

The Swaminarayan

EDUCATION IS THAT WHICH LIBERATES

Dear Parents, Guardians, Pupils and Friends,

We will celebrate the life of our founder next week. I was privileged to be very close to him and have written about him in the back.

Academic Dates for 2019-20 are attached to the newsletter.

Final reminder for Prize Day on 30th November 2018 at 6.30pm

This year's Prize Day will take place in Mandir on Friday 30th November 2018 at 6.30pm in the Mandir. Parents are reminded that we will finish the school at 12.55pm on the day so that everyone can return for the prize evening refreshed. Our students have worked extremely hard over the year, despite the adverse circumstances and deserve this recognition. I do hope we will have full attendance in the evening. Pupils should return at 6pm in the evening so that we can have a timely start. There are some refreshingly new performances this year.

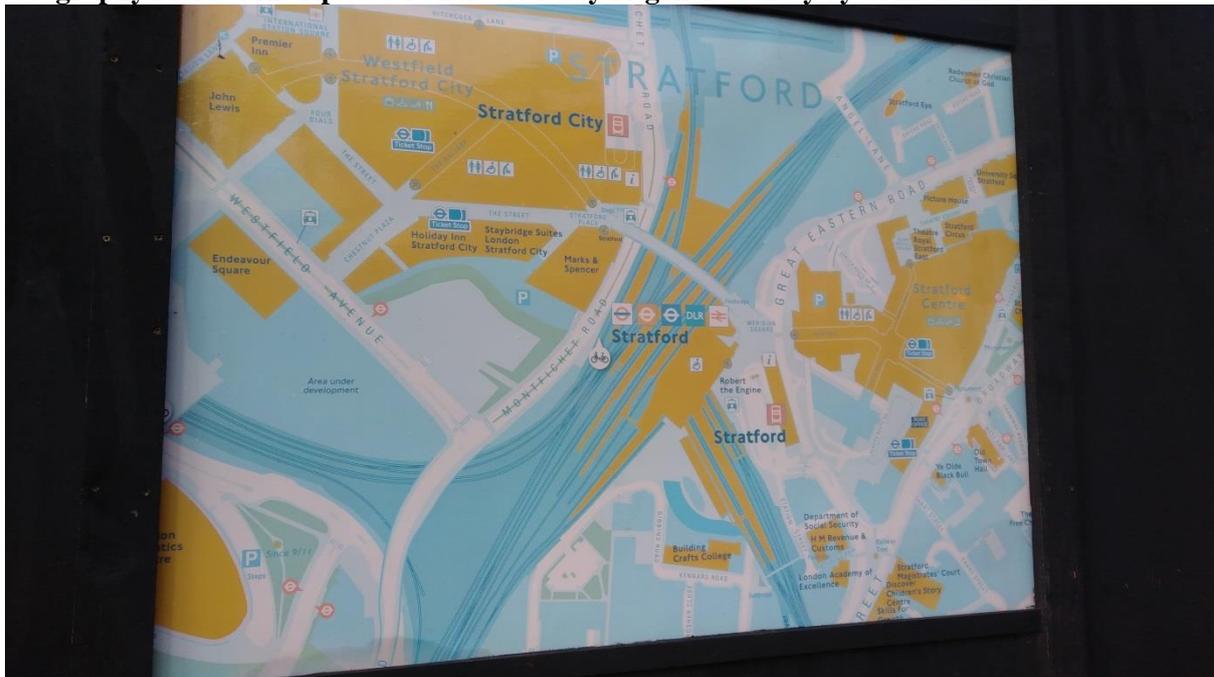
Second Reminder for Parents-Teachers Consultation Evening S1, 2 & 3

Parents should note that this is a different date from the one published in the Calendar. So do make note. The meeting with the parents and students will take place on **Thursday, 7th February 2018 between 4.30-7.00pm in the Yogi Hall**. This is a good opportunity to meet the teachers to review the performance of the pupils after the results and reports of this term.

Sixth Form Mock Examinations

Students are reminded that the Mock examinations for all Sixth Form students will start immediately after our return from the Christmas holidays on Monday 7th January 2019. These are important examinations and preparation for them should already have started.

Geography Fieldwork trip to Stratford to study Regeneration by Jyoti Hanumantha



Stratford has overseen a major restructuring in its urban composition over the past ten years. It was amazing to see this transformation and study it first-hand!

On the 21st of November 2018, the Geography class of Senior 4 set out on our GCSE Geography fieldwork trip. The excursion was organised by Mr Pinto. The trip was an educational insight into the regeneration in the Central Urban area of Stratford, East London. We explored the human geography of the infrastructural developments in areas such as Newham and East Village. We were assessed and informed (by our two friendly assessors- Lorna and Edward) regarding the positive and negative effects of regeneration – including a case study on the redevelopments around Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.

