



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 alike. Grade 10 and Grade 12 students finish off their course work for external moderation, and also sit their mock examinations. Obviously, these examinations are an excellent opportunity for students to demonstrate their understanding of key content and theories, while also providing a key indicator to the students about areas that require further attention and revision before the actual examinations in May 2024. At the same time, university offers continue to roll in for our Grade 12s.

March is also the time when students in Grade 8, Grade 10, and non-IB Diploma Grade 11 complete their online course selections in preparation for the next academic year. I hope that Curriculum Evenings as well as the student and parent meetings to explain the curriculum programs available in Grade 9 and Grade 11 helped you to make informed decisions regarding your child/ward's schooling at OFS in the next academic year.

As evidenced by the regular publication of photos and articles, our school takes great pride in the active participation of numerous students across various arenas, including sports, arts, community service initiatives, and field trips. Many of these endeavours are initiated, organised, and led by the students themselves. Engaging in both community service and extracurricular activities is not only encouraged, but integral to the holistic development and learning experience of all High School students.

It remains imperative that the education of your child or ward is viewed as a collaborative effort between parents, teachers, and administrators. Therefore, should you have any inquiries or wish to discuss matters, especially pertaining to subject choices for the upcoming academic year, please do not hesitate to contact me at adam_ashton@ofs.edu.sg.

Adam Ashton
High School Principal



IB Diploma News – Education For Life

GRADE 12

IB DP examinations: The first day for Grade 12 IB Examinations is Wednesday, 24 April 2024.

This year, the last teaching day for Grade 12 IB courses is Wednesday, 17 April 2024.

Grade 12 IB classes will not run from Thursday, 18 April 2024 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 2024 IB DP examinations will be receiving an examination information package containing: personal examination schedule, examination regulations, requests for IB transcripts to universities. Ideally, the IB transcript release requests for universities should be submitted to Ms. Maureen Goh before students go on study leave. However, these documents can be submitted up until Friday, 24 May 2024.

GRADE 11

The Extended Essay (EE) is underway. All Grade 11 IB DP students have been assigned a supervisor. Students have also gone through research skills and referencing in their TOK Core lessons.

Once approval for their question has been received, students are to 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 OFS High School Academic Integrity Policy when in doubt. Any work that is in violation of the Academic Integrity Policy will not be submitted for grading to the IB.

CAS: All CAS activities undertaken during June/July need to be pre-approved by our Acting CAS Coordinator, Mr. John James.

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.

If you have any question 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) and/or Lee Woollard, IB DP Assistant Coordinator & Extended Essay Coordinator (lee_woollard@ofs.edu.sg).

(Trapti Trivedi – IB DP Coordinator and Grade 12 Coordinator)



Theatre Production

From The Parent Association (PA) Desk

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, 20 April 2024**. 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.

Come and represent your homeland, and together, let us make this fair a success! Email the Parent Association at parent_association@ofs.edu.sg to find out more.

Further information regarding the Global Picnic is also available on the school website:

<https://www.ofs.edu.sg/about/pa/events/global-picnic/>



Junior High School News

FOCUSING ON OUR GRADE 9 STUDENTS

As we enter this phase of the academic year, our Grade 9 mainstream students are presented with exciting challenges and opportunities as they embark on their MYP Personal Project (PP) journey. Through a series of workshops and PP Student Support sessions, we aim to facilitate a smooth transition into this important project. The PP serves as a platform for students to apply their Approaches to Learning (ATL) skill and evolve as IB Learners. Our parent PP information evening session will take place on Tuesday, 26 March 2024. This session will be led by our MYP PP Coordinator, Ms. Clara Fuentes.

We encourage you to explore the PP website, this can be found on the OFS Dashboard and contains comprehensive information and examples.

FOCUSING ON OUR GRADE 10 STUDENTS

This time of the year, Grade 10 students have to make significant decisions concerning their IB Diploma subject choices. This period presents them with a valuable opportunity for reflection. They are encouraged to contemplate their passion, areas of strength, and engaging in open communication with their teachers and Academic Advisor. This will help students make an informed decision that aligns with their future aspirations. Student information sessions have been offered during lunch time. For your convenience, all Subject Area Curriculum Sheets are accessible on your OFS Dashboard.

Preparations for the Mock IGCSE examinations are underway. Following the Mocks (5 March to 15 March 2024), our dedicated teachers will continue to support Grade 10 students by providing feedback on their performance and offering guidance on how to excel in answering specific IGCSE questions, along with refining examination techniques. In the second semester, many subjects will host additional support and revision sessions, aimed at enhancing students' understanding of IGCSE content and revisiting Grade 9 concepts. We strongly encourage all students enrolled in IGCSE subjects to take advantage of these supplementary sessions as well as our Academic Support Program (ASP) happening every Wednesday and Thursday after school from 3:40pm to 4:40pm in the High School Library.

