



KINGSWORTH
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



WELCOME TO KINGSWORTH NEWS

Dear Parents,

May I start the newsletter by reminding you that this Wednesday evening at 7 o'clock there is my once-a-term looking at Shakespeare evening? We will be looking at the play *Much Ado About Nothing* which I try to make it as exciting and enjoyable as possible. This will not be a literature lesson; this is looking at how theatre works and really understanding how director/actor looks at text. So the more the merrier – so I'm looking forward to seeing many of you as possible there.

I want to speak a little bit about the American elections, without getting at all political, because it came into my sight over the weekend (very difficult for it not have done, I reckon). I came across an article that was looking at the nature of political systems as described by Socrates through the Plato dialogues. Apparently he said: 'tyranny is probably established out of no other regime than democracy' and that the two essential facets to have a truly functioning democracy were equality and freedom. However, as democracy develops and progresses everything becomes more and more equal, until this equality becomes an overriding element of the culture and the state, which paradoxically produces a lifestyle where every kind of inequality is despised. The elites are treated as suspect and, in turn, become despised until a would-be tyrant will seize the moment. This man (I believe in Socrates' Greece that women were not treated equally but that is another issue!) will seize the moment; he offers relief from democracy's endless choices and insecurities.

Okay. Stop there. Rewind. Read that last sentence back. This is the point I wish to make, for as you know I always try to drag things back to education. The anguish of so many young people feel today is a sort of disconnection from the world, from those endless choices and insecurities that Socrates spoke of, from being engaged politically with society. Our job as teachers and instructors is to help them face that, as well as having to face up to that and consequently to overcome it. The feeling of angst we seem to be seeing throughout the world in various countries, in various shades and hues, can only be answered by preparing young people into the spirit of what real education is. We seem to be fearful of making choices, wanting only to look for a simple answer, the easy solution. What I would like to call the Wikipedia world. Our job here at the school is to get the children to overcome that and to enjoy facing those 'fearful' choices. Fear is not a bad thing, it is simply learning how to embrace and adapt it.

Well, I have probably gone on a little bit too long there but I'm still always intrigued by the world and wanting to make it a better place for all of us to live in. I still genuinely, passionately believe that this can only be done through education and through an educated population. Ours is to give the child a voice, a voice that counts, a voice that makes sense.

Signing off with the usual *effloresce nobiscum*.

Stephen Jankowski

Headteacher

Trial Exams

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UPCOMING EVENTS

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