



# Overseas Family School High School

**Master Policy:**

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

## Principal's Message

By now, both new and returning students should have settled into a routine of active engagement in their classes and a consistent approach to their homework.

In this issue, we will highlight some of the semester's key moments, showcasing the wide range of experiences your child/ward has enjoyed through our 90 clubs, sports, arts, and service activities. The TEDx event was a resounding success, offering a blend of inspiration and insight as speakers delivered thoughtful and spirited presentations. The Lion City University Fair brought over 130 universities from around the globe to OFS, creating an afternoon full of enthusiastic questions and meaningful discussions. Grade 11 parents participated in an IB DP hands-on workshop, gaining valuable insights into the IB Diploma Program, its Core components, and practical tips for navigating the OFS Dashboard. Meanwhile, Grade 9 students had the opportunity to take part in a range of activities during their annual camp. Additionally, we were pleased to host the Parent-Student-Teacher Conferences, and we hope you found them helpful in supporting your child/ward's educational journey.

This quarter, our Homebase program has focused on helping students reflect on and address topics such as time management, goal setting, character development, building relationships, responding to successes and setbacks, and planning for assessments. These reflections will serve as a valuable tool for students to track their progress throughout the academic year.

Friday, 11 October 2024 will mark the end of the first quarter. Teachers will be finalising the grading of summative assessments until then. Once completed, Quarter One reports will be issued.

If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at [adam\\_ashton@ofs.edu.sg](mailto:adam_ashton@ofs.edu.sg).

Adam Ashton  
High School Principal



## IB Diploma News – Education For Life

### IB REGISTRATION DOCUMENTS

The deadline for IB registration for the May 2025 session is on Friday, 15 November 2024. The IB registration forms have already been sent home. Parents/Guardians need to complete and sign the forms and return to Ms. Maureen Goh, in the High School office, for final registration by **Friday, 18 October 2024**. Please check these forms carefully as any change to a student's registration after 15 November 2024 will incur late fees. There is no refund of fees for registration withdrawals after this date. Please contact Ms. Trivedi if you have any questions regarding the IB registration.

### CREATIVITY, ACTIVITY, SERVICE (CAS)

Students should be finishing their CAS program this semester. Please check with Mr. John James if you have any concerns about completing this component of the IB Diploma.

### GRADE 11

#### Grade 11 Parent Sessions

We recognise that parent partnership in High School education is crucial for student success. This synergy definitely improves students' motivation, engagement as well as their overall educational experience, leading to better outcomes and well-rounded individuals. During August and September, we conducted two sessions for our Grade 11 parents to unpack some of the key attributes of the IB Diploma Program:



#### The Core Zoom Session\*

Given the importance of the IB Core, which is comprised of Theory of Knowledge (TOK), the Extended Essay (EE) and Creativity, Activity and Service (CAS), we conducted an online video conference meeting (via Zoom) for the parents and guardians of Grade 11 IB Diploma students on Monday, 26 August 2024. They got an opportunity to meet the key educators involved with the Core process at OFS and learn more about it.

#### Grade 11 Parent Workshop\*

All the Grade 11 parents and guardians were invited to attend a hands-on workshop to learn more about OFS curriculum (OFS Diploma) and the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program (IB DP) on Friday, 13 September 2024. It truly delighted us to witness the enthusiastic response from the parents who attended this session.



*\*The slides used for both of these sessions are available on the OFS High School Dashboard.*

If you have any questions 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](mailto:trapti_trivedi@ofs.edu.sg)) and/or Lee Woollard, IB DP Assistant Coordinator & Extended Essay Coordinator ([lee\\_woollard@ofs.edu.sg](mailto:lee_woollard@ofs.edu.sg)).

(Trapti Trivedi – IB DP Coordinator)

## From The Parent Association (PA) Desk

Every OFS student received a present from the PA on Children's Day, 4 October 2024, along with a special note from our school founder, Ms. Irene Wong. We hope all the children had a great celebration.

If you have any questions or suggestions about the PA events, please write to us at [parent\\_association@ofs.edu.sg](mailto:parent_association@ofs.edu.sg). Stay safe and stay healthy.



## Junior High School News

From 10 to 12 September 2024, our Grade 9 students headed off to camp for three days of fun and adventure, led by Mr. Richard Petherick and the Grade 9 Homebase teachers. Meanwhile, Grade 10 students participated in a Personal Project workshop led by Ms. Charlotte Kautt, focusing on Criterion B (planning) and Criterion C (taking action). During the session, students collaborated by brainstorming ideas, receiving guidance, and clarifying doubts about their projects.

If you have any questions about the IB MYP or IGCSE programs, please feel free to reach out to me at [ab\\_palacios@ofs.edu.sg](mailto:ab_palacios@ofs.edu.sg) or Ms. Clara Fuentes Torruella, IB MYP/IGCSE Assistant Coordinator, at [c\\_fuentestorruella@ofs.edu.sg](mailto:c_fuentestorruella@ofs.edu.sg).