Furthermore, the OFS IGCSE External 2024 Examination Schedule (April through to June) is accessible on both yours and your child's OFS Dashboard.

Should you have any inquiries about our programs, course selections, or the upcoming IGCSE examinations, please do not hesitate to reach out to us at (ab_palacios@ofs.edu.sg) or (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)

Academic Advisors Update

UNIVERSITY INFORMATION SESSION IN APRIL

In April, we will hold online country-specific university information sessions for Grade 11 students considering applying to Australia, Canada, the UK, the US, Mainland Europe, Korea, Japan or any English Language University in Asia. There will also be a National Service information session as well. More information about the dates and times will become available. These sessions are open to Grade 11 students and parents only.

UNIVERSITY INFORMATION SESSIONS

Since the start of semester two, several universities have visited us (University of Glasgow, University of St Andrews, Queen's University, EU Business School, University of Exeter). We still have many more universities coming in the next few months. 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. The University of Glasgow (part of the Russell Group) will hold a Personal Statements workshop in April. Students need to sign up to attend. Details are posted in their Homebase Learning Portal.

(Tamana Chanrai-Hills – Academic Advisor)

MY-MUN X VI (3 to 4 February 2024)



MY-MUN XVI proved to be yet another incredibly successful Middle School conference, meticulously organised and executed by our High School Executive Committee and their newly appointed Secretary-General, Saksham Verma. The team adeptly curated topics for thirteen contemporary committees, including The Historical League of Nations. The conference was full, welcoming delegates from 25 schools worldwide.

Conducting a conference of this magnitude presents a valuable leadership opportunity for all High School students involved. A heartfelt thank you extends to those instrumental in making this event possible. This includes our MUN Executive Committee, Admin Team, and the dedicated individuals who chaired various committees.

As the curtain falls on MY-MUN XVI, the team now shifts its focus towards the upcoming High School conference scheduled for November, MUNOFS XVII.

(Neisha Pratt – High School MUN Coordinator and Deputy Principal)



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Ivy League and Cambridge Success!

Our best wishes go to two of our class of 2023 graduates, **Joshua Ho** and **Ashwath Nerlekar** who gained places at Brown and Dartmouth College, two highly-rated Ivy League Universities, whilst on their first year of National Service here in Singapore. It is only fitting to recognize this exceptional achievement, both students successfully progressing through highly competitive selection processes.



Joshua has a place at Brown and is still considering his choice of Major. He is looking forward to the flexibility offered with his initial choice of subjects. "What makes Brown so great for me is that I can use their Open Curriculum to take pretty much any class I want and explore my options before having to declare a concentration at the end of my second year".

Ashwath takes a place at Dartmouth College. He is looking forward to majoring in Economics modified with Mathematics. "This blend allows me to explore the intersection of two fields I'm passionate about. Eventually I hope to make a positive impact on society through studying the use of nudge policies to influence consumer behaviour for the better".

Further congratulations go to **Park Minjae**, one of our current Grade 12 students. Minjae has gained a place at Cambridge University, to study Education. "I am really looking forward to developing specialist knowledge about language education. I believe that studying at Cambridge will help me to develop my skills through intense supervisions and small group discussions with my professors".



We wish all of our students every success at all of their university destinations after completion of their studies and National Service commitments!

(Gareth Wailes – Academic Advisor)

Intermediate UKMT Mathematics Challenge

On 1 February 2024, 165 of our Grades 9 and 10 students participated in the Intermediate UKMT Mathematics Challenge. The UKMT (United Kingdom Mathematics Trust) is a Mathematics Competition that over 200,000 students from 3,000 schools around the world take part in. It is a multiple-choice problem solving paper with intriguing questions designed to stimulate interest in Mathematics. This year an impressive 76% of our students received a certificate.

47 Gold certificates

38 Silver certificates

41 Bronze certificates

A special congratulations to Hahm Seojoon who received the highest score in Grade 9, and to Noh Hyeonggyun who received the highest score in Grade 10 (and the highest score in OFS). These two students, along with top-scorers Ryosuke Takahashi and Arush Garg, have been invited to participate in the Olympiad follow on rounds on 21 March 2024. Congratulations to all participating students. How would you do on the challenge? Try the question below!

13. When I increase a certain number by 20%, I get twice as much as when I decrease 20 less than the number by 20%. What is that number?

A 40

B 60

C 80

D 100

E 120

(Jessica Reader – SAL and Mathematics Teacher)

Student Voice

Love was in the air this February as Student Voice celebrated Valentine's Day with a number of love-themed events to brighten up the school spirit. Due to 14 February being in the holidays, Student Voice had to celebrate it in the first week of February.

