

Thursday, 10th December 2015

No. 12

The Swaminarayan

EDUCATION IS THAT WHICH LIBERATES

Dear Parents, Guardians, Pupils and Friends,

Theme for next week

The theme for first week back after the Christmas Holidays is “**Believe in yourself.**” I have written about it on the back of the newsletter.

Christmas Holidays

Reports will be available on Schoolbase from Friday. I believe arrangements have been made for parents of all new pupils to acquire the username and password from the office. You will know from the published calendar that whilst teachers return for staff training on Monday, 4th January 2015, pupils return on Tuesday, 5th January. The Senior School has a non-uniform day on the last day of term. Students will have to pay a £1 donation for the privilege of coming to school in their clothes. The money will go towards the Autism Society, chosen as the charity for this academic year by the Student Council.



Senior 5 Duke of Edinburgh, Friday 4th December. Navigation Day to Chalfont St. Latimer – Dhruvi Patel writes:

Another Navigation Day! Treading the paths of Chalfont and St Latimer, we were eager to complete the route we had planned days in advance. We were impatient to navigate the roads of beautiful countryside we had never been to before. Setting out at 8:30 without our heavy bags, was certainly a relief. After hopping off the mini-bus

at Chalfont and St Latimer tube station, we explored the lanes there. Despite the terror of nagging group leaders, the mud, the ambiguous signs, the spinning compasses, the steep hills, the spiders and the late lunch, which I can say, undoubtedly, was the biggest grief, we had a great time. Our navigation is improving, our walking is improving and our teamwork is getting better. Roll on the practice navigation!

All I can say is... young ones, you have a lot to look forward to.

My happy group ...before the rain, cold and cows!



Geography Fieldtrip – Yogesh Patel writes:

As I am sure you are aware the GCSEs are fast approaching, putting many of the S5 students under tremendous pressure. However, it's all under control. On the 23rd November 2015 the S5 geographers went to Epping Forest in order to gather data for the controlled



assessment, which asks us to investigate the differences between 2 or more river landforms. I have done many controlled assessments over the past 2 years and I must say... this one was different. I speak on behalf of all the people who came on the trip when I say, we actually enjoyed the day.

Unlike many other educational trips, this trip was of a practical and active nature allowing us to get our hands dirty. Literally we took soil samples from the ground using an auger for example. When we first reached Epping Forest Field Centre we were debriefed, and were given information about the various risks involved. After all the nitty gritty detail was over, we went to take soil samples of the surrounding area, giving us vital pieces of information about the geology of the environment. After this we went to our first site- the source of the River Loughton Brook (a tributary of the River Roding). Here we drew field sketches of the area and discussed the landforms from the site. This was effectively a plan of the entire day as after this we visited 3 more sites where we drew more field sketches and discussed the landforms of these 3 sites.

I must say that all the students thoroughly enjoyed the day, although we are not so fond of the writing that preceded the trip. I would like to thank Mr Pinto for organising the trip, the Epping Forest Field Centre for providing the necessities on the day and finally the caretaker for driving us to Epping Forest.



Reports December 2015 – Dr Chouder writes:

December 2015 Reports for Senior School students will be sent online instead of paper based reports. To access reports online go to: www.schoolbaseonline.biz and enter the following details:

Domain: Swaminarayan

Username and Password: supplied via email by Bibi in the school office.

If you need details to access reports online to be sent (new students) or resent, please contact Bibi in the school office. Reports will be available online from 11th December 2015.

Believe in yourself

Think

The greatest president of America failed in business in 1831. A year later he ran for state legislator but was defeated. He then started another business in 1833 but that also failed and after another ten years of hard work he ran for Congress and faced another defeat. Undaunted he tried again in 1848 and was once more defeated. Still, he did not give up and managed to run for the Senate in 1855 only to lose. His desire to serve his country was so intense that just one year later he ran for the Vice President but lost. He then ran for the Senate in 1858 and was defeated. Almost thirty years after he began his long journey to fulfil his ambition to serve his country, Abraham Lincoln was elected to become the 16th president of the United States in 1860.

Feel

Like Lincoln, you will face many difficulties in your young life when trying to achieve something. Accept it as part of life and rather than feel defeated, look at each experience as an opportunity to learn. Believe in yourself and carry on striving hard. There are no easy roads to success and everyone who has ever tried to achieve something special has faced problems, but they have never lost heart and always continued to march forward.

Do

The world is full of people who have taken chances and faced many obstacles, yet they have never given up. The world is richer because they persevered and believed in what they were trying to achieve. Eventually, they found their moment and were successful. The world would have been a poorer place if all these men and women had given up and lost self-belief at the first sign of difficulties. Believe in yourself always, never lose hope, and your chance will also come.

This has been an extremely busy term, made harder by our incessant desire to improve, which I am afraid we are unable to curb. The staff and pupils have worked extremely hard with the support of the parents. Many of you have praised the once termly chance to meet the tutors, to assess the performance of your children; the lengths we go to in driving pupils to the vast array of clubs, unwilling to accept that we should be limited by the environment and facilities of the school. I know the pupils certainly enjoy the experience of getting out once a week.

My sincere thank you to everyone, pupils, staff, parents, governors, trustees and Santos for their support and hard work this term; we look forward to receiving everyone back next year.

On behalf of all the staff, a most wonderful Christmas break and a Happy New Year.

Yours sincerely

Nilesh Manani