

The Swaminarayan

EDUCATION IS THAT WHICH LIBERATES

Dear Parents, Guardians, Pupils and Friends,

Theme for next week

The theme for next week is “**Do Your Best.**” I have written about it at the end of the newsletter.

Performing Arts News - Mr Oza writes...

I would like to announce that we have two new Piano teachers Ms Marta Mitchell and Ms Victoria Garduno joining our school from the spring term. Both the teachers are very well experienced and qualified piano artists. We welcome them to join our team of peripatetic teachers.

As announced last week, instrumental lessons for the piano, drums, flute, guitar and violin lessons have been offered in the School by the peripatetic teachers for more than 20 years. Parents who still wish to enrol their child/ren for these lessons, should note that very few places are available for the above instrumental lessons. Please collect an application form from Mr Oza or from the Reception and return back to us as soon as possible. Please note these lessons are offered by professional tutors during school time with an organised time table so your child/ren will not miss same lesson more than once or twice in one whole term. This is the normal procedure in every school for the peripatetic music lessons. Peripatetic teachers also help prepare children to appear for external music examinations through ABRSM, Trinity, The Rock School, etc., which will help your child in their university applications.

S6 Parents' Consultation Evening

The consultation meeting for **ALL 6th Form students** will take place on Thursday, 8th February 2018 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 Mock Examinations at the beginning of this term.

TERM DATES FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2018/2019

The term dates for the next academic are on the school website. Please note that 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.

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...

Ten of the worst things you can say to your children... This week points 5 and 6...

"If you don't do what I say, I'll leave you here!"

This plays into kids' worst fear - abandonment. Indeed, a young child's worst fear is that he or she will be lost or left alone and unsafe. Threatening them by playing into that fear in an effort to manipulate him into doing what you want is bordering on cruel.

Instead, give your child a choice. Instead of scaring them, say, something along the lines of, "If you leave the park now, we might be able to come here again tomorrow. If you don't, then Mummy will say that you can't come here tomorrow. You decide." Or try to make it fun. "First one to the car gets a star!"

"Leave me alone!"

All parents crave a break from time to time. The problem is that when you frequently tell your children to stay away from you, they internalise the message, warn psychologists.

They start to think there's no point in approaching you because there's a good chance you'll brush them off, particularly if you show signs of the mood that normally pre-empts you saying it. If that starts when they are small, they may be less likely to bother trying to talk to you when they're older.

Of course, children need to learn that you sometimes need time to yourself. But there are more productive ways of teaching them this, such as telling them you are going to have time with your friends when your partner is around or booking a babysitter to go out sometimes. When they are home, and you desperately need space, why not them off with some arts and crafts or even a little bit of TV.

At times when you can't plan the need to be left alone, take the time to look them in the eye and tell them how long you think you'll be and that you'll do something specific when you're finished – going outside to play with them, for example, or sitting down and having a cuddle.

Do your best

Think

Throughout my teaching career I have come across so many students who have risen from the bottom of their class at age eleven to near the top by the time they are sixteen. Many have not been the most gifted children in life and have found studying hard, and many have come from under-privileged family backgrounds. Yet they have all possessed one important quality: they have had a deep inner desire to do their best.

Feel

While others have chosen to take the easy path and given up when things became tough, they have striven hard and persevered until they have understood what was being taught to them. I have seen them grow up over several years and seen them working away in libraries, when I go on my daily walks around the school, with a pile of books spread in front of them. I have seen them working with their friends to find an answer to a difficult question. When things have become difficult they have approached their teachers asking for help, often sitting with them in their free lessons while others have sat in common rooms aimlessly chatting. At times they have appeared lonely but when asked they have always assured me that they are really fine. When the moment has called they have delivered the best results and many have gone onto study medicine, dentistry and engineering at some of the finest universities.

Do

You don't need to be the most gifted person to create the most wonderful life for yourself. What you need to do is deliver the very best that you can in anything you take on in life. I always tell students that God always helps those who learn to help themselves. Never take the easy route or follow the crowd to be popular.

Yours sincerely,

Nilesh Manani