

Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2015

No. 11

# The Swaminarayan

**EDUCATION IS THAT WHICH LIBERATES**

**Dear Parents, Guardians, Pupils and Friends,**

## **Theme for next week**

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

## **Important GCSE, AS and A Level Reforms – Postcard 9**

This postcard is about Ofqual – Office of Qualification who regulate GCSEs, AS, A Level and a broad range of qualifications. I have **published it at the back of The Swaminarayan.**

## **Christmas Holidays**

As the last week of the term approaches, may I remind parents that next Friday, 11th December is the last day of the term. Reports will be available on Schoolbase from Friday. I believe arrangement have been made for parents of all new pupils to acquire the username and password from the office. You will know from the published calendar that whilst teachers return for staff training on Monday, 5th January 2015, pupils return on Tuesday, 6th January. The Senior School has a non-uniform day on the last day of term. Students will have to pay a £1 donation for the privilege of coming to school in their clothes. The money will go towards the Autism Society, as chosen by the Student Council.

## **Term Dates Academic Year 2016-17**

These are attached for your information at the back.

## **Alumni Careers Fair**

### **Jai Patel S5G writes:**

The Alumni Committee was set up by Mr Manani who has been attending many of their committee meetings to explore ways of helping the current pupils and engaging the Alumni with their huge depth of experiences in the life of the school. He has been pouring in time and effort to construct a powerful Alumni network for the school with the help of the committee. We now have close to 700 former pupils on the network, who have been in the same position as you and I, now pursuing work and education in a diverse world of work. This Alumni network, combined with the annual event of the much anticipated Careers Fair, created a day of intense yet enlightening exchange between the Alumni and the upper senior pupils. The S5s and 6<sup>th</sup> Form are at a crucial stage in life where they must place their first foot into their careers, and the fair was an excellent means of kindling aspirations in every student, and providing many with firm guidance about their career choice from those who are already successful in their careers.

The day commenced with speeches from external guests and Alumni, both constructing a sense of motivation, inspiration and guidance to the students. The rest of the day consisted of several sessions, each dedicated to a specific profession represented by their experts. The professions ranged across Medicine, Dentist, Accountant, Engineering, Investment Banking, Real Estate and Beauty, which allowed students to discover what truly fires them. Each session was carried out with great enthusiasm from the Alumni, who outlined their careers and gave us honest judgements, followed by eager questions from the participants. This

allowed us to clear any misconceptions about careers and distinctly identify what complemented our aptitudes most. The day was exceptionally informative, and enjoyable, with many veteran teachers reflecting on the mischiefs of those students in the past, creating an atmosphere of nostalgia and laughter.

The Careers Fair grows at an exponential rate, and this year the success was reaped by all upper seniors. It will continue to grow along with the developing Alumni network, allowing the school to benefit from excellent careers advice from our very own students. Special thanks to the Alumni Committee and Ms Maharaj who meticulously planned the event, and also the visiting Alumni, and the excellent guest speakers for their time and shared wisdom.

**Rhea Shah writes:**

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> October the Sixth form students and the S5 Students took part in The Swaminarayan School's annual Careers Fair, which was organized by the Alumni Committee and Ms Maharaj.

The day started off with a presentation from a well-known motivational speaker, who spoke to us giving the right mind set in order for us to succeed in the career we are going to pursue in the future. We got to take a closer look at what some of the fields entail and what we require to get into our desired universities.

After the talk as a large group, we were split into small sub-groups where we had the opportunity to meet different professionals who spoke about their jobs and why they chose to work in that field. The variety of fields included was Accounting, Media, Beauty, Medicine, Law, etc. I went to the talks on Marketing and Pharmacy. This was very helpful for me as it strengthened my desire to be a genetic councilor in the future. I learned many different things not only about the career but about how to get into universities and how the profession may affect other parts of my life, for example, social and family life. Although completely different, both these professions had many of the same transferable skills. For example, in the medical field, you have to have good interpersonal skills and know how to work well with different people and this is true for most other professions including marketing. Overall the day was extremely useful to both the 6<sup>th</sup> Form and the S5 students.

**YEAR 11 GCSE DRAMA EXAMS SCHEDULE - Mr Benny writes:**

Only six days to go before Year 11's examined performance. Here is an updated schedule for staff and parents' diaries:

SUNDAY 6<sup>th</sup> December GCSE Drama rehearsals (Year 11 actors): 9.30am – 4pm

TUESDAY 8<sup>th</sup> December: DRESS REHEARSALS and Tech Crew: ALL DAY P1-6  
*including* and IF NEEDED: 4-5.30pm

WEDNESDAY 9<sup>th</sup> December P1-4 *including*: EXAMINED PERFORMANCE and Tech Crew: p1-4 *incl.* Years 9 & 10 GCSE Actors serve as audience.

TECH CREW: Ananya Nath and Rhea Vekaria (lighting/sound) and Akhil Bhargava (camera)

**Reports December 2015 – Dr Chouder writes:**

December 2015 Reports for Senior School students will be sent online instead of paper based reports. To access reports online go to: [www.schoolbase online.biz](http://www.schoolbase online.biz) and enter the following details:

**Domain:** Swaminarayan

**Username and Password:** supplied via email by Bibi in the school office.

If you need details to access reports online to be sent (new students) or resent, please contact Bibi in the school office. Reports will be available online from 11<sup>th</sup> December 2015.

**Learn to serve****Think**

We brush our teeth every morning to make sure that they are clean and we don't get bad breath! We take a bath to make sure that we are clean and our friends don't run away from us holding their noses. We eat to make sure we remain strong and healthy. We live in a house so that we are protected from the cold and the heat of the sun. Your parents go to work so that they can provide you with all the basic things you need to survive. Everything we do, we do to make sure that our bodies enjoy the best that life can offer. If we were to get out of our bodies, we wouldn't need to work, brush our teeth, wash, eat, live in a house or use a car to get us places. We live our lives to serve our bodies.

**Feel**

If we learn to serve our needs well then we will have the best comforts that life can provide. It is the first lesson that we all have to learn: look after yourself and the world will look after itself. I once heard a story about a father who was irritated by his son while he was reading a newspaper. Frustrated, he tore up a picture of the world from a magazine into small pieces and asked his son to put it back together, expecting the puzzle to keep his son occupied for some time. The son looked at the puzzle, on the back of which was a picture of a man. He knew what the shape of the man should be and set about putting it together. Within ten minutes he went to his father with the completed puzzle. His father was surprised and asked him how he had managed to do it so quickly. The boy said, "I put the man at the back of the puzzle together and the world came together". His father smiled and hugged his son. "That's right son, the world is together if the man is together" he replied.

**Do**

If you want to build a good, happy and successful life for yourself then you will have to learn to look after yourself. Only when you are happy in your own life will you be able to contribute to society and to the rest of the world.

**Yours sincerely**

**Nilesh Manani**