Newsletter November 2026

Overseas Family School
High School

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

Principal's Message



The second quarter of the High School calendar is always one of the busiest and most exciting times of the year.

Rehearsals and preparations for our upcoming High School Theatre Show, 'Divine, Stella Devine', and our annual CultureFest are in full swing, while our students continue to reach significant academic milestones.

A number of exciting events have already taken place. Talentime and TEDx continue to provide platforms for our students to showcase their talents, and they certainly shine. Meanwhile, our MUN Executive Committee is working hard in preparation for MUNOFS XIX.

Our Grade 9 students recently attended our first Grade 9 camp in Da Nang, Vietnam, while the end of Quarter 1 saw our inaugural Grade 11 NYAA Canoe Expedition in Hong Kong. I personally had the privilege of joining this expedition and witnessing our students work collaboratively to paddle from one destination to another, carry their belongings in barrels, cook their own meals and sleep in tents, all while disconnecting from the distractions of everyday life. It was an unforgettable experience for everyone involved.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Ms. Julia Hodgson and Mr. Richard Petherick for creating such memorable and meaningful experiences for our students. Outdoor education plays an important role in developing resilience, independence, collaboration and confidence, providing valuable opportunities for students to learn and grow beyond the classroom. We look forward to offering more opportunities for our students to challenge themselves and continue to grow through experiential learning.

Another wonderful initiative has been Aditi Anand's book drive for her NYAA Gold Award. What began as an individual initiative has grown into a fantastic community project, with an incredible 1,511 books collected and sent off to support a worthy cause.

Our Grade 10 students have also successfully completed their Personal Projects (PP). It was truly inspiring to see their creativity, commitment and dedication on display at the well-attended PP Exhibition in the OFS Auditorium. Congratulations to all our students and thank you to the staff who supported them throughout this process.

At OFS, students are encouraged to take on leadership roles and contribute meaningfully to their communities. Many are actively involved in service initiatives, including MINDS, RDA, NTUC Health Nursing Home, the Red Cross, beach clean-ups and projects aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. These opportunities allow our students to develop empathy, leadership skills and a strong sense of social responsibility.

Semester One Examinations and Important Dates

Please note that semester examinations will begin on Thursday, 26 November 2026. Each course examination contributes 40% of the semester grade, with the remaining 60% based on assessments completed during Quarters 1 and 2.

High School students may take study leave during the examination period with written permission from a parent or guardian. A detailed email outlining these arrangements has already been sent home.

Following the examination period, regular classes will continue until the end of Semester One on Friday, 11 December 2026.

If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at **neisha_pratt@ofs.edu.sg.**

I wish all our students the very best as they continue their learning and prepare for the end of the semester.

Neisha Pratt
High School Principal

IB Diploma News – Education For Life

GRADE 12



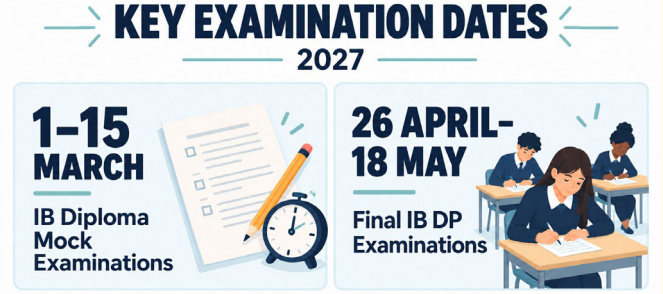
Semester Two brings important milestones as our Grade 12 students complete their core requirements and prepare for their final examinations. Please note the following dates.

Monday, 11 January 2027 – Core Expo (Participation is optional)
Grade 12 students will have the opportunity to share their Extended Essay, Theory of Knowledge (TOK), or Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS) experiences with Grade 11 students. This is a valuable opportunity to celebrate learning and help younger students prepare for their own journeys.

Thursday, 14 January 2027 – Extended Essay Final Submission
Students must submit their final Extended Essay before 2 pm. They should allow time to check their referencing, presentation and submission requirements.

Friday, 15 January 2027 – Extended Essay Dress Up Day
A chance to celebrate the completion of the Extended Essay! Students can look forward to marking this achievement together at lunchtime.

