



St. Paul's School

MANIBUS POTENTIA STUDIUM ANIMIS

Tuesday 28th July 2015

Dear parents,

It hardly seems a moment since I wrote to you all for the first time when I arrived last July, and here we are, one year later, looking forward to a busy and exciting new academic year for the school community. Last year was a busy one and we accomplished much and I have no doubt that the 2015/16 year will be equally productive. I hope that you have managed to spend quality time with your families and friends over the holiday and that, whether you are a new family joining us, or a long standing member of St. Paul's, that you and your children are refreshed and ready for the challenges that the new term will undoubtedly offer.

IB Results

In early July our leaving Upper 6th formers received their IB diploma results. These were excellent, with 7 pupils being placed in the top 2% of IB students worldwide with 40 points or over: Harry Chiang, Franziska Däuble, Nathalia Magnocavallo, Giovanna Mitrani, João Pedro Ornelas, Sofia Valentini, and Victoria Zanotto, who all deserve special congratulations for their efforts and success. Every single pupil qualified for the diploma, with 40 of the 47 receiving the coveted bilingual qualification. This really is a gold standard qualification which will open doors to the very best opportunities for our pupils in the future. We could not be happier for the leavers and we wish them every success for the future at the impressive selection of Brazilian and International institutions they move on to, including Bath, Berkley, Cambridge, Durham, Edinburgh, FGV, Georgetown, Harvard, LSE, New York, Princeton and USP.

We welcome a significant number of new pupils to the school community at all ages and stages through the school. Of course we have our very youngest children joining the Pre-Prep in PP1, but we also have new families joining us with children into the Prep and Senior Schools too. This will be exciting for the new children and I hope that they will soon be fully integrated and made to feel welcome by our current pupils. If your son or daughter is chosen as a guardian angel to a new pupil, please help them to help their new friend so as to make sure that the new children can really enjoy all that school has to offer.

We hope that we will be able to see all new parents at the new parents' coffee morning on **Tuesday 11th August at 8.30 am**. This is an annual welcome to the school from the Parent

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and Teacher's Association (the PTA) and I am sure you will enjoy meeting the committee and new parents equally. I hope also that you will join us for our now annual head's cocktail party on **Monday 21st September at 6pm**. Of course we will send more details closer to the time.

New staff appointments

We welcome our new teachers and assistants to the school this term:

Our new **Pre-Prep** teacher, Mr Michael Lock joins us from a primary school in Caerphilly in Wales, where he has been reception teacher and forest school coordinator. We have four new Pre-Prep assistants too; Juliana Sá is a skillful and enthusiastic dancer and will be a PE assistant. Estevão Daniel studied in Canada for a year and has been working as a teacher for 6 years so brings much experience to the team. Mariana Dias has just completed a master's degree in communications from Tilburg University in the Netherlands and Kasia Kocha has been working in banking in London most recently and moved to São Paulo last year.

Joining the **Prep School**, Miss Kristina Waller is an experienced expat teacher and has been teaching in Thailand until recently and will also be head of year 3. Miss Laura Southgate joins us from London. She is especially interested in coding and computer science for primary children. Mrs Paula Lopes joins us from St. Francis College and will be teaching in Prep year 2. Our new Prep assistants are Katia Terumi who has a passion for languages, speaking Spanish, Japanese, Latin, French and Brazilian sign language, Juliana Jatobá who studied at the British School in Rio and has recently decided to pursue her interest in education by training to be a teacher and Isabella Costa, an Old Paulean who is an experienced teacher of English to adults in business.

Into the **Senior School**, we welcome Mr Daniel O'Shea who has been teaching in Brazil for some years already running a US college entry programme in a Brazilian school. He will be second in the English Department. Mr Richard Wrigley joins the physics department. He was educated in international schools and joins us from a British School in Mexico. Mr Ivan Dias is our new biology teacher. He is an experienced teacher and has been teaching in schools such as Objetivo and Dante Alighieri college. Mr Fabio Almeida will be teaching geography and joins us from St. Francis College. He is a seasoned traveller and spent his summer in Japan.

