

The Swaminarayan

Education is that which liberates

Dear Parents, Guardians, Pupils and Friends,

Theme for the week

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

Study Leave

Seniors 4, 5 and 6 will be on Study Leave for the external examinations from Monday, 16th May 2016. While this week will be the last official week of lessons for the Upper Six, I will announce the dates for the return of Seniors 4 and L6 after consultation with the staff although Senior 5 will return for the Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award assessment scheduled from the 7th-9th July 2016, an ideal time because all the examinations will have ended by then.

Parents should note that all the pupils on Study Leave are very welcome to come and revise in the school. This year we will not be using the library as a venue for Sixth Form examinations, so it will be available to pupils for revision. They may also see the teachers for extra help although they will need to make an appointment with them because they will all be on invigilation duty from Monday, 16th May 2016.

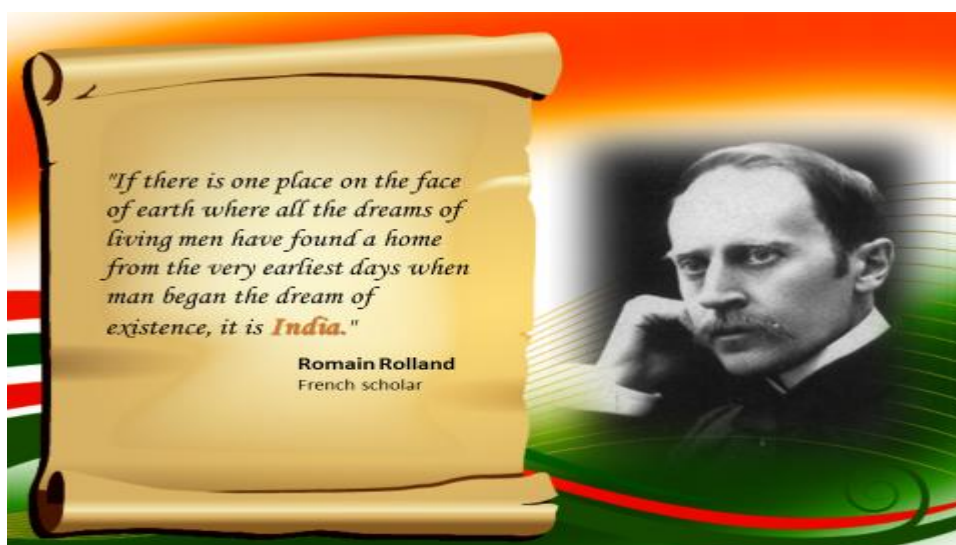
Vote of Rachna Vyas!

One of our former student, Rachna Vyas, has been shortlisted in a group of 20 students for a \$10K Scholarship in USA, for which she was required to write an essay. Before she can be awarded the scholarship, however, the rules require people to vote for her. We need the entire Swaminarayan School family to vote for her so that she can win this scholarship. Below is the web link where you can vote and read her essay. May I request everyone to vote for Rachna by visiting the site at:

<http://lawpreview.barbri.com/scholarship-finalists/>

Wisdom of India 4

This week a thought from a French scholar, Romain Rolland, on the *Wisdom of India*, so that our children can appreciate the strong sense of who we are, where we come from and the values inherent in our culture.



The Upper Six Class of 2016...

When an Upper Six group leaves it is emotionally more difficult than the departure of pupils at any other time in the school. The departure of this year's Upper Six is no less so. Many of them have been in the school since their nursery days; many have joined the school at the beginning of their senior years from other schools; and a few even at the beginning of their Sixth Form studies from Africa and India. It has been a pleasure to watch them grow over the years into mature young adults.

Neel Gajjar	Raksha Jain	Tej Master	Asha Patel
Dristi Patel	Monika Patel	Shivaani K Patel	Aditya Vachaspati
Eeshaan Verma	Jai Bhatt	Abbeynaya Lawrence	Aneeka Patel
Dhaval Patel	Vandan Patel	Aditya Venugopal	Monique Amin
Vishali Pala	Akanksha Patel	Bhavin Patel	Yogesh Patel
Jainee Shah			

There is variety in the depth of talents they have, in the backgrounds they come from, their kindness to others, their charitable natures, their service to the community and our own pupils in the Preparatory School. We have all been very impressed with the leadership they have shown in every aspect of the school life – from the way they have taken charge of their duties, to the way they have led the Senior School Council, generating many new initiatives and ideas in the process, not forgetting the leadership of the Mentor Groups, where they pass on the wisdom of their many years of experience to the younger students.

