

The Swaminarayan

Education is that which liberates

Dear Parents, Guardians, Pupils and Friends,

Theme for the week

The theme for first week back after the Easter holidays is “**Learn to think logically**”. I have written about it on the reverse of the newsletter.

End of Term and Reports

All the reports for the pupils will be available on the Parents’ Portal from tomorrow. We hope you will sit down with the children and discuss the comments from the teachers and make a clear plan to act upon the good advice. Their mark in each subject compared with the class average should give a good indication of their performance.

Next Term will begin on Tuesday, 12th April 2016. All staff will be in school on Monday, 11th April for a very busy training day.

Internal & External Examination

All pupils in Seniors 1, 2 and 3 will have their End of Year Examinations during the week beginning 18th May 2016. Pupils in Seniors 4, 5 and 6 will be involved in their GCSE and A Levels examinations; they will be on study leave from Monday 11th May 2016 until they complete all their external examinations.

TSS Summer Fair

The Annual TSS Summer fair will be held during the weekend of 18-19 June 2016. I have attached the leaflet to this newsletter for your information. Parents/friends/guardians wishing to book and advertisement/banner/stall should contact the school office for details.

LAMDA EXAMS: (S5-S1 incl.) – Mr Benny writes...

In spite of giving due notice, LAMDA can only afford us the 13th and 14th JULY, 2016 for the examination of our students. Fees are published below and will be charged to your account with TSS. IF YOUR SON OR DAUGHTER ARE UNABLE to make these dates, students from S1-S4 incl. can postpone their exam until the autumn term, next academic year. If the student is S5, they can be entered independently by you but they will need their pin number which I have. My apologies for any inconvenience – *Mr Benny*

LAMDA FEES

S1 – Grade 4 £49.50

S2 – Grade 5 £54.00

Some of S2 & all S3 – Grade 6 Bronze £64.00

S4 – Grade 8 Gold £79.50

S5 – some at Bronze, others at Silver (£69.50); otherwise Gold (£79.50)

“Do Try this at Home”! – Why is the sky blue? – Mr Cotton writes...

I have often been asked, and it is very much a good Physics question, why is the sky blue? Sometimes I will even try to answer this difficult question using phrases like “Rayleigh Scattering”. I am never happy with my explanation! However there is an experiment you can do at home to illustrate this, and I would encourage you to try it with your children.

Fill a reasonably large glass about two thirds full with water. Add about half a teaspoon of milk, and stir. In a darkened room shine a strong torch lamp from above on the top of the water. What colour does the water in the glass appear?

You can also “model” a beautiful red sunset! Try shining the torch through the side of the glass while looking through the opposite side; and/or while holding the glass shine the torch up through the bottom while peering down through the water from above it.

Shell “Make the Future” Schools Programme 1/7/2016 at The Queen Elisabeth Olympic Park – Mr Cotton writes...

A large but limited number of tickets for our students in the Lower Senior School to attend this exciting and free event have been reserved. More information about it can be found on the Shell Website;

<http://www.shell.co.uk/energy-and-innovation/make-the-future/the-future-of-transport/london.html>

There is also a separate yet associated competition which is open to students in teams of between 2 and 5 students. There are some significant prizes available!

The Bright Ideas Challenge – Mr Cotton writes...

In the run up to Make the Future London Shell has launched The Bright Ideas Challenge, a new cross-curricular competition. They are inviting secondary pupils aged 11-14 to share their bright ideas to solve the energy challenges of tomorrow. With 11 regional prizes of £1,500, plus funded trips to Make the Future London up for grabs, get involved at shell.co.uk/brightideaschallenge.

Those who are interested should find out and research this on the Website in the first instance and then consult either with myself or other suitable teacher.

Further information will be publicized nearer the time along with a letter and formal Permission slip for Attendance to the Event on 1/7/2016. It is aimed at students in the age range 11-14 (Years 6, 7, 8 and 9).

Results of The Institute of Physics British Physics Olympiad 2016 : Swaminarayan School – Mr Cotton writes...

As the Olympic Games itself represents the top standard of Sporting achievement, so these competitions represent the highest standard in Physics and are done by the very top students in the country. “Every single question in these Exam Papers is a real challenge in itself.” Indeed the Institute of Physics use these tests to select those students who would eventually represent the UK in the International Competition.

I am proud to publicize here the results for the students of our school who took part.

Upper Sixth: Aditya Vachaspati won a Bronze and Commendations were won by Eeshaan Verma, Dhaval Patel and Aditya Venugopal.

In the Lower Sixth AS Challenge: Dhillon Hirani won Silver,

Bronzes were won by Milan Bhandari, Roshni Pattni, Manak Ahlawalia and Sooruj Shah, and Commendations by Parthiv Vakhil, Nylan Patel, Payal Patel, Kirtan Patel, Kiyana Patel, Ashwin Sundresh, Jayme Desai and Tineth Samaranayake.

In the GCSE Challenge for Senior 5: Bronzes were won by Ravi Mooruth and Ishaan Vadgama and a large number of Commendations by a number of others (too many to mention here – my apologies for not mentioning you by name!).

Well done, you all know who you are. These are all very difficult and testing examination papers. The standard and level of difficulty is well beyond the normal GCSE or A level. The questions are, as they say, A Real Challenge! It is a credit to even be able to take part.

Learn to think logically

Think

The ability to think critically and accurately requires a lot of personal leadership. It is not something that can be imposed on you by others and requires you to be very self-disciplined.

Feel

You will need to direct and monitor yourself, and when your preconceived ideas and opinions are proven to be misinformed by the process of self-evaluation, you will need to be prepared to correct yourself instead of hanging on to your old biased views. At times it will be hard, but what it will do is take you on a road to self-improvement and instil a rigorous standard of excellence in your life.

Do

When attempting to evaluate reasoning in an article keep the following questions in mind:

1. What is the main purpose of the article?
2. What is the key question that the author is addressing?
3. What is the most important information?
4. What are the main conclusions?
5. What are the key concepts/ideas the author is trying to convey in the article?
6. Do they make any assumptions and are they justified?
7. What are the main implications of following the author's reasoning?
8. What are the main implications of not following the author's reasoning?
9. What are the main points presented?

Learning to reason logically and succinctly will set you apart in your approach to everything you do and take you on a road to self-improvement that will prevent you from making many costly mistakes. Whole careers and companies have been destroyed because people did not reason logically, and arrived at answers and solutions which were completely at odds with what actually happened. Clarity in thinking gives clarity in response that is logical, objective and unbiased. It will, more often than not, point to the right decision. In addition, help you not to crowd your judgement with emotions.

Next term is going to be extremely busy with the external examinations starting on Monday 11th May 2016 for all the GCSE and A Level students in Seniors 4, 5 and 6. With the Internal Examinations for Seniors 1, 2 and 3 as well, all the years should use the Easter break for focused revision in preparation. Many teachers have organised extra lessons for GCSE and A Level students during the Easter break, so the school will be open throughout.

My sincere thank you to all the pupils, staff and parents for what has been an exciting second term.

Yours sincerely,

Nilesh Manani