Friday, 29 January 2027 – TOK Essay Final Submission
The final TOK essay is due before 2 pm. Students are encouraged to plan their revisions carefully and complete all required checks before submitting.



1–15 March 2027 – IB Diploma Mock Examinations
Mock examinations provide an opportunity to practise examination techniques, consolidate learning and identify priorities for further revision.

26 April–18 May 2027 – Final IB DP Examinations
Students should keep this examination period available and refer to their individual timetables when planning revision and travel.

We encourage students to prepare steadily, seek support early and maintain healthy routines. Thank you to families for supporting both their children's learning and well-being throughout this important semester.

GRADE 11

Creativity, Activity, and Service (CAS)
Students should continue planning meaningful CAS experiences,

recording their reflections and reviewing their progress with their CAS adviser. The Core Expo will offer a useful opportunity to learn from Grade 12 students' experiences.

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** and/or Lee Woollard, IB DP Assistant Coordinator & Extended Essay Coordinator, at **lee_woollard@ofs.edu.sg.**

(Trapti Trivedi – IB DP Coordinator)

Junior High School News



Grade 10 MYP Personal Project Exhibition

On Thursday, 15 October 2026, our Grade 10 students gathered with the OFS community to proudly share their achievements at the MYP Personal Project Exhibition. The event was the culmination of months spent on inquiry, innovation, and determination, offering students a platform to showcase projects rooted in their personal interests and learning outside traditional lessons.

Throughout this extended journey, students have delved into topics based on personal interests, blending thorough research, creative problem-solving, and critical reflection to craft meaningful outcomes. Ranging from technical designs and artistic endeavors to community service projects and expressive performances, every booth demonstrated their curiosity, focus, and individual evolution. The displays also underscored their growth in key Approaches to Learning skills, laying a solid foundation for their upper secondary studies and beyond.

Parents, teachers, and staff engaged in lively discussions with the presenters, celebrating the impressive work on display. Grade 9 students joined to cheer on their peers and gather ideas for their own projects next year, while Grade 8 students also attended, making it an incredible and inspiring experience for them as well. Additionally, 17 outstanding Grade 11 volunteers generously gave their time, drawing on their own Personal Project experiences from last year to support the event and guide their younger schoolmates.

As our Grade 10 students draw close to wrapping up their projects, we are truly excited to see the final results of their efforts. The exhibition stood as a dynamic celebration of self-directed learning, personal growth, and student voice. Congratulations to all our Grade 10 students for their dedication and for sharing their Personal Project journey with the entire OFS community!

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** and/or to Mr. Austin Riedeman, IB MYP/IGCSE Assistant Coordinator, at **austin_riedeman@ofs.edu.sg.**

(Aida Blat Palacios – IB MYP/IGCSE Coordinator & Grade Level Coordinator – Grade 10 & Austin Riedeman – IB MYP/IGCSE Assistant Coordinator, Personal Project Coordinator and Grade Level Coordinator – Grade 9)

From The Parent Association (PA) Desk

Warm wishes for November!

Happy Deepavali to all our families celebrating the Festival of Lights! May this special occasion bring joy, peace and happiness to your homes.

To all students preparing for their exams, we wish you confidence, focus and success. May your hard work lead to wonderful results. Remember to rest well, stay positive and do your best!

Academic Advisors Update

Grade 12 University Applications

Following the first early application deadlines in October, November brings another busy month for our Grade 12 learners as they prepare applications to universities around the world. Academic Advisors are working closely with students and teachers to guide them through this important stage of the process.

A Look Back: Lion City University Fair

With over 120 universities from around the world joining us on campus, September's Lion City University Fair was an event worth revisiting! This month, we share some highlights in photos, capturing the conversations and connections that made the day such a success.

PSAT



In October, 45 students (19 from Grade 9, 20 from Grade 10, and 6 from Grade 11) completed the PSAT (Preliminary SAT) exam. It is a 2-1/2 hour aptitude test and contains evidence-based reading, writing and mathematics sections. It is intended to be useful practice for the SAT, which assesses students' readiness for college and is part of the admissions requirements of many universities in the United States, Singapore, and Hong Kong.

(Lisa Anthony – Academic Advisor)

ASP - Standing Room Only!



