

Thursday, 11th February 2016

No. 18

The Swaminarayan

Education is that which liberates

Dear Parents, Guardians, Pupils and Friends,

Theme for the week after half-term

I would suggest you read the section on “The Olympic Motto” in your diaries over the half-term to understand the significance of doing your best. The theme for the week after the half-term is “**Know yourself.**” I have written about it on the reverse of the newsletter.

Half-term

The half-term holidays will be from Monday, 15th to Friday, 19th February 2016. All the staff and pupils return to school on Monday, 22nd 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.

S3 Parents’ Consultation Evening

The Parents’ Consultation Evening for Senior 3 pupils will take place on 25th February 2016 between 4.30-7.00 pm in the Yogi Hall. All the parents will have an opportunity to meet their child’s subject teachers including the House Tutors, who meet the pupils twice per day and keep a very careful eye on their welfare, progress and achievements.

S2 Options’ Afternoon on Wednesday, 24th February 2016 at 4.30 pm in the Yogi Hall

All parents with children in Senior 2 are reminded that pupils at the school choose their GCSE options this year to begin the GCSE courses next year. The meeting will begin in the Yogi Hall at 4.30 pm with a presentation about the organisation of the options. This is an important first decision for the pupils and I would like all the parents and pupils to be present.

S2 Parents’ Consultation Evening Today

The Parents’ Consultation Evening for Senior 2 pupils will take place on 3rd March 2016 between 4.30-7.00 pm in the Yogi Hall. All the parents will have an opportunity to meet their child’s subject teachers including the House Tutors, who meet the pupils twice per day and keep a very careful eye on their welfare, progress and achievements. This is also a chance to discuss the options with the teachers.

GCSE Drama Diary – Mr Benny writes:

ISA Drama Competition (Year 9, and two of Year 10*)

Half-term rehearsal Tues 16 February: 10.30am – 3.00pm

Sunday 28 February: 9.30am – 3 or 4pm (subject to progress)

Thursday 3 March: 4.10 – 5.35 p.m.

*Friday 4 March P5 and P6, + 4 to 5/6pm (subject to progress)

*Ananya + Rhea (Year 10) tech needed

*Saturday 5 March: early morning departure at 6.45 a.m. from TSS for Ascot.

Likely time of return: 1-2 p.m. PARENTS OF THE CAST are eagerly invited to attend their son or daughter’s performance. Maps will be provided.

YEAR 11 GCSE Drama Students

During the half term break, all coursework brought up to date, thoroughly proof-read, concise and articulate, and emailed to Mr Benny for feedback and correction.

CONTROLLED ASSESSMENT - Wednesday, 24th February P1 + P2 and after school, 4-6pm.

Students must bring in their laptops and an empty USB, plus their notes.

APRIL 21st and 22nd: GCSE REHEARSALS FOR UNIT 2.



Fencing



Ice Skating



Sailing



All pupils in Seniors 1-5 are involved in a variety of activities every week. These are supervised by school teachers and taught by trained external coaches. Apart from learning a new skill, it is one of the most enjoyable experiences of their time in the school.