We also have two new 'whole school' appointments. Ms Rebecca Owen is our new Assistant Head (Enrichment) and will be leading all the extra-curricular (ECA) clubs and

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societies and community service provision in the school. You may have met Ms Owen when she visited us for two weeks in April. And finally, Mr Gary Willis joins us from Vietnam as our new Director of Sport. An experienced head of PE and sportsman, he qualified and worked in Sedgehill Secondary School and Dene Community School in the UK before moving overseas.

We extend the warmest of welcomes to all our new colleagues joining the school this term and we look forward to working with them.

Communication with parents

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you most warmly for completing our online parent survey last term. We had a truly astonishing response of over 600 completed surveys and the information was fantastically useful and supportive. The vast majority of you are very happy indeed with the education that your children receive and with the school in general. Some of you had some extremely helpful comments and suggestions to make which we have looked at carefully. Your feedback is very helpful in shaping the way that the school develops and will help us to improve as we progress through the year. I very much hope that you will be able to come to a presentation on **Wednesday 2nd September at 8.30 am** in the theatre. This will give you a chance to see the survey data, meet the leadership group and understand a little more about the way that the school works. I hope also to be able to respond to some of the comments made in the survey at this presentation. Some of you have asked how the trustees and governance structure at the school works and I will use this talk to explain the leadership structure of the school so that parents feel better informed. We will, of course, remind you of the date nearer the time, but please do make a note in your diary.

Holiday projects and building works

Over the break, whilst we were all enjoying our holidays, the school remained as busy as ever with the support staff maintaining and developing the site and with the new building progressing rapidly. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the support staff, led by our Bursar, Mr Nelson Sapsezian, for running the school brilliantly whilst we were on holiday. Refurbishments, decoration and getting ready for the new term do not happen by accident and I am very grateful to all those who worked during these holidays for their hard work. When you come to school and see the improvements, I hope that you approve!

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The new building has moved on apace and it is possible to see just what an enormous difference this building will make when it is finished and we are able to move in. We do not know when that will be yet, but the space that housed the old art and music rooms has been finished and refurbished and your children will benefit from this new space from the start of the new term. Until the new building is opened, music lessons will happen on the top floor in the new science labs, and we will be able to use the new foyer (adjacent to the theatre) from the start of the new term. We have everything crossed that the new building will not be long now. In the meantime I am very grateful to you for your forbearance whilst the builders have inevitably disrupted day to day life at the school. The finished product will be worth it, I promise!

Key events this year

Looking ahead we have two key events this year that will inevitably have an impact on school life:

- During the first week of December the school will be visited by a team of inspectors who will carry out our second inspection against the British School's Overseas standards. This will not have a major impact on school life, but during that week inspectors will be in lessons observing the teaching and learning, talking to pupils, staff and other members of the school community and getting a feel for the strengths and challenges of the school. There will be another parent survey just before the inspectors come which we hope you will respond to in order to get your voice heard.
- In the third week of March (Friday 18th to Saturday 20th) just before the half term Easter break, we will hold our third international education conference. We have been busy planning the programme through the holidays and hope that many of you will decide to get involved. We are delighted that some parents have already offered to support us with sponsorship and hope that others of you will wish to offer your own support in some way. To find out more [click here](#).

You will be receiving more detailed information on key events and dates in due course.

Attendance, punctuality and appearance

As you know, we work very hard to make sure that every minute in school is of value and we expect pupils to be at school on time for the start of the day and in school for every day of every term unless there is a justifiable reason for absence. Last year we worked very hard on improving attendance (especially around holiday times) and were delighted that parents responded so positively and showed such support for the school policy. I very much hope

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that this year is even better and remind you that Senior School pupils should be in school in plenty of time for the start of the school day at 8.00 am. Our school uniform is something that really sets St. Paul's apart from other schools and we hope that your son or daughter wears their uniform with pride. Please make sure that they are always smartly dressed for school and we appreciate your support by following the uniform guidelines. Smart dress applies in the Sixth Form too, of course.

We look forward to seeing the pupils back on Wednesday 5th August (Senior School) and the Prep and Pre-Prep pupils on Thursday 6th August.

This year promises to be a busy, challenging and enjoyable one for us all. I wish you and your children the greatest of successes at school, and I thank you in advance for your support. It really does make all the difference.

Kind regards,

Louise Simpson, Head