

The Swaminarayan

Education is that which liberates

Dear Parents, Guardians, Pupils and Friends,

Theme for next week

The theme for the week after half-term is “**The Olympic Motto.**” I have written about it on the back of the newsletter.

Half-term

The half-term holidays will be from Monday, 13th to Friday, 17th February 2017. All the staff and pupils return to school on Monday, 20th February 2016 as normal. Everyone should note that the school is open during the half-term. Any pupil attending extra lessons must sign in at the office.

University Offers and UCAS Tariff Points

As we draw near to the completion of this year’s cycle of university applications, it will be useful to reflect on the changes taking place in university offers and UCAS Tariff points. Each grade at AS and A Level is allocated a number of points which universities use when making conditional offers to students. While in most cases universities will specify the grades students should attain to gain entry to their chosen course, some universities will specify the UCAS points they will accept. These are the UCAS tariff points allocated to each grade at A Level: A*(56), A (48), B (40), C (32), D (24) and E (16). At AS Level: A (20), B (16), C (12), D (8) and E (4). You can read more about it on the attached fact sheets from UCAS. No tariff points are allocated to GCSE subjects.

LAMDA AND DRAMA UPDATES: Years 7-12 – Mr Benny writes:

LAMDA – Exams take place at TSS throughout 28th, 29th and 30th March, involving students from all years entering at their chosen level. The fees involved:

Grade 4: £51.50. Grade 5: £56. Grade 6 (Bronze): £66.50 Grade 7 (Silver): £72.50 and Grade 8 (Gold): £82.50. We’d be grateful if parents would help test their son/daughter on their lines which must be word-perfect by their return to TSS after the half-term break.

DRAMA GCSE UNIT 2 EXAM - Would parents note that the exam for Year 11 (with Years 10 and 9 actors serving as audience) has been moved to Friday 5th May, 9 a.m. There will be a dress and tech rehearsal throughout Thursday 5th May which may end at 5/6 p.m. subject to progress.

ISA DRAMA COMPETITION: Year 9 GCSE actors. Please remember that there will be an all-day rehearsal on Sunday 19th March, 9.30 a.m. until 3/4pm – subject to progress. The performance itself takes place at Ascot on Saturday 25th March early morning, so we will be leaving TSS at 7 a.m. that day. There will be after school tech and dress rehearsals on the 23rd and, if need be, the 24th March, but I will keep you posted as to times.

The Power of Words

1. To live without constantly expanding our knowledge is to close our eyes both to the purpose and to the facts of life;
2. Remember that your language is the one thing you cannot hide - except by silence;

3. Your ability to use your language and the extent of your vocabulary will determine your income and your future;
4. Remember that finishing school is just the beginning of your days and years of learning. With learning will come wisdom, kindness, patience, love, understanding and success as a person; and,
5. It is never too late to begin!

Six Ways to Revise: Mathematics

The best six ways to revise for Mathematics are listed below, written by experienced teachers.

1. Learn the times-tables up to 15.
2. Practise calculations without a calculator.
3. Show written working.
4. Revise by actively 'doing' not just 'reading'.
5. Explain your method of working to a friend.
6. Check whether the answer is sensible when you have finished.

The Olympic Motto

Think

The Olympic motto is 'Citius, Altius, Fortius'. These three Latin words mean 'Swifter, Higher, Stronger'. Baron de Coubertin borrowed the motto from Father Henri Martin Didon, the headmaster of Arcueil College in Paris who used the motto to describe the great achievements of the athletes at his school. Coubertin felt it could be used to describe the goals of great athletes all over the world and it became the Olympic motto.

As we all know, the athletes who win the three Olympic medals are the best in the event at the time. The motto doesn't say 'Swiftest, Fastest, Strongest', so being the best isn't given the same importance as taking part. The real competition isn't against the other athletes, it is against ourselves to get ready for such an event.

Feel

Life is really like that too, and our greatest battle is with ourselves in our daily tasks:

- Making sure that we get up every morning
- Working hard and doing our best in anything we do
- Rising up when things are not going our way
- Constantly challenging ourselves
- Looking for ways of improving
- Making the best of whatever circumstances we confront

The list is really endless, and at the end of it all our lives become what we set out to achieve, so don't look for the easy way down the well-trodden path.

Do

If you can live each day to make it better than the previous, you will have tried your best and in time you too will achieve your own medals in life.

Yours sincerely,

Nilesh Manani