



International Section Update

September 2011

A word from the Head

I know I speak on behalf of all the teaching staff when I say how pleased we were to welcome your children back to school on the 12th September at the start of the new School Year. It was clear that they had enjoyed the holidays but were happy to be back and see their friends and teachers again. This is a very special School Year, it being the 40th Anniversary of our foundation in 1972. There will be many special events organised during the course of the year in celebration of this landmark in the School's proud history.

As an amazing opening to this special year, during the summer Event29 happened at the School, on the 29th July. Many of you were present, many others will have heard about it. The School had been encouraging friendships through its official Facebook page (www.facebook.com/eialgarve) and, on the night, some 5000 friends of the school attended an extremely well-organised and very enjoyable night of music, food and good company. Many old friendships were renewed amongst past and present students, their parents and their teachers, as well as many new ones being forged, at what turned out to be an unforgettable event. Event28 2012 is already planned for the 28th July next year as the grand finale to our special anniversary year.

The School is very well aware of the difficult economic situation besetting all of us and is conscious of the vote of confidence you have given by choosing to have your children educated here. We will do our very best to justify the confidence you have shown in us throughout the year ahead.

Although times are hard for many of us, during the summer just gone the School has continued to invest in improved facilities for the benefit of the students. The whole premises have had their annual repainting and the School looks bright and welcoming. The ongoing work to renew the classroom lighting systems has been completed. The installation of the new lights will be paid for within a short time by savings in electricity consumption alone. This, together with our continuing School-wide efforts to recycle materials, demonstrates a commitment to the development of environmental consciousness and social responsibility in all of our students.

There has also been a significant upgrading of the School's sports facilities. Both the main and lower basketball courts have been resurfaced and repainted whilst the Primary football pitch in the Orchard has been converted to an artificial grass surface. Exciting improvements are almost completed on the main football pitch. When completed there will be a 400 metre running track, two more basketball courts, a grass football pitch and an international specification roller-blading track. All of these new facilities will not only enhance the sporting aspects of school life for your children but will attract considerable interest from outside the School. As you will know, our Roller-Blading team is National Champion of Portugal for the third year running and we can expect to see national and international events hosted here in the future.

You may well have read in the English press outline details of the successes of our senior students at examination level. A fuller analysis is on display in the School Office Reception area should you wish to see it. In short, our 26 Year 11 students were 10% ahead of UK averages in terms of A* to C grades at GCSE level. The percentage of A* and A grades was even further ahead. Our Advanced Level students achieved a 100% pass rate, with A* and A grades in 53% of entries, as compared to 27% in the UK. Congratulations to our hard-working students and their dedicated teachers.

This is the first of several newsletters which will be published and circulated during the anniversary year ahead and I am sure you will find them interesting and informative. I close by wishing all our students and my colleagues a very happy and successful new School Year.

John Butterworth



Staff News

We are fortunate to have five new teachers joining us this term, all of them experienced in their own fields.



Mr Stephen Jones has joined us as Head of Secondary. He has many years experience as Head of English and Literature in independent schools in the UK, most recently at the Oratory School, a prestigious boarding school near Reading. Mr Jones has a Masters Degree in Educational Management and Leadership in addition to his first degree and teacher training qualifications. He has great experience of the UK examinations system having worked as Principal Examiner in English Language and Literature for the OCR Examinations Board. He is also a well-qualified tennis coach. He will be teaching English Language and Literature in the Middle and Senior Schools as well as GCSE Drama. A further key role will be to head the pastoral side of the Secondary School.

Mrs Judith Peters will join us as GCSE and Advanced Level Mathematics teacher. She has more than 30 years of teaching experience in the UK and most recently was Head of a large Mathematics department for seven years at Abbotsholme School in Staffordshire. Mrs Peters first qualified at university level as a Historian but later converted to Mathematics by adding a further degree. She also gained a Post Graduate Diploma in Statistics and Statistical Education in the late 1980s. Showing her commitment to on-going professional development, she qualified as a teacher of English as a Foreign/Second Language in 2001.



Profª Andreia Rodrigues joins our Science Department. Born and brought up in Portugal, her first degree in Physics and Chemistry was from the University of Faro. In 2005 she moved to teach Science in UK state schools, from which she gained 6 years successful experience. She will be teaching GCSE and Advanced Level Physics and Chemistry in the International Section as well as Física in the National Section.

Mrs Clare Jones is married to our new Head of Secondary and joins us as Class Teacher for Year 4. She is a very experienced Primary School practitioner with over 20 years employment in independent and state schools in the UK. At different stages in her career she has been a Key Stage One and Foundation Stage Coordinator, a Science Coordinator and an IT Coordinator, illustrating the depth and range of the teaching experience she brings to us.





Ms Jennifer Baxter is our new Primary Auxiliary working with Pre-Reception Class in the bi-lingual section of the School. She moved to Portugal in 2005, before which she was working as a child care assistant in Yorkshire.

Mrs Helen Fitzsimmons is not new to the school having worked here for a number of years as Year 5 class teacher. She is also secondary experienced and we have been able to combine these two areas of her expertise to make full use of her in a new role. She will be teaching English in the Middle School as well as being in charge of our English Support Department, assisting those students new to English or those with special educational needs. In this work she will, of course, be liaising closely with both Primary Class Teachers and Secondary Subject Teachers.

