

Thursday, 4th February 2016

No. 17

The Swaminarayan

Education is that which liberates

Dear Parents, Guardians, Pupils and Friends,

Theme for next week

The theme for next week is “**Think.**” I have written about it on the reverse of the newsletter.

Lasting Learning

1. Learning and memory are like “Siamese twins”.
2. The brains comprises 2% of our body weight but uses 20% of our energy.
3. The more stimuli we give our brain, the greater will be its learning capacity.
4. Repetition of the same task strengthens learning.
5. The brain is capable of learning anything and processing information quickly.
6. Our brain is highly effective and adaptive.
7. Growing a smart brain requires the exploration of alternative methods, multiple answers, critical thinking and creative insights.

Summer 2016 External Exam Entries – Mr Cotton & Dr Chouder write:

These will be sent to the Exam Boards before the half term holiday.

There are a large number of entries. Senior Students from the school will be doing exams this summer with a varying number of "separate entries" including written exams and submission of Controlled Assessments and "Cash-Ins" (where applicable) each involved.

Students should consult with their teachers where necessary about their Exam Entries. The processing of these entries has and is taking place "as we speak"!

This involves many things including discussion amongst the relevant staff, the administrative processing by myself and the final permission of the Head.

It is intended that before the entries are sent that included in the final checks, students will receive an Unofficial Schoolbase generated Entry Statement for their own information and checking.

These will also be available via the Schoolbase Online portal. To access the Entry Statement online go to: www.schoolbaseonline.biz and enter the following details:

Domain : Swaminarayan

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

On the left hand side choose the option **Pupil Exams**. **Please check these carefully when you receive them.**

It is important that the entries are sent correctly by the deadline, as any amendments after this are not guaranteed to be accepted by the Exam Boards, and even if they are, will be likely to have added considerably punitive late fees on an escalating scale.

LAMDA NEWS – Mr Benny writes:

Would parents throughout the Senior School be aware that students from Years 7, 8 and 9 will be taking their LAMDA exams towards the end of THIS EASTER term, and students taking Bronze and Gold from Years 10 and 11 will complete their exams after all GCSEs at the end of the Summer Term, which may involve some returning to the school during their academic leave. All costs will be individually invoiced. For further information or any queries please contact Mr Benny.

SIX WAYS TO SUCCESS: English/English Literature

Below are six points, through which students could achieve success in English

1. Engage in wider reading. At the higher level, read books of a more challenging nature.
2. Aim for an informed personal response to literature.
3. Focus on the language used by writers.
4. Practise speaking and listening skills regularly and thoroughly.
5. Be aware of the need for Standard English both in speech and writing.
6. Develop and expand ideas.

Shell UK Bright Ideas Challenge – Mr Cotton writes:

The Bright Ideas Challenge is a new national schools competition where up to £5,000 in prizes courtesy of Shell UK can be won by students (aged 11-14) for school STEM if they “can rise to the challenge.” The Challenges involve finding creative solutions for the Energy challenges of the Future. Indeed if I dare say, this may be something that such companies “may really want to invest in!” Participating students (a team of up to five) will need to use their creativity to devise innovative solutions. Taking part will help them develop a range of skills including problem-solving and team work. Further details may be found on the Shell website www.shell.co.uk/brightideaschallenge.

Think

Think

Most people never really think. If we learn to think properly, our minds have a limitless capacity to create new and ingenious solutions to any problem that we are likely to face in our lives.

Feel

The quality that separates the outstanding student from the average student is their capacity to think, analyse, evaluate and examine a question from a very individual and unique point of view. This ability enables them to look at a question and quickly arrive at an answer. It becomes more and more relevant the further you climb up the education ladder. The questions you will be asked will not just be about presenting facts but they will force you to look at charts or graphs and digest information in a passage and provide an answer. It is a skill that also becomes more relevant at work the higher you climb up the levels of the company. While the workers in a factory perform repetitive tasks, the manager is paid to think and make decisions. It means gathering information from all available sources, studying it and arriving at a solution or plan of action. People who generate ideas and provide solutions to problems are valued by companies because it is ideas which enable companies to grow and stay ahead of the competition.

Do

Scientific research has shown that people only use 10% of their brain. The other 90% is lying dormant waiting to be brought into use. The more you train yourself to think, the greater your chances of growing as a person and fulfilling your ambition in life. You must have noticed that the students who get the highest marks in the class also know how to concentrate and have a great attitude to work!

Yours sincerely,

Nilesh Manani