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GOOD NEWS

STATE AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS ACADEMIC RESULTS

Pupils at private schools no longer show better exam results in the key subjects of Maths, English and Science when results are adjusted for socioeconomic backgrounds. However there are considerable differences in the creative subjects of Art, Music and Drama.

THE 4 DAY WORKING WEEK

International research indicates that there is a 67% reduction in sick days, and 57% reduction in staff leaving and 35% increase in firms' revenue.

CHILDREN, SOCIAL MEDIA AND MENTAL HEALTH - MEASURES TO PROTECT CHILDREN

Australia is the latest country to announce measures to protect children, banning access to social media for minors under the age of 16. Meanwhile in Norway 15 is proposed. France is barring smart phones in school and Ireland is expected to do the same.

SATELLITES

The world's first wooden satellite has been launched into space. Metal satellites burn up in space upon re-entering the world's atmosphere, liberating harmful metal particles.

GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT

This has been the accepted measure of measuring a country's prosperity. Robert F Kennedy, former USA Attorney General said the GNP was a measure of everything except that which made life worthwhile. The Office of National Statistics has compiled a rival including housework, environment, ecosystems. Actual value is measured in all sorts of ways and places, not just by measuring products. It is hoped this will catch on globally.

FOR REFLECTION AND PRAYER

THE ACCELERATION OF CIVIL WAR IN SYRIA

THE NUMBER OF MIGRANTS

at the USA/Mexican border has increased fourfold since last year and Trump coming to power. He has said he will deport a million of those who do not have the legal right to be in USA.

THE CALL TO THE GOVERNMENT TO PRODUCE LEGISLATION TO BAN LICENCES FOR COAL MINES

THE UNITED NATIONS URGES PAKISTAN TO BAN THE BLASPHEMY LAWS

2500 HATE CRIMES AGAINST CHRISTIANS IN FRANCE

reported in Russell Blacker's Caucus for the Persecuted Church Newsletter last month.

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