

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 “**Prepare for Competition.**” I have written about it in the back of the newsletter.

The Upper Six Class of 2015...

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 had 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. It has been a pleasure to watch them grow over the years into mature young adults.

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 in the assemblies to the way they have led the Senior School Council, generating many new initiatives and ideas in the process, not forgetting the Mentor Group Sessions, where they pass on the wisdom of 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 almost all the students have received multiple offers, with many from the prestigious Russell Group of universities, including Oxford, Imperial, LSE and UCL. We have several students who have for the first time received unconditional offers even before they have completed their A Levels. 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, as confirmed by the ALIS and MidYIS tests from Durham University.

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; 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 Girls, Nishta Parekh and Sheena Chandarana and Head Boys, Kushal Upadhyaya and Vatsal Patel, who have led the student body from the front. Tania Aubeelack, Tushar Baratam, Sachin Bhojani, Sheena Chandarana, Krishna Chauhan, Bhavin Depala, Aashna Fadia, Mayur Gami, Anmol Grover, Harshik Hirani, Harshil Hirani, Ramtin Keyhani, Vinay Khetia, Nishta Parekh, Avnit Patel, Bharat Patel, Deep Patel, Naomi Patel, Priyanka Patel, Saurabh Patel, Surajkumar Patel, Vatsal Patel, Gauranga Purohit, Dilan Rabadiya, Rohit Rajkotia, Amar Ram, Kushal Upadhyaya, Samanta Zahir.

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.

Tackle Bullies – Ria Mehta (S5) writes...

I think I should start this by apologising, I know that not everyone enjoyed Ronan's piece. It didn't really scream 'quality content' and I could've mentioned something else. However, we should focus on this week's theme which happens to be about bullying. This is such a serious subject and I don't think we ever consider how bullying actually affects someone. We always believe that it's a one-time thing or that 'yeah, well they're always like that' or 'they mean it as a joke! You need to calm down!' or 'it's your fault for annoying them,' this isn't something we should be saying as it enables the bully to carry on what they're doing and it makes us a part of the problem. It doesn't matter if it's a joke because it's hurting someone. It doesn't matter that they're always like this because that's not a good enough excuse to hurt someone. Getting annoyed is never an excuse for taking it out repeatedly on someone. If you are getting bullied you should talk to your teacher or someone you trust. On a lighter note it's the last week before study leave so I wish everyone the best of luck for their exams! Don't forget to revise your PEEL paragraphs.

The Leadership Team – Ms Maharaj writes:

Over the past three weeks, Sixth formers in the leadership team have been delivering a number of presentations to the senior school students. We started with the topic of 'Stress' – what it is, how it is caused and ways in which it can be dealt with. The following week, we moved onto 'Fear and Courage' which focused more on the social side of stress – playground problems and peer pressure, something that we have all experienced. In the final week, we explored the dreadful concept of revision.

It was a new and daunting experience for all of us, as it was difficult for us to keep the students entertained and required us to accommodate our presentation to their age. The final week was a surprise as we all were swapped around year groups. This was challenging as most of us had become quite comfortable with our original allocated year groups. All in all, the Sixth formers agree that this opportunity gave us a chance to develop many skills – time management, presentation delivery and most importantly, confidence.

Thank you to Mr Manish Bakhda for supporting us through this. Another thank you to Nisha Mavani, Krupa Vyas, Yukta and Nisha Beshardas for accompanying us during the sessions. Finally, a huge thank you on behalf of the leadership team to Mrs Achala Odhavji for organising this project for us and for all the time she has dedicated to turning our weaknesses into strengths over the past year. We have had the chance to reflect and refine our personal skills as a result of this and we appreciate all the effort that has gone into this.

Boys PE News – Mr Worth writes:

The cricket season has got off to a positive start for TSS with the Year 8 team progressing to the 2nd round of the Middlesex Cup versus Salvatorian College. With the weather preventing the match to be played outside the indoor format was used to ensure the boys got a game prior to the deadline. Panav Patel top scored with an IPLesque 68 including 8 sixes and TSS had a total of 108 to defend. There was opportunity for a number of the boys to have a chance with the ball in

hand and runs were not easy to come by for the travelling opposition. Henil Premgi took a Hat-trick wicket maiden from his 2nd over, while Raghav Ahluwalia and Nishit Soni also showed good variation to take 2-10 and 4-4 respectively, and see off SC for 78 runs. They now go through to the second round next week where they will play against Twyford CE.

Dates for the diary - Where possible we aim to give the boys as much notice as possible regarding fixtures, however these can vary from time to time depending on cup deadlines, etc.

May (Cricket unless stated otherwise)

Monday 11th Year 7's Vs Kingsbury @ KHS

Tuesday 12th Year 8 Brent Athletics @ Willesden Sports Centre

Wednesday 13th Year 8 Vs Wembley High @ TSS

Thursday 14th Year 7 Brent Athletics @ Willesden Sports Centre

Friday 15th Year 7 and 8 Football Vs Avanti House @ Krishna Avanti School

Monday 18th - Friday 22nd - No afterschool trainings or matches due to exam week

Prepare for Competition

Think

The minute you walk onto a football pitch you are in competition with the opposition. When you are on the athletic track, on the badminton or tennis court, in the classroom, or when writing examinations, you are always competing. Competition is part of life and the sooner you get used to it the better prepared you will be to face it.

Feel

When you grow older and apply for a course at college or university, you will be in competition with the other applicants and only the best candidates will get through. When you apply for a job, you will not be the only applicant, and the quality of your application will decide whether you are selected for interview. Even at the interview you will be questioned and compared with the other candidates. Yet you can prepare for the competition. The team that wins will be the team that is most prepared, best trained and knows the strengths and weaknesses of both each other and the opposition. The candidate who gets the job will be the person who is most knowledgeable about the job and has researched the company thoroughly. Their application will be carefully written and they will put on a polished performance at the interview.

Do

Preparation is the key to overcoming adversity and winning. If you want to be a great sportsperson you must train hard and work with the best coaches. If you want to achieve success in your education, study hard and seek help from your teachers, and if you want to go to the best universities make sure you get the best grades and understand what the entry requirements are. If you want to work for the best company, make sure you research them thoroughly and prepare well for the interview. People fail because they don't prepare; preparation will increase your chances of success by tenfold.

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Yours sincerely,

Nilesh Manani