

The Swaminarayan

EDUCATION IS THAT WHICH LIBERATES

Dear Parents, Guardians, Pupils and Friends,

The theme for the first week back is about “**Goals and Aspirations,**” as they should be at the start of an academic year. I have written about it at the back of the Swaminarayan.

Year 2019-20: Staff Training and Pupils Return

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.

Our Best Wishes go to all the staff and pupils who are leaving at the end of this academic year. Many of the staff have served the school with immense commitment, dignity and care. I want to thank them all on behalf of TSS and wish them all a wonderful future.

First Day for students Wednesday, 4th September 2019

08.15 Assembly in the Yogi Hall
 09.00 Registration with Tutors
 Distribution of Timetables, Pocket Planners
 10.45 Break
 11.05 Lessons Begin

Parents’ Meeting on 4th September 2019 in Yogi Hall 4.30pm

This is a very important meeting and we hope this advance notice will allow you to plan so that everyone is there. We will set the agenda for the entire year, including a chance to meet the tutors.

GCSE & A Level Results Publication Dates

I will, of course, be here 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

Staff List 2019-20

The staff list for the academic year 2019-20 is attached at the back of the Swaminarayan.

What should you do during the summer holiday?

One thing you must absolutely not allow your children to do is six weeks of doing aimless nothing! You will lose the habit of working hard and it will be extremely difficult to recover afterwards and regain the momentum. I spoke about this in the Monday assembly and received a stunned silence from the students! Which was rather odd because they had just returned from a five day trip abroad.

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. When not on holiday, students who are serious about attaining the finest grades will need to spend at least six hours a day studying. I am pleased to learn from a few parents that some students will be doing some work experience.

Senior 4 Barcelona Trip Report – by Rahul Patel



Hola! We had an extraordinary experience staying in Barcelona for four nights. Firstly, the weather was amazing, almost thirty degrees every day, hence we have all come back tanned.

We have visited many places including Gaudi's park - Parc Güell – where we saw his magnificent art pieces and architecture. There were many places around the city which were designed by him. Besides the park we also visited a famous Church called the Sagrada Familia which was also designed by him, the architecture and designs have been created with a lot of thought, for instance, he built it to be one hundred and seventy-two meters high, this was because the tallest mountain in Barcelona is just slightly higher and he didn't want this man-made creation to be taller than God's creation because he was very religious.

We visited the Barcelona football stadium which was also a great experience, the turf was being re-laid. On the last day we went on the cable cars and the boat rides, and saw bewildering views including the Sagrada Familia. Later, we went shopping in Las Ramblas where we enjoyed learning about the Spanish culture.

For me the best part was going to the beach every day with a coconut ice-cream, we had great fun with the company of Mr Patel, Mr Ragvani and Ms Parshotam, thanks to their efforts we were able to wind down after our exams. Hasta la vista!

STAFF LIST - 2019-2020

HEAD TEACHER

Nilesh Manani BSc (Hons), FRSA, PGCE

SENIOR TEACHER/HEAD OF IT & TECHNOLOGY:

Mounir Chouder BSc (eq) (Setif) MPhil DPhil Tcert

HEAD OF ENGLISH: Vidya Ramphal BA (Classics), QTS

HEAD OF DRAMA: Matthew Golledge BA, PGCE

HEAD OF GEOGRAPHY: Michael Partington BA, PGCE

HEAD OF HISTORY: Monica Malhotra, BA, PGCE

HEAD OF ART: Helen Carr BA, DipEd, PGCE (Art)

HEAD OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION: Ian Murton, BA, PGCE

HEAD OF MATHEMATICS: Andrew Stewart-Brown BSc, BA, MA, BSc; PGCE
Lekshmy Bose BEng, MSc, PGCE

HEAD OF ECONOMICS: Alex Zlatopolkis, MA, BA, PGCE

HEAD OF SCIENCE: Srikanth Ragvani BSc; B Ed, PGCE
James Hopkins BSc, PGCE - Chemistry
Charles Cotton BSc (Hons), M. Phil - Physics
Chandrika Depala - Technician

HEAD OF FRENCH: Christelle Driscoll MA, BA, PGCE

HEAD OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: Dhruvi Parshotam BSc (Hons) PGCE (masters)

HEAD OF GUJARATI: Lalji Ladwa BSc

SENCO: Louise Whittles BA Hons, MA, Postgrad Diploma, Adv Cert in Ed & Psychology for Special needs, MFA

DUKE OF EDINBURGH Award:
Sadrik Pinto BSc QTS

ADMIN STAFF:
Bursar- Paresh Patel BA (Hons) FCCA
Secretary/Receptionist – Sushma Purohit
Caretakers- Dineshbhai

Set goals

Think

In the second year of secondary school I ask students to start thinking about how they want their lives to unfold over the next ten years. What is important to them? What subjects at school interest them? What profession do they want to pursue and why? How do they intend to get there? After planting these questions in their minds I give them two to three months to think about their life and do some research about what they want to do. Their aim is to prepare a power point presentation which they have to present in front of their peers.

There is huge anticipation, interest and excitement when the time for the presentations arrives. At the end of each presentation I give the other students a chance to ask questions. Throughout the presentations, humour, laughter and curiosity fill the classroom, and when the questions are asked I always find that students enjoy the whole experience.

Feel

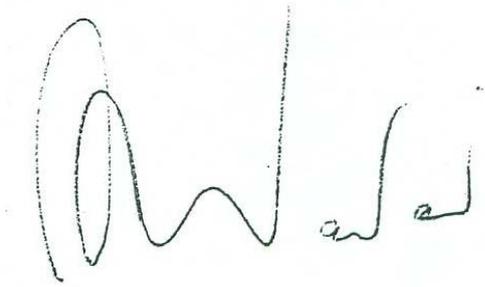
You will not be surprised when I tell you that money is almost always an important aim. Some want to pursue careers which will allow them to earn a lot of money. Others want to start their own businesses. Some feel being happy is more important than earning a lot of money. A small number of students want to help people and choose professions that will allow them to serve people.

Do

The purpose of the whole exercise is to force you, even though you are only young at the time, to think about your future. I have always found that nothing focuses the mind more than when the road we want to take in our lives is clear.

The goal focuses the mind; it inspires, gives hope and energises every aspect of our lives to reach for it. Think about where you want to take your own life, set a goal, write it down, remind yourself about it every day and begin your journey.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nilesh Manaxi'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'N' and 'M'.

Nilesh Manaxi