

The Swaminarayan

Education is that which liberates

Dear Parents, Guardians, Pupils and Friends,

Theme for the week

The theme for next week is “**Learn to be Objective**”. I have written about it on the back of the newsletter.

Summer Term 2017

As we begin this term, we are entering the most crucial part of the year as pupils and teachers complete the final pieces of the revision in preparation for the GCSE and A Level examinations this summer. Seniors 4 will write examinations in Gujarati, Religious Studies, French, ICT and, for some pupils, Mathematics. Senior 5 pupils will be writing the remaining GCSE examinations in Art or Drama, History or Geography, Statistics, Further Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and of course English Language and English Literature. They have all already completed four GCSEs in Senior 4

The Lower Six pupils are writing examinations in Mathematics and ICT, in addition to a few others while the Upper Six pupils will finish their A Levels, hoping to attain the required grades for the many conditional offers they have received from universities all over UK, and in a few cases USA. We wish them all well for their examinations. I will send my annual summer examinations letter to all the parents who are writing external examinations.

Study Leave for Senior 4, 5 and 6

The study leave for all pupils writing GCSEs and A Levels this summer will begin on Monday, 15th May 2017. All Senior 4 pupils are expected to return back to school on Wednesday, 14th June 2017. I will give the date for the return of the Lower Six in my letter. Senior 5 do not have to return back to school except for the preparation for their Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award test expedition. Upper Six students, of course, will have to find ways to fill their time after the examinations while they wait for the publication of the A Level results.

Arrangement for Senior 3 Gujarati GCSE

There are a handful of pupils in Senior 3 who are writing the Gujarati GCSE examinations a year early. They will be allowed one day study leave before each examination.

Internal Examinations for S1-3

These will begin for all pupils in Senior 1-3 on Thursday, 18th May 2017 and finish on Wednesday, 24th May 2017. The timetable for the examinations will be issued soon.

Publication of GCSE & A Level Results

The publication of GCSE and A Levels results are as follows:

A Level Results	Thursday 17th August 2017
GCSE Results	Thursday 24th August 2017

Coping with Examination Stress

Managing the health and welfare of all pupils during these stressful period for all pupils is very important. While I have given my advice in previous newsletters, examination boards are also becoming more aware of the pressures on the students. They have produced two A4 Leaflets – Making it through revision and Keeping calm on exam day, which you will find useful. Remember we are always here to guide and support you, so don't think twice about seeking help.

TSS Summer Fair
Saturday, 1st & Sunday, 2nd July 2017
Parents wishing to book a stall and banners should contact the school office.

Peripatetic lessons – Mr Oza writes:

Instrumental lessons for piano, drums, flute, guitar and violin lessons are offered by the peripatetic teachers. All lessons start from the week beginning **Monday 23rd April 2017**. Parents who would like to enrol their child/ren for these lessons, may please collect an application form from **me** and return back by the end of next week. Please note these lessons are offered during school hours and have an organised time table, so that 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 schools. The peripatetic teachers also help prepare children to appear for external music examinations through ABRSM, Trinity, etc. music examination boards.

Learn to be objective

Think

We are bombarded with so much information everyday through newspapers, radio, television, advertisements, the internet, social media and so many other forms of communication that we do need to be careful about what we accept as truth and what is pure propaganda. Almost all newspapers have political affiliations and the style of their articles and the messages they put out in print are often biased towards a particular political party or preference. Advertisers make all sorts of wild claims about the products they sell, often hiding the real truth in the small print.

Feel

Everything we hear, see, read and watch increasingly needs to be reviewed objectively with a clear mind. There are ways of doing this if we are prepared to learn. A well cultivated thinker will:

- raise vital questions and challenges before making any judgements
- gather and assess relevant information and use well-formed ideas before making an interpretation
- come to well-reasoned conclusions and solutions and test them against known standards
- keep an open mind with alternative opinions and be aware of the assumptions, implications and consequences of solutions
- communicate effectively with others in finding solutions to complex problems

Do

This skill to review information objectively and give a reasoned response is important for anyone who is thinking about entering higher education. Your ideas and thoughts will be constantly tested and questioned throughout your life, and the decisions made, good or bad, will be determined by your ability to be unbiased. It is a skill that can be learnt with practice and clarity in our thinking using the tools mentioned above.

Yours sincerely,

Nilesh Manani