

The Swaminarayan

EDUCATION IS THAT WHICH LIBERATES

Dear Parents, Guardians, Pupils and Friends,

The Theme for next week is *Trust*. I have included some thoughts and experiences of Steve Jobs on the theme. There is no better teacher than one's experience of life.

Prize Day on 30th November 2018 at 6.30pm

This year's Prize Day will take place in Mandir on Friday 30th November 2018 at 6.30pm in the Mandir. Parents are reminded that we will finish the school at 12.55pm on the day so that everyone can return for the prize evening refreshed. Our students have worked extremely hard over the year, despite the adverse circumstances and deserve this recognition. I do hope we will have full attendance in the evening. Pupils should return at 6pm in the evening so that we can have a timely start.

Parents-Teachers Consultation Evening S1, 2 & 3

Parents should note that this is a different date from the one published in the Calendar. So do make note. The meeting with the parents and students will take place on **Thursday, 7th February 2018 between 4.30-7.00pm in the Yogi Hall**. This is a good opportunity to meet the teachers to review the performance of the pupils after the results and reports of this term.

Sixth Form Mock Examinations

Students are reminded that the Mock examinations for all Sixth Form students will start immediately after our return from the Christmas holidays on Monday 7th January 2019. These are important examinations and preparation for them should already have started.

Results for the Senior Mathematic Challenge – Mr Stewart-Brown writes:

Gold Certificate: Henil Premgi and Vishal Rao

Silver Certificate: Yash Patel

Bronze Certificate: Chaitanya Sagani, Riya Patel

Six intrepid members of S5, and Henil Premgi, came in to school the day before Diwali to participate in this Challenge. The Senior Maths Challenge is principally intended for Sixth Formers and all the six S5s did themselves credit.

Further competitions for Henil and Vishal will take place on 30th November.

Congratulations to these students!

Bath Spa University to ignore A Level grades and offer £750 to new students



Some of you may have spotted this new trend in University applications in The Daily Telegraph. We have had several Sixth Form students who have been offered unconditional places at several universities. Bath Spa University is taking this trend a step further by becoming the first in the country to ignore A Level grades and move to unconditional

offers only. Every single student applying to the university this year will be offered a face-to-face interview or audition, and they may be asked to submit a portfolio of their work. If they impress tutors, they will be offered a place regardless of their A-level results. School leavers who exceed the A-level grades predicted by their school will be awarded a £750 bonus by the university if they take up a place at Bath Spa. Professor Sue Rigby, vice-Chancellor of the university, said that the new admissions policy is aimed at reducing the anxiety and stress that students endure in their final years of school.

“Young people are asked to jump through so many hoops before they get to university, they maybe forget that this is their passion,” she told The Daily Telegraph. “It is about recognising that A-levels are not the only way of judging the 'best' students. So much rides on a very small amount of time and I'm not sure that is the right way to encourage people. If you are tense and miserable when you arrive at university, your chances of doing well are very low.”

“We would offer an interview to everyone - not everyone would take it up, it may be that they are not so interested in coming. But everyone who is serious about coming, we want to talk to. It's a massive investment by us but it's the only way to source the right talent.” She said that the university, which specialises in liberal arts, has set aside enough money so that even if every single student exceeds their predicted grades, they will all be given the £750 bonus.

An experience of Trust by the late Steve Jobs

This is an extract from his Commencement Speech to Stanford University students...

“I naively chose a college that was almost as expensive as Stanford, and all of my working-class parents' savings were being spent on my college tuition. After six months, I couldn't see the value in it. I had no idea what I wanted to do with my life and no idea how college was going to help me figure it out. And here I was spending all of the money my parents had saved their entire life. So I decided to drop out and trust that it would all work out OK. It was pretty scary at the time, but looking back it was one of the best decisions I ever made. The minute I dropped out I could stop taking the required classes that didn't interest me, and begin dropping in on the ones that looked interesting.

It wasn't all romantic. I didn't have a dorm room, so I slept on the floor in friends' rooms, I returned coke bottles for the 5¢ deposits to buy food with, and I would walk the 7 miles across town every Sunday night to get one good meal a week at the Hare Krishna temple. I loved it. And much of what I stumbled into by following my curiosity and intuition turned out to be priceless later on. Let me give you one example: Reed College at that time offered perhaps the best calligraphy instruction in the country. Throughout the campus every poster, every label on every drawer, was beautifully hand-calligraphed. Because I had dropped out and didn't have to take the normal classes, I decided to take a calligraphy class to learn how to do this. I learned about serif and san serif typefaces, about varying the amount of space between different letter combinations, about what makes great typography great. It was beautiful, historical, artistically subtle in a way that science can't capture, and I found it fascinating.

None of this had even a hope of any practical application in my life. But ten years later, when we were designing the first Macintosh computer, it all came back to me. And we designed it all into the Mac. It was the first computer with beautiful typography. If I had never dropped in on that single course in college, the Mac would have never had multiple typefaces or proportionally spaced fonts. And since Windows just copied the Mac, it's likely that no personal computer would have them. If I had never dropped out, I would have never dropped in on this calligraphy class, and personal computers might not have the wonderful typography that they do. Of course it was impossible to connect the dots looking forward when I was in college. But it was very, very clear looking backwards ten years later. Again, you can't connect the dots looking forward; you can only connect them looking backwards. So you have to trust that the dots will somehow connect in your future. You have to trust in something — your gut, destiny, life, karma, whatever. This approach has never let me down, and it has made all the difference in my life.”

**Yours sincerely,
Nilesh Manani**