

The Swaminarayan

EDUCATION IS THAT WHICH LIBERATES

Dear Parents, Guardians, Pupils and Friends,

The summer holidays are a good time to reflect on the academic year and start planning for the next so that we are well prepared when we return in September. As a school we cannot leave for the summer holidays without making sure that the key elements like the Yearplan for the next academic year, the timetable and the resources are all in place before the end of this term. This year has brought in the added responsibility for me as a Head to make sure that all the teachers to deliver the curriculum are in place. As such, I am pleased to welcome the following new teachers to our humble school.

Mr Zlatopolkis	Economics and Business Studies	MA, BA, PGCE
Mrs Driscoll	French	MA, BA, PGCE
Ms Carr	Art	BA, DipEd, PGCE
Mr Baydar	Chemistry	MSc, BSc, QTS
Mr Murton	Physical Education	BA, PGCE

We welcome back:

Mr Partington	Geography
Mrs Malhotra	History
Mr Wills	A Level English

One thing I do not want students to do is waste their summer holidays. While a few weeks of getting away from it all will be good, S3, 4 and L6 will be facing some important GCSE and A Level examinations next year. L6 students should also write the first draft of their personal statement, ready for the start of September so that we can swiftly start the process of university applications. I am pleased to learn from a few parents that some students will be doing some work experience.

Thank you to everyone for another wonderful year

This year has gone by so fast that we have hardly had time to pause and reflect. It has in many ways been a sad year because many of the pupils and staff will leave TSS to schools, universities and ventures anew. Yet we end with so much to look forward to help all the pupils who are here to reach for the very best that life has to offer. While we will be smaller, I do believe being small offers its own opportunities.

Apart from all the staff who have all made a noble effort throughout the year, the pupils too have worked with great diligence and purpose and after having signed the reports and written a comment in each and everyone one, I have seen a great deal of progress from most of them. I know the parents have equally been wonderful and supported in the true spirit of parenthood because, as I often reflect in front of all you in meetings, our children are under tremendous pressure to succeed. Our sincere thanks to the staff, parents, santos, trustees, governors, friends, the pupils and anyone else who has had a part to play – large or small, in the success of this year. Have a relaxing summer break, find some quiet time to reflect upon year, to pray, go to the city, discover the many museums and theatres and make it a summer to remember.

Next Year

Please remember that the school will open for pupils to return on Wednesday, 4th September 2019. Staff will return to school on Monday, 2nd September 2019 for two days of training.

GCSE & A Level Results Publication Dates

I will, of course, be here with many senior teachers on the days of the publication of the GCSE and A Level results:

A Level Results Published: Thursday, 15th August 2019
Urgent Remarks for A Levels Thursday, 15th August 2019
GCSE Results Published: Thursday, 22nd August 2019

The Cambridge Interview **Subject-specific academic interview**

Remember:

- interviewers want to find out how you think and apply your current knowledge, how well you can expand on and apply your existing knowledge to unfamiliar problems rather than how much you know.
- very often there are no right or wrong answers to the questions asked. It's the process of reaching your answer that's generally of most significance rather than the answer itself.
- don't be afraid to consider new ideas but if you don't understand something, say so and feel free to ask for clarification at any point if you need it.
- answer the questions in your own way, the interviewers want to hear what you have to say about your subject; don't just say what you think the interviewers want you to say or what your teachers or others would want you to say.

The purpose of this interview is to assess your understanding of your subject and your potential for studying it at Cambridge. You should expect:

- a challenging discussion relating to your chosen course, which may include topics covered in your recent academic work and raised in your written application (eg wider reading and work experience)
- to be asked to apply your existing knowledge to new situations by discussing problems that you've not previously encountered

If you're applying for a non-school subject such as Medicine or Engineering, you should have some background knowledge of the field and what it involves.

For some courses, some Colleges may ask you to read an article/piece of text/prose which will be discussed in the interview. If this is required and it's something they want you to read and think about at home/before you come to Cambridge, the College will provide all the details in the letter inviting you to interview. Alternatively, they may ask you to read something just before you go in for your interview. In all cases, the College will explain the format of the interview in the invitation letter and if you have any queries, please contact the College to ask.

General academic interview

You may also have a general academic interview, where you may be asked:

- to expand on the information you gave in your personal statement so keep a record of what you wrote
- why you want to come to Cambridge, and why you're interested in your subject
- about your wider academic work/interests and what you hope to do in the future

Create a plan

Think

Setting a goal for your life is all well and good but you will not reach your destination if you don't create a plan of how to get there. When a gardener plants the seeds of an apple tree, she has to make sure that the soil is fertile and that every so often it is watered. When the sapling is still small she will hold it up with a stick so that its roots have the chance to establish themselves. While it grows into a small tree after many years of nurturing, and the fruits begin to hang from the branches, she will continue to feed it fertiliser and water until they ripen. Only then will the apples she picks be sweet and juicy. Did you know it takes between 6-10 years before an apple tree is fully mature and produces fruit!

Feel

When you are young you are still learning, but a time will come when you have to decide what you do with your life. Having once decided, you will have to create a good plan to set you on your journey. A good plan has a short, medium and long term vision, and you will need to decide where you want to be in two, five and ten years' time. You will have to review your plan regularly to make sure that you are on track and if not you will have to modify your plan to get back on track.

Do

Think carefully about your plan; read books and magazines to find out if there is a future in that goal. It is no good having a goal for your future if it is not going to give you the type of life you want to create for yourself. Find people who already do what you want to do and speak to them to try and get work experience in that field. Find out about the future prospects and all the positive and negative aspects of what you want to do. Your plan will be a hundred times better if you do your research well, otherwise you will stumble through it and end up stumbling through life. You cannot afford to stumble though life if you want to build a bright future for yourself and everyone you love.

Yours sincerely,

Nilesh Marani