

Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> January 2017

No. 14

# The Swaminarayan

**EDUCATION IS THAT WHICH LIBERATES**

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

We hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and New Year break, and feel rejuvenated to begin the hard work that will inevitably be required over the rest of the academic year, as the 6<sup>th</sup> Form students will already have discovered, starting with the Mock examinations.

**Tuesday Staff Training Day was devoted entirely to discussing the progress and predicted GCSE and A Level grades of Seniors 4, 5 and 6. This is an extremely important process since all of them are going to be writing external examinations this summer. With four months to go before they all face their first examination, it gives them and us a chance to iron out the finer points of improving and attaining the higher grades. I am sure many of their tutors will speak to them about it over the next few weeks.**

**Theme for next week**

The theme for next week is **“Do Your Best.”** I have written about it at the end of the newsletter.

**Entrance Examinations**

As you are aware, the Senior 1 Entrance Examinations will be held on Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> January 2017 in the morning. There are SEVEN competitive scholarships on offers. Parents of pupils in Year 6 will already have received a letter from me regarding the organization of the day.

**The Power of Words...** As we begin the New Year, I want to highlight the often neglected face of education, based on research, an excellent grasp of the very specific language for each subject, which becomes increasingly more significant as we progress through the ages and tackle more and more challenging topics.

## Our Language

**“Better grasp of a language will enable us to be more persuasive and since each subject has its own language, its mastery is imperative if we are to succeed in examinations.”**



**S1 Parents' Consultation Evening**

The first Parents' Consultation Evening for Senior 1 pupils will take place next Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> January 2017 between 4.30-7.00 pm in the Yogi Hall. All the parents will have an opportunity to meet their child's subject teachers including the House Tutors, who meet the pupils twice per day and keep a very careful eye on their welfare, progress and achievements.

### **S5 Parents' Consultation Evening**

Since S5 are in a crucial year, they have two consultation evenings. The second meeting will take place on Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> January 2017 between 4.30-7.00 pm in the Yogi Hall. As always all the parents will have an opportunity to meet their child's subject teachers including the House Tutors. This is an ideal opportunity to review their progress and performance after the Mock Examinations last term.

### **Meetings with Tutors**

As parents were made aware during the Parents' Induction at the beginning of the year, all pupils have at least one meeting with their tutors to review their performance and progress during the term. These meetings are pre-arranged and all parents have been informed about them by the tutors. It is our hope that this will allow the parents to be present with their child in the meeting. They are crucial, if we are to ensure, the right support is given to all the pupils in the school. Your presence in these meetings is also crucial to the motivation of the child and I hope you will make every endeavor to be present.

### **Instrumental Lessons – Mr Oza writes:**

As you may be aware, instrumental lessons for piano, drums, flute, guitar and violin are offered by peripatetic teachers at the school. All lessons will be starting from this week and next week. Parents who want to enroll their child/ren for these lessons should complete the application form and return it to me by the end of next week, **Friday 13th January 2017**. Please note that these lessons are offered during school hours with an organised time table so your child/ren will not miss the same lessons more than once or twice in the whole term. This is the case in every school for peripatetic music teachers.

### **Do your best**

#### **Think**

Throughout my teaching career I have come across so many students who have risen from the bottom of their class at age eleven to near the top by the time they are sixteen. Many have not been the most gifted children in life and have found studying hard, and many have come from under-privileged family backgrounds. Yet they have all possessed one important quality: they have had a deep inner desire to do their best.

#### **Feel**

While others have chosen to take the easy path and given up when things became tough, they have striven hard and persevered until they have understood what was being taught to them. I have seen them grow up over several years and seen them working away in libraries, when I go on my daily walks around the school, with a pile of books spread in front of them. I have seen them working with their friends to find an answer to a difficult question. When things have become difficult they have approached their teachers asking for help, often sitting with them in their free lessons while others have sat in common rooms aimlessly chatting. At times they have appeared lonely but when asked they have always assured me that they are really fine. When the moment has called they have delivered the best results and many have gone onto study medicine, dentistry and engineering at some of the finest universities.

#### **Do**

You don't need to be the most gifted person to create the most wonderful life for yourself. What you need to do is deliver the very best that you can in anything you take on in life. I always tell students that God always helps those who learn to help themselves. Never take the easy route or follow the crowd to be popular.

**Yours sincerely,**

**Nilesh Manani**