

The Swaminarayan

Education is that which liberates

Dear Parents, Guardians, Pupils and Friends,

May I welcome everyone back from the half-term break with the hope that you have all had a relaxing break. As the GCSE and A Level examinations draw near, time is increasingly becoming a precious commodity as teachers try to snatch every opportunity possible to finish the syllabus. I hope parents and pupils have sat down and reflected on the external examination timetable and organised how to approach them. I will write to everyone individually to help you with that before too long. My hope, of course, is to minimise the stress on the students. While we will do everything possible to help them, parents should endeavor to make the home environment as stress free as possible during this already difficult time for students.

Theme for next week

The theme for the next week is “**Keep Good Company.**” I have written about it on the back of the newsletter.

ISA DRAMA COMPETITION (Year 9) NOTICE & INVITATION - *Mr Benny writes:*

PARENTS and family members of Year 9 GCSE Drama students are invited to attend their children’s devised play, *Art Heart*, at Tring Park School for the Performing Arts (Mansion Drive, Tring. HP23 5LX) on **FRIDAY 9th MARCH** – Performance: 9.25 am sharp. Adjudication and break ends at 11.40 am. Depart at 12 noon for return to TSS.

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS: all Year 9 actors and our tech crew – Jathusa Sivarupan and Pari Parekh – **MUST BE READY TO BOARD OUR HIRED COACH AT TSS AS EARLY AS 6.45 a.m. and no later, please.** Parents are welcome to follow us thereafter to Tring. We hope to return in time for a late lunch by 1.15/1.30 p.m.

MAY I REMIND ALL PARENTS THAT THE CAST AND CREW HAVE AN ALL SUNDAY TECH AND DRESS REHEARSAL on Sunday, 4th March, 9.30 a.m. – 4/4.30 p.m.

S2 Options Afternoon

It was really nice to see a full house for the Options afternoon yesterday. With the advent of the new linear GCSEs, it is very clear to me that the learning experiences of pupils are changing dramatically and we will need to allocate more time to each subject. This will mean a reduction in the number of GCSEs pupils study. The Options’ Guide has the summary of all the main information you will need for all the subjects. You can visit the websites of the various examination boards if you wish to view the syllabus content in detail.

S3 Parents’ Consultation Evening

The Parents’ Consultation Evening for Senior 3 pupils will take place on 1st March 2018 between 4.30-7.00 pm in the Yogi Hall. All the parents will have an opportunity to meet their child’s subject teachers including the House Tutors, who meet the pupils twice per day and keep a very careful eye on their welfare, progress and achievements.

S2 Parents’ Consultation Evening 8th March 2018

The Parents’ Consultation Evening for Senior 2 pupils will take place on 8th March 2018 between 4.30-7.00 pm in the Yogi Hall. All the parents will have an opportunity to meet their child’s subject teachers including the House Tutors, who meet the pupils twice per day and keep a very careful eye on their welfare, progress and achievements. This is also a chance to discuss the options with the teachers.

WRITER'S CORNER Life in 2050

The world is changing fast. The rise of Artificial Intelligence is growing exponentially. As part of our Critical thinking lessons, Anushka Patel in S1 gives her analysis of what she thinks her life in 2050...

My life in 2015 was much better than my life now 2050. I am 44 years old and have one child because adults are not allowed to have more than one child as the population of the world is 9 billion. I live in a small pod In London as people can't buy big houses because there isn't enough room. This is my life in 2050.

This morning I was woken up by the sound of plates being rattled and to my surprise it was just my robot Darcy making breakfast. Darcy is an intelligent house robot which almost everyone in London owns. She does all of the chores around the house and even cooks for us. After I was done in the kitchen I went into the other room to check on Emily my 12 year old daughter. She was, already awake, getting her things ready for school. Once she was finished we went to eat breakfast which had already been prepared by Darcy.

