

# The Swaminarayan

Education is that which liberates

**Dear Parents, Guardians, Pupils and Friends,**

**Theme for the week**

The theme for next week is “**Character.**” I have written about it on the back of the newsletter.

***The Upper Six Class of 2018...***

When an Upper Six group leaves it is emotionally more difficult than the departure of pupils at any other time in the school. The departure of this year’s Upper Six is no less so. Many of them have been in the school since their nursery days; many have joined the school at the beginning of their senior years from other schools; and a few even at the beginning of their Sixth Form studies from Africa and India, one even from Thailand! It has been a pleasure to watch them grow over the years into mature young adults.

There is variety in the depth of talents they have, in the backgrounds they come from, their kindness to others, their charitable natures, their service to the community and our own pupils in the Preparatory School. We have all been very impressed with the leadership they have shown in every aspect of the school life – from the way they have taken charge of their duties in the assemblies to the way they have led the Senior School Council, generating many new initiatives and ideas in the process, not forgetting the Mentor Group Sessions, where they pass on the wisdom of their many years of their experience to the younger students.

Academically, I have no doubt that they will all surpass their potential, several will get A\* grades in their examinations, a few might even achieve all A\* grades! While all may not be equally talented, one thing I must give them credit for is their dedicated approach to their studies throughout their years in the school. I have often seen them working together in their special Sixth Form block, in our resourceful library, and even discovering a few in the many quiet corners of the school. You will be glad to learn that ALL the students have received multiple offers, with many from the prestigious Russell Group of universities like Cambridge, LSE, Imperial, UCL, Warwick and others. It is so pleasing for everyone when this happens because it is what we aspire for every child who joins the school. If there was one unique quality I had to identify in our school, it would be the diligence with which our pupils and teachers approach external examinations. This unique blend of pupil willingness and teacher support is invaluable to the success we achieve at both GCSE and A Level, with many far exceeding their potential.

The Class of 2018 shown in their full glory on the next page, young and now, are: Akhil Bhargava, Naiya Desai, Vaishali Kakkad, Radhika Kholia, Disha Kothari, Kaamya Mehta, Ravi Mooruth, Simran Panchal, Dhruvi Patel, Jai Patel, Lisa Patel, Rishali Patel, Sharad Patel, Vimal Patel, Yogesh Patel, Ria Patel, Jaydevsinh Rana, Bristi Sarkar, Anon Tuli and Ishan Vadgama.

I am indeed very proud of all of them. They have shown the way for many children younger than them; they have set an example for which the school and their parents can be truly proud of; they have stretched the boundaries beyond those set by previous years; and they have, at all times got on with each other, a quality that has allowed them to get on with what they are seriously here to achieve.



I am also proud of their involvement in the whole life of the school, for this has allowed them to develop in areas which academic studies alone does not allow a child to do. Our special thanks to our Head Girl Ria Popat and Head Boy Jai Patel, who have led the student body from the front with the selfless support from their year. On behalf of everyone who has played a small part in their journey through the years, I wish them all well for the forthcoming A level examinations.

### **Boys PE News – Mr Worth writes:**

This week saw the start of the cricket season for the students with the first fixtures in the Middlesex cup, the weather stopped the year 7s having their first hard ball match so had to make do with an indoor game versus Vyners School. As TSS were put into bat the boys started slowly but Aum Patel having been dropped on 8, went on to make an unbeaten 91, helped along the way predominantly by Vandan Patel (9) to set a target of 162 – 3. Whilst Aum had done most of the damage with the bat, the work load with the ball was spread amongst the team, reducing Vyners to 74 all out with promising spells from Avi Patel (2-0-12) Amar Bakhda (6-1-9) and Jay Patel (6-1-12). A great team effort sees them through to the 2<sup>nd</sup> round to face Claremont High School on the 15<sup>th</sup> May.

The Year 8s travelled to Christ College, Finchley, where Pasan Ahangama's 41 helped TSS to a total of 87 all out. In a match where the control of the match swung from team to team, the boys dug deep and secured a 1 run win when at one point CCF needed just 15 runs off 20 balls. Honourable mentions go to Kush Sheth (19-2-24), Abhishek Panchani (13-1-24) and Pasan (8-4-24) for some superb bowling. Yet it was the committed fielding from the team as a whole that changed the face of the game. On to JFS for round 2.

### **Upcoming fixtures**

Year 8 vs Claremont @ Kenton Rec 14<sup>th</sup> May  
Year 7 vs Claremont @ Kenton CC 15<sup>th</sup> May  
Year 8 vs Preston Manor (A) 16<sup>th</sup> May  
Year 9 vs Preston Manor (A) 17<sup>th</sup> May  
Year 7 Kingsbury (A – Princess Ave Site) 23<sup>rd</sup> May

### **Athletics**

Cricket isn't the only sport happening at the minute with the Brent and ISA Athletics competitions also taking part this week. At the time of writing the Year 7s and Year 9s had competed against the best in the borough. A wonderfully positive atmosphere saw a number of the students put in fantastic performances. Most notably Komal Mardia achieving 1<sup>st</sup> place in the girls Year 9 Javelin and Janvi Patel achieving 1<sup>st</sup> in the Year 9 girls Discus. The boys also did their bit with Mohit Bakhda just missing out on a place in the 1500m and Shane Barrett missing out on the Year 9 100m by less than half a second. Hopefully more positive results to come in next week's write up.

### **Developing a good character**

#### **Think**

This week I want to speak to you about developing a good character. I remember reading somewhere that the character of a person is that which he or she truly is in thought and action. I have thought hard about how a good person would act and I believe that persons of good character would always act in a manner that would do no harm to anyone or anything.

#### **Feel**

It is a very hard thing to do but we can get close to that aim if we conscientiously look at ourselves daily, learn from what we do right and what we do wrong, and strive to improve. The following five powerful tools will help you to learn and reach that goal:

#### **Do**

1. The power of faith: always have faith in yourself that you have the capacity to achieve great things and you will.
2. The power of conscientiousness: you must continue conscientiously to strive hard to improve no matter what the obstacles and to show courage.

3. The power of fear: always be afraid of the consequences of acting wrongly in thought, in what you say and how you behave because that fear will stop you from doing wrong things.
4. The power of energy: you must have abiding energy to face up to all that is wrong and choose the right.
5. The power of insight: you must learn to pause and think to gain a good understanding of how you must act before acting and be prepared to destroy the root cause of that which is wrong.

**Yours sincerely,**

**Nilesh Manani**