

Student Life

Extra-Curricular Activities

Somersfield Academy offers a wide range of extra-curricular activities for students. Typically, choices include Yoga, Active Kids Club, and Arts and Crafts for our Children's House students; Martial Arts, Robotics, Comic Creators, Bead Club and Health and Fitness for our Lower Primary students; Baseball, Fencing, Archery, Indoor Ball Hockey, Arts and Crafts, Model UN and Advanced Art Design for our Upper Primary and Secondary students.

Somersfield has developed external relationships to enable the school to enhance its offerings of extra-curricular activities, such as Lacrosse, Archery, Martial Arts, Gymnastics, and Fitness. Parents are welcomed and encouraged to join in activities that support the educational and extra-curricular goals of the school. Any parent who has special skills to offer and would be willing to organise an after-school activity is encouraged to contact the Parent Relations Coordinator.

Extra-curricular clubs, sports teams and music enrichment booklets are compiled once every term and are sent home electronically and posted on the school's website Blackboard. The booklets have detailed descriptions of the clubs and activities on offer, and information about club supervisor, time, day and price. Some of the activities are free of charge and some are on a fee paying basis. The fees are due at the beginning of each term and are paid directly to the club provider. In certain clubs, there are a limited number of spaces available so those will be filled on a first come first served basis.

Parents and students are requested to return the completed forms via email or hard copy to the club provider. Confirmation will be sent home via email to parents confirming the student's participation in each chosen club. If space permits, students are welcome to join mid-term.

Music Enrichment Programme and Music Lessons

The Music Department offers a Music Enrichment Programme (MEP) with group lessons offered before school, during lunchtime, and after school to enhance the musical programme at Somersfield. Information pertaining to these lessons can be found in the Music Enrichment Booklet which is posted on the school's website Blackboard along with the extra-curricular club information. Some of these programmes are offered for the term and others are offered for all three terms to ensure the growth of the musical talents of the students.

In addition, the Menuhin Foundation offers one year of free violin lesson to P4 students. The school also has a supply of instruments that are available for students' use. Should there be more interest than instruments, instrument rentals are encouraged.

Facility Rentals

Somersfield rents out its facilities for personal and community use. Please contact the Main Office at mainoffice@somersfield.bm for details, costs, and conditions.

Sports Teams

The P.E. Department compiles sports team information and it is posted on the school's website Blackboard with the extra-curricular club correspondence by Reception. It explains the school sports teams for the term along with the coach, training days, times, venue and tournament dates (League schedules are sent out separately once received from the Bermuda School Sports Federation). Students can see this information on a bulletin board outside the gymnasium and there are announcements made in assemblies and P.E. classes.

Somersfield competes in Primary, Middle, and Senior (if numbers allow) competitions. Students are typically in P4, P5 and P6 for Primary competitions and M1, M2 and M3 for Middle School competitions. Parents are asked to complete the sports team sign-up sheet and return those to the P.E. Department to show which school sports team their child would like to try out for. Sports for each term are determined by the Bermuda School Sports Federation and are subject to change. However, they traditionally involve the following activities:

- First term – Swimming, Netball, Football, Volleyball
- Second term – Table tennis, Cross country, Rugby, Track and Field, Basketball
- Third term – Field hockey, Softball, Cricket, Badminton and Tennis

Selection of members for the teams takes place during trials at the beginning of the season. New students are welcome to try out throughout the season. Students sign a contract regarding conduct and expectations, and parents are asked to read and also sign the contract before the students join the team.

Somersfield students participate in many competitions with local schools throughout the season. Somersfield also runs tournaments with local schools. Parents are invited to support, and take an active part in, transporting students to and from these sporting events. All students participating in sports teams traveling off campus for games and tournaments are required to return signed permission slips or provide/send email consent from parent/guardian with emergency contact details.

Students choosing to enroll in sailing, martial arts or self-defense classes will be required to pay the appropriate fees.

House System

Students in our P5 – M5 have been assigned to one of two "houses", the Makos (Green House) or the Tigers (Blue House). The house system is designed to create a platform for a broad range of enjoyable, friendly, in-school competitive group activities. The purpose of the house system is:

- to build a sense of community across the grade levels
- to develop team spirit
- to encourage student involvement in activities regardless of their ability levels
- to foster individual and group commitment to achieving goals
- to provide leadership opportunities for those interested in leading their peers and planning house activities.

There are four P6 House Captains selected each term and four M4 House Captains selected each year to assist in house event planning, weekly assemblies and other tasks assigned throughout the year. Examples of House activities include a Quiz Show/Trivial Pursuit, Talent Show, Wacky Races, and a variety of friendly sports competitions throughout the year.

School and Community Events

Each year students participate in school and local community events such as art, sports, and educational competitions. All school events can be found on the annual school calendar, and community events will be posted on the school's website Blackboard as they arise.