We were given an activities booklet to complete as we studied the various elements of regeneration- such as education, environment and services. We carried out multiple interactive surveys, filed sketches and tallies on the services provided in these areas. It was fascinating to see and take photos of the changing infrastructural landscape-varying from modern designed sleek buildings to brick walls covered in colourful graffiti. Overall the experience was thoroughly enjoyable and experiencing ‘live Geography’ is always very satisfying away from the classroom.

Thank you to Mr Pinto and Miss Alexander for accompanying us on this trip! ☺ We look forward to the next urban trip in Wembley and our rivers trip to Epping Forest in the New Year to fulfil our GCSE Fieldwork tasks.

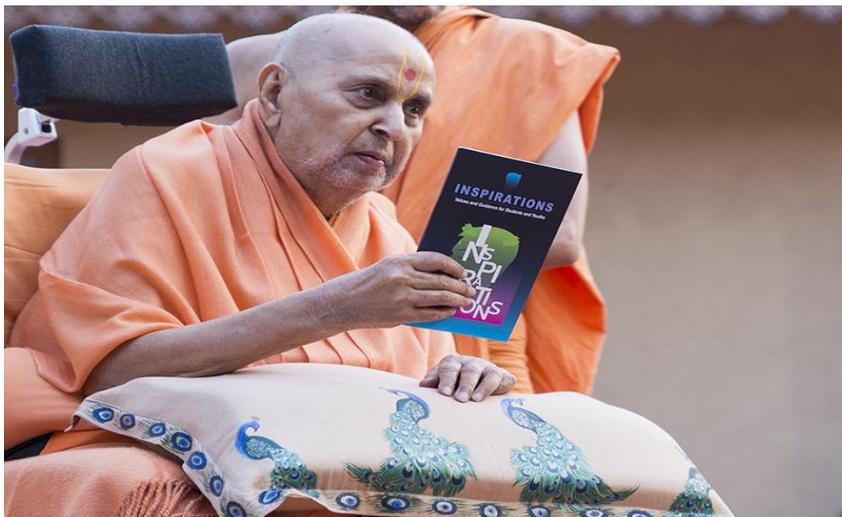
Brent Youth Parliament - Simran Bodh Senior 3 writes:

On Saturday 24th November I had the pleasure and honour of representing Brent’s youth at my first BYP meeting together with Vivek Lad in Senior 5. I put my views and suggested solutions to local councillors about the issues affecting Brent’s youth and also issues that affect Brent’s leisure facilities. I also had the opportunity to talk to Brent’s MP Barry Gardener which was fascinating as I asked him lots of questions and got some foundation political skills and tips from him about politics and how to engage with people.

My first campaign is for “saving the high street” and I am looking forward to getting my teeth into this campaign to ensure that our high street remains a hub of the community and central to our community.

To finish, we shared pizza and talked about our political views and had a speed debate to enhance our debating skills. All of this was a fantastic experience for me and Vivek and I cannot wait for the next meeting to re-engage in the hustle and bustle of Brent political life!

Happy Birthday to Param Pujya Pramukh Swami Maharaj



Pramukh Swami Maharaj was a peaceful, humble, simple and spiritual personality; a rare soul who had always lived for others and remained in constant rapport with God. He was an advocate of world peace, and revered as one of the most influential spiritual leaders of the world. Pramukh Swami Maharaj lived by his maxim, ‘In the joy of others lies our own’

and had dedicated his life to selfless service for the spiritual and social uplift of society. Over the last seven decades, Pramukh Swami Maharaj had inspired countless aspirants, and for the betterment of humankind, he had visited over 17,000 villages, towns and cities. In addition to the renowned

Swaminarayan Akshardham complexes, he had gifted the world with over 1,100 mandirs. Yet, to everyone in The Swaminarayan School, he was our founder.

The Swaminarayan School was founded by Param Pujya Pramukh Swami Maharaj, who was a disciple of infinite faith in his Guru, Yogiji Maharaj. There is no greater service to a Guru than to carry out his every command, he often said in assemblies. It is a quality we observe in all the best students of the Swaminarayan School who are always respectful of the knowledge they receive from their teachers, so it is hardly surprising that many excel and go on to carve out paths few from other schools dare to imagine. They are bold, they are fearless and brave like our gurus. Yet for Pramukh Swami, that wasn't enough, passionate as he was about turning these children towards God.

Pramukh Swami would have been proud of all them for putting God ahead of them. He was the inspiration behind starting every lesson in our thirty lessons week with a prayer. Visitors are instantly spellbound by the calm ambience within the school.

Yours sincerely,

Nilesh Manani