

The Swaminarayan

EDUCATION IS THAT WHICH LIBERATES

Dear Parents, Guardians, Pupils and Friends,

Theme for next week is Sharing & Caring. I have written about it on the back.

Interfaith Conference Trip (Written by Ishan Dwivedi)

This Tuesday, five year 11 students from The Swaminarayan School had the opportunity to visit the London Interfaith Centre near Queen's Park station. Eight other schools from the area were present, and altogether we represented four of the world's major religions: Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, and Christianity. Sunaabh, Aditi, Kajol, Henil, and myself acted as ambassadors of the Hindu faith whilst taking part in the different activities.

After being split into groups of six, the first exercise was a useful icebreaker, followed by a discussion where we placed a list of features of your identity in order of how obvious they are when meeting you. For example, when someone meets you, your age is much more obvious than your musical tastes. It was interesting to see that despite coming from three different religious and cultural backgrounds, everyone on my table agreed with each other in almost all the activities. The event was very informative and it was refreshing to meet people my age with another religious background. Of course, we would all like to thank Ms Parshotam and Mr Worth for taking time out of their schedules to organise and take us to the event!



Swaminarayan pupils triumph in the Senior Maths Challenge



Ishaan Vadgama

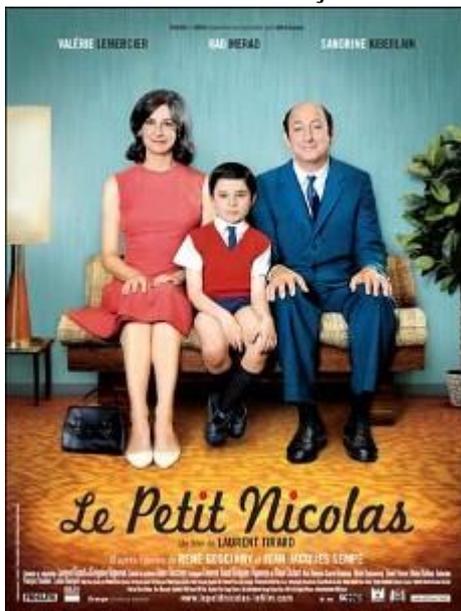
The UKMT is a registered charity whose aim is to advance the education of children and young people in Mathematics. The UKMT Individual Maths Challenges are lively, intriguing multiple choice question papers, which are designed to stimulate interest in maths in large numbers of pupils. There are three levels which cover the secondary school range 11-18 and together they attract over 600,000 entries from over 4,000 schools and colleges. The Swaminarayan School has participated in all the 3 levels (Senior, Intermediate and Junior) for quite a number of years.

All pupils from Year 12 and 13 and 5 selected pupils from Year 11 were entered for the Senior Maths challenge which was held on the

7th November 2017. It is note-worthy that although the Senior Maths Challenge is specially designed for students in Year 12 and 13, all the 5 pupils who were entered from Year 11 have achieved an award (4 silvers and 1 bronze). It is clear that our pupils relish the challenge of an intriguing problem. Overall, we are pleased to announce that we have 1 Gold, 7 Silver and 9 Bronze awards. We are delighted that a Year 13 pupil, Ishaan Vadgama has also been invited to participate in the next round of challenges called Senior Kangaroo. Entry to this prestigious level is by invitation only. Congratulations to all! And good luck to Ishaan for the next round.

Ishaan	Vadgama	Gold
Sunaabh	Trivedi	Silver
Ishan	Dwivedi	Silver
Henil	Premgi	Silver
Akhil	Bhargava	Silver
Yogesh	Patel	Silver
Dhruvi	Patel	Silver
Ravi	Mooruth	Silver
Jai	Patel	Bronze
Vimal	Patel	Bronze
Ria	Popat	Bronze
Misha	Manani	Bronze
Kajol	Jain	Bronze
Reashan	Naheerathan	Bronze
Hemal	Gor	Bronze
Sharad	Patel	Bronze
Naiya	Desai	Bronze

Visit at the Institut Français



After a successful visit from Senior 2 who enjoyed a day at the French Institute, we will be taking S3 for a cross



curricular French/History visit in December. S2 were able to work on the vocabulary of the film “le Petit Nicolas” during a language activity session. They were then ready to watch the film in the afternoon.

S3 will do something similar based on the film “Joyeux Noel” about WWI in France. On Christmas Eve during World War I, the German, French and Scottish fraternize and get to know the men who live on the opposite side of a brutal war, in what became a true lesson of humanity.

Part 2 Participation: The Role of the Citizen in Democracy

The key role of citizens in a democracy is to participate in public life. Citizens have an obligation to become informed about public issues, to watch carefully how their political leaders and representatives use their powers, and to express their own opinions and interests. Voting in elections is another important civic duty of all citizens. But to vote wisely, each citizen should listen to the views of the different parties and candidates, and then make his or her own decision on whom to support.

Participation can also involve campaigning for a political party or candidate, standing as a candidate for political office, debating public issues, attending community meetings, petitioning the government, and even protesting. A vital form of participation comes through active membership in independent, non-governmental organizations, what we call “civil society.” These organizations represent a variety of interests and beliefs: farmers, workers, doctors, teachers, business owners, religious believers, women, students, human rights activists. It is important that women participate fully both in politics and in civil society. This requires efforts by civil society organizations to educate women about their democratic rights and responsibilities, improve their political skills, represent their common interests, and involve them in political life.

In a democracy, participation in civic groups should be voluntary. No one should be forced to join an organization against their will. Political parties are vital organizations in a democracy, and democracy is stronger when citizens become active members of political parties. However, no one should support a political party because he is pressured or threatened by others. In a democracy, citizens are free to choose which party to support. Democracy depends on citizen participation in all these ways. But participation must be peaceful, respectful of the law, and tolerant of the different views of other groups and individuals.

Caring & Sharing

Caring and sharing is about being kind. I have heard the words “be kind and the whole world will come to you” many times in my life. I have tested its power like no other human quality and I have always found it to be worthy of the power it wields. Kindness is like honey; sweet and smooth. It warms the hearts of all those who learn to give it without expecting anything in return. “Join the company of those who make the barren places of life fruitful with kindness”, as one famous person once said, “and we will join the ranks of those who receive without asking.”

A gesture of kindness brings the best out in the people who give it and also in those who receive it. Give it freely without asking for anything in return. People will look at you with suspicion at first if they are not used to seeing you like that, but in time you will feel them returning their kindness to you and you will win the praises of all those you know. Your life will become a most joyous journey, rich beyond all your imaginings and you will see that we receive what we give.

Try this experiment today and observe its power. When you go down for your breakfast and greet your family, wish them a heartfelt good morning with a smile on your face. Make a gesture of kindness in a little act of giving something; a hug perhaps, even making a piece of toast or washing the dishes. Say “thank you, Mum”, if she has made your breakfast. Do any little act and watch their reaction. Do the same for the people on the street, a random act of kindness that they would never

have expected. Do that with your friends, your teachers, someone you had a little tiff with, and smile with kindness.

Yours sincerely,

Nilesh Manani