There are a great number of community and sports events and competitions on the island, and the school participates in many of these each year. As a small school, we limit ourselves to those that particularly support our curriculum; however, we value the opportunity to make connections with students from other schools through our participation in a variety of events. Our students are also encouraged to participate independently.

Local Field Trips

Field trips to places of educational interest are seen as a vital part of the curriculum and are organised regularly. All departments are required to complete a risk assessment to ensure the safety of each trip. Students are always accompanied by a minimum of two adults including a staff member who is in cell phone contact with the school.

Parents will receive information in advance before each field trip, and teachers will contact parents to provide transportation as needed. The school also uses commercial vans or public transportation. All parents are required to follow safe driving practices including the use of seatbelts and car seats as necessary. Cell phones may not be used while driving on or off school property. Children must be sitting whenever they are in a car and are not allowed to have body parts outside of the car windows.

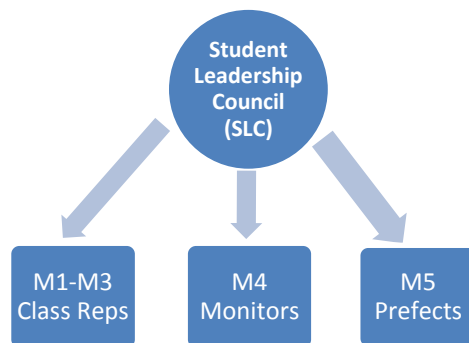
Leadership and Student Recognition

Upper Primary - P6 Prefects

In P6, students have the opportunity to show their leadership qualities in Prefect positions. Four students are appointed per term, totaling twelve Prefects per year. All teachers who work with these students collaborate to appoint students who best embody the “Profile of the Somersfield Learner” attributes. Prefects perform a variety of leadership roles during their term as a Prefect, including the preparation of, and assistance in, the running of the weekly assembly.

The Prefects meet weekly with the Division Head to plan the agenda for the assembly and to discuss upcoming events and initiatives for the division. Prefects are also asked to represent the school in a variety of out-of-school activities. Prefects are appointed based solely on citizenship and are deemed to be strong role models for all students in the Primary Division.

Secondary - Student Leadership Council (SLC)



The student leadership programme in the Secondary Division is the Student Leadership Council (SLC), which is structured to allow students from all levels to be an active part of this student-led initiative. SLC is divided into three main areas of leadership: M1 - M3 Class Representatives, M4 Monitors, and M5 Prefects. All SLC representatives meet monthly to plan school events, discuss student concerns, and share school improvement ideas.

Class Representatives act as advisory spokespersons and relay relevant school-related information between SLC and their advisory class. Students in this role also assist with dances and fundraising events. Each advisory class nominates two Class Representatives for each of the three school terms.

Monitors meet bi-weekly with the Counsellor/Student Services Coordinator to discuss and plan student initiatives. Each Monitor is expected to monitor hallways twice a week during lunch time, organise school events (i.e. dances, talent show), and assist with charitable fundraising efforts

Prefects are responsible for leading the Secondary Division’s weekly assemblies and running monthly SLC meetings. They meet weekly with the Counsellor/Student Services Coordinator to plan and discuss the agenda for both of these events. Prefects are also expected to act as the school’s

ambassadors, and assist with parent-teacher conferences, open houses, and school tours. Candidates for this position must complete a formal application form and undergo an interview with the Division Head, Counsellor/Student Services Coordinator, and one or two designated teachers, who jointly select the successful applicants.

All SLC representatives are required to adhere to the following expectations:

- maintain a high standard of academic performance
- demonstrate respectful conduct and demeanour
- perform responsibilities effectively and diligently
- arrive on time to class and school events
- wear the correct uniform at all times

Primary Assemblies

Every Friday morning the Primary School holds an assembly. The assembly is student-led, highlighting the leadership skills of our Primary 6 Prefects. During the assembly, students sing the Bermuda National Anthem, hear from teachers, students, members of the community, and from the Division Head on a range of topics. Student talent is recognised in the form of our Talent Showcase.

Parents are invited to assembly to support their child when they are performing in the assembly. This is an important time to celebrate all students' success in the areas of academics, sports, the arts and overall citizenship.

Secondary Assemblies

Secondary students and teachers come together on Mondays for an assembly led by the M5 Prefects. These assemblies provide opportunities for guest speakers to join the division and share information pertaining to health, world news, and local community events. In addition, teachers share general information with students about upcoming events and school celebrations. Special student-led presentations are encouraged throughout the school year. Black History Month, Women's History Month and Advisory presentations are included in our yearly assembly calendar.

Student recognition is a central component of our assembly. Parents are invited to an Honours assembly in March and a special End of Year Assembly in June to celebrate individual student achievements and contributions in areas such as academics, visual and performing arts, sports, effort and endeavour, community service and team spirit. Also, all secondary students are regularly recognised for demonstrating attributes of the IB Learner Profile through their achievements in academics, sports, clubs and other involvements both inside and outside school.

