



KINGSWORTH
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



WELCOME TO KINGSWORTH NEWS

Dear parents,

I thought I would take some time today to speak about an issue that came up at yesterday's Kingsworth Parents Association meeting. To remind you: the meeting was concerned with exams and the upcoming possibility of Kingsworth becoming an IB school. One of the issues that we are very concerned about here at the school (in terms of education - and in particular its holistic value -) is the ability to think critically, something we like to pride ourselves on doing naturally here within the school. So, a short story.

Recently a friend of mine rang to tell me that he had been diagnosed with type II diabetes. You may be wondering why I'm mentioning something personal; is he going all peculiar on us? Well there is a point to this, and the point is that in everyday life we need to think critically and not accept the received wisdom or received knowledge that is handed out to us by experts. Let me continue ...

In this particular case, after having seen the doctor, my friend was told to go and see a nurse who specialised in diabetes and she would tell him the process of what to do when you a type II diabetes sufferer. He was given a list of pills to take and was informed in no uncertain terms that this was a life-long condition. My friend was going to have none of this. He promptly started looking around for material on the

Internet and soon found a book describing a diet that could resolve the problem. He has been following this for six weeks and recently went back to see the nurse for the good old check-up.

The nurse congratulated him on having lost weight and coming down below the blood sugar levels associated with type II diabetes. She was particularly pleased with the fact that he had been following the prescription; he turned round and told her that he wasn't following any such thing and that he had decided to find an *alternative* therapy. Initially, she didn't seem to have heard him. He repeated what he had said and she replied that he should keep taking the medicine. Finally, he underlined the fact that he had **not** been taking any medicine and she seemed somewhat flabbergasted but nonetheless still insisted on him taking the medicine.

So what is the point of this story for Kingsworth? It comes back to the issue of critical thinking. My friend has that in abundance. When faced with the everyday received wisdom that dog our lives, we often blindly follow because we are being told "facts" by experts. But those experts are also closed in on their own belief systems because they do not allow themselves to think critically either, never questioning the orthodoxy of the box-of-thought they find themselves in. When "challenged" they at first do not hear; they carry on happily as if nothing has happened. They do not even wish to believe it (think Nurse). For our Kingsworth students, don't we want them to leave our institute as critical thinkers, of taking up the challenge of conformist concepts. Not disagreeing for the sake of defiance but rather in order to change the world and make it a better place. Yet I also agree that if *it ain't broke, then don't fix it*, too. It is all about balance, after all. If we want our children to be the citizens of tomorrow, we need them to be able to truly think for themselves; to know when to change things and when to leave them alone.

Well, back to everyday matters ...

- The M.U.N. crowd leave on Sunday for Dublin so let's wish them luck and hope they have a great time flying the Kingsworth flag.
- The visit to the Cité des Sciences went well this morning. Thank you Dr Tallon and Mr NTswana.
- A couple of other points –
 - Ms Cameron is doing a charity walk, more information on that on the web site.
 - Filipa in Year 12 is organising visits to the Hopital Necker, but more on that soon.

Have a great week-end.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Cyrano de Bergerac

[READ MORE](#)

31th

Mar

Kingsworth International School 56 Rue de Passy 75016 Paris France
Ph. +33 1 42 88 67 38 Mob. +33 6 75 77 82 39
Email: contact@kingsworth.fr



For safe delivery of our emails, add newsletter@kingsworth.fr to your safe sender list.