

The Swaminarayan

EDUCATION IS THAT WHICH LIBERATES

Dear Parents, Guardians, Pupils and Friends,

Theme for next week

The theme for next week is: **Guru: A Spiritual Master**. I have written about it on the back of the newsletter.

Lower & Upper 6, Senior 5 Parents' Consultation Evening Today

The meeting with the parents and students will take place on Thursday, 27th September 2018 between 4.30-7.00pm in the Yogi Hall. It is also an opportunity at an early stage in A1/A2 and for Senior 5 a chance to discuss the results of the summer examinations and plan a way forward for the remaining GCSEs. This is a crucial beginning for the Lower and Upper 6 students so we have organised a very early meeting with the parents to ensure we are all ready to help the students to achieve their best start and grades. The UCAS application process for the Upper Six will be completed by Christmas for the Upper Six.

S4 Parents-Teachers Consultation Evening

This meeting will take place on 18th October 2018 in the Yogi Hall. It is anticipated that quite a lot of the pupils will write early GCSE examinations next summer so this is a good time to discuss the progress in these and other subjects. The meeting will be held in the Yogi Hall between 4.30-7pm.

WRITER'S CORNER

A welcome to all Year 7 students and other new recruits to TSS who love writing! Every two or three weeks, we try to publish in the newsletter anything of literary value – relating to any subject, in any genre, whether it be a poem, a short story, parts of an essay or piece of journalism or humour, or even an engaging piece of trivia. Should you have a contribution to be considered (however short or long), pop it on to a USB and hand it to one of the teachers in the English Department.

More on Democracy...Parts 3, 4 and 5:

III. The Rights of Citizens in a Democracy

In a democracy, every citizen has certain basic rights that the state cannot take away from them.

These rights are guaranteed under international law.

You have the right to have your own beliefs, and to say and write what you think.

No one can tell you what you must think, believe, and say or not say.

There is freedom of religion. Everyone is free to choose their own religion and to worship and practice their religion as they see fit.

Every individual has the right to enjoy their own culture, along with other members of their group, even if their group is a minority.

There is freedom and pluralism in the mass media.

You can choose between different sources of news and opinion to read in the newspapers, to hear on the radio, and to watch on television.

You have the right to associate with other people, and to form and join organizations of your own choice, including trade unions.

You are free to move about the country, and if you wish, to leave the country.

You have the right to assemble freely, and to protest government actions.

However, everyone has an obligation to exercise these rights peacefully, with respect for the law and for the rights of others.

IV. The Rule of Law

Democracy is a system of rule by laws, not by individuals.

In a democracy, the rule of law protects the rights of citizens, maintains order, and limits the power of government.

All citizens are equal under the law. No one may be discriminated against on the basis of their race, religion, ethnic group, or gender.

No one may be arrested, imprisoned, or exiled arbitrarily.

If you are detained, you have the right to know the charges against you, and to be presumed innocent until proven guilty according to the law.

Anyone charged with a crime has the right to a fair, speedy, and public trial by an impartial court.

No one may be taxed or prosecuted except by a law established in advance.

No one is above the law, not even a king or an elected president.

The law is fairly, impartially, and consistently enforced, by courts that are independent of the other branches of government.

Torture and cruel and inhumane treatment are absolutely forbidden.

The rule of law places limits on the power of government. No government official may violate these limits.

No ruler, minister, or political party can tell a judge how to decide a case.

Office holders cannot use their power to enrich themselves. Independent courts and commissions punish corruption, no matter who is guilty.

V. The Limits and Requirements for Democracy

If democracy is to work, citizens must not only participate and exercise their rights. They must also observe certain principles and rules of democratic conduct.

People must respect the law and reject violence. Nothing ever justifies using violence against your political opponents, just because you disagree with them.

Every citizen must respect the rights of his or her fellow citizens, and their dignity as human beings.

No one should denounce a political opponent as evil and illegitimate, just because they have different views.

People should question the decisions of the government, but not reject the government's authority.

Every group has the right to practice its culture and to have some control over its own affairs, but each group should accept that it is a part of a democratic state.

When you express your opinions, you should also listen to the views of other people, even people you disagree with. Everyone has a right to be heard.

Don't be so convinced of the rightness of your views that you refuse to see any merit in another position. Consider different interests and points of view.

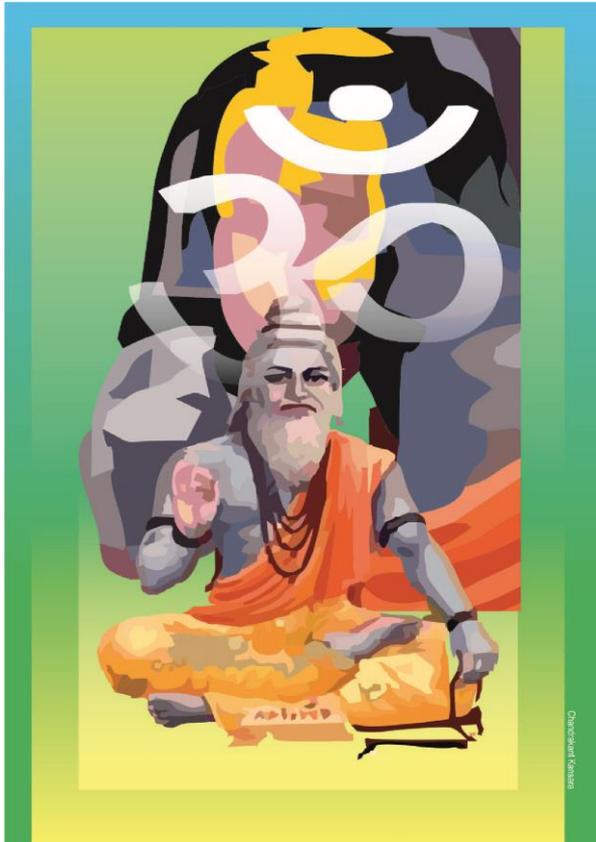
When you make demands, you should understand that in a democracy, it is impossible for everyone to achieve everything they want.

Democracy requires compromise. Groups with different interests and opinions must be willing to sit down with one another and negotiate.

In a democracy, one group does not always win everything it wants. Different combinations of groups win on different issues. Over time, everyone wins something.

If one group is always excluded and fails to be heard, it may turn against democracy in anger and frustration.

Everyone who is willing to participate peacefully and respect the rights of others should have some say in the way the country is governed.



A Spiritual Master – A Guru

Think

When we are young, we rely on the help and support of our parents; when we start school, we rely on the guidance of our teachers; at university, we learn from the professors; and when we begin our first job, we seek the assistance of our managers. In fact, I would not be wrong by saying that some people even employ a so called “Life Guru” to guide them through life. Each is essential in their way, and through their merits very capable of enabling us to grow, continue to learn and develop as we go through the wonderful journey that is life.

Feel

Yet, I can't help but feel that neither of these very accomplished teachers could guide us through our spiritual life, neither should we expect them to, because the spiritual aspect of our life is a very personal matter and can only be guided by a spiritual guru who has selflessly devoted his entire life in the service of God and humanity.

As the teachers and professors have devoted their life in the mastery of their subject, so has the

spiritual guru devoted his life to God. Through that long association with God, the spiritual guru is more aware of God's presence and is thus able to teach us about Him and inspire us to take that first step on the long journey to God realisation.

Do

Whichever faith you belong to, search out your own spiritual guru, make sure he has no personal motives but the service of God. Once you have found him, worship him like God without regarding him as a mere human being, revere him and serve him with great respect, and in time, you too will realise God.

Yours sincerely

Nilesh Manani