



Chers Parents, dear Parents, liebe Eltern, queridos Padres,

These last few weeks, after the data presentation that Peter Ashbourne and I have given to the parents, I heard several times these words about our school: “it is a success story”. Well, yes indeed, it is a kind of...

Three years is a very young age for a school, especially because we are not yet complete as a primary school; Year5 and Year6 are still to come. However we now have a history and have started to build some traditions. The succession of objective good news over the last few years (Ofsted inspection, European audit/inspection, European accreditation, teachers' marking moderation, data in English, maths and languages...) converge clearly in the same positive direction. We are very happy and proud of this achievement.

Nevertheless, we are not complacent. We know there is still room for improvement, and that future success is never guaranteed, as we are always facing new challenges. One big challenge is for us to maintain this success level in the medium and long term, in a context of a very fast growing school (3 classes per year, with the introduction of a new language). To help us face these challenges, we as a team constantly self-assess, with the help of our Governors, and we have carried out the parents' survey from which numerous good ideas will be taken on board; Mr Ashbourne will give you a detailed feedback of the survey in September.

A recurrent and interesting question which came up is: “how is it possible at the end of the day, that the level of English is as good as in other schools in the area, since you teach English over only 2.5 days?” The response I usually give is simple: we don't teach our pupils half a week, but actually teach 5 days a week. In two languages with two teachers, it is true, but our pupils benefit from a strong teaching on a full-time basis. The evidence is there: step by step, children reinvest what they learn in one language into the other, even though they may not be fluent in one of them.

Another strong point for our school: the commitment of the parents. Firstly to your own children, of course, by helping do the homework that is set and by motivating them, but also to the school community as a whole. A couple of examples, which have had a real impact: thanks to two mums of the school, one German and one French speaker, our pupils have benefited from an amazing German drama performance in April, and in June, the French classes have welcomed a Belgian French speaking author and illustrator. Both these major events would not have happened without the involvement of these two parents.

I am pretty confident the next following years will be as successful as these ones, and that the future Europa secondary will be the same.

In the meantime, I wish you and your children very good holidays. These ones surely deserve it after a very full year at Europa.

Kind regards, bien cordialement, mit freundlichen Grüßen, saludos cordiales,

Culham, July 2015

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