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If the answer to the above is 'yes', then why not diffuse your message in the Mougins School Newsletter, distributed on a monthly basis to 400 families and 470 students. The Classified Advertising Section of the Newsletter is an increasingly popular means of communication. Should you wish to reinforce your message, it is possible to sponsor a month's edition of the Newsletter with front-page recognition together with your logo as well as a full-page advertisement. Should you wish to see a pricelist please download it or ask for a copy in the Office.

We look forward to working with you

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Newsletter



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Volume 05

February 2009

Headmaster's Notes

Dear Parents and Students

Sharing Excellence

I am delighted to inform you that three Mougins School students in Form 13 were called for interview at Oxford and Cambridge Universities in the UK, just before the Winter Vacation. From the thousands of application to these universities, it is already a measure of the quality of these students to be invited for interview. Maurane Van Der Stoep was called to Oxford University and Lara-Jane Ideo and Casper Lindberg to Cambridge. Of the three, Casper Lindberg has been offered a place to study Natural Sciences at Cambridge. Congratulations to all three students and a special "bravo" to Casper.

Mougins School's Programme of Study

Every three or four years, I publish a series of articles in the newsletter about the curriculum and examination system we follow at the School, to help parents of younger students understand what their children's future educational pathway will be.

Today is the first of these articles and deals with our choice of curriculum from Early Years to Form 13, including our examination systems and how students move on to higher education.

In this newsletter

Headmaster's Notes	1	<u>Which Curriculum?</u>
Desk of Sue Dunnachie	3	There are a number of curriculums available to international schools. Mougins School chose the UK curriculum over others, such as the Primary Years Programme (PYP) and Middle Year Programme (MYP). We believe the programme to be well structured with regards to the acquisition of skills and academic development of a child and suited to an all-through school like ours, where students can arrive at 3 years old and leave at 18. There are six sub-sections or Stages to the curriculum – Foundation Stage (Early Years & Reception), Key
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3 (Forms 7 – 9), Key Stage 4 (Forms 10 & 11) and Seniors (Form 12 & 13). In the last two stages, students study for externally assessed examinations, the results of which make up their “passport” to further education.

The Final Examinations and Moving On to Universities World-Wide

You will hear lots of personal opinion about which is the best examination system to follow, much of which is based on hearsay and rumour and not based on any sound recent information. In our area, there are four options – the French Baccalaureate, the French Baccalaureate with “option international” (BOI), the International Baccalaureate and the International A Level Programme (followed by Mougins School). Of course, if you’re in another country you would also have their national system, for example, in Germany, you would also have the Abitur, etc. In 1997, 42 countries signed and ratified the Lisbon Convention (not the recent EU one), which stated that all countries in the Conventional must accept the final diplomas of all the other members, as access to higher education in their country. Each country (generally in the capital) has a structure called NARIC, which is an office of equivalence.

Therefore, comments such as “you’re better doing the A levels if you want to study in the UK and the IB if you want to go elsewhere”, make no sense and are unfounded. I know students who have gone to top universities, including Oxford and Cambridge (UK), with the IB Diploma and others who have gone to Ivy League universities in the States with A Levels. Please note that whatever examination system you follow, students applying to the US will be required to take Standard Achievement Tests (SATs).

The most important thing to remember is that if a student applies to a top university in any country, they will need top grades/points etc. This means if you apply using A levels, you will require A grades, if it’s the IB, you’ll need 40+ points, if it’s the French Bac, then you’ll need the “mention – très bien” and so on. By the same token, D/Es at A level equals a pass in the IB – 24 points and a pass in the French Bac. These grades will also give access to higher education.

We currently place our students in top universities, not only in the UK, as you can see above, but in Canada, the US, France and other establishments world-wide – a full list of last year’s graduates was published in the first newsletter this year. Whilst we continue to have this degree of success and send students all over the world to their chosen career paths, we have no plans to change our system – there is no point in re-inventing the wheel.

In further articles – a detailed look at (I)GCSEs, AS and A levels (studied from Form 10 – 13) at Mougins School.

Post Mock Examinations Parent / Teacher Meeting – Form 11

Students in Form 11 have recently sat their mock examinations for (I)GCSEs in all their subjects. There will be a meeting for all parents and students in Form 11 on Thursday 12th February at 18h00 in the Examinations Room. The examination

Host family wanted...

Dear families of Mougins school,

My name is Charlotte and I’m visiting the 10th grade of a bilingual “Gymnasium” in Braunschweig, Germany.

From **27th of april to July 4th** I would really like to study at Mougins school. My family and I met Brian Hickmore and Elisabeth Ward in autumn to talk about this possibility. I was really impressed with the facilities and the open-minded, friendly and international atmosphere. I’m very interested in meeting people from other nationalities and learn about their way of life and improving my english and french language skills.

Since I’m **15 years old** this will only be possible if a family would be so kind to host me for that period...

Of course my parents are looking forward to invite your daughter or son to stay with us in Germany, too (there are many things to do here, too: e.g. for holidays and/or joining me in school and/or being a trainee in a design office). If there is no possibility for this kind of exchange my parents would bear the costs for my stay.

We couldn’t find an exchange organisation which offers a program for that short period nor for this wonderful school and region – that’s why we try to make it happen this way.

With kind regards
Charlotte

About me:

In my free time I do courses in photography, painting and dancing. My friends and I go out for cinema and shopping and we like a lot to organise trips and parties, sports and music. They characterise me as being relaxed, friendly and uncomplicated.

I have a little brother Simon, 10 years old and our family lives 10 minutes away (by bike) from the center of Braunschweig in a peaceful, green housing area.

About Braunschweig:

Mediaeval city, located in the north of Germany, in an area which is known for “purest” german. 250 000 habitans, ca. 25000 students, 1,5 h west of Berlin; 2 h south of Hamburg, 0,5 h north of Harz mountain.