A few minutes later the doorbell rang; it was School, a programmed android, here to teach Emily all her school subjects. We don't have school buildings any more as there are too many children and too few human teachers, androids have replaced teaching and schools for the better! Now a day's most human jobs have been taken over by androids as they are cheaper and more efficient than humans. While Emily was being taught I was busy discussing with Darcy my holiday plans to go to the planet Mars with Emily. I also told her to order me some new solar panels for our pod as there is lots of sunlight available we won't need to pay for electricity. It only takes a few weeks to get there as our spaceships can travel very fast. Soon we will be able to travel to the next Galaxy, so times are exciting as earth is so full, soon our planet will end up dying due to the huge population.

We hardly have to go out for shopping these days as everything is delivered by drones in the sky. Once School had left, Emily and I decide to go out to my local park for a walk. We had to put on lots of sun cream and take our sun protecting umbrella as the ozone layer and climate change can be dangerous and cause skin cancers.

Before we left we gathered a bunch of unused batteries we found in the loft for recycling and set off to the park. After visiting the park we headed for the hover train station. This train is not like a regular train with wheels it hovers over the tracks at over 700mph getting you to places very quick. We have travelled to see my friends in Scotland which takes just 25 minutes. After our walk to the park Emily and I began to get hungry but luckily Darcy had already started making us dinner. Over dinner we watched the lasted news which isn't always doom and gloom although there were more severe weather warnings of storms coming our way. There was a documentary on how the marine life has recovered over the last twenty years, since large fishing trawlers were banned. Although we don't have some food luxuries that were present thirty years ago such as oranges, bananas, meats and vegetable which Emily hasn't tried before we are pretty well of and try not to waste food. Ten years ago it was very bad with food shortages and many people had to ration there food.

Darcy washes up and ensures any waste goes to the pod recycling, not that there's much waste these days as plastic packaging has been banned. After dinner we went and had a bit of fun by taking the electric bikes out and wearing our special light goggles to avoid smashing into walls. We enjoyed riding on the road which is lit up by solar storage lights. We rode and performed great stunts with our bikes until the battery ran out and then headed back to the pod.

Once we got back to the pod we burned some wood and sat around melting marshmallows around the fire. We are only aloud to burn a certain amount of fire as there are shortage of trees.

After we had finished eating the marshmallows it was time for the two of us to go to sleep. So Darcy put out the fire and we both went to brush our teeth and take a shower. The showers here are touch screen so to increase or decrease the temperature. After we had finished washing up I told Emily to get into bed. I put on a recorded bed time story to help her sleep. Once she had fallen asleep I went and put Darcy on her charging unit, then I got in to bed.

Life in 2050 is much more relaxing an easier than life in 2015. People are so laid back now but back then we used to work hard and do every day simple things by ourselves instead of making others do things for us.

Keep good company

Think

We get new students joining our school every year, and I always make sure I spend at least one lesson with them every week for two years. It gives me a chance to speak to them about anything and everything that is affecting their life and in time I get to know them very well. In most cases we are able to change them for the better, but sometimes no matter what help and support we give we are not able to influence them. I always find that in such situations the influence of their so-called friends outweighs all other positive influences.

Feel

It is fascinating to see how the students who are focused and hard-working always seem to find each other and in time almost always become good friends. Even at such a young age these students know what is good for them and find like-minded friends who have the same inclination. The same is true for students who have lost their way; they attract friends who have the same attitude problems as they do. Their relationships with these students are as unstable as their attitudes, and sadly some of them never form strong bonds with anyone, drifting through life aimlessly from one crisis to another because they are too arrogant to listen to good counsel. Sometimes 'good students' seeking acceptance become mixed up with them and end up being dragged down with them. At times the students with negative attitudes can come under the influence of a caring mentor, where they are shown the error of their ways, and in time they change for the better. It is a joy to see such a transformation.

Do

Be careful who you associate with; pick friends whose desire for success is as strong as yours. If you want to soar to great heights in your life, learn to pick partners who are willing to make the difficult journey with you. Positive people plant positive thoughts in your mind and put down strong roots which hold you up in all adversity, helping you to reach your destination.

Yours sincerely,

Nilesh Manani