

The Swaminarayan

EDUCATION IS THAT WHICH LIBERATES

Dear Parents, Guardians, Pupils and Friends,

Theme for next week

We have decided to introduce new theme this academic year. Next week we will be celebrating the Peace week. I have written about it on the back of the newsletter.

Seniors 4 and 5 Meeting

My sincere thank you to all the parents who came to the meeting yesterday. Many parents commented how useful it was in making sure that their children remained on track for the important GCSE examinations they will face next summer. They particularly commented about how nice it was that even after achieving many exceptional results over the years we are continuing to look ahead to enable pupils to achieve their full potential. My thanks to Mr Wills for his talk on the UCAS process and Mr Hopkins for his objective view on planning for A level studies.

Years 5 & 6 Presentation

My sincere thank you to all the parents in Years 5 and 6 who attended our presentation today about the senior section of the school. Parents who were unable to attend may pick up their Entrance Examination information from the office if it doesn't reach them via their children in these classes.

A Level and GCSE Results

While I had decided not to publish the images of students who have recently occupied centre stage, it seems they were rather disappointed not to see their pictures in The Swaminarayan. So here it is this week...attached at the back. Their success is well deserved.

Upper Sixth Parents' Consultation Evening

This will take place on Thursday, 14th September 2017 between 4.30-7.00pm in the Yogi Hall. It is an opportunity at an early stage in A2 to discuss the results of the summer and mock examinations and plan a way forward.

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.

Instrumental lessons – Mr Oza writes...

Instrumental lessons for piano, drums, flute, guitar and violin lessons have been offered in the School by the peripatetic teachers for more than 20 years. All lessons starting from next week beginning **Monday, 18th Sep 2017**. Parents who wish to enrol their child/ren for these lessons, please collect an application form from **Mr Oza or from the Reception** and return it by the end of this week **Friday 15th Sep 2017**. Please note these lessons are offered by well qualified and professional teachers during school hours with an organised timetable so your child/ren will not miss the same

lesson more than once or twice in one whole term. This is the same procedure in every other school for peripatetic music teachers. Peripatetic teachers also help prepare children to appear for external music examinations through ABRSM, Trinity, etc., music examination board.

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