



KINGSWORTH  
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



## WELCOME TO KINGSWORTH NEWS

Dear Parents,

It's a busy time of the academic year as the older students – years 11, 12, and 13 – rush in to what must seem a headlong way into their exams. I am thinking about them because I was very much a student who panicked and felt under pressure when taking exams; and I didn't do particularly well in my A-levels. I have been speaking to one or two parents recently about the difference between pressure and stress. Of course, sitting here in my office, it is very easy to tell students not to feel the stress but I do understand what they are going through. Pressure is good for us in the sense that it forces us into getting things done, dusted and finished; stress just sends us in - gung-ho fashion - over the top!

Listening to the radio just a couple of days ago I heard of a report that has just come out in Britain about

primary school children having to take what are called the Sats. Not to be confused with the American SATS, they are nonetheless similar in nature in that a test is but a test. What has been coming to the forefront in Britain is that the 11-year old child faced with such tests is feeling stressed out. Consequently, the schools and the teachers doing their best, find themselves gearing the curriculum to ensuring that they do well in the tests and thereby narrowing the curriculum. It is this latter effect which is ensuring that schools are struggling under both having to achieve results as well as having to comply with the usual administrative tasks. We seem to be losing the way in education.

Only just recently, a couple working as head teacher and deputy head at a primary school for over 40 years have resigned. They cite the fact that the current education policy is in such opposition to what they believe both in terms of child welfare and development; their position is untenable, they feel. I quote: "The excitement, creativity and wonder that we came into teaching to nurture and encourage have been largely driven out by the rote learning of facts. Combined with this is the increased stress and potential for mental health issues that we see resulting from the pressures placed on young children by these tests." Not only do I wholeheartedly agree but I worry that the people making policies in education seem so far removed from the realities of the classroom or simply unconcerned. Universities are demanding more and more to have creative thinkers. Yey what the examination boards and education policymakers are asking us to do is far from that. Nonetheless, we at Kingsworth will do our best to ensure that children get through the best they can in the trying times coming up. Well, it's food for thought ...

*Effloresce nobiscum.*

Mr Stephen Jankowski

Head teacher

## 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](mailto:contact@kingsworth.fr)



For safe delivery of our emails, add [newsletter@kingsworth.fr](mailto:newsletter@kingsworth.fr) to your safe sender list.