

The Swaminarayan

EDUCATION IS THAT WHICH LIBERATES

Dear Parents, Guardians, Pupils and Friends,

Theme for the week after half-term

The theme for next week is: **Truth**. I have written about it in the newsletter. I hope you find it of interest.

Important Dates for the Academic Year 2016/17

I have attached all the dates I am aware of in the calendar for 2016/17. I hope you find them useful for planning ahead. Dates for sports fixtures will be issued by Mrs Austin and Mr Worth although I have inserted some known dates.

Internal/Mock Examination Timetable Autumn Term 2016

Pupils and parents are reminded about the End of Term Internal/Mock Examinations which will take place for all Seniors 1-5 between Wednesday, 16 to Tuesday, 22 November 2016. The timetable for the examinations is attached for your information and planning for revision. These are important examinations and pupils should start their revision now.

Half Term Holiday

The week beginning Monday, 17th October 2016 is the half-term holiday for all pupils and teaching staff. Pupils and staff return to school as normal on Monday, 24th October 2016. The office will be open between 9am to 4pm during the week.

Diwali celebrations & Senior Citizens Party 2016

This year, the much anticipated Ramayana play celebrating an important time for Hindus will take place on Friday, 28th October 2016. There will be two performances of the play, the first to start at 8.45am, for which parents are welcome to attend. The second performance will be at 11.00am for the senior citizens, if there are any grandparents of the students who would like to attend, please contact the office to collect the tickets. We will also be serving a delicious Diwali lunch prepared by our diligent kitchen staff at lunch time. We thank you for your support in advance.

Year 9 Brent Netball League Match (6/10/16) - Mrs Austin writes...

The Year 9 girls have started the netball season with a positive approach and a very determined attitude. The shooter, particularly Khushi Patel has been working in her own time to perfect her skills in the morning in school to ensure that she is able to score goals effectively in the competitions. TSS team played Kingsbury High School's team and won against them. The score was 6 – 0 to TSS. The team also played Kingsbury High School's Year 10 teams as a friendly match on the same day. Our girls did us proud by winning the first game (3 – 0) and they drew against the KHS's second Year 10 team. This is an excellent start to the season and well done to TSS Year 9 team.

Touch Rugby Tournament at Ark Academy (11/10/16)

TSS students have had a taster session for touch rugby last year and our girls were all very keen to participate in this activity in the near future. So the opportunity came up at Ark Academy with the support of Kilburn Kosmos Rugby Club hosting Women in Rugby Tournament for the second time in order to promote this sport. Our girls were very keen and we had 15 students who wanted to be part of the team, mainly Year 9, 10 and 12 students. We organised them into two team (U15 and U18). The U15 girls played really well but lost all their matches. They were however, commended by the Kilburn Kosmos Club representative on how well they had played in the tournament. Our U18 team,

which consisted of Year 10 and Year 12 girls, did us proud by being joint **CHAMPIONS** with Lycee International School. They won 2 games and drew 1 game. Kilburn Kosmos representative was very impressed with the girls' skill level and were keen to recruit them to participate on a regular basis at their club at Gladstone Park. Overall, an excellent effort from all the girls and thank you to Mr Worth for helping to referee matches.

Senior 4 Parents' Consultation Evening

A second reminder that the S4 parents' consultation evening will take place on Thursday, 27th October 2016, between 4.30 and 7.00 pm. There will be an opportunity to meet all the subject teachers including the Tutors. This is an important meeting for Senior 4, hence the early date, and I do hope all the parents will be present.

Diwali and Annakut Holiday

Everyone is reminded that the school will be closed on Monday, 31st October and Tuesday, 1st November 2016 for Diwali and Annakut Holidays. Incidentally, Annakut Day will be celebrated at the Mandir on Monday.

Truth

Think

A long time ago a very wise man told me that if you tell a lie you only have to tell more lies to hide the first. I know that when you are young you will sometimes make mistakes, but you should know that no-one grew up without making any mistakes. When your parents or teachers ask, you will often want to hide your mistake because you are afraid of the punishment you will be given by them. However, it is often not the right thing to do. I always tell students to face up to their mistakes, apologise, and your punishment will be less serious than if you try to hide it. If you never face up to your mistakes, you will often never learn from them, and if you get away with it the first time, you will try and hide it the next time as well. What will then follow is a series of lies to hide the mistakes you make until your mistakes get bigger and bigger as you grow older. Your lies too will get bigger to hide the bad things you do. If you choose to let your mistakes grow, you might one day do something seriously wrong, like committing a crime for example. You might try to hide this by telling a lie, but this time you should know that adults will not dismiss the matter. The police will be involved and they will do everything they can to discover the truth to ensure the serious crime does not go unpunished, as it sends the wrong message to everyone.

