mainstream classes in Semester 2. These remarkable students have shown tremendous dedication and progress on their language learning journey, and we could not be prouder of their achievements. At the recent SPP Celebration ceremony in High School, three outstanding SPP students took the stage to share their experiences and reflect on the significant strides they have made in mastering the English language. Their heartfelt speeches resonated with inspiration and gratitude, highlighting the transformative impact of the SPP program on their lives. KUMPANG Pakaporn (L3 Grade 10), SO Sato (L3 Grade 11), and YOSHIDA Fumi (L3 Grade 11) eloquently expressed the challenges they initially faced and the remarkable progress they have achieved during their time in the SPP program. Each of them emphasised the supportive learning environment, dedicated teachers, and the camaraderie fostered within the SPP community that contributed to their language acquisition success. These students exemplify the resilience, determination, and cultural richness that define our diverse student body. As they embark on the next chapter of their academic journey in mainstream classes, we look forward to witnessing their continued growth and success. Additionally, after the SPP Celebration ceremony, it was truly heartwarming to witness the cultural exchange as our SPP students took the initiative to organise and lead demonstrations on how to play their favorite cultural games. This vibrant showcase not only celebrated their linguistic achievements but also showcased the rich tapestry of cultural diversity within our school community. The students' enthusiasm and willingness to share aspects of their heritage through interactive activities added a special dimension to the event, fostering a sense of unity and understanding among their peers. It was a testament to the inclusive environment nurtured within the SPP program, where cultural exchange is not only welcomed but celebrated as an integral part of the learning experience. We commend these students for their leadership and for enriching our school community with their unique perspectives and traditions. Congratulations to all our SPP students, and a heartfelt thank you to our dedicated SPP teachers for their unwavering

commitment to fostering language proficiency and cultural understanding. Wishing our SPP graduates continued success and a bright future ahead!

(Deborah Rogozinski – Study Preparation Program Subject Area Leader)





Group 4 Science Project

The Group 4 Collaborative Science Project took place on 16 and 17 of January 2024 involving all Grade 11 IB students. This is a compulsory requirement of the IB Diploma involving all students that take Group 4 subjects, (Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Environmental Systems & Societies, Computer Science and Sports Science). This year’s project was centred around a Treasure Chest Challenge with the UN Sustainable Development Goals being the theme. Students collaborated in mixed subject groups to design a set of challenges to guide participants through a learning journey and ultimately find clues to crack a code set on a padlock to a treasure chest. The range of creativity and innovation demonstrated by the students was exceptional this year, with a true feeling of inclusivity across the cohort.

(Jessica Fitzgibbon – Life Sciences Subject Area Leader)



Mr. Suarez and his supervisor group



The nest. Of treasure chests



Meher Grover, Grade 11

OFS Tigers



Congratulations to our OFS Tigers High School Students nominated and selected as Captains for the ACSIS Season 2 sports teams. Your leadership, commitment, passion for the game and school stands out and models the values we promote within Overseas Family School. Best of luck in leading our teams to be the best that we can be. Go Tigers!

BASKETBALL

- 16U Girls Captain – KHANNA Diya [HB10 Ramsay]
- 16U Boys Captain – RANDHAWA Arvir Singh [HB09 Hector]
- 19U Boys Captain – MIREL Semih [HB12 Schenkermayr]

RUGBY

- U16 – CESBERT Martin Paul [HB10 Pang]
- U19 Captain – MACKINNON Harley Drew [HB12 Vlok]
- U19 V.Captain – MAGRET DELORD Lucas Matthieu Alexandre Jean [HB12 Riddell]

TABLE TENNIS

- U14 Boys Captain – NASSA Ansh [HB09 Garga]
- U16 Girls Captain – PINGALI Veda [HB09 Garga]
- U16 Boys Captain – LIU ZICHEN [HB10 Suarez]
- U19 Girls Captain – SATO Akari [HB11 Ni]
- U19 Girls Vice Captain – OGATA Sara [HB11 McLoughlin]
- U19 Boys – ISHIKAWA Tatsumi [HB11 Zhu]

TENNIS

- U19 Boys Captains – ALI Syed Rayyan [HB11 Ong]

TOUCH FOOTBALL

- U16 Captain – HEGDE Anya [HB10 Pang]

VOLLEYBALL

- U14 Captain – THUAN Elyssa Jade [HB09 Rivera Isaza]

(Gil Levy – Head of Competitive Sport)