



St. Paul's School

MANIBUS POTENTIA STUDIUM ANIMIS

19th December 2014

Dear Parents,

As I write this letter it is almost 5 months to the day that my family and I have been here in São Paulo. And what an exciting 5 months it has been. The time has flown by and we now feel very much a part of the city and, more importantly, the St Paul's community. You have all been so warm and welcoming, so kind and helpful, and your children have been a delight to get to know. Sadly I have only had the chance to teach a small number of pupils so far (half of F1) but I am slowly connecting with the pupils and I have spent a lot of time observing lessons since I arrived, 45 at the last count, so I have seen many of your children in action! Also, of course, I have seen them swimming, running, playing team sports, singing, playing their instruments and acting and dancing on stage. And I have loved every minute of it. The community here is a community with heart and warmth and it is impossible not to feel wrapped up in everything.

School communities are dynamic places and there is much that is happening in St Paul's now and in the future that I would like to share with you. The building work for the academic centre begins this holiday and very soon we will have a fantastic new teaching space for science, art and music, as well as a wonderful learning resources centre to replace the current library. We thought that you would like to come and hear the leadership group talking about their areas of school life and the strategic plan for the future. Hence, you are warmly invited to a strategic plan presentation on Monday 23rd February, at 7pm. Further details of the evening will follow in the new term. I very much hope that you can join us to find out how far we have come since we were inspected in 2012 and to see what new ideas and innovations are planned for the coming years.

Also next term, we have a visit from Cathy Wood, a leading specialist in staying safe on the internet, from the UK. Cathy is an investigative journalist and advises UK schools and young people's organisations on how to manage their digital tattoo. She helps schools develop a digital charter for effective and safe online citizenship. We hope that you will take the opportunity to come along and hear Cathy at one of the workshops that she is running for parents;

Tuesday 3rd February – 7pm

Wednesday 4th February – 8.30am

FUNDAÇÃO ANGLO BRASILEIRA DE EDUCAÇÃO E CULTURA DE SÃO PAULO
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Thursday 5th February – 7pm

Friday 6th February – 8.30am.

Again, we will remind you in the new term.

We have worked hard this term to address the poor attendance of some of our pupils and we are very grateful to those parents who follow the school policy and do not take their children out of school for holidays during term time. Sadly, there are still families who do not support us on this and I very much hope that all parents can think very carefully about why attendance is so important. In future, any unexplained absences will be unauthorised. In addition, if your son or daughter is out of school because you are travelling, we will record this as a holiday and it will be an unauthorised absence. Thank you to those of you who do support us, and I hope that in 2015 we can see all pupils improving their attendance to over 95%; as you know, this is our minimum expected standard and it should be achievable except in very exceptional circumstances.

I hope that you have enjoyed all the celebrations, shows and events that inevitably come with the final few days of term. The children are remarkably confident on stage (even the tiny ones!) and I am sure you will agree that the quality of the performances has been wonderful. I am very grateful to all the teachers who have worked so hard with your children to put on such entertaining and professional shows. And I congratulate your children for their efforts. They really are delightful.

Over the last few weeks we have been interviewing some outstanding candidates for the teaching jobs which will fall vacant in August 2015. It is a privilege to be able to work with such a great team here and I am confident that the new appointees that will be joining us ready for the new academic year will be great additions to the staff team. I will be in a position to tell you more about them in the new term, once the appointments are all finalised.

And of course, with arrivals, there must also be departures, and this term we are saying goodbye to some much loved and valued staff:

From the Prep School, Miss Camila Brettas and Mr Cristofer Ranieri leave us. Miss Brettas, a P2 class teacher, is moving away to Fortaleza where she starts a new life and will be getting married and Mr Ranieri, currently a teaching assistant, has secured a teaching job at a school here in Sao Paulo. We wish them both every happiness and success in their new lives and hope that they will stay in touch.

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In the Pre-Prep School, Miss Mariana de Castro is leaving to be an assistant to older children at a school here in Sao Paulo. It is her plan to be a teacher and we wish her every success in pursuing her dream – we hope that she will come and see us often.

And in the Senior School, we say goodbye today to Miss Rackel de Queiroz in the art department, who is returning to her study of art and will be working with younger children in art education. We also say goodbye to Miss Debora An, from the maths department. Miss An is moving to Rio with her partner and will be working in the British School in Rio. We wish them both every happiness and success.

Finally, from the library, we say goodbye to Mrs Gabriella Menni who has looked after all our books and resources wonderfully for 6 years. She has decided to retire and have a more flexible life, dividing her time between Brazil and Europe. It sounds very exciting and we wish her every happiness.

To all our leavers, we thank them for all they have given to the life of this school and we hope that, though they leave today, they are leaving a little of themselves here with us, and that they take a little bit of St Paul's onto the next stage of their life journey, wherever that takes them.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff for their hard work and professionalism this term. They really do everything that they can to make your children's education as good as it can be and I thank everyone of them for that, whatever their role in school.

To the U6th and F5 pupils who have mocks examinations in mid-January, I wish them all every success and hope that they work hard this holiday so that the examinations are a positive experience.

And finally, thank you for your support. I wish you all a wonderful Christmas holiday and look forward to seeing your children back at school ready for the start of the new term on Monday 26th January.

Happy New Year!

Louise Simpson
Head