

Thursday, 18th January 2018

No. 15

The Swaminarayan

EDUCATION IS THAT WHICH LIBERATES

Dear Parents, Guardians, Pupils and Friends,

Theme for next week

The theme for next week is “**Tolerance.**” In an increasingly divided and fractious world, there has never been a more important time than now when we all need to learn to be more tolerant of each other. I hope some thoughts from the world leaders will help you to be more tolerant.

Entrance Examinations

As you are aware, the Senior 1 Entrance Examinations were held yesterday with some 60 candidates competing for the seven scholarships on offer. 40% of the candidates were from schools other than our own Year 6. The seven scholarships are:

1. 50% for the candidates achieving the highest average of the English and Mathematics marks.
2. One scholarship of £1000 for the best mark in Mathematics other than the recipient of 50% scholarship.
3. One Scholarship of £1000 for the best mark in English other than the recipient of the 50% scholarship.
4. Two scholarships for £1000 for second and third placed candidates.
5. Two scholarships for £500 for the sixth and seventh placed candidates.

These are annual awards which carry on until the pupils complete their GCSEs. I will write to all the parents before the end of February to inform them of the results.

S6 Parents’ Consultation Evening

Since S6 are in a crucial year, they have two consultation evenings. The second meeting will take place on Thursday, 8th February 2018 between 4.30-7.00 pm in the Yogi Hall. As always all the parents will have an opportunity to meet their child’s subject teachers including the House Tutors. This is an ideal opportunity to review their progress and performance after the Mock Examinations at the beginning of this term.

Resources for Pupils of TSS

I had personally written to all the parents last term that pupils can get access to resources for all the subjects on line. The site contains all the information you will need in directory format for all the subjects, including syllabi for all the years, past GCSE & ‘A’ Level examination papers or links to the relevant examination board sites, notes for some subjects and helpful hints.

Parents are reminded that the site is still under development so more resources will be added as we develop more material specifically for the TSS community.

Parents can get the site address, username and password from the office. Please keep the username and password secure for your personal use only.



Stepping into Sport Leadership Trip – Ms Shanks writes:

Last Thursday four girls from both Year 8 and 9 were lucky enough to be selected to participate in a sports leadership day, where the focus was inclusion for all young students in sports. The girls had the chance to lead small group

activities; learn how to set goals while working with some amazing athletes. Such as Toby Gerbett and Gillian Lindsay from the Great British Olympic team, Liz Johnson from the Great British Paralympic team, plus Tim Prendergast from the New Zealand Paralympic team. The girls will now have the opportunity to volunteer at sporting events around the Borough of Brent, with the potential to work at the London Youth Games.

Ten of the worst things you can say to your children – This week two more things parents should not say to their children...

"Are you sure you need that second cake?"

Whilst it's a good thing to keep your child healthy, comments that can foster a negative body image should be kept well clear of under all circumstances, according to the UK's eating disorder charity, Beat.

If you are genuinely concerned about what your child is eating, start stocking your kitchen with healthier foods and introduce more physical activity into your family life. That way, when there are cakes, for example at a party, it doesn't matter if they indulge.

Lead by example too. If you're telling your kids not to eat too much when you're the one who is always chomping on crisps or biscuits, your messages will probably fall on deaf ears.

The main thing is to avoid turning food into a power issue and to keep food-related comments positive.

"You always..."/ "You never..."

"Why do you always spill your water at night?" "You never come down to breakfast when I ask you to!" Few parents will be immune from prefixing complaints about behaviour with "you always" and "you never." But says Jenn Berman, psychotherapist and author of *The A to Z to Raising Happy, Confident Kids*. "At the heart of these statements are labels that can stick for life."

Children become what we label them as, he explains, so telling your kid that she's the one that never tidies her room means she's more likely to become the child who, guess what, never tidies her room.

Next time you're about to say it, take a step back and think about how you can help your child change. "I notice you have trouble storing your pens and making your bed. Is there anything we can do to help make that easier?"

Meetings with Tutors

As parents were made aware during the Parents' Induction at the beginning of the year, all pupils have at least one meeting with their tutors to review their performance and progress during the term. These meetings are pre-arranged and all parents have been informed about them by the tutors. It is our hope that this will allow the parents to be present with their child in the meeting. They are crucial, if we are to ensure, the right support is given to all the pupils in the school. Your presence in these meetings is also crucial to the motivation of the child and I hope you will make every endeavor to be present.

Instrumental Lessons – A reminder from Mr Oza writes:

As you may be aware, instrumental lessons for piano, drums, flute, guitar and violin are offered by peripatetic teachers at the school. All lessons will be starting from this week and next week. Parents who want to enroll their child/ren for these lessons should complete the application form and return it to me by the end of next week, **Friday, 19th January 2018**. Please note that these lessons are offered during school hours with an organised time table so your child/ren will not miss the same lessons more than once or twice in the whole term. This is the case in every school for peripatetic music teachers.

Tolerance

"We need to promote greater tolerance and understanding among the peoples of the world. Nothing can be more dangerous to our efforts to build peace and development than a world divided along religious, ethnic or cultural lines. In each nation, and among all nations, we must work to promote unity based on our shared humanity."

Kofi Annan

(Former Secretary General United Nations)

- We are tolerant when we respect other people's differences.
- To be tolerant it's necessary to understand and respect other people.
- In order to be united with our family, friends, and our community we need to be tolerant to understand and learn from our differences.
- We get along better with other people if we are tolerant.
- If we are tolerant we can have more friends.
- When we are tolerant we don't fight with our family or friends because we understand them.
- We are being tolerant when we don't get angry if someone takes our favorite toy.
- We are being tolerant when we tell our parents not to get angry with other drivers on the road.
- In a free country like ours we can think and believe in many different things.
- Every family and each person can decide what to believe in and what to think.
- Even if we are not like everybody else, we can learn from them and have fun together.
- Be aware that you can be in the place of that person who is being considered as weird and different.
- Accept other people's religious, political, and social beliefs.
- Don't criticise others.
- Don't discriminate other people who have different abilities from yours.

Yours sincerely,

Nilesh Manani