

The Swaminarayan

Education is that which liberates

www.swaminarayan.brent.sch.uk

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Dear Parents, Guardians, Pupils and Friends,

Theme for this week

The theme for next week is “**Foundations.**” I have written about it on the back of this newsletter.

Summer Fair Thank You

It was wonderful to see so many parents, pupils, friends, former students at the summer fair. The summer fair committee, comprising of staff, PTFA and volunteers did a superb job in bringing everything together during the two days. I have read that a school parent even went to Asda – Park Royal on Friday afternoon to seek permission and hang up the fair banner. What commitment!

While for the first time in all the years I was not able to watch a single performance, I know the PA, Drama and LAMDA departments were instrumental in getting all the performances on stage to the high standards people commented about, requiring many hours of rehearsals from all involved. I am glad that this time pupils took charge and compered the entire event, not surprising that they were able to deliver everything like seasoned experts; the talent has always been there as we have witnessed during the many shows they have led over the years in the school. As Mr Parekh, the chair of the Fair Committee writes, “I am sure going forward they will turn into rising stars of the school & society at large. It was also heart-warming to see the pupils guiding visitors in the exhibition, keeping the premises clean and the senior students/leadership team trying to run activities & sell items laying the seeds of upcoming entrepreneurs.”

My thanks must go to everyone: parents, pupils, Alumni committee, santos, mandir volunteers, friends, stall holders, advertisers, Metropolitan Police, external stage performers, Mannings, Yogiji’s, Daniel’s Estate Agency, Harvinder Singh Sian family, the Shah family, Sixth Form students, Sunrise Radio, PTFA and the TSS staff for all their efforts; without everyone coming together, the fair could never have been such a success. The funds raised will be allocated to the Infants’ Play Area and the refurbishment of the Science laboratories.

GCSE and A Level Results and Enquiries About Results (EARs.)

The External exams for this summer have now finished. We hope that all the children have been successful, and do enjoy the summer now. Please note A level results are published on 13th August and GCSE results are published on 20th August. We hope that everyone will be happy and pleased with these. Please be aware that it is possible to make various forms of EAR formally to the Exam Boards; the main one being to apply for a Re-mark. This is done On-line through me to the Exam Board/s concerned using the secure area of their Website. Please be aware that such enquires cost money. They are not cheap! Also payment to the school is required in advance. In certain circumstances it may be refunded.

You should also be aware that re-marks can result in a **decrease** as well as an increase in marks and the consequences. So any EAR should be carefully considered and you may wish to discuss this with staff. The dead-line for EARs is 18th September, but I would request that if possible these are done much earlier near the beginning of September. Only Priority Re-marks should be done ASAP but these are only available for A level and are even more costly so should only be requested under “exceptional” circumstances (e.g. When University places are "at stake"!).

Early School Closure for Prep Prize Day

Everyone is reminded that the school will close at 1 pm on Friday 26th June 2015 due to the Preparatory School Prize day in the evening. Pupils can be picked up from the carpark as normal.

Sports Day

The Sports Day will take place on Tuesday, 30th June 2015. Parents and friends are invited to support their children but please do make sure you inform the school office about it so that we can make the necessary arrangements for food and drinks. As always, it promises to be an exciting day of competitions between the three houses.



SIXTH FORM TASTER LESSONS – Ms Maharaj writes:

Well done to the Senior 5 students who returned to school after a very intense GCSE examination period. Your commitment to attend the Sixth form taster lessons was impressive. The feedback from students and teachers were both very positive. We hope that you are looking forward to pursue your A levels at the Swaminarayan School and we look forward to seeing you on induction day on 3rd September 2015.



TSS ALUMNI

We are delighted to have a dedicated group of ex-students form the TSS Alumni. They are supporting our students in terms of guest speakers, networking meetings, helping our students with work experience as well as providing them with holiday work. The current Alumni Committee includes former students from the beginning of the school to recent leavers. They include: Parth Patel (Oil Platform Engineer and Chair), Monali Patel (Management Consultant at PWC), Nidhi Negandhi (Director at MnM Marketing Consultancy), Chandni Patel (Dentist), Dhaval Mistry (MD at Niveda Realty), Vinesh Patel (Partner at JSP Law).

The Alumni team is also arranging a Careers Fair on 23rd October 2015. We will be grateful if our parents can support this event by inviting professionals to guide our students so that they can select the right career path. Please do not hesitate to contact the school should you require any further information.

Food, Health and Exercise – Ria Mehta (S5)

It's a coincidence that this just happens to be the theme the week before we have Sports Day! Let's hope the best team wins... I thought I'd write about limiting the amount we treat ourselves. Yes, I'm not exactly sticking to the theme but I tend to do that a lot so it's okay. We all know that a balanced diet means having a certain amount of different foods and this is also what I think our lives should be like. It's great if you're always having fun but you'll never get anywhere. In the same way, you can work forever but one day you're going to get tired. We're going to have to try and find this perfect balance between work and play. However, as we have our whole lives ahead of us, I think we're allowed to let the play outweigh the work. That said, please don't start to go on your phone when you have a test tomorrow. Treat yourself when you know you deserve it.

Foundations

Think

This week I want to speak to you about building a strong foundation. You may find this hard to understand but a firm foundation for your life prepares the groundwork for your future. All civil engineers will tell you that the ground below a tall tower block has to be strong and well prepared to withstand the huge weight of the tower that will rise above it. If it is poorly constructed, the ground will subside, sink and collapse as the weight of the material of the tower block presses down on it. Life is like that. When you are young, you want to enjoy life, play with your friends, go to parties, crack jokes, laugh and generally feel happy. While these are things that you should do, do so in moderation and keep one eye on your future.

Feel

Going to school, playing sports, learning to play an instrument, paying attention in class, learning to read and write, doing homework, revising for examinations are all things you should also pay attention to and take seriously. While they may seem dull and tedious, they are helping you to grow, helping to lay the foundation upon which you can build your future.

Do

Watch the students in your class and study how each of them conducts their lives and soon you will realise why some of them are at the top of the class and others lagging behind; watch also why some students are good at sports and others just playing. If you have aspirations to be a musician you will have to learn to sing or play an instrument; if you want to go to university you will have to spend time studying; and if you want to be a footballer you will have to spend time training. Whatever you want to achieve in life can be achieved if you start doing these things from an early age and lay the foundation for your future success. I always say to students, "There are no easy roads to success". Every successful life requires preparation, a strong foundation that they begin building when they are young.

Yours sincerely,

Nilesh Manani