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Issue 2

KINGSWORTH
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Head Teacher Blog

Hello, and welcome back. It's nice to be talking to you again through the medium of the newsletter. Let me start with discussing the recent exams as I have had a few queries about the marking system.

The marking system is clearly put onto the report card, but to remind you - a very simple outline is the following:

- 90% (or above) equals A*;
- 80% (or above) equals A;
- 70% (or above) equals B, and so on.

The exam results were in general very pleasing but I do know that some of you thought that perhaps your child could have done better. Exams can have this effect on people so below is a list of do's and don'ts:

- sometimes students get a little more nervous than they normally would be, therefore don't do as well as they could have or should have, so those students need some assistance in coaching and preparing themselves for the exam, something that we try our utmost to help out with;
- occasionally it is simply that the question was not quite right for them as a student and that the question answered won't reflect the student's true ability;
- it can, of course, be that the student himself or herself has not prepared enough and that is up to us as a school ensure such things do not come to pass;
- otherwise, it can be that the student puts too much importance into the exam and not enough into their course work (see below).

As I have said in the past, and as I reiterate to all parents, exams should not be seen as the benchmark of academic success. *So, I hear you sighing, the problem is that there are exams out there which they need to pass.* And again I would reply, but that will come. It is all about long-term investment - the work that is invested in their lessons, that is invested at home, that is invested when they read around the subject. All this knowledge will be assimilated so naturally that when it comes to an exam, the exam should be plain sailing – or at least plainer sailing – and not become the benchmark that students take it to be. I know that over the course of these newsletters that I will be speaking about this issue again and again, but it does, for the moment, bring me naturally onto the next point.



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On March 17th, there will be a Q and A session where myself will be going over any questions that you might have for us but in which we would also like to talk about (a) the marking system, (b) reviewing the examination systems, (c) discussing the implementation of the IB programme. Later in the year, something for you to also note down in your agendas and diaries, for the 14th of April, is the Quiz Night. More information will be given through the Kingsworth Parents' Association's newsletter.

This week I also met a couple of people from the Chelsea Independent College who offer summer programs for children between the ages of 14 to 19. They specialise in academic courses for Art & Design, Business & Finance, Engineering & IT, Medicine and Law, Politics & International Relations, and they give a flavour of what is to come at university. These are the hyperlinks to their site but I will be more than happy to talk about them on March 17.

<http://www.astrumeducation.com>

If you are interested to know more beforehand, please do not hesitate to email me directly and I will get back to you and discuss the programmes that are being offered.

A final point that I think I ought to mention is the issue of what is known as *Third Culture Kids*. The president of the KWPA knows a great deal about this subject and would be willing to run one or two workshops on this. Again, I would point out, that more information will be coming out in the KWPA newsletter.

Well that's it for now. Do have a great weekend and I'll be getting back to you next week.

S Jankowski

Key Dates

18th Feb: KWPA Coffee morning

19th Feb: Last day of term and reports issued on ISAMS

7th March: First day back after 2 weeks holiday

11th March: PE and Science trip for Years 11 to 13 to Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie.

17th March: Q and A Session

21st—24th March: MUN trip to Dublin

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