

The Swaminarayan

Education is that which liberates

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Dear Parents, Guardians, Pupils and Friends,

Theme for this week

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

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.

S1 Induction Afternoon

All new entrants to next year’s Senior 1 will have their first informal induction into the life of the Senior School on Monday 29th June 2015. The afternoon will begin at 2.30 pm and finish by 4 pm. All the parents who have accepted places will have received a separate letter from me informing them about the afternoon.

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 arrangement for food and drinks. As always, it promises to be an exciting day of competitions between the three houses.

The Tutorial System

We carried out a review of our change from the Form to the Tutor system after having had it in place for this year. Everyone agrees that the time the tutors and their tutees have together has allowed them to form a strong bond. As a consequence, the pupils are more settled, more aware of the responsibilities they have, more together and more focused. Many parents have commented how invaluable the Thursday meetings have proved when they have been able to discuss the progress, strength and weaknesses of their children and together find a way to improve. I have included the standards we try to uphold in the school so that you are all aware of the aspirations we have; together we will certainly help the pupils to achieve enormous progress in all aspects of their development.

I have a dream – Martin Luther King – Ria Mehta (S5)

I’m sure we all remember that lesson where we learnt about Martin Luther King and what an inspiration he was and still is. I think when I did learn about him I didn’t realise how meaningful his words were because in my head I was really just counting down the minutes until I was allowed to go home. As I’m sure everyone has read the extract that was in the last newsletter, Martin Luther King’s dream is still applicable today. He dreamt of a world where there was equality and freedom for all and yet around 50 years later there’s still so much discrimination. It’s something we have to think about because as the human race, can we really say that we’re better than what we were before? In some ways, yes, we can identify right from wrong clearer now and people are opening their eyes to the injustices around the

world. That said, in the same way we aren't really better, even though we recognise the injustice not much happens about it and there are still times when situations are grey because it's not always black and white. I think that it really is incredible how we are still trying to make a change because of this one remarkable man. It's a great example for us because we should strive to make that kind of a change and we all have it in us. I hope we all think about our own dreams and make them count.

Our Standards for Tutors

The tutorial system is designed to ensure that students at TSS receive the finest support: mentally, emotionally, physically and academically throughout their time at the school. It is our belief that this support will allow our pupils to become emotionally resilient and be better prepared to cope with the pressures that an academic life inevitably brings in a highly competitive world of the 21st Century. Upon entry each student will be allocated a tutor who will look after ALL their emotional, personal, social, health, education and achievement. In effect they will serve as in loco parentis while the student is at school. Tutors will remain with their tutees until the students complete their GCSEs.

At A Level, the tutors guiding the students require different skills and hence the tutors allocated for the sixth form will all have been experienced and trained in providing this very specific kind of support. This includes preparing students for a life after school, applying to university, writing the personal statement, financial management, preparing for interview, careers guidance and taking charge of their life after school.

Preamble

- Each year will have three tutors belonging to one of the three houses.
- The year groups will be distributed equally between the three houses.
- This will generate in-house competition between the three houses which will prepare them to learn in an environment where overcoming challenges and competition becomes part of their daily life in the school.
- This will make our students emotionally more resilient and enable them to better cope with the pressures of competition and examinations.
- In addition to the scheduled whole school assemblies, there will also be several House assemblies during the year.

All tutors will report to their Heads of Houses for issues pertaining to their tutees. There will be one scheduled meeting with the Heads of Houses per week with all the tutors.

Morning

1. Tutors are reminded they are first and foremost one of the most important role models for the students – the standards you set in your own discipline, dress, manners and work will be reflected in the students you guide.
2. You are, therefore, required to dress smartly at all times as stated in the rules and regulation of TSS.

3. You should be punctual for your morning registration at 8.15 am to the room allocated.
4. You should accompany them to the assembly. Making sure at all times that they are well behaved throughout the journey.
5. You will be responsible for their proper behaviour in the assembly hall, ensuring that they are silent at all times. This will also apply to assemblies in the school. You are not required to accompany them back to their first lesson when they are released from the assembly.

End of Day Registration

1. You are reminded that your prime function is to instil discipline, provide support and encouragement to your tutees.
2. You should make sure everyone arrives on time.
3. You should take the registration and make sure it is delivered to the office at the end of the registration.
4. You should check all their diaries and make sure they have all noted down the homework for the day. Since you will have students of the same age, house and year, you will very easily be able to identify weaknesses in any child not keeping their diaries accurately.
5. You should ask them if they have had any successes/problems. You should praise them for achieving merits, and discuss the problems and ensure that it is sorted out by the end of the next day. You should inform the student who has raised the concern about what action you have taken.
6. If a note needs to go home, you should use the diary to communicate with the parents/guardians.
7. If a parent has written a note in the diary, you should make sure you deal with it and respond within 24 hours of the note being received.

Schedule of activities with tutees

Monday:	Reading of theme of the week
Tuesday morning reg:	Presentation from Inspiring Students' Guide and CD
Tuesday end of day:	Registration, followed by meeting between Heads of Houses and Tutors
Wednesday:	Registration and mid-week evaluation
Thursday:	Registration followed by Meetings with individual tutees to assess their progress, support required, completion and monitoring of targets
Friday:	Registration, inspection of diaries, signature.

Take measured risks

Think

Every time you do something you take risks. Taking risks is part of life and the more you try something you have never done before, the more challenges you face and the greater will be your chance of accomplishing something extraordinary. Nothing in this world was achieved by people who capitulated at the first sign of problem. You can reduce your chances of failure if you learn to take measured risks. When you want to go somewhere you would never do so without planning the journey. You would find out the address, look up the map and check if the destination can be reached by using public transport or whether it is easier to drive there. If you are driving you would plan the journey on your Sat Nav. Yet there is a risk in your journey; you might have an accident; the car, train or bus may break down; but it should not prevent you from making the journey because if any of these things happen there are alternative solutions to overcoming them. You will be careful throughout the journey, be watchful of all the hazards, traffic conditions, pedestrians crossing, etc. You may get to your destination late, but you will get there.

Feel

The same applies to anything you want to do, achieve, make or build. If the plan is well thought out, all the risks are carefully considered and alternative solutions planned for and you have sought advice from the right people then there is a good chance you will achieve what you set out to.

Do

Risks become increasingly higher when you try to do something that no one has ever done before. Mount Everest was not climbed at the very first attempt but each time people learned from their experience and others found better ways to overcome them and eventually the summit was reached. Dutch teenager Laura Dekker would not have become the youngest person to sail solo around the world had she not trained for all the difficulties she would have to overcome. Thinking about the possible problems before you begin your task and preparing or training for it is as important as planning for it. This is called taking measured risks. By so doing you increase the chances of success.

Yours sincerely,

Nilesh Manani