Secondary Community Activities

Secondary Service and Action

Service and Action (S&A) is a key component of Somersfield Academy's mission to be a learning institution which seeks to embrace the mission statement of the IBO. The school strives to develop 'caring young people who help create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.

S&A is a required component of the IB MYP which supports Somersfield Academy's aim to be a school committed to develop internationally-minded people who recognize their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet.

M1-M2 students are required to complete two activities per year and M3 - M5 students are required to complete 4 activities per year each activity. All students in M1 - M5 record their meaningful reflections in an online journal in Managebac.

Service and Action helps students connect what is learned in school with the real world. This can happen in school through recycling or helping with school events, at the local food bank or at a distant destination. The end results of these connections are lifelong memorable and treasured experiences that help the students understand the needs of our world.

More information about the requirements of Service and Action can be found the school's website Blackboard.

The International Award for Young People

The International Award for Young People (The Duke of Edinburgh Award) is an internationally recognized programme of adventure and service for young people worldwide from 14 - 25 years of age. This exciting self-development programme equips young people with life skills to make a difference to themselves, their communities and the world.

Somersfield Academy proudly offers this programme at the Bronze level. The award is highly valued by employers, colleges and universities worldwide. For more information about this prestigious award programme visit: www.theaward.bm.

Details of how students can enroll are distributed regularly.

Job Shadowing Day

The Secondary Job Shadowing Day is an annual experience for M1 - M5 students which takes place near the end of the school year.

The general purpose of this programme is to help students develop in the following areas:

- identify potential career interests
- observe the daily routine of adult workers
- gain awareness of the academic, technical, and personal skills required by particular jobs
- develop and apply communication skills by interacting with and interviewing workers
- understand that different jobs are characterised by different work cultures and working environments
- recognise the connection between school, work, and achieving goals

Students are responsible for securing job shadowing placements. Advisors support students in understanding the goals of job shadowing, brainstorming career interests, and preparing them for their experience. Upon completion of job shadowing, students engage in a reflection process including a detailed written analysis as well as a discussion within their advisory class.

A major objective of the job shadowing initiative is to give students an opportunity to observe the MYP 'Approaches to Learning Skills' in a real-world setting. This is a valuable and rewarding experience for students to develop organisational, goal setting, and decision-making skills.

Off Island Trips

Off Island educational trips are organised by the Upper Primary and Secondary divisions from time to time. These trips require long term planning, and the school has procedures in place for ensuring that the safety and health of students is protected, that liability issues are clear, that medical needs are well documented, and that the educational objectives of the trips are well thought out and approved by the Division Head and Principal. Language trips, Robotics competitions, Service and Action trips, historical or scientific studies, and youth conferences are common types of enriching overseas experiences offered to students.

Trips are limited to those students successfully upholding the standards of behavior. Acceptance on a school trip may be revoked for breach of the standards of behaviour at the discretion of the Division Head.

Trips do not exceed five school days, and pupil teacher ratios are generous. No homework or catch up works is given for children on trips. **Only students in good financial standing with the school are allowed on off island trips.**

Model United Nations (MUN)

Students in M4 and M5 meet weekly to learn about the United Nations organisation as an after-school or lunchtime club, share their research, discuss global issues, and prepare position papers as well as verbal statements on behalf of an assigned country that they have researched in depth.

The result of the students' commitment to the club is the opportunity to participate in the Annual Global Classrooms International Model UN Conference (GCI MUN) in May, sponsored by the United Nations Association of the USA's Global Classrooms® programme.

At the conference, students act as diplomats representing their assigned country in a simulated session of a committee of the United Nations, such as the Security Council or the General Assembly where they debate, deliberate, consult, and are required to develop solutions to world problems.

This annual conference is generally attended by thousands of delegates from many countries and gives Somersfield students the opportunity to strengthen their skills in collaboration, diplomacy, public speaking, research, and problem solving as well the opportunity to network with students from around the world.

Student Diversity Leadership Council (SDLC)

Each year Somersfield sends a contingent of students from M4 and M5 to the annual Student Diversity Leadership Conference organised by the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) in North America. Students are invited to submit an essay and attend an interview in order to qualify. A panel of school leaders makes the final decision on attendees. Students who attend the conference are expected to act as our student diversity leaders and are charged with organising the school's annual 'Student Diversity Day'.

The Student Diversity Leadership Conference (SDLC) is a multiracial, multicultural gathering of Secondary school student leaders (US Grades 9 - 12) from across the USA that focuses on self-reflecting, forming allies, and building community. Led by a diverse team of adult and peer facilitators, participants develop effective cross-cultural communication skills, better understand the nature and development of effective strategies for social justice, practice expression through the arts, and learn networking principles and strategies. Students return with a profound respect for others' experiences, and a deeper sense of their own racial and cultural identity. The skills they learn are practised not only on our 'Student Diversity Day' at school, but also on a daily basis in creating a respectful and inclusive community.