Student News

It is always a great pleasure to welcome new students at any stage in the School Year. This term we have new arrivals from Germany, Sweden, Holland, Norway, Denmark, Brazil, Russia, China, France as well as Portugal and the UK.

It all goes to emphasise what a truly international community this is. Although we are working principally in English and Portuguese we greatly value the international dimension brought to us by the diversity of our students. There is a tremendous amount we can learn from one another and it is wonderful that this process, so important in an increasingly globalised world, can happen here in a happy and purposeful school community in the far southwestern corner of Europe.

The Head Students for the School Year have been elected. They are Niclas Butz and Vitor Zhan. Congratulations to them. They will assist the staff by organising duty rotas and their fellow students by being their representatives whenever needed.

Primary School News

The Bi-Lingual Section of the School has had an excellent start to the year. Year 1 is now fully integrated into this new system and children and parents are very pleased with the large classroom and its new interactive whiteboard.

Primary Assemblies take place every Friday afternoon. Each week commendations of the class "Star of the Week" are presented as a reward for excellent work and contribution. The running total of Housepoints is also announced. New House Captains and Vice House Captains have already been elected:

da Gama (Red) Mariana Brita and Alexander Rostovski, Moniz (Green) Alexander Stern and Anthony McDonald, Camões (Yellow) Clementine Lussiana and Lewis Freeman, Bragança (Blue) Sieb Enthoven and Paulo Zhan.



Each year we take part in the Christmas Shoebox Appeal, the students getting together boxes of small Christmas presents to send overseas to children much less fortunate than themselves. As these have to be transported to England before their eventual distribution worldwide, the boxes have to be completed and collected well before Half Term.

Primary Clubs have already started and take place from 15h45 to 16h30. This year we are able to offer Art, Portuguese, Dutch and ICT.

Sports News

Interclass sports competitions are just beginning. Held during the lunch hour class teams will compete at football for girls and basketball for boys. This is all part of the build up to the International Schools Autumn Sports Festival to be held in Lisbon in November to which we will be sending teams.

Other sports and activities are available after school through the Sports Club CDEIA. Details have been circulated, including who to contact to register your children, of the club activities such as Karate, Roller-Blading, Gymnastics, Soccer and Tennis. We are sure your children will enjoy participating in these extra-curricular activities.

Performing Arts News

As a grand opening theatrical event in its 40th Anniversary Year the School is proud to announce that two performances of "Jungle Book" will be presented at the Lagoa Auditorium. There will be an evening performance at 19h30 on Friday 21st October and a late matinee at 17h30 on Saturday the 22nd. Based closely on the Walt Disney film version of Kipling's stories, Jungle Book has been directed as a school musical by Ms Gita Nasta, assisted by Bruno Rodrigues, and has a cast of 120 students from both National and International Sections of the School. Originally presented last summer in the School Gymnasium, we have decided to take the production to the West End...of Lagoa. The Auditorium is a fine 300 seat theatre with a huge stage and excellent technical facilities and so this is definitely an event not to be missed. It will be advertised and open to the public and so you are advised to reserve your seats, via the School Office, as early as possible. There will be no charge for tickets but there will be a retiring collection for charity at both performances.

This is the first of several celebratory Performing Arts events during the 40th Anniversary Year. Ms Nasta's "The Little Mermaid" is already booked in for the Spring.

Meanwhile the Instrumental Music Programme, also organised by Ms Nasta, is getting into full swing and details of the instruments available, teachers and costs are being circulated. Last year around 50 students took advantage of this programme to learn musical instruments in school and we hope its success continues to grow.



Coming up soon:

Wednesday 5 October	Dia Feriado, Public Holiday. School closed.
Friday 21 October	Performance of "Jungle Book" at the Lagoa Auditorium, 19h30
Saturday 22 October	Performance of "Jungle Book" at the Lagoa Auditorium, 17h30
Monday 24 October	Interim Reports for Years 7, 11 and 13 go home.
Wednesday 26 October	Primary Parents' Meeting. 15h45.
Thursday 27 October	Primary Parents' Meeting. 15h45 Year 7 Parents' Meeting. 16h45 in the School Library.
Monday 31 October to Friday 4 November	Half Term Holiday.
Wednesday 9 November	School Cross Country Event, 10h00. Parents welcome. Year 11 and 13 Parents' Meeting, 16h45, School Library.
Monday 14 November	Interim Reports for Years 10 and 12 go home.
Thursday 17 to Saturday 19 November	Division 3, 4 and 5 teams at Autumn Sports Festival, Lisbon.
Thursday 24 November	Year 10 and 12 Parents' Meeting, 16h45, School Library.
Saturday 26 November	Charity Christmas Bazaar.
Monday 28 November	Interim Reports for Years 8 and 9 go home.
Thursday 1 December	Dia Feriado, Public Holiday. School closed.
Friday 2 December	Practice Examinations (Mocks) begin for Years 11 and 13.
Tuesday 6 December	Year 8 and 9 Parents' Meeting, 16h45, School Library.
Thursday 8 December	Dia Feriado, Public Holiday. School closed. Varsity Sports Festival, Lisbon, begins.
Friday 9 December	School Christmas Concert, Lagoa Church, 19h30
Monday 12 to Friday 16 December	School Ski trip
Friday 16 December	Last day of the Autumn Term
Tuesday 3 January 2012	First day of the Spring Term