Not really "standing room only"! The High School Academic Support Program is in full swing every Wednesday and Thursday in the library. With strong teacher presence across nearly all subjects, students can sign up to receive 1-to-1 help, small group work support, or student-led sessions in our new break-out rooms. Contact your Grade Level Coordinator (GLC) for details.

(Richard Petherick – Deputy Principal - Pastoral)

EastMUN

During the first weekend of our October break, over 40 Grade 9–12 students took part in the 14th annual EastMUN hosted by UWCSEA East. These members of the Model United Nations club represented our school through diplomatic discussions, collaborative resolutions, and key leadership roles.





Over the three days, our experienced club members took charge of the proceedings, with five serving as committee chairs. In these roles, they authored comprehensive background reports, mentored incoming delegates, and guided their committees through complex diplomatic procedures. Delegates across committees from ECOSOC to the Historical Security Council collaborated closely to address pressing global issues and devise creative international solutions.

Throughout the conference, our students pushed themselves out of their comfort zones. Beginner students confidently asked their first points of information (POIs), while seasoned members actively drafted and submitted targeted amendments to refine committee resolutions. The members of the US Senate were particularly enthusiastic, taking on a creative role play as American senators.

While every participant contributed significantly to the debate, three students earned top recognition for their outstanding contributions. Congratulations to Adya Sharma, Shyam Illindala, and Ashwathi Menon!

(Sarah Leonardis – Humanities & TOK)

Fiction Diction Winner

Congratulations to Fiction Diction Winner, Beliz Kilic, on receiving Kinokuniya book vouchers from her Grade Level Co-ordinator, Ms. Aida. Beliz completed the required number of books from a recommended reading list over the summer break as well as all the mandatory creative and analytic tasks for each text, with flair and style. Well done, Beliz!



(Marion Vlok – SA Leader: English)

Book Drive





My name is Aditi Anand (G11), and for my NYAA Gold Community Leadership Initiative, I started Overseas Family School's first ever Book Drive. I chose to do this book drive as my project because I wanted to help share my love for books with those who don't have the same access to them.

Originally, the plan was for this book drive to target only the High School, and the aim was to collect 50 - 150 books. However, with the Parent Association's support, we managed to expand this to target all schools at OFS, with collection boxes in the ES, MS, Kindy, Parent's Cafe, and the Admin block.

I am proud to share that we have collected 1,511 books, which is ten times more than what our goal was! A big, heartfelt thanks to everyone who donated books for this drive.

This drive ran from Friday, 4 September 2026 to Thursday, 15 October 2026, and in this duration I was privileged enough to witness the OFS community come together to support this cause. These books will now be going to the Share At Door Step organisation, who will then distribute these among their partners.

Therefore, I am very glad to report this Book Drive as a huge success, and a special thank you to the PA, Ms. Pratt, Ms. Hodgson and to all the teachers and students who contributed and supported me as I embarked on this initiative.

(Neisha Pratt – High School Principal)

Lanterns & Legends: Grade 9 in Hoi An - Vietnam 2026

Our Grade 9 Vietnam adventure was an incredible journey of culture, discovery, and community! After a warm welcome and exploring the dramatic Marble Mountains on Day 1, students spent their evening taking in the glowing, lantern-lit streets of Hoi An's Old Town. Day 2 brought hands-on flavors as we navigated coconut waterways on traditional basket boats, toured a local farm, and cooked authentic dishes together. On Day 3, we cruised down the Thu Bon River to Kim Bong Craft Village for artisan workshops, planted fruit trees, met local school children, and wrapped up on the beach with team-building games. The excitement continued into Day 4 with an 'Awesome Race' through Old Town, famous Bánh Mì at Madam Khánh, lantern-making, and pottery workshops before a celebratory farewell BBQ. Finally, on Day 5, students put their newfound knowledge to the test in a short Vietnam Trivia Quiz before boarding their flights back home with unforgettable memories. A special thank-you to Ms. Rehan, Ms. Joice, Ms. Hodgson, and Mr. Dunn.