*(Aida Blat Palacios – IB MYP/IGCSE Coordinator)*



## Academic Advisors Update

### UNIVERSITY APPLICATION NEWS



September has been a busy month. Our Lion City University Fair was an overwhelming success, with over 135 universities in attendance worldwide. Students and parents from

Grades 9 to 12 had the chance to speak to university representatives to ask questions about the application process, entry requirements and more!

Our Grade 10 students and parents were introduced to course selection for Grade 11, while Grade 11 students were guided through the university application process. Thank you to all who participated.

Grade 12 students met individually with their Academic Advisors to prepare their post-graduation plans. Several special Academic Advisor sessions were organised for Grade 12 students during the Parent-Student-Teacher Conferences. Students participated in workshops on how to write Personal Statements for UK university applications and Common Application essays for US university applications.

Our early university application process has started with some students preparing to complete their Oxbridge and Medical/Veterinary applications.

### PSAT testing – Tuesday, 22 October 2024

By registering and completing the PSAT tests, students can prepare for the SATs that may be required for some US schools.

Students should regularly check their University Application Timeline, Homebase Learning Portal, the Gazette, and the Academic Advisors' website for important information on resources, workshops, meetings and updates.

*(Tamana Chanrai-Hills – Academic Advisor)*



## National Youth Achievement Award (NYAA) – Bronze Award

We are thrilled to announce an exciting opportunity for students to embark on a journey of personal growth and development through the National Youth Achievement Award (NYAA) program. This esteemed youth development program, aligned with the Ministry of Education's Levels of Attainment, is designed to encourage students to push their limits and develop holistically through effort and merit (while contributing to the community). The NYAA is widely recognised both in Singapore and internationally, comparable to the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

The NYAA program offers three levels: Bronze (minimum four months), Silver (minimum 12 months), and Gold (minimum 18 months). Each level presents unique challenges in the following areas:

- **Service Learning**
- **Healthy Living (Physical and Mental Wellness)**
- **Outdoor Appreciation (Environmental Stewardship)**

### CELEBRATING OUR FIRST BRONZE AWARD RECIPIENTS

During Academic Year 2023–2024, we piloted the NYAA Bronze Award with a small group of dedicated students. We are incredibly proud to announce our first-ever recipients of this award. Please join us in congratulating the following students for their hard work and commitment:

- **Samhita Uppalapati**
- **James Woodfine**
- **Rhea Jain**
- **Reyansh Varma**
- **Vivaan Grover**
- **Aishwarya Gopal Iyer**
- **Arin Jain**
- **Anya Hegde**
- **Aditi Anand**
- **Bhanuja**



Their accomplishments inspire us all, and we look forward to seeing more students participate in the program and reach new heights in their personal development journey.

If anyone is interested in NYAA, please contact Ms. Julia Hodgson at [julia\\_hodgson@ofs.edu.sg](mailto:julia_hodgson@ofs.edu.sg). As this is a personal journey, students may sign up any time.

*(Neisha Pratt – Deputy Principal – Curriculum)*

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## Grade 9 Camp

On 10 September 2024, the Grade 9 students embarked on a two-night, three-day adventure at camp. This experience offered a fantastic opportunity for students to bond with their peers and cultivate lifelong skills. Throughout the camp, they participated in a variety of activities, including Dragon Boating, Archery Tag, and Dance Performances during Campfire Night. A major highlight was the students' landslide victory over the staff team in Archery Tag.

Originally, the boys were set to spend the first night in tents and the girls on the second night. However, due to adverse weather conditions, both groups spent the final night in separate indoor accommodations. For many students, this camp also provided an opportunity to log hours towards their NYAA Bronze certification in Outdoor Appreciation and Healthy Living.

I would like to express my gratitude to the students for maintaining a consistently positive attitude throughout the camp, to the staff for sacrificing time away from their families, and to our camp providers, Ventured, for delivering another successful Grade 9 Camp.

*(Richard Petherick – Deputy Principal – Pastoral)*



## TEDxYouth@OFS

On Friday, 6 September 2024, OFS hosted its annual TEDxYouth@OFS event with the theme (R)Evolution, featuring a series of insightful and thought-provoking speeches written and presented by students. Kylene Lim's "Lost in Translation," was represented through the game of Mahjong to share her challenge of balancing culture and success as a third culture kid. Lu Jiayi presented "The Ripple Effect", sharing her mother's experiences of gender inequality in traditional China and the opportunities this created for her. The audience then experienced an emotional rollercoaster through Shaoni Saha's "Teenage Trails," navigating the highs and lows of adolescence. Guest speaker, Ashwath Kaushik, an OFS Elementary School student and Guinness World Record holder in chess, discussed how technology has transformed chess training with "Boards and Bytes". OFS alumna (2018) and international rugby referee, Mary Pringle, shared her "Power in Diversity," reflecting on the benefits of diversity through her experiences. Qiu Xiyi's "Heritage to Horizons," detailed her grandmother's experiences during China's feminist revolution. Finally, Anya Hegde connected with the audience through "Magic in Mediocrity," suggesting that societal pressures to excel can be detrimental, and accepting mediocrity might be the key to success and certainly to well-being.