More about me:
About my school:
About Braunschweig:
Facebook or contact me at: Lorenz.Arbau@web.de
<http://www.rth.bj.nachhilfe.de/>
<http://www.braunschweig.de/english/index.html>



PTA News

Dear parents,

This month, Georgiana Brignone and Leila Rossi Tarniuk took an even bigger group on their second cultural outing this year to Fernand Leger museum in Biot. Needless to say, everyone had a great time. As it is becoming increasingly popular, this event requires booking in advance.



Quiz Night was due to be held on January 23 but had to be postponed to a later date in March due to insufficient booking. We hope that many of you will participate in this coming event as Kathy Licciardi's quiz night promises to be fun for everyone. In this regard, I would like to remind you that PTA is working very hard to create events and functions to bring the Mougins School community together. Without your active involvement, it would be impossible for PTA to keep organizing events. How do you support PTA? It is simple - either by helping at functions and /or attending them.

In February, PTA has organized a Valentine dinner and dance. For that special night, **Saturday 14th February**, we have planned a programme for you that includes dinner with wine, a salsa show, entertainment throughout the night and in-between a music mix that will make everyone get up and dance. A note for those who are worried about salsa and the Valentine theme of the night, I would like to assure them that the salsa is just one part of the pro-

gramme - otherwise there is a big variety of music for all tastes. As for the Valentine night, remember it is first of all a fun night for all, whether accompanied or not.

A reminder for all those who would like to help at Valentine's night, there will be a small meeting on Wednesday, **February 11 at 9:00 AM** in the School Cafeteria in order to work out the details of the organization.

The date of next general PTA meeting will be **Thursday, March 5**. Hope to see you all there.

Finally, we would like to send our thoughts and prayers to Gerhard Schauer, the husband of Nicole Schauer, our newsletter coordinator and PTA president from 2004-2007. We wish him a speedy recovery.

My kindest regards to all of you.

Lea Assi
PTA President

* For any enquiry, please contact lea.assi@gmail.com or call 06 27 31 75 54.

results will already have posted to parents. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the results and what is required for our students to achieve their full potential in May, when they sit the "real things". It is also at this meeting that subject choices for AS and A levels will be discussed. It is crucial that all parents and students in Form 11 attend this meeting. A letter containing further details will be sent with the results.

A Piano Needed

Form 5 is looking for a piano. If anyone has a piano they do not want – perhaps if you're upgrading, or you know someone who has one they don't want, please let us know. We can arrange transport. Thank you.

A Legal Requirement

May I remind you that by law (and by desire) our entire campus is a non-smoking zone. This includes the slip road and car park. Thank you for your consideration.

February Half Term

Please note that our next vacation is from Friday 20th February (15h30) until Tuesday 3rd March (normal times). There will be a newsletter on the last day of half term.

Best wishes
Brian G. Hickmore
Headmaster

From the Desk of Sue Dunnachie

Following our recent donations, we have received letters of thanks from Sidaction, to whom we gave 600€ resulting from the sale of badges and La Ligue contre le Cancer, to whom we made a donation in lieu of sending Christmas cards. The children's toys which were not sold at the Christmas Market were distributed to: Lenval Hospital, the pediatric service at Grasse, Mirasol Croix Rouge and Val Fleuris (handicapped children) and the CCAS of Mougins and Mouans Sartoux. This gesture solicited several touching letters of thanks and I hope that our ef-

forts to bring a little support to those less fortunate will continue throughout 2009. My thanks to all those who contributed in one way or an other.

The International School of Nice is presenting Beauty and the Beast and would like to give students of Mougins School the opportunity to attend a performance for the preferential price of 5€ a ticket. A school bus will be going on Friday 13th February (performance at 19h30). If you wish to take advantage of this offer please see Mrs Lecoy.

February 2009

Mo	Di	Mi	Do	Fr	Sa	So
				30 Form 3 Assembly	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13 Valentine Assembly (Primary) Beauty And The Beast	14 Valentine Dinner and Dance	15
16	17	18	19	20 Newsletter	21 School Holiday	22 School Holiday
23 School Holiday	24 School Holiday	25 School Holiday	26 School Holiday	27 School Holiday	28 School Holiday	School Holiday

School Info

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From the Desk of Dr David Gifford

Primary Assemblies

We would like to invite you to the following assemblies this term. They take place in the school hall from 09:05-09:30.

- 30th January: Form 3 assembly on their visit to Draguignan.
- 13th February: Valentine assembly. Primary classes will be sharing poems, songs and sonnets.
- 6th March: Winter Activity Week Presentation for children in Forms 5 and 6.
- 20th March: Form 5 'Water' assembly.

In addition, on Friday 10th April we will

be having an Easter/ Spring themed assembly. We invite primary children to make and wear Easter hats. We hope you will support and encourage them to take part and of course, invite you to come and see on this day!

Lost Property

Recently there has been a lot of lost property within the Primary school. This is left in the school hall for one month before being bagged up and donated to the Red Cross. To help reduce this, please make sure valued items of clothing are clearly labelled with your child's name and form.

From the Desk of Alice Miller

"Operation Pieces Jaunes 2009"

Running from: 7 January to 7 February 2009

In aid of: improving the lives of children and adolescents who need to stay for long periods in hospital. The money is used for :

- Building homes for the family to stay close-by.
- Furniture for the classrooms, libraries and play rooms.
- Decorating their environment.

Please send in any centimes for your children to post in the little boxes provided in each classroom.

The coins will be weighed on Friday 7 Feb 2009. The class whose boxes weighs the most will be rewarded!

Can we beat the record from last year 68 KILOS!

Thank you for your support.

Alice Miller
(Organizer)