

The Swaminarayan

Education is that which liberates

Dear Parents, Guardians, Pupils and Friends,

Theme for next week

The theme for the week after half-term is “**Excellence.**” I have written about it on the back of the newsletter.

TSS S2 Girls win the Area Final of Rotary Youth Speaks Competition



On Monday evening, six pupils from the school attended the Area Competition of Rotary Youth Speaks at The American School in Swiss Cottage. Raisa Ruparelia, Devisha Gor and Ridhi Sarmah-Kapoor represented the school in the Intermediate Final against six other schools. You will be pleased to learn that they were the winning team with the speech from Raisa on *Being Happy* judged to be the Best Speech while Ridhi was judged to be the Best Vote of Thanks.



In the Senior section, Kajol Jain, Devraj Bhargava and Isha Bharadia competed with six other schools. Kajol gave a stirring speech headlined as Snowflakes on how parents are overprotective towards their children. Although the trio did not win the section, Isha Bharadia was judged to be the Best Vote of Thanks in the competition. Our congratulations to all the pupils for their efforts under the guidance of Mr Wills. The Intermediate Team will progress to the Regional Final.

University Offers and UCAS Tariff Points

As we draw near to the completion of this year's cycle of university applications, it will be useful to reflect on the changes taking place in university offers and UCAS Tariff points. Each grade at AS and A Level is allocated a number of points which universities use when making conditional offers to students. While in most cases universities will specify the grades students should attain to gain entry to their chosen course, some universities will specify the UCAS points they will accept. These are the UCAS tariff points allocated to each grade at A Level: A*(56), A (48), B (40), C (32), D (24) and E (16). At AS Level: A (20), B (16), C (12), D (8) and E (4). You can read more about it on the attached fact sheets from UCAS. No tariff points are allocated to GCSE subjects. Many of our Sixth Form students have secured offers from some prestigious universities, including Oxbridge. I will announce some of them after the half-term.

Drama and LAMDA news – Mr Benny writes:

ISA Drama Festival: Year 9

Play's title: *Art Heart - a devised ensemble drama*

Performance: FRIDAY 9th MARCH: Venue: Tring Park School for the Performing Arts, Mansion Drive, Tring, HP23 5LX

Parents and family members are invited to attend, but all the actors and technicians will travel by coach to and from the venue back to TSS. Early departure, possibly 7/7.15 a.m. (Yet to confirm).

SUNDAY 4th MARCH FULL REHEARSAL AND DRESS REH: 9.30 - 4/4.30pm (including the tech crew, Jathusa Sivarupan and Pari Parekh)

THURSDAY 8th MARCH: Periods 5 and 6, and after school until 5 or 5.30pm (subject to progress)

DRAMA GCSE: Year 11

DEADLINE FOR PORTFOLIO AND 'EVIDENCE':

Component 2 Performance Exam before an external examiner: Friday, 11th May: 9.50 a.m.

Component 2 post-school rehearsals, usually 4.15-5.15/5.30pm twice a week for a fortnight, then three times more and one Sunday (possibly 6th May). Schedule will be finalised immediately after our Half Term Easter holiday.

Component 3 Written Exam (90mins) - *Caucasian Chalk Circle*, and questions concerning any professional live performance:

DRAMA GCSE: Year 10

Component 1 Devised Performance Exam will be provisionally scheduled for early in the Summer term, or else at the very start of the Autumn term, 2018, subject to the students' progress.

LAMDA

LAMDA exams will take place over three days in the first fortnight of July, 2018 - yet to be confirmed by LAMDA. Students have, at various levels, a select poem, a select extract of prose and 'theoretical knowledge' pertaining to their level. Silver and Gold candidates must, in addition, have a sonnet and biographical knowledge of their chosen poet.

Costs set by LAMDA: parents to be billed independently by TSS:

Grade 4 (Year 7): £53

Grade 5 (Year 8): £57.50

Grade 6 (Bronze/Year 9): £68.50

Grade 7 (Silver): one student from Year 10: £74.50

Grade 8 (Gold/Year 10): £85

Any further information required, please contact Mr Benny, or else Mr Wills or Ms Ramphal.