Academically, I have no doubt that they will all surpass their potential, several will get A* grades in their examinations, a few might even achieve all A* grades! While all may not be equally talented, one thing I must give them credit for is their dedicated approach to their studies throughout their years in the school. I have often seen them working together in their special Sixth Form block, in our resourceful library, and even discovering a few in the many quiet corners of the school. You will be glad to learn that ALL the students have received multiple offers, with many from the prestigious Russell Group of universities. It is so pleasing for everyone when this happens because it is what we aspire for every child who joins the school. If there was one unique quality I had to identify in our school, it would be the diligence with which our pupils and teachers approach external examinations. This unique blend of pupil willingness and teacher support is invaluable to the success we achieve at both GCSE and A Level, with many far exceeding their potential.

I am indeed very proud of all of them. They have shown the way for many children younger than them; they have set an example for which the school and their parents can be truly proud of; they have stretched the boundaries beyond those set by previous years; and they have, at all times got on with each other, a quality that has allowed them to get on with what they are seriously here to achieve. I am also proud of their involvement in the whole life of the school, for this has allowed them to develop in areas which academic studies alone does not allow a child to do. Our special thanks to our Head Girl, Jaini Shah and Head Boy, Dhaval Patel, who have led the student body from the front.

I am thankful to their parents for the continued commitment to our school. On behalf of everyone who has played a small part in their journey through the years, I wish them all well for the forthcoming A level examinations.

Senior 5

While I will not write a long essay on the Senior 5 students because I will do so when they complete their schooling at the end of the Sixth Form, I have been immensely impressed with their dedication over the last few years, and want to wish them well for their final series of GCSE examinations.

GCSE DRAMA EXAM SCHEDULE - *Mr Benny writes.....*

Really good to have your support and help, for which many thanks, especially now that S5 actors will be on the last week of rehearsals leading to their exam at 1.50pm on Thursday, 12 May. I remind S3 and S4 actors to be available as audience for P5 and P6 come next Thursday; and please, would parents of S5 actors note that their rehearsal this Sunday 8th May BEGINS AT 9.30 a.m. and will end between 3 and 4 p.m. subject to progress. PLEASE, PLEASE NO LATECOMERS!

Stop Bullying

Think

Bullying is a problem in most schools. Bullying can be verbal if you are told by others that you are no good and lowest of the low in society. It can also be physical, emotional, or sexual. Bullies will use any means at their disposal to abuse their victims, be it through texts, e-mails or social networking sites. Bullies isolate their victims and start all sorts of false rumours that will cause a lot of emotional grief.

Feel

Cyber-bullying has caused a lot of misery to a lot of children all over the world, and in some serious cases has led to the victims committing suicide. You will find many of these stories on YouTube. Cyber-bullying is illegal and a criminal offence and there are means by which the bullies can be caught. Every time somebody makes a call from a mobile phone, the number is recorded by the network provider even if the caller withholds their number. The police can gain access to these records and track the person making the call.

Do

<http://www.bullying.co.uk> is a very useful website for all victims of bullying. It gives advice on all forms of bullying, with how best to approach the problem. The most important point to learn is you must not suffer the problem on your own. Schools have bullying policies and will have many different types of strategies to help you. You must report any form of persistent bullying to a responsible member of staff such as your Form or Class teacher. If you find approaching them difficult, you must tell your parents or a close friend. If you are a victim of bullying, tell someone you trust and speak to them about what is happening. Help is at hand and you will receive support, though sometimes it can take time. Get your parents involved early. Allowing the bullying to continue will only make your life a misery; you could suffer depression, become aloof, and lose faith in life and living. **You are a child of this world and you have every right to live a happy life. Seek help early on if you become a victim of any form of bullying.**

Yours sincerely,

Nilesh Manani