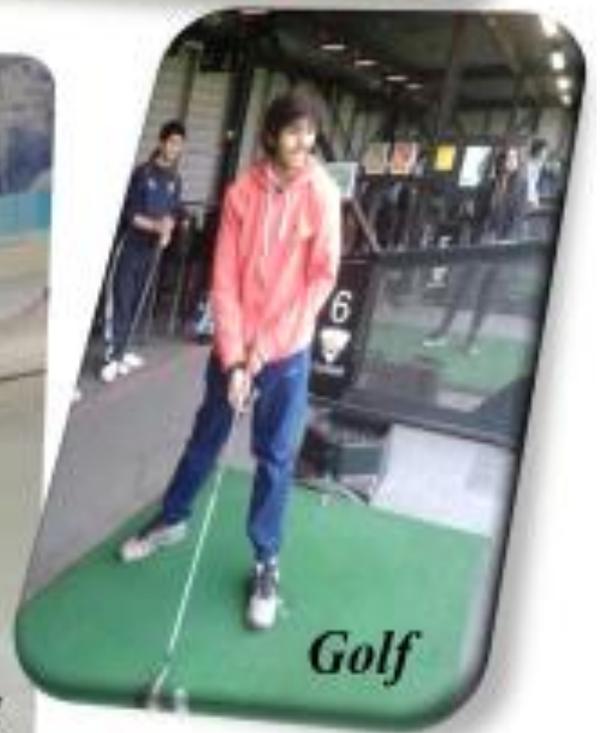
Orienteering



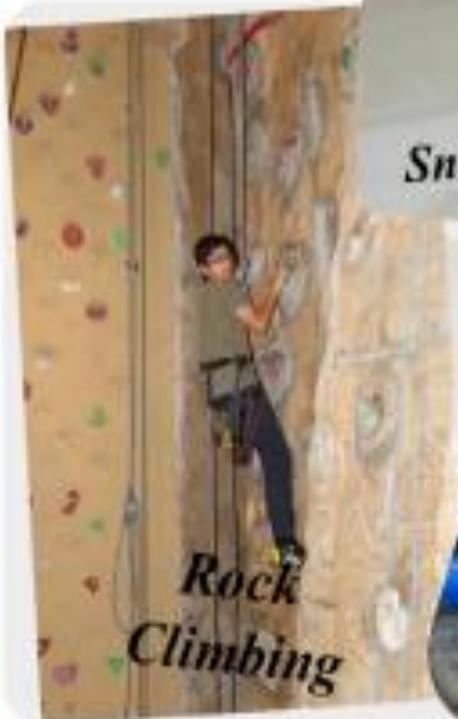
Archery



Snowboarding



Golf



Rock Climbing



Kayaking

Talent Show – Friday 12 February – L6 write:

How is it the end of half-term already? And as per tradition, the sixth form are officially ready to announce that the day is finally approaching- TALENT SHOW! We hope this will be one of the most challenging, chaotic, intense, exciting, brilliant events that the sixth form have ever done.

**SIX WAYS TO SUCCESS****Subject: Biology**

1. Practise many questions.
2. Summarising notes and diagrams.
3. Looking at notes regularly.
4. Copy diagrams – familiarise themselves with it.
5. Use a variety of resources, books, You Tube, Internet revision sites and material
6. Watch topical programmes on TV.

The Learning Brain

- Enrich: the more we use it, the better it gets.
- Feed: wheat germ, Brazil nuts and cotton seed oil but remove fatty foods.
- Hormones: girls learn better during the first half of their menstrual cycle
- Rest: Deep rest is essential for optimal performance.
- Stress and threat impair learning.
- Good feelings create a love of learning.

Know yourself**Think**

Life is such that we are constantly called upon to do things, and in so doing we never really sit down and think about what we are about because we are so busy doing what other people want us to do. If you continue on that path you will never really know what you are about as a person. You will never really find out about your strengths and weaknesses, what you are good at and what you should stay away from. In Hamlet, Polonius says, “and this above all, to thine own self be true. And it must follow as the night, the day – thou canst not then be false to any man”.

Living a good and happy life does mean getting to know yourself, and only when you do will you know what your talents and abilities are and what you are capable of achieving as a person. An honest assessment of what you are will allow you to make a clear plan for your life. It will tell you what you should get involved in and what you should stay away from.

Feel

It is no good trying to be a dancer when you have two left feet, or following an engineering career when you are no good at Physics and Mathematics. It is not difficult to find out what you are good at because as you go through your schooling you will be tested and examined many times. In time you will know which subjects you are good at and which you find challenging. You will be told to try harder and if you are a conscientious student you will put in the extra effort and improve your marks. At the same time you will learn that it is clearly a great struggle for you and you should stay well clear of that particular subject when you are given the option to choose, which in most schooling systems will be when you approach your fourteenth year. At the Swaminarayan School, this will be in Senior 2 (Year 8)!

Do

Learn to make notes about things you enjoy, and the decisions you make about your life will be so much more beneficial and accurate.

Yours sincerely,

Nilesh Manani