

# The Swaminarayan

**EDUCATION IS THAT WHICH LIBERATES**

Dear Parents, Guardians, Pupils and Friends,

## Theme for next week

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

## S4 & 5 Parents’ Meeting

Your child is entering a very important year of their education. We have therefore organised a meeting next week for you and your child to ensure that all of them achieve their full potential in the GCSE examinations of summer 2017. The meeting will take place in the Yogi Hall on Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> September 2016 at 4.30 pm. This is an important meeting and will make a difference to the final achievement of your child. We would like all the parents and pupils in Senior 4 and 5 to be present for the meeting.

## S3 Parents’ Meeting

As S3 begin their GCSEs, we would like to invite all the parents for a meeting on Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> September 2016 in the Yogi Hall at 4.30 pm. This is an important meeting and we would like all the pupils and parents to attend.

## Dhruvi Patel’s visit to USA for the Global Young Leaders Conference this summer

18th July. The last of six annual Global Young Leaders Conferences’ started. Now this may sound very intimidating and educational but I assure you it was the perfect balance of a social and an academic encounter. For ten days, 225 of us "scholars" attended speaking events by prestigious speakers such as Ms. Angelica Silvero, who is the Head of the World Bank Speakers Bureau, visited historical sites such as the holocaust museum and took part in two simulations. It was said that the combination of these three could help one develop as a person and allow you to understand yourself better. This is true. I found that the simulations were the most effective as it put you in realistic situations where you realise the importance of articulation, debating and patience. The simulation permitted you to experience what it is like to work in and be a member of the United Nations. Other than the educational side, the second most important thing was the friends you make there. I met people from over 20 different countries in one



place and got a chance to talk to most of them. It was an amazing experience as everyone is of a similar age to you and you learn a lot about the differences and similarities between countries and their cultures. Aside from taking part in debates and making great friends, the last memorable activity was visiting tourist attractions such as Times Square, China Town and The White House.

### **LAMDA Results - Mr Benny writes...**

WE are pleased to announce the LAMDA EXAM results for 2016 involved 73 successful candidates attaining either *a pass, a merit or a distinction*.

There were 14 GOLD medals won, including 10 students gaining *Merit and Distinction*, and 25 students gaining BRONZE medals. S1 and S2 gained 34 *passes and merits at Level 5 and 4*.

Although we overtook the results in 2015 to gain an overall 75% success rate, our aim is still to reach a 100% pass rate. To this end, we will be holding our next LAMDA exam at the end of the Spring term, thus avoiding the GCSE pressures of Summer. It is also crucial that all participants prepare their chosen poems and prose extracts well in advance, as well as becoming au fait with the 6 to 8 pages of 'Knowledge' (i.e. theory) the LAMDA syllabus involves.

### **HISTORY AND DRAMA STUDENTS: DATES AHOY REMINDER! Mr Benny & Miss Guly write...**

A reminder: S4 AND S5 STUDENTS will be attending a matinee performance of a dramatic adaptation of George Orwell's *1984* on Wednesday, the 21<sup>st</sup> September. Attendance is compulsory, especially for those students taking GCSE Drama, for whom the play is one of their set texts for examination. Further details will be announced in next week's newsletter concerning travel and times of return.

At the end of term, on Tuesday 6 December, S5 GCSE Drama students will be performing their first exam for Unit 1 (Devised Play). S4 and S3 students of Drama will comprise the audience.

### **Brother and Sisters**

#### **Think**

This week I wish to speak to you about your brothers or sisters. Rivalry between siblings is common. Living in the same family as you do, you will inevitably step on each other's toes, encroach upon the other's space and want something that the other has or tease each other. At times you may dislike each other. Yet you should all know that you are more alike than you would like to believe; you have the same parents, the same genes and the same blood that flows through your veins. Maybe it is because you are so alike that you find it so difficult to get along, or is it that familiarity with each other makes you dislike each other so much? Either way, one day when you are older and your parents are no longer there to resolve your differences, and you are lonely and have no one else to turn to but your sibling, you will see that there is no greater friend than your brother or sister.

#### **Feel**

It is a bond that was sealed from the moment you were born, gave your first cry and introduced yourself to the family! At that moment they probably embraced you without question and it is this love, the love between a brother and a sister, between a brother and a brother and between a sister and a sister without question is something you will not get anywhere else. Your love for your siblings is pure, because in between all the strife, you have been giving it since you were born and you do not ask for anything in return. That love is rare, and no one can come between love that is so selfless, because after living together for so many years you will know each other so well, and the bond between you will be so strong that no one can, or will be able to create a rift if you choose not to allow them.

#### **Do**

Treasure that bond with your siblings always, put the silliness behind you, forgive and forget and your parents will be so proud that they have such fine children. I have read somewhere that a family that eats together, plays together and prays together, stays together.

**Yours sincerely**

**Nilesh Manani**