The Director, Arshi Das conceptualised the TEDxYouth@OFS 2024

theme and orchestrated the event. Myra Singh and Reyansh Varma managed lighting, sound, live streaming, and video editing as student leader and assistant leader of Productions. Mira Chakravarthy led the Communications and Events team to market the event, including the @tedxofsyouth Instagram page, posters, banners, and promotional events while Charvi Pitambare, worked closely with the Speakers to perfect their content and delivery. The annual event proved to be a memorable and empowering experience for all once again.

*(Marion Vlok – SA Leader: Language A – IB MYP/IGCSE)*

## World Peace Day Poetry Competition

In response to the theme of Cultivating a Culture of Peace, students submitted their profound ideas in several different poetic formats. The four winners are all from Grade 9 and they are: Sadiqa Ahmed, Nitika Padmaraja, Shreyansh Nanda and Komal Yogesh Prasad. They were all invited to read their poems at the Peace Day Assembly. Highly recommended awards went to Vedaant Atreya (Grade 10) and Prisha Bhandari (Grade 9).

*(Marion Vlok – SA Leader: Language A – IB MYP/IGCSE)*





## Student Voice Start Of Year Events



Student Voice started the academic year strong, hosting an assembly and a Galactica spirit week to get school spirit up! The assembly planned for the student body by our President, Ella Purchase, and Vice President, Smita Menon, was interactive and amazing.

They included a section where a panel of students got up on stage and drew from their own experiences to offer advice to the lower grades. The assembly also featured an introduction to the various clubs and opportunities available for our students this upcoming school year, and an exciting special appearance from our top school band.



In the beginning of September, Student Voice launched the very first spirit week of the school year, themed "Galactica". By hosting movie lunches with popcorn, lunchtime sports, glow in the dark games and sparkly photo booths, our sports, social media and arts committees worked tirelessly to give our school hallways an outer space shine!

Due to their consistent and unwavering effort for our events and their committees, we are happy to announce our Members of the Month for August and September – Mahoro Takeuchi and Varnika Jamnerkar! Mahoro for his work on the SPP icebreakers conducted last month, and Varnika for her dedication to making our events the best that they can be.

*(Austin Riedeman – Events Coordinator)*



## 65th National Inter-School Team Chess Championship

OFS' High School chess teams performed well, winning medals in the International Schools category and further demonstrating OFS' strength in chess. Congratulations to **Srishti Sethi** for winning Gold, **Saki Suzuki**, **Vasundhara Soundaryarajan**, **Arshaan Prakash** for winning Silver and **Shreyansh Nanda** for winning Bronze.

Special Congratulations to OFS' U10 chess team for winning Singapore's 65th National Inter-School Team Chess Championship, held on Tuesday, 3 September 2024 at Rulang Primary School. Well done **Ashwath Kaushik**, **Abhigyan Jha**, **Pham Dang Khoa** and **Isaac Ziegler**.

Once again congratulations to all 19 High School students for giving your very best during this full-day chess championship against Singapore's Best. You have displayed great sportsmanship and made us very proud.

*(Dijana Dengler and Phillipp Ziegler – Chess teachers)*



## OFS Tigers Captains

### ACSIS Season 1 of Academic Year 2024-2025

Congratulations to these OFS Tigers selected as Captains of the ACSIS Season 1 sports to lead our competitive sports teams:

#### CRICKET

- **KOTIAN Samarth – Captain**

#### FOOTBALL

- **SONOGUCHI Nozomi – Boys 19U Team Captain**
- **KOBAYASHI Hayate – Boys 19U Team Vice Captain**
- **PAGADALA NAIDU Diya – Girls 19U Team Captain**
- **BALAJI Asha – Girls 19U Team Vice Captain**
- **TIGKAS Christos – Boys 16U Team Captain**
- **CHOW Li Xuan – Girls 16U Team Captain**

#### RUGBY

- **CESBERT Leon – Boys 14U Team Captain**

#### SWIMMING

- **MEINES Jill – Team Captain**
- **VERMA Naya – Team Vice Captain**

#### TOUCH FOOTBALL

- **FORBES Claire – 14U Girls Team Captain**
- **MARKOV Mirella – 12U Girls Team Captain**

#### VOLLEYBALL

- **SIM Sheryan – Boys 19U Team Captain**
- **CUNNINGHAM-BURLEY Latisha – Girls 19U Team Captain**
- **SEN Anoushka – Girls 19U Team Vice Captain**
- **GRUBER Amitai – Boys 16U Team Captain**
- **BHASIN Netanya – Girls 16U Team Captain**

*"Greatness starts Somewhere - Greatness starts Here"*

*(Gil Levy – Head of Competitive Sport)*

