



KINGSWORTH
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



WELCOME TO KINGSWORTH NEWS

Dear Parents,

I would like to start by welcoming yet another new student to year 12 – Leontina, who I am sure will integrate quickly into the Kingsworth community. As you know, as parents, next week is exam week! Nothing better than an exam to concentrate the mind, unfortunately. I say "unfortunately" because as you know I am not a gung-ho, over-the-top enthusiast for examinations. Nonetheless, we live in a world where we are required to hand over examination certificates as proof of our ability. There is, of course, nothing wrong with that per se; we need to have proof that people have jumped hurdles and managed to do so successfully. Yet I am back to the world of Finland where there is one country that in these troubled times is willing to experiment and to take risks. Taking risks? Is that a good thing in education? Yes it is. Educators, philosophers, scientists, thinkers, artists, writers, all have to take risks; otherwise they dwindle into the mundane and the everyday. I suppose a motto I have close to my heart is that, curiously, of the RAF – *per ardua ad astra*; aim for the stars.

On another note – sorry I seem to be in a strangely stream of consciousness type of mood today – I had to go to the authorities this morning and face once again what is the nightmare of administration. Is it peculiarly French, or is this now universal? I think Kafka knows the answer – it is, without one moment's hesitation, universal. As is so common, I had one form that was missing. The man in front of me (who by the way was 50 minutes late for the appointment set up online and who equally offered no excuse or apology) spoke at a machine-gun fire pace and told me what I had to do (as well as telling me what I had done wrong!). He told me one thing, then on reflection said something else; then on being told by a colleague sitting next to him that that was no longer possible, gave me a third alternative. Ah well... I hope I get it right next time.

Returning to the exams, I have the same suggestions to make as I have done before – which is to try and enjoy the 'process' as much as possible. Certainly my 'examination' in the offices of the French state was not a pleasant experience; and I clearly failed. I hope that the children's next week will be a more positive one and that there will be no sense of failure.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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