



KINGSWORTH
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



WELCOME TO KINGSWORTH NEWS

Dear Parents,

Firstly I would like to warmly welcome our two new teachers to our Kingsworth community who are with the primary section (this is something I should have done last week!)– Françoise Philippe (who started last week) and Eglantine Lahey (who started this morning) ... Now to education ...

It is very unusual for me to pick up the French newspaper *Le Monde* (a question of time and habit, I suppose) but this last Wednesday I saw that there was a special article discussing education in relation to the presidential elections. The title of the article translates as approximately *The Fundamentals of Schooling at the Heart of the Debate*. Each candidate seems to have his or her view about how to reform what one French Minister of Education called The Mammoth. What is clear in this debate – as it has been

for many, many years in Britain – is that education has become something of a political football. So the candidates trot out the same old, same old. So we have the three Rs – Reading, 'Riting, 'Rithmetic (*lire, écrire, compter*). Equally, it might be about class sizes or the quality of teachers or the quality of the books or not enough money in the classroom, and so on and so forth.

Clearly, as stated in the article, there is a nostalgia for yesterday and I think of the line from the French poet Villon who wrote: *Where are the snows of yesteryear?* The writer of the article put it very neatly when she writes that we have to change the pedagogical system and that in other words, we need to rethink about the values of education. She made parallels to other countries and even the CNESCO (*Conseil National d'évaluation du système scolaire*) is moving sluggishly but inevitably forward in a drive for change.

Yet even the most radical of the candidates would not dare to put forward such an idea and possibly quite rightly as they do not wish to hurt their electoral chances. The debate in many ways should not be in the hands of a select few (elected or nonelected) but with the teachers themselves, the professionals and para-professionals, the parents, as well as our elected representatives, debating and challenging the old myths. Until that happens, I'm afraid, we're going to get the same old messages. The message, of course, that is very clear is that education is so often at the heart of an election process and I'm reminded of Tony Blair when he swung the election back in 1997 with the reply to his question: I have three priorities that we will concentrate on in government; Education, education, education. Elections can be won and lost on education.

Please do not forget this Friday evening – there is the Quiz Night where we will be testing and reviewing our general knowledge. Prizes, fun and cocktails. A great night for all, I am sure. I hope to see many of you there...

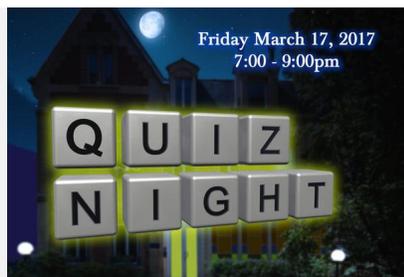
Effloresce nobiscum.

Mr. Stephen Jankowski

Head teacher

Quiz Night

READ MORE



UPCOMING EVENTS

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.