



KINGSWORTH
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



WELCOME TO KINGSWORTH NEWS

Dear Parents

Let me start by welcoming three new students who have joined Kingsworth International School in the past week. Firstly, in Year 7, Graham Coven; secondly in Year 11, Lucas Marti-Brosse; and finally in Year 12, Marina Vernick. We are sure you will find your place here and enjoy becoming part of the Kingsworth community.

It brings me neatly around to a point I wish to reiterate about the challenge and pleasure of learning. I have just been reading a report about a school in a deprived area in Britain; a school that was classified ten years ago as “failing” but has since turned itself around and become what is known as a “beacon” school. A journalist was being shown around by the headteacher and they were observing a maths class. The headteacher and journalist looked on as pupils in the class gleefully high-fived each other after correctly answering tricky questions. “It might not sound like much to you,” the headteacher said, “but to celebrate success, openly, publicly? This is a huge change.” She went on to say, “That *joy of learning had gone* (my italics). Children were embarrassed to achieve, they wouldn’t come to an awards ceremony or take a certificate.”

I was intrigued by this for as many of you who know me personally I truly believe in the enfranchising power that education is and can be, and how pleasurable it is to learn and to be taught. Anyone who does not adhere to this vision is labelled a nerd, a bookworm, an anorak or even – insult of insults – a bore.

Yet paradoxically we know that we are living in an age where we are seeing an increasing polarisation of events and facts and we view them as right or wrong, positive-negative, black-white. This erstwhile complex world seems to be hurtling towards simplicity of question and answer, afraid of taking up complex issues and coming up with answers that might be somewhat more challenging than any classic right-wrong solution. In a way, our labyrinthine world is turning binary; the zero-one question, the copy-paste answer. We do not want to be challenged but want the answer on a plate. At the same time, universities are crying out for ‘outside-of-the-box’ thinkers. All of us, parents, teachers, students, have a duty to ourselves and to the community (i.e. the world) to take up the challenge and run with it.

Debate and reflection help outcomes, while suppressing it would destroy it. We need to cherish this and encourage this within school. We need our students to candidly enthuse about finding solutions to what may seem at first a complex issue, whether in maths, science, history or debate, and we need them to be proud of achievement. This is what we encourage at Kingsworth – not the knee-jerk thinker but the comprehensive, root-and-branch, reasoned one.

Effloresce nobiscum.

Kingsworth School Fair

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UPCOMING EVENTS

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Head Teachers Coffee Morning

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18th
Nov

21th
Nov

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