

# The Swaminarayan

**EDUCATION IS THAT WHICH LIBERATES**

Dear Parents, Guardians, Pupils and Friends,

## Theme for next week

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

## Beginning of the Term

The beginning of this academic year has proved to be more of a challenge than previous years due to the announcement of the closure of the school. While the timetable was ready at the start, the uncertainty of pupil numbers in all the years has added extra pressure but also required a few minor changes. Most of the loss of pupils has, as expected, been amongst the younger age groups. The GCSE and A level groups have rightly shown confidence to build on the strong foundation laid in Years 9 and 10. The Year 8 pupils have been offered a very unique adventure which will require a more mature approach to their studies sooner rather than later.

The decision of the trustees to offer three years to Year 9 will allow a very committed group of pupils three years to finish their GCSEs in Year 11; and the Year 11 will have an opportunity to complete their A Levels in the school by June 2021. I am extremely thankful to them for their generosity.

## GCSE Results...A Celebration of Our Pupils

I am extremely pleased with the performance of our GCSE pupils considering the challenges of a transitional curriculum with the old and reformed GCSEs, and letter and number grades. I publish the results below with their permission with pride in their achievement:

Name of Pupil	Grades	9	8	7	6	A <sup>^</sup>	A*	A	B
Ayush Rabadiya			3	3	2		2	1	
Dhruv Patel	5	2				1	3	1	
Yogesh Patel	2	5				1	4	1	
Kareena Amin		1	3	3			1	2	
Keertan Bhojani				4	4		1	1	2
Ishan Dwivedi	5	1	1	1	1	1	4		
Aditi Hanumantha	4	3			1		3	1	1
Rhiya Hirani		3			3		1	1	1
Kajol Jain	6	1					3	1	
Nidhi Ladhani	5	2					2	2	
Ashvin Mooruth		2	2	3			1	2	
Shruti Panchani	4	1	2			1	3	1	
Roshni Parshotam	4	3			1		2	1	
Henil Premgi	4	1	1	1	1	1	2	3	
Dylan Sachdev	1	2	1	2			1	3	
Saavan Shah		1	3	1			1	1	2
Tanvi Shah					3		1	2	
Nishit Soni		1	1	2				3	
Sunaabh Trivedi	5	2				1	3		
Nyah Varsani	1	2	1	3			1	2	

The most pleasing aspect of their achievement is the huge progress many of them have made since joining Year 7 when we carried out the MIDYIS tests to assess their potential at GCSE and beyond.

Almost all have made a one grade improvement from what was predicted; many have even made a two grade improvement in several key subjects. It highlights what is possible if we work hard. It is pleasing to note that 16 students have committed their faith to The Swaminarayan Sixth Form. Their presence will add much to the life and experiences of the pupils in the rest of the school over the next two years. I wish them all well with their A Level studies.

### **Smart Phones**

Parents are reminded that the policy to ban the use of these phones between 8am to 4pm remains in place. Any pupil found using them will result in the confiscation of the phone. Sixth Form pupils, of course, have the privilege of their use.

### **Use of Social Networks & E-Safety**

The use of social networking sites and Apps has exploded over the last decade, and while there are some benefits in their use, they have provided another means of bullying for pupils in schools. This has resulted in the laws governing their use being tightened by governments. Safeguarding of children in schools is at present the most important compliance issue, and we as a school are bound by the regulations published by the government. The recent ban on smartphones in schools is a direct product of the new rules on e-safety. We are now forced to extend that to the use of social networks. Parents should note that the school is bound to report any illegal use of SnapChat and Facebook, which have a minimum age for use at 13 years, and WhatsApp, which has a minimum age for use at 16 years. We will not tolerate any form of Cyberbullying in this school and will take the strongest possible action with anyone caught bullying other pupils. This has been emphasised on numerous occasions while discussing our dearest value of Ahimsa – non-violence.

### **Peace – An Opinion**

#### **Think**

The thought of war often surfaces in our minds when we think about peace because the painful scenes of wars are all too visible on the television. Human beings, by their very nature, are competitive, an instinct bred into our genes throughout our evolution. It has enabled human beings to become the most dominant species on earth, the power that we often abuse for our gain as the dictators, the world over have shown, using every means possible to hang on to their power. What history has shown, however, is that they do fall and will fall in time because the forces of good, peace, have a power that knows no time.

#### **Feel**

What we cannot do, however, is ignore the consequences of these wars, the victims, the peace loving families who only want to see their children grow up in a safe and secure environment, at peace in a country where everything is possible and nothing is impossible. So it is heart-wrenching to witness barriers rising, barbed wire fences growing around refugee camps, politicians putting up fences on borders when these same victims cross the seas to seek out a better life, and a more peaceful existence in Europe. Even Britain decided that it wanted to leave Europe in order to control who got into the UK, when really, what we should have done is reach out with our hearts to welcome them.

#### **Do**

We are members of the human race, first and foremost; borders are mere lines drawn on a map. The compassion of the human heart knows no limits, it has no boundaries. So let us all endeavour to create a world that is more at peace with itself. Begin it with ourselves first; find our own peace, because only then will we be able to offer our hand in friendship, in peace and unleash the compassion that is bursting to show itself.

**Yours sincerely**

**Nilesh Manani**