

The Swaminarayan

EDUCATION IS THAT WHICH LIBERATES

Dear Parents, Guardians, Pupils and Friends,

Theme for next week

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

WRITER’S CORNER



A sobering thought from Mike Johnson on Making Yourself Marketable...

To put into context the ongoing learning curve we will need to be employable in the next fifteen years, here’s a sobering thought from consultant and author John Humble. ‘If there aren’t going to be cradle-to-grave jobs anymore, the secret of success will be employability. You don’t own a job, but you are marketable to a wide range of people. To do that you will need to keep learning as a constant process.’ And to illustrate just how far we have come in a few decades, Humble provides some sobering food for thought. ‘My father probably got through his working life by doubling his knowledge, for me it has possibly been a factor of fifty times. For the next generation, who knows what it will take to stay ahead.’

A great deal more, not just to qualify and get that degree or that diploma but to stay employed. Maverick management commentator Mike Kami knows, ‘**If you are not 100 times smarter than you were five years ago – you don’t count.**’ And in case there is any doubt that knowledge – allied to an ability to update and adapt that knowledge - is going to take control of our collective futures, here’s an extract from the *Financial Times*, which stated in a report that the middle class in the USA is being divided by its levels of education and skills, according to Robert Reich, US Labour Secretary. Reich said, ‘The deepest divisions aren’t based on race or on national origin or on geography; they’re based on the abilities of individuals to make their way in an increasingly turbulent society.’ He said that the middle class had splintered into three groups: an ‘underclass’, isolated from the core economy and walled off from hope; an ‘overclass’, who profitably rode the changes in the economy; and the bulk of the population, an ‘anxious’ class ... pulled and stretched by the need to work two or more jobs to keep a family solvent ...by the spectre that today’s job will disappear tomorrow. The answer to the growing divisions, he says, is education. Expanding skills, particularly in technology-related fields, in-house training programmes and keeping potential high-school drop-outs in education longer, all help to build a new middle class, he believes.

That’s someone talking about society as a whole and how changing business conditions – particularly technology – are already impacting the lives of all of us. At the business level, at the executive level, I suspect – probably not as clearly defined yet – that there are both companies and individuals who fall into those three categories: an ‘underclass’, that still hasn’t seen the need for change, and most particularly are not yet aware that knowledge is taking over as the prime asset; the ‘overclass’, who are already ahead of the game and are being recognized for their foresightedness as the organizations people are clamouring to work for; the ‘anxious’ class, still not quite sure which way to jump, knowing it’s the eleventh hour and they still haven’t finished their homework.

Certainly we are not all perfect, and in this new race for knowledge most of us are just getting away from the starting gate. So, unless by some complete fluke we all got it right, education – the right sort – is going to be a bigger and bigger issue as we head toward...

S1, 2 and 3 Parents' Consultation Evening

The consultation meeting will take place on Thursday, 7th February 2019 between 4.30-7.00 pm in the Yogi Hall. As always, all the parents will have an opportunity to meet their child's subject teachers including the House Tutors. This is an ideal opportunity to review their progress and performance after the Christmas Examinations the term.

TERM DATES FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2019/2020

Attached with this newsletter you will find the term dates for the next academic year. Please note that this time we have two weeks of half term holidays in October. This fits in well with the Diwali Festival season which is during the half term weeks. The total number of working days remain the same as we break up later than usual in July.

The Power of Words

- Results of a graduating class over a period of 20 years showed, that those who had scored highest in a vocabulary tests when they were at University occupied the most senior positions and had the highest earnings.
 - Tests of more than 350,000 persons from all walks of life showed that more often than any other measurable characteristic, knowledge of the exact meaning of words accompanied outstanding success.
 - This was further confirmed by vocabulary tests with people at various levels in their profession. Chief Executives knew the exact meaning of 236 words out of 272; Managers averaged 168; Superintendents averaged 140; Foremen averaged 114; and Floor bosses averaged 86.
 - More significantly, children with the best vocabularies achieve the best grades in school.
- Next week, I will highlight some ways of improving your vocabulary.**

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.

Nilesh Manani