



International Section Update

March 2012

A word from the Head

It has been a busy term with many special activities, in addition to routine classroom work, to extend and give extra value to the students' school experience. Carnival is an important national celebration here in Portugal and, though Carnival Day itself falls in the half term holiday each year, we were able to celebrate it as a school community on the Friday before the holiday. There was the traditional fancy dress procession accompanied by lively music and watched by many parents and friends of the school. This year a number of classes had prepared special dance routines and this was a diverting extra dimension to what is always a great occasion.



Several senior classes had also dressed up according to pre-arranged themes and joined in the fun. In the afternoon these seniors enjoyed a music, dance and karaoke spectacular on the basketball court.

Helping those less fortunate than ourselves is never far from our thoughts here in school and over the year a range of fund-raising events are organised. The latest, at the initiative of the Student Councils of both sections of the school, was a non-uniform day. A grand total of €983 was raised to be divided between the Portuguese Red Cross and the Portimão Girls' Home, Nossa Senhora de Conceição. Many parents sent in more than the required €2 fee as well as food items, toys etc for the Red Cross.

John Butterworth



Inter-School Debating

On the 1st of February 2012, the International School of the Algarve welcomed a visiting team from Vale Verde School to join together in the first debate on a pressing current issue. In this debate, the first one I have watched, the teams were arguing for or against the Banning of Bullfighting in the Iberian Peninsula.

The debate took place in the International School of the Algarve's library. Neither side knew the stance they would have to take on the issue until minutes before the debate and therefore had had to prepare both sides of the argument.

After a coin toss, it was decided that the International School of the Algarve would be against the Banning of bullfighting in the Iberian Peninsula and Vale Verde for making it illegal.

Each side was first given five minutes for the Proposer or Opposer of the motion to state their views on the selected topic. Both sides brought to the fore several important issues such as the use of paraphernalia to agitate the bulls and make them aggressive. They disputed how true such accusations were. The Seconders then spoke in support. After allowing statements from the audience, the main speakers had to make a "summing up" in which they endeavoured to answer the points raised.



*Claudia van den Berg makes her case with passion ↑
Opposer Johnny Cartucho and Chairman Stephen Jones are attentive*

The International School of the Algarve argued that bullfighting was a sport like any other, rich in cultural heritage, which, if denied to the people of the Iberian Peninsula, could have detrimental effects on the economy or on future generations of society. They showed that many top matadors can earn up to a hundred thousand euros per fight, a figure which astonished many of the audience. This illustrated just how important bullfighting is to these countries with fighters being paid more than the average European footballer.

However the Vale Verde speakers believed Bullfighting to be a barbaric sport of pure blood lust. Statistics showed that 90% of foreigners of the Iberian Peninsula who watched a bullfight did not go on to watch another, proving just how the rest of the world seems to perceive the sport. They also stated that millions were being spent on these bulls purely for the purpose of entertainment, money which in a time of economic hardship was being wasted.

In the final statements by each team, both sides stuck to their base argument of whether or not Bullfighting should be made illegal in the Iberian Peninsula. It was then the turn of the Judge to comment on the standard of debate and decide on the winning team.



Ms Sheena Rawcliffe, Managing Director of the Resident Group, had kindly agreed to attend the debate and act as judge. She spoke clearly and astutely about the standard of debating skill exhibited by both teams as well as the merits of the arguments employed.

Whilst she praised the speaking and presentational skills of the EIA team more highly, Ms Rawcliffe decided that Vale Verde had put forward a more compelling case and had so won the debate. This event gave the audience, including me, a look into the world of debating and how it is run, hopefully inspiring the students to look more thoroughly into a world with which they may have not have been familiar before.

Antony Moore, Year 12

School Trips

Senior Science Trip to Lisbon. On the 10th February senior science students from years 10, 11, 12 of both sections visited the Pavilhão do Conhecimentos in Lisbon. Upon entering, many interesting and exciting experiments awaited the group. The first exhibition presented a hands-on experience of the application of physics to daily life. "How can you see images through a periscope?" "Why does this float on salty water?" And "how do electrical currents work?" were some of many questions provoked by the enticing experiments. Categories included electrolysis and reactivity, reflection and refraction of light, density and pressure, and moments and the centre of mass.



