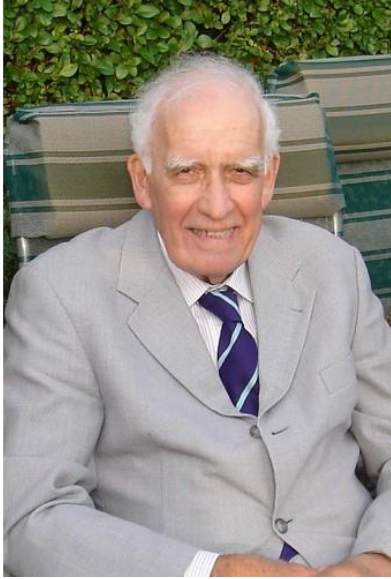


## Norman Pitt 1928 – 2024



We are deeply saddened to share the news that Norman Pitt, the inaugural Headteacher of the Anglo European School (1973 to 1990) has died, aged 95. He was the founder of the Anglo European School. Back in 1973, he had just two terms to prepare the school to open in that September and his first task was securing the approval of the Council of Europe to use their official emblem on the AES badge. The logo within a circle of 12 gold stars, which now reflects the 12 learner profile characteristics, remains the iconic symbol of the Anglo European School to this day.

His second decision concerned the selection of uniform retailers (Henry Taylor of Walthamstow) and to confirm the design of the original uniform. For boys it was grey suits, later, in 1980s changing to grey trousers, and a blue blazer and the school tie. For girls, it was a navy blue skirt and the iconic gold blouse, reflecting the council of Europe colours.

Under his leadership, a significant building initiative took place, encompassing the addition of a new language laboratory, E block, A block, the Sports Hall, a Sixth Form Block, and enhanced Science laboratories. In 1974, three successive groups of 60 Year 7 pupils took part in the school's first overseas study visit to France, which were a great success. The programme comprised language and environmental studies. In 1975, 3 study visits took place with partner schools in Brittany, Paimpol and Ploufegon and the following year Germany was added to the Visits Programme and our partnership with Frankfurt's Goethe Gymnasium was formed, a partnership which has lasted 48 years. Indeed, this week, we welcomed our 48th group of long term students who will spend the next 8 weeks with AES exchange partners (picture below). This is a notable part of Norman's legacy. The visits programme steadily expanded throughout the 1970s, under Norman's leadership, establishing connections with partner schools in France, Germany, Norway, and the U.S.A, creating more opportunities for language development.

In 1977 Norman led the development of the new Sixth Form and in a pioneering move, the school became the first state school to adopt the International Baccalaureate Diploma programme; a globally recognised post-16 qualification embracing breadth, academic rigour and developing global citizens through the introduction of CAS. This remains the jewel in Anglo's crown and it is fitting that this year, the sixth form was once again awarded the Outstanding grade by Ofsted, recognising the unique and impactful curriculum design, that

Norman pioneered, as being as relevant and effective now as it was then in developing ambitious, principled and resilient young adults.

Norman retired in 1990 but has continued to be a frequent visitor and friend to the school. He was invited back to open the Sanctuary building in 2013 and turned the first sod for the building of the foundations of the new C block.

He took an active role in our 40th Anniversary celebrations and, as we celebrated our 50th Anniversary this year, although he was not able to attend in person, he did share a message which said he hoped that the school continued to thrive.

We know Norman was always very proud of the school he had such a key role in designing and developing. We owe a great deal to his intellect and vision in developing the distinctive, international educational experience we all hold dear today. Although he has passed now, his legacy shines brightly in every badge on every blazer. This week we have lowered the flag in his honour.