The Power of Words

1. To live without constantly expanding our knowledge is to close our eyes both to the purpose and to the facts of life;
2. Remember that your language is the one thing you cannot hide - except by silence;
3. Your ability to use your language and the extent of your vocabulary will determine your income and your future;
4. Remember that finishing school is just the beginning of your days and years of learning. With learning will come wisdom, kindness, patience, love, understanding and success as a person; and,
5. It is never too late to begin!

Six Ways to Revise: Mathematics

The best six ways to revise for Mathematics are listed below, written by experienced teachers.

1. Learn the times-tables up to 15.
2. Practise calculations without a calculator.
3. Show written working.
4. Revise by actively 'doing' not just 'reading'.
5. Explain your method of working to a friend.
6. Check whether the answer is sensible when you have finished.

PE News – Mr Worth writes:

A busy half term in PE at TSS feels there is quite a bit to catch up on in terms of results and sporting updates. Since January, the Senior Boys and Girls have competed in a wide range of activities. The Year 7s-10s have competed in a number of football fixtures within the Borough versus Queens Park and Newman Catholic College and although the score lines were not in our favour, hard work in training has shone through with games ultimately much closer affairs throughout.

Towards the end of January the Prep and Senior Cross country teams, headed to Rushmoor School, Bedford, to compete in the ISA London North Cross Country Competition. With testing weather conditions and course resembling more of a Marshland than a playing field, the TSS students showed great vigour to complete the course, with the pick of the results going to Janvi Patel in the U16 Girls Competition with a top 10 finish, qualifying for the National Competition later in the year.

Next, the Year 7 and 8 Girls have made it through to the Middlesex Indoor Cricket Finals for the first time. Having beaten local rivals KHS in the final of the Brent Round. They then progressed through to the North London Round, where astute bowling and quick scoring saw them overcome Mill Hill County 2-0 in a best of 3 game final. They now go on to compete in the final after half term.

Finally, The U14 Boys Badminton team went on to compete in the London Youth Games, North London Round with the hope of reaching the finals at Crystal Palace in March. Facing a host of new opposition, it was uncharted territory for the boys. First up, Hillingdon who were dispatched 5-0 to take the first win of the day. Mohit Bakhda and Deion Varsani impressing in the early stages of the competition. This was then quickly followed with another victory over Ealing. The final game vs Isleworth and Syon was a close affair and with no setting in these games, the difference came down to 1 point. Sadly, TSS were unable

to seal the victory and went down 3-2. A great showing by the boys and valuable experience for future competitions and also future GCSE PE assessments.

Half-term

The half-term holidays will be from Monday, 12th to Friday, 16th February 2018. All the staff and pupils return to school on Monday, 19th February 2018 as normal. Everyone should note that the school is open during the half-term. Any pupil attending extra lessons must sign in at the office.

Excellence

Think

Have you ever looked up at the sky lately and seen how bare it looks? It is because not many people dare to soar. The higher people climb, the greater the space, and the larger the offices and fewer the people. Out of every thousand people just one stays the full course and reaches the top. Out of thousands who have striven to reach the summit of Mount Everest, only 600 people from twenty countries have ever made it to the top. Others have succumbed to the harsh weather, and either given up or perished.

Feel

A large multi-national company has only one chief executive, and they, like all those others who have reached the top have had to aim for excellence their whole life, working long hours and remaining focused on their task against all adversity. They have shown intense commitment to excellence and in time they have been rewarded. Excellence is not arrived at by chance but by constant effort. They have thought of excellence in their every action and have taken risks when others have hesitated. When trouble has come their way they have stood firm and resolute to that single aim for excellence, even if they have been the only one.

Do

As a child of this world, once you have decided to aim for excellence in your life, seek the help and assistance of everyone you know. Your journey will be more enjoyable with others by your side as there will surely be times when you will want to give up when the going gets tough. The support, guidance and encouragement of others can be a huge source of inspiration at such times, and no one achieves excellence without a mentor to guide them.

Yours sincerely,

Nilesh Manani