

# The Swaminarayan

**Education is that which liberates**

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

## **Theme for the week**

The theme for first week back after the Easter holidays is “**Be a team player**”. I have written about it on the back of the newsletter.

## **Review of 6<sup>th</sup> Form**

Everyone is advised that they should have received a letter from me after the review of the 6<sup>th</sup> Form in the school. We realise the tremendous work pupils in the Sixth Form do, the leadership and inspiration they provide to the younger pupils as mentors in academia, sports, fund raising, talent shows and other extra-curricular activities. This also continues after they enter universities, when many return to provide extra support to pupils wishing to follow them in their footsteps.

Former TSS 6<sup>th</sup> Form students attend some of the finest universities in the UK: Imperial, Oxford, Cambridge, UCL, King’s College, Queen Mary, Warwick, Manchester, Cardiff, Liverpool and many other Russell Group universities. Following which many currently occupy senior positions at the Treasury as Economists, in the Foreign Office as Analyst, as Engineers, Pilots, Optometrists, Pharmacists, Dentists, Doctors, Lawyers, Barristers, Investment Bankers, Chartered Accountants, and Management Consultants at KPMG, PWC and Deloitte. We have never failed to secure a place for a student in a medical school. We continue to achieve the best performance score per pupil in ISA which has 424 member independent schools, and are always amongst the group of HMC schools.

I, for one, am very proud of the contribution the 6<sup>th</sup> Form students make to the school and have no doubt that if we all work together, show commitment, contribute positively and make sacrifices when it is called upon, I see no reason why the TSS 6<sup>th</sup> Form should not continue to flourish as the roll of Alumni shows.

## **Study Leave for Lower 6**

While we have granted study leave to the Lower 6 pupils, parents and students are reminded that due to the small number of examinations, I have given permission to all teachers to request their attendance for subjects which will not be examined this year. This is also the last year we will allow students to do the AS examinations in subjects where they wish to complete an A Level, due to the linear nature of the examinations in the recent government review. The time lost for preparation would be better used to complete the A Level syllabus earlier so that we can devote more time to revision before the examinations in the second year.

## **TSS Summer Fair**

**Saturday, 1<sup>th</sup> & Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2017**

**Parents & Friends wishing to book a stall and banners should contact the school office.  
Spaces and stalls are selling fast so don’t delay, book them now.**

## WRITER'S CORNER

Eashan Patel wrote this essay for the ISA Essay Competition. We are all very proud that he was awarded the second prize out of all the submissions from some 424 ISA schools. Congratulations, Eashan.

### **My First Trip to the Moon**

By Eashan Patel

'Today is a very significant day, as of today, March 2<sup>nd</sup> 2017, England is hosting its first manned mission to the moon. Now only one minute until take off'. A large booming voice announced over the tannoy. Even I was strapped to my seat, I could see the masses of faces staring up at me. It was like I was famous, although I would be anyway, if this mission was successful of course.

A huge rush came over me as the ten second count down began. They were already at five! I wanted to go home now. Do I have to do this? I was secretly excited, but also nail-bitingly nervous. What if I crash landed and died? Or the rocket boosters never fell off and I went somewhere else? What if NASA lost track of me? All these questions raced through my mind in a split second. The countdown had reached one no. It was too late to say no, I was going to the moon!

An ear piercingly loud noise rang out, smoke rent the air. I leant to my side ever so slightly to find out what it was. Then it struck me that the engines were on and I was taking off. I was told to expect a very long journey, but had enough food, drink and entertainment for a month. On the first day, I awoke with a start. There was slight turbulence but nothing too extreme. I unstrapped myself from the seat and started to walk, except I wasn't walking. I was floating! It took me a while before I understood what was happening. This was going to be a long treacherous ride.

Many days later and finally my epic space journey was coming to an end. Today was my nineteenth and final day of cruising through space. Suddenly a robotic voice, which I recognised to be my boss', rung throughout the rocket. It puzzled me as to where it came from, but I had no time from wondering, I had to do what the voice said and return to my seat for landing. Even though it wasn't necessary, I braced myself for an impact which never came.

I landed smoothly on the moon's surface but I wasn't sure what to expect. I forced open the door and took my first step on to the moon. It had a rocky surface which was covered in many craters. That was a reminder that if I didn't hurry up, I might be killed by a giant asteroid. I quickly gathered samples for testing and hurried back to my ship.

Then it dawned on me that, in all the excitement, I had forgotten how to fly the rocket back to Earth. However luckily, my panic was short lived since I found an instruction manual in the cockpit. Probably put there by Tony. Of course he knew I would forget how to get back, how thoughtful. I clambered to my seat and prepared for another take off, ready to make my grand return back to Earth. What an adventure!

**EASTER 2017: LAMDA RESULTS – The English department write:**

Our hearty congratulations to all the students who took the challenging LAMDA exams in *Speaking verse and prose* at various levels, achieving, overall, a 92% successful result. The table below bears witness!

**LAMDA RESULTS: EASTER 2017: Overall 92% successful**

No. entries	LEVEL	FAIL	PASS	MERIT	DISTINCTION
19	GRADE 4 (74% Successful)	5	5	8	1
34	GRADE 5 (94% successful)	2	10	16	6
13	BRONZE Grade 6 (85% successful)	2	7	3	1
21	SILVER Grade 7 (100% successful)	NONE	5	13	3
23	GOLD Grade 8	NONE	3	13	7
TOTAL 110 entries	(100% successful)				

## **Be a team player**

### **Think**

If you are a member of a sports team you will know that the success of the team depends on the trust and support you give to each other. Your school orchestra is an ensemble of many different instruments; each produces its own beautiful sound, yet left to play on their own, they will sound like a disjointed cacophony of tunes that will not be at all pleasing to the ear. It requires a conductor to bring everyone together at just the right time and produce music that you will want to listen to. This is also true for a pop group, where the singer must sing in harmony with the beat of the drums and guitars to produce music that you will want to buy. One raindrop alone can do little harm, but when they all come together and fall relentlessly they send a torrent that will break the banks of rivers and tear everything in their path. In much the same way, it only takes a small group of thoughtful and committed people to change the world.

### **Feel**

If you are going to succeed in your life you will need the help and support of everyone around you. Yet before they can help you, they will need to know that you are willing to participate in the game. You cannot be a bystander if you want your life to mean something. You will need to join a team who thinks like you and wants the same things. Work with them in mutual support and learn from each other, show gratitude when it is due, forgive each other when mistakes are made and make sure that they do not happen again.

### **Do**

You are a member of the human race and you are here to contribute to the common good of mankind, something which you will not be able to do alone. The success of a company is the result of the combined efforts of all employees, and the success of a football team is the result of all the players fulfilling their role, helping and supporting each other and trusting each other when passing the ball. When they come together the passing is so fluid, the movements so graceful and the final goal inevitable. The combined effort of many brains is more powerful than the brain of a single person, so learn to be a team player. The rise to your own success will be so much easier.

**Yours sincerely,**

**Nilesh Manani**