We had a Valentine's dress-up day, and a movie night where students enjoyed popcorn watching the 2001 Rom-Com "The Princess Diaries". We also hosted a Cupid Arrow game and there were love-themed treats that enlightened the taste buds!

Last but not least, it is time for the new presidential elections. Student Voice gives their biggest thanks to the former presidents Parthivi and Amish, and we are all looking forward to seeing the two new presidents!



(Student Voice (Austin Riedemen – author) SV Journalism Committee)

Report on Book Week 29 January to 2 February 2024

"Reading is Magic" was the theme of this year's Book Week which kicked off with a short video of students talking about when and what genre they like to read, and more interestingly why they read. Statements ranged from the idea of helping to enrich vocabulary and improve language to the more magical effects of reading and how it can take the reader away from the problems of life to another world, other places, meeting new people, having wonderful adventures.

On Wednesday and Thursday mornings, students from High School went down to the Middle School library to be filmed reading an Elementary library book. This video was then shown to all the Elementary students in their classrooms.

On Friday, students watched a mini skit, written by our own Ms. Helen Stewart, for the language teachers on level 10 who were all dressed up in the theme of Myths and Legends. The gods got together, angry about various things, one of which was the condition of Earth, but ended up hoping that change will come – the underlying theme of saving the environment. The book face competition had few entries, and students voted for student teacher Mr. Spencer's book face of Arnold Schwarzenegger.

(Brenda Marshall – Teacher Librarian)





High School Theatre Production proudly presents ARSENIC AND OLD LACE by Joseph Kesselring

In February, our Black Box Theatre proudly hosted the HS Theatre Production of Arsenic and Old Lace by Joseph Kesselring, a fast-paced farcical black comedy widely revered as a theatre classic. This play saw the participation of many High School students, from across all grade levels, who undertook roles not just on the stage but behind the scenes too. The roles were varied from helping to apply special effects make-up, painting set, organising props, and sewing costumes to composing all the music/sound effects for the play, as well as designing the lighting states.



Audiences revelled in the spectacular set, alongside the outstanding performances from the talented cast, in a chaotic story of bumps in the night, unannounced visits from police officers and the ideas that some things are not always as they seem! This riotous, comic masterpiece had audiences laughing from beginning to end and is an experience which the students will remember for a very long time, along with the permanent bonding of special new friendships that have been gained along the way.

(Louise Ballantyne – Director and Theatre Teacher)



Ferrari Field Trip-Business Fundamentals and an insight into the world of luxury branding

The IB Grade 11 Business students had the opportunity to go on a field trip to the Ferrari dealership on 15 and 16 January 2024. Beyond a conventional sightseeing tour, this experience provided a profound insight into the operational excellence and strategic intricacies that propelled Ferrari to international prominence.



This field trip was a life-changing experience for the Grade 11 Business IB class. The in-depth understanding of the automobile industry's business dynamics, gained through discussions on Ferrari's marketing strategies and future challenges, provided invaluable insights. Witnessing Ferrari in action equipped students with practical knowledge and a first-hand understanding of the complexities of the business world, marking a significant chapter in their academic and professional journeys.

(Nivedita Banerjee – Business Teacher, Emanuela Knechtel and Ronit Sharma – Grade 11)



OFS Tigers

The OFS Tigers High School athletes have had a sensational Season 2 of ACSIS sports and every team has finished in a top 3 podium position amongst the international schools that make up the ACSIS League and Championship.



BASKETBALL

- Captain Semih Mirel 19U Team and Captain Arvir Randhawa 16U Boys Basketball Teams completed their unbeaten streak and were undefeated all season. Both 19U and 16U teams (as well as the 14U Boys Team) are ACSIS Basketball Champions!
- The 16U Girls Basketball Team, with Diya Khanna taking the lead role, finished as the Silver Medalists in overall second place in their ACSIS Season.

TENNIS

- The 19U Boys Tennis Team captained by Rayyan Ali Syed is undefeated and are ACSIS Tennis Champions!

RUGBY

- The 19U Boys Rugby Team led by Harley Mackinnon is ACSIS Champions while
- The 16U Boys Rugby Team finished just off the podium in fourth place.

TOUCH FOOTBALL

- The Girls 19U Touch Football team led by Captain Anya Hegde finished as ACSIS Bronze Medalists while
- The Girls 16U Team, like their male counterparts, finished in fourth place.

SWIM TEAM

- The combined boys swim team finished as the bronze medalists at their ACSIS Championships.

A truly remarkable set of results for our High Schoolers with immense respect for our team captains, coaches and supporting chaperones helping to lead our sports teams to be podium positions among the very best international schools in Singapore..

(Gil Levy – Head of Competitive Sport)