*Charles Cooper using his head at the
← Science Exhibition*

After learning about these interesting processes, students eagerly climbed the stairs to where the next exhibition awaited. Many fascinating exhibits, including a shadow chamber (where your shadow is captured and projected), were tried by the students. One exhibit made sound waves visual to the human eye, which was an extraordinary experience. There were tantalising optical illusions and even a bed of nails for those daring enough to try! (perfectly safe of course.) The day came to a close as the students exited the museum to gather at the school bus, content with the knowledge and experience they had gained from the visit.

By Charles Cooper Year 11

Sixth Form Travel and Tourism Trip. On Tuesday the 7th of February Alice Sanders and Beau dos Santos, as part of their Travel and Tourism coursework, organised a field trip to the West Coast for all the Sixth Form students. We visited one of the best 5 star resorts in Portugal called Martinhal. We were taken on a tour by both the Sales and Human Resource Managers who were very friendly and informative. The Martinhal Resort is also sustainable and eco-friendly due to the architecture of the buildings and the landscape which are in harmony with the Natural Park Reserve and the breathtaking views of ocean. After the tour, we had a nice lunch at a nearby Beach Bar Restaurant. As it was Niclas Butz's 18th birthday, we were treated to a delicious chocolate cake.



← *The Sixth Form relax at Martinhal Resort*

A short bus trip later, we visited Aldeia da Pedralva, just north of Vila do Bispo. The village used to be derelict with only 5 inhabitants but in 2006 four entrepreneurs envisioned the regeneration of this area and reconstructed and refurbished the houses to attract families, tourists and surfers. They now own 31 of the 50 houses, 22 are complete with 1-3 bedrooms. The aim was to keep everything authentically Portuguese which could be seen in the small food shop that sells traditional gourmet items and vegetables from one of the villager's garden patches.

Both Martinhal and Pedralva, although having different concepts and attracting different market segments, are both aiding the local community and using locally grown produce. On this trip we learned about sustainability, responsible tourism and cultural tourism as well as a little on how to run a business. It not only helped students studying Travel and Tourism but also Art, D.T., Geography and Business Studies. Overall, it was a great day out and a chance for Sixth Form students to be together for a full day.

Written by Angelica Scholts, Year 12

Primary School News

Kidzania is a children's role-play theme park in Lisbon and the Primary Classes of both sections of the school made a joint excursion to experience it earlier this term. It is essentially a model town where children can earn money by doing jobs of work and then spend their earnings on leisure and fun activities. It must be said that not all of the children had realised the importance of earning before spending and, as such, this study visit definitely provided a useful lesson!

Primary Classes from National and International Sections on a joint School Study Visit to Kidzania, Lisbon →





Science comes to life

Challenged to make bread in the laboratory, the Year 10 Biology group showed they were candidates for an Algarve edition of Masterchef. Understanding the science of what is happening when bread is being made was a fundamental part of the exercise and the budding Heston Blumenthals revealed their creative culinary skills at the same time.

Before ↘



After ↗

Having mixed and kneaded the dough in the laboratory, the resulting loaves were left to prove in the Snack Bar warming cupboard. The kind cooperation of the Snack Bar staff was vital in the final part of the process, baking the loaves in the oven. Year 10 returned at afternoon break to collect their still-warm bread and enjoyed sampling it. Jonas even bought butter and ham from the Snack Bar to create a rather large sandwich, final consumption of which had to wait until the end of the Maths lesson that followed.