Parent Voices

"My child had a great time in Vietnam. She tells me many fun stories, and I love listening to them"

"My child made memories that she will cherish for a lifetime"

Student Quotes



"The trip was really fun and I made new friends" — Arisa Udea



"Our trip to Vietnam was unforgettable and fascinating because we loved exploring the vibrant night markets with our friends, which made us exhilarated and grateful for all these experiences" — Seungwon Baek



"The trip was very entertaining and through the activities we were able to improve our cooperative and collaborative skills"— Sungho Hwang

(Marion Vlok – SA Leader: English)

Grade 11 CAS/NYAA Hong Kong Canoeing Expedition – An Unforgettable Adventure!



From Wednesday, 30 September 2026 to Sunday, 4 October 2026, 19 Grade 11 students and four teachers embarked on OFS's inaugural Hong Kong Canoeing Expedition in the beautiful Sai Kung Country Park.

Over five action-packed days, students stepped outside their comfort zones, developing essential outdoor expedition skills alongside experienced Asia Pacific Adventure (APA) instructors. They learned canoeing techniques, navigation, route planning, campsite management and outdoor cooking.



A highlight was putting these skills into practice as students navigated the stunning coastal waters of Sai Kung and established their overnight campsite at Wan Tsai Peninsula. Despite challenging weather conditions, they demonstrated remarkable adaptability and resilience, supporting and encouraging one another throughout the journey.

Beyond the physical challenges, the expedition provided valuable opportunities for personal growth, fostering confidence, independence, leadership and stronger connections with their peers. Students also earned internationally recognised Paddle UK certificates, acknowledging their paddling skills and achievements.



The quote "A smooth sea never made a skilled sailor" perfectly captured the spirit of the expedition, highlighting the value of embracing challenges and stepping into the unfamiliar.

We are incredibly proud of all 19 students for their enthusiasm, commitment and positive attitudes. The friendships formed and memories made will stay with them for years to come!



Student Reflections

"I feel like this trip was not just a school trip, but also such a valuable life experience where I learned so many important life skills." — Yunan Ren

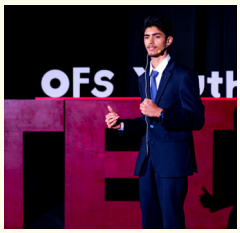
"Thank you to the teachers for helping us navigate every challenge and encouraging us to disconnect from our devices to appreciate nature." — Prisha Bhandari

"The trip turned out to be one of the most memorable experiences I've ever had." — Noah Rudra Batolar

(Julia Hodgson – CAS & NYAA Coordinator)

Uncharted: TEDxYouth@OFS







Our school Black Box was buzzing as we hosted our annual TEDxYouth event under the inspiring theme "Uncharted." The event brought our school community together to explore how we can navigate an unpredictable future by leveraging the foundation of what we already know today. Through powerful talks and fresh perspectives, our student speakers demonstrated how our generation can synthesize past wisdom and current realities to address rapidly evolving global challenges. The event was a resounding success, reminding us all that while the journey ahead may be uncharted, we already possess the curiosity, insight, and courage needed to forge the path forward.

(Mathieu Dooms – Events & Educational Technology Coordinator)

OFS Tigers

LIGHTS, CAMERA, MEDIA DAY!



What an unforgettable milestone for our athletics program as our Tigers celebrated their very first media day! The energy was absolutely electric as our student-athletes proudly suited up in their brand new uniforms, showing off huge smiles, fantastic team spirit, and incredible pride in representing our school.



While capturing those picture-perfect moments and seeing our teams at the top of the standings is thrilling, what truly fills us with pride is the heart, sportsmanship, and encouragement our athletes bring to every single practice. For our Tigers, sports are about so much more than scores on a board. It is all about the journey of personal growth, building resilience, competing with respect, and taking genuine pride in team effort and accountability.

We also want to give a massive shout-out to our resilient students and dedicated coaches for their unstoppable attitude during recent haze disruptions! Instead of letting weather challenges dampen their spirits, they adapted instantly, stayed super positive, and turned every single indoor space into an opportunity to learn and grow together.

A huge thank you to our amazing parents and vibrant school community for bringing endless encouragement and support to our teams. Let us keep this fantastic momentum rolling, stay loud and proud, and cheer on our Tigers as they continue to shine all season long!

(Bruce Shang – Head of Athletics)