

The Swaminarayan

EDUCATION IS THAT WHICH LIBERATES

Dear Parents, Guardians, Pupils and Friends,

Theme for next week

The theme for next week is “Set Goals.” I have written about it on the reverse of the newsletter.

Performance Tables 2015

The performance tables have become a contentious measure of a school’s performance and you will have read about it in the newspapers. The fact that some of the best schools in the country have hardly any students passing English and Mathematics can surely not be right simply because they have chosen to study IGCSEs. We continue to offer an increasingly larger number of IGCSEs in Mathematics and Sciences, which the government has chosen to disqualify from the tables although they are more rigorous in content and depth of knowledge they demand from students. I have compiled the Performance Tables from the data on the ISC website, which reflects our performance in IGCSEs as well as GCSEs below, a fairer reflection of how good we are. Looking at the names on the list, it is clear that we are one of the best performing independent schools in the country.

	Name	5A*-C	Point Score per Candidate	Points per entry
1	Westminster School	100	617.21	47.32
2	Wellington College	100	605.86	49.02
3	Wycombe Abbey School	100	605.3	44.15
4	Withington Girls' School	100	603.66	46.27
5	King's College School (KCS)	100	601.69	42.5
6	The Swaminarayan School	100	587.25	47.67
7	South Hampstead High School GDST	100	584.15	46.15
8	Guildford High School for Girls	100	583.44	46.43
9	City of London School For Girls	100	582.23	55.3
10	City of London School	100	581.81	47.82
11	Highgate School	98.52	579.75	48.52
12	James Allen's Girls' School	100	577.52	50.58
13	Wimbledon High School GDST	100	574.83	47.45
14	The Stephen Perse Foundation	100	574.12	45.7
15	The Perse School	100	571.5	44.18
16	King Edward VI High School for Girls	100	571.49	51
17	The Leys School	98.98	570.69	53.19
18	Royal Grammar School	99.3	569.89	44.61
19	The Abbey School	100	567.29	55.36
20	Channing School	100	562.66	47.36

As always, I am extremely proud of all the pupils who had worked extremely hard under the dedicated guidance of all the teachers and the unstinting support of the parents. Reading between the numbers, our performance score per candidate of 587 still remains one of the highest in the country and places us, once again, in the top ten best performing GCSE/IGCSE schools in the country. Even on the government tables, which only considers GCSE results, our performance score of 425 places us amongst one of the best performing schools in London. My congratulations to everyone connected with the school. I will do further analysis of the data and write more next week.

Drama News - Mr Benny writes.....

Advance notice to parents of Year 9 GCSE Drama students who are busily preparing for the annual ISA Drama Competition held in March. Over the half term break, a couple of mornings will be used for additional rehearsals. The competition takes place on Saturday 5th March in Ascot, so the actors' dress and tech rehearsal will be on the Friday, 4th March. Further details will come nearer the time, but many thanks in advance for your co-operation.

Important reminders from last week

S5 Parents' Consultation Evening on Thursday, 28th January 2016 between 4.30-7.00 pm

S6 Parents' Consultation Evening on Thursday 11th February 2016 between 4.30-7.00 pm

S2 Options Afternoon on Wednesday, 24th February 2016 at 4.30 pm in the Yogi Hall.

S2 Parents' Consultation Evening on 3rd March 2016 between 4.30 and 7 pm

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,

Nilesh Manani

WRITER'S CORNER

Amongst the many literary games, there is the unusual *lipogram* (from the Greek, *lipogrammatos* – wanting a letter) which involves writing a composition systematically omitting a certain letter or certain letters from the alphabet. Of course, omitting an 'x' or a 'z' isn't exactly demanding, but to omit a 'u' or an 's' has its difficulties. Both Ishan Mavani (Yr 7) and Isha Bharadia (Yr 8) show both agility and sense in their poetic takes. Enjoy!

Lemon Cheesecake (*Minus the 'u'*) by **Ishan Mavani**

Nothing gives me more happiness
Than a lemon cheesecake, eaten in one's own sweet time.
The fragile base that hits your teeth,
Topped with a tasty creamy cheese.
The yellow crowning glory gives the zest
That will tell everyone, that we have had the best.
Sit back and enjoy this treat,
As to gorge it down, is a crime indeed.
Sink the spoon from top to bottom
And remember the taste, so not forgotten.

Hearken the Gift-Giver (*minus the 's'*) by Isha Bharadia

I heard a creak on the climb - way
Could The Gift-Giver be here?
I had better pull my blanket
Up to my ear.

He will come down the chimney –
A hidden entrance
The Gift-Giver will create magic
To become thin.

I had better keep quiet.
I can't take a peep.
He won't leave a toy
Until I'm dreaming.

My door opened,
A shadow hovering by my bed...

.....Not the Gift-Giver, after all.
Only mum, cuddling me.