Sports News

Regional Athletics Competition

The new stadium in Parchal was the venue for the Schools' Regional Athletics Competition last Friday. Some 30 schools from across the Algarve sent teams to the event, coordinated by the Desporto Escolar organisation. Our team was made up of 50 students from both National and International Sections. There were some very good results overall with 4 students emerging as winners of their events and therefore being crowned as Regional Champions:

Mega Sprint 40m Juvenis – Maria Severino Mega Km 1000m Infantis – Carolina Ferreira

Mega Km 1000m Infantis – Bernardo Freire Shot Put Iniciados – Paulina Godynyuk

All these athletes have now qualified for the National Athletics Championships to be held in Lisbon later in the year. Many congratulations to all our athletes on a fine performance.



Basketball Match.

Just before the half term holiday we were pleased to welcome two teams from Valverde School to play a basketball fixture. Their junior team took on our Year 6 and their senior team faced the might of a team drawn from Year 11 International and Year 12 National Section. The junior match was drawn at 8-8, whilst EIA triumphed in the senior match, winning 24-10.



Year 6 students playing against a visiting basketball team.

The International Schools' Cross Country Event. This annual event took place in February once again in the Vilamoura area and was well attended by a total of 9 international schools from the Algarve and Lisbon areas. There were 8 team events and EIA won a 2nd and 3rd place. In terms of individual performances we had a very commendable total of three 1st places. Many congratulations to all our runners but especially to Bernardo Freire who won the Division 5 Benjamins, Carolina Ferreira who won the Division 4 Infantis and Rodrigo Frieza who won the Division 3 Iniciados.

Varsity International School Sports Festival. This event is hosted by international schools in the Lisbon area and, as it has grown to such an extent in recent years, is now split into two parts. The first, the Varsity age group, took place last weekend. Our boys soccer team played hard and, though not finishing highly placed, at least came home with the satisfaction of having beaten St Julian's School. The second parts, for the younger age groups, boys' soccer and girls' basketball takes place in April.

Performing Arts News

Rehearsals for the opera "The Little Mermaid" by our Director of Music, Gita Nasta, have been underway all term. The opera is to be performed at the Lagoa Auditorium on the 11th and 12th of May as part of the School's 40th Anniversary Celebrations.

Recently the cast spent a weekend away for a period of intensive rehearsals. Ms Nasta believes this to be a very important time when the children bond and become a real team and the opera takes a leap forward. There was a lot of hard work and a lot of fun. The group stayed in Ferragudo at the Parish Centre behind the church. Breakfast, lunch and dinner were provided by the Centre and the School supplemented this with tea, sandwiches, snacks and drinks - the children tend to get very hungry between rehearsals. The group was accompanied by Ms Best, and other teachers as well as Ms Nasta and two fellow musicians (conductors) working with her on the opera.

The Little Mermaid will undoubtedly be the musical event of 2012 and is not to be missed.



Coming up soon:

Easter Holiday	Monday 26 March to Monday 9 April
Tuesday 10 April	First day of the Summer Term
Thursday 19 April to Saturday 21 April	International Schools' Spring Sports Festival, Hosted by St Julian's School, Lisbon.
Wednesday 25 April	Dia Feriado. Public Holiday, School closed.
Friday 27 April	Cazorla Adventure Trip departs (Awaiting confirmation)
Monday 7 May	Main examination period begins. Years 11,12,13 begin Examination leave.
Friday 11 and Saturday 12 May	Performances of Ms Nasta's opera "The Little Mermaid", Lagoa Auditorium, 20h00
Monday 21 May	Year 10 End of Year Examination Week begins.
Monday 28 May	Years 7 and 8 End of Year Examination Week begins.
Monday 4 June	Year 10 End of Year Reports go home.
Thursday 7 June	Dia Feriado. Public Holiday. (Awaiting confirmation.)
Monday 11 to Friday 15 June	Year 10 Work Experience Week
Wednesday 27 June	End of Year Reports for Years 7, 8 and 9 go home.
Friday 29 June	Last day of the 2011-12 School Year
Monday 13 August	Cambridge IGCSE and A level examination results published.
Thursday 16 August	Edexcel A level results published.
Thursday 23 August	Edexcel IGCSE and GCSE results published.
Monday 10 September	First day of the 2012-13 School Year