

Thursday, 23rd April 2015

No. 29

The Swaminarayan

Education is that which liberates

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Dear Parents, Guardians, Pupils and Friends,

Theme for this week

The theme for this week is “**Preparation for life.**” I have written about it in the back of the newsletter with a true story about a farmer.

Preparation for next year

Planning for next year is well under way and dates for most of the meetings for the year have now been fixed. I will release them to you in due course. The construction of the timetable is, however, a prolonged process and will take until the middle of this term to complete.

Curriculum Changes

As parents will be aware, the curriculum at GCSE and A Level is undergoing a radical review. This will affect the content of all the syllabi and draft copies are available from the websites of all the examination boards, including QCA. These changes have resulted in both Business Studies and Economics being phased out from GCSE. While the courses of the current students in S4 and 5 will be allowed to completion, we will no longer be able to offer it to new pupils starting their GCSEs next year. At A Level, Economics remains one of the highly sought after subjects by the universities and will continue to hold its value for university admissions.

Gujarati is also under threat during this review and there is talk of the Gujarati GCSE being phased out in time. These changes with marginal subjects usually arise due to the lack of students studying the subjects and examinations boards have a habit of focusing on subjects which are popular because of the financial rewards. In the case of Gujarati, parents can be assured I will make strong representations on behalf of the school, where it remains one of the core subjects of study.

S5 GCSE DRAMA: Time Table of REHEARSALS and PERFORMANCE:

Please would parents be aware of the following schedule of rehearsals for S5 Drama students, as negotiated with them. No one can afford to be absent. I look forward to your continued support with thanks.

	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	SUN
Wk A	20 Apr			23 <i>DR</i> <i>RT</i> <i>SK</i>	24	25	26
Wk B	27 Apr	28 <i>DR</i> <i>AS</i> <i>RT</i> <i>SK</i>	29 <i>ALL</i> <i>(p5p6)</i> + <i>AS</i> + <i>SK</i>	30 <i>DR</i> <i>RT</i> <i>SK</i> <i>AS</i>	1 st May	2	3 9.30am -3pm ALL

Wk A	4 May	5 <i>DR</i> <i>AS</i> <i>RT</i> <i>SK</i>	6 <i>ALL</i> <i>(p5p6)</i> + <i>AS +</i> <i>SK</i>	7 <i>ALL</i> <i>DAY</i> <i>Dress R</i> <i>Tech</i>	8 <i>Exam</i> <i>Perf</i> <i>ALL</i> <i>8am</i>		
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DR = *Dilan + Roshni P*
AS = *Anjali + Shukla*
RT = *Ruby (Roshni) + Tineth*
SK = *Sahil + Krishnan*

WJEC UNIT TWO
TIMES OF REHEARSAL
 After school 4.20-5.20pm
 (or one hour)

LAMDA EXAMINATION DATES – The English Department

Students taking LAMDA (*The Speaking of Verse and Prose*) will be examined on Wednesday 8th July, well clear of any GCSE's. Would those in S5 who have opted to try for 'Gold' (along with S4) please keep in touch with the LAMDA staff for help and guidance.

Preparation for Life

Think

I once read a heart-breaking true story about a farmer in South Africa who saw many of his friends become rich by discovering diamond mines. It is a famous true story known as 'Acres of Diamonds'. The story goes that the farmer sold his farm and with the money he got from the sale he too went searching for his own diamond mine. He spent his entire life wandering from one area to another without any success. Tired and distraught after many years of searching, one day he threw himself into a river and drowned.

Feel

The man who had bought his farm was crossing a stream running on his land on a warm summer day and had spotted a sudden burst of bright colours flashing from the bottom of the stream. He bent down and picked up one large stone that was shining. It was a pretty, curious looking stone, the likes of which he'd never seen before. Thinking that it would look good on the mantelpiece he took it home and didn't think about it again. Many years later a visitor came to his home, picked up the stone and examined it carefully. He turned to the farmer and asked him if he knew what he'd found. The naïve farmer told him that he thought it was just a beautiful crystal. The visitor looked at the farmer and told him that it was one of the largest diamonds he'd ever seen, perhaps ever discovered. The farmer said that his stream was full of such stones. It so happened that the farm turned out to be one of the largest diamond mines in Africa! If only the first farmer had done his research and found out what diamonds looked like, he would never have had to go prospecting for diamonds and he would have been one of the richest men in Africa.

Do

Some of you may get frustrated that you are told to do many things in life without having any say, like going to school for example, but this is your preparation for life. If you are to spot your own diamonds in life, you must be ready for it. Many young people who do not have the opportunities that you do would give anything for such privileges.

Yours sincerely,

Nilesh Manani