Feel

A child does not become a criminal in one night. These things always start with little lies and grow bigger as you get older. If you had owned up to your little mistakes and told the truth, you may have been punished, but you would have shown courage in telling the truth. You would have learnt a lesson that what you did was wrong and in all probability you would not have repeated the same mistake again.

Do

When you do something wrong it is best to own up and tell the truth. You don't have to do this in front of everyone; you can speak to a person you can confide in quietly and trust that they will deal with it in the right way. Telling the truth is almost always the right thing to do except when your truthfulness is going to cause someone physical harm.

Yours sincerely,

Nilesh Manani

Secrets of A-Grade Students

The kids at the top of the class get there by mastering a few basic techniques that others can readily learn. Here, according to education experts and students themselves both in this country and the US, are the secrets of A-grade pupils (Courtesy Reader's Digest)

1. SET PRIORITIES

Top students brook no intrusions on study time. Once the books are open, phone calls go unanswered, Television unwatched, snacks ignored. Study is business; business comes before recreation.

2. STUDY ANYWHERE - OR EVERYWHERE

Claude Olney, a university business professor in Arizona assigned to tutor underachieving college athletes, recalls a cross-country runner who exercised daily. Olney persuaded him to use the time to memorise biology terms. Another student stuck a vocabulary list on the bathroom cabinet. He learned a new word every day while brushing his teeth.

Among the students we spoke to, study times were strictly a matter of personal preference. Some of them worked late at night when the house was quiet. Others woke early. Still others studied as soon as they came home when the day's work was fresh in their minds. All agreed, however, on the need for consistency. "Whatever I was doing, I kept a slot free every day for studying", says New Jersey college student Ian McCray.

3. GET ORGANISED

At school, Ian did athletics, played rugby and was in the band and orchestra. "I was so busy, I couldn't waste time looking for a pencil or missing paper. I kept everything just where I could get my hands on it", he says.

Paul Melendres, a student in New Mexico, maintains two folders - one for the day's assignments, another for homework completed and marked. High-achieving pupil Traci Tsuchiguchi has another system. She immediately files the day's school work in colour-coded folders by subject so they'll be available for review at exam time.

Even pupils who don't have a private study area remain organised. A rucksack or drawer keeps essentials together and cuts down on time-wasting searches.

4. LEARN HOW TO READ

"I used to wade through heaps of irrelevant material," remembers Amanda Parr. "But then I got used to reading quickly; if the first sentence of a paragraph wasn't relevant, I'd move on to the next paragraph."

"The best course I ever took", says Oklahoma student Christopher Campbell, "was speed-reading. I not only increased my words per minute but also learned to look at a book's table of contents, graphs and pictures first. Then, when I began to read, I had a sense of the material, and I retained a lot more."

In his book *Getting Straight As*, Gordon Green says the secret of good reading is to be “an active reader - one who continually asks questions that lead to a full understanding of the author’s message”.

5. SCHEDULE YOUR TIME

When a teacher set a long essay, Alex Rodgers would spend a couple of days reading round the subject and making notes, then he’d do a rough draft and write up the essay. He would aim to finish a couple of days before the assignment was due in so that if it took longer than anticipated, he’d still make the deadline.

When preparing for examinations, both Alex and Amanda handled revision in manageable blocks. “Give yourself about eight weeks,” recommends Amanda. “Set a small amount each day. If you just sit down to a huge file, you’ll never get through it.”

Of course, even the best students procrastinate occasionally. But when that happens, they face up to it. “Sometimes it comes down to late nights,” admits Christi Anderson, a pupil from South Dakota. “Still, if you want good grades, you have to make the deadline.”

6. TAKE GOOD NOTES

“Before writing anything, I divide my page into two columns,” says Amanda. “The left section is about a third of the page wide; the right, two-thirds. I write my notes in the wider column, and jot down the significance of each point on the left. During revision, this is very useful because you can see immediately why the material is relevant, rather than being daunted by great chunks of information.”

Just before the end-of-lesson bell rings, most pupils close their books, put away papers, talk to friends and get ready to leave. Christi Anderson uses those few minutes to write a two or three sentence summary of the lesson’s principal points, which she scans before the next day’s class.

7. CLEAN UP YOUR ACT

Neat papers are likely to get higher marks than sloppy ones. “The student who hands in a tidy essay,” says Professor Olney, “is on the way to an A grade.”

8. SPEAK UP

“If you ask questions, you know immediately whether you have grasped the point or not,” states Alex Rodgers. Being sure that you understand everything throughout the year makes preparing for exams easier, he says. Class participation goes beyond merely asking question, though. It’s a matter of showing intellectual curiosity.

In a lecture on economics, for example, Paul Melendres asked how the Chinese economy could be both socialist and market-driven, without incurring some of the problems that befell the former Soviet Union. “I don’t want to memorise information or tests only,” he says. “Better grades come from better understanding.”