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The Swaminarayan

Education is that which liberates

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Dear Parents, Guardians, Pupils and Friends,

May I extend a very warm welcome to everyone after what I hope was a very relaxing Easter break. Although Senior 4, 5 and 6 will have been busy revising for the summer examinations, I hope they too found a few moments for rest and benefited from the extra classes that many teachers – to whom I must extend my sincere thanks, gave during the Easter.

Theme for this week

The theme for this week is **“Be a team player.”** I have written about it in the back of the newsletter.

External Examinations and Study Leave

I have posted a special letter to your home addresses about the start of the external examinations. Parents should receive it by the end of this week. The letter includes all the information about the arrangements for the examinations, copies of the rules and regulations governing them from JCQ. The study leave is only given to students because the vast majority of the students prefer to revise on their own at home in the silent solitude of their homes. The dates are listed in the letter and I will announce it in the newsletter nearer the time. I want to emphasise that students are allowed to come to school and revise in the library, and take advantage of the extra time with teachers to sort out any questions with the teachers; for some students it is difficult to revise alone and lapses in concentration can be costly so we will be very strict if they are in school.

Internal Examinations

Everyone should note that the internal examinations for S1-3 will be held during the week beginning 18th May 2015. The change is necessary to fit in the Speech Day (formerly Prize Day) at a later date in June, since we are not able to hold it in September due to the busy schedule of festivals and the early preparation that is required for them. This is likely to be held on the evening of 26th June 2015 if everything works out.

Ashwin Sundresh from Senior 5 makes a passionate stand against mobile phones...

More of a problem than you think. In this day and age, smartphones are the latest piece of technology. Just like a child would not be allowed to walk around with a laptop but allowed to walk around with a smartphone. A smartphone holds the same power as a desktop computer. Except for the fact that a parent can have ‘parental controls’ on a desktop computer but not on a smartphone. Every day, I see my fellow classmates use their mobile phones like oxygen. Another key problem is the screens, they are far too bright for the amount of time people look at them. Despite this being a risk to vision over longer periods of time, the phone addicts, the so called ‘modern’ youth, think that it won’t affect their eye-sight until they have to stand in a queue at Moorefield’s Eye Hospital by the age of twenty. All that the teenagers want to talk about these days is SOCIAL MEDIA. The word social is completely wrong. No person wants to talk face to face anymore because they are glued to their far too precious

screens. I hear the phrases like, “I snap-chatted so and so,” “I posted this on Instagram.” Personally, when someone gets their phone confiscated, I think the school should make the parent collect it. I now pose the question of who is to blame: Well, at the highest level, it is the technology companies such as Google, Samsung and Apple. They brainwash the users. Through the mobile phones, they bombard people with constant advertisements to download all manner of applications. People usually fall for this. Parents are able to enforce parental controls on a computer but they give their children a ‘smartphone’ without thinking that a smartphone has the power of a computer. After all, there is no use placing blame without having a solution. As a message, put down social media and put it to rest for some time. There is always more to talk about than phones and social media. Do other things, visit a new place and learn how to do something new. Not being able to cope without a mobile phone is not a good quality to possess. The time has come to change these bad ways. Contrary to popular belief, smartphones are pretty stupid.

Whole School residential Trips 2015-16

Residential and day trips are invaluable to the education experiences of our pupils and we have allowed them to take place at various times throughout the year. The organisation of the senior curriculum around subjects causes a lot of disruption to the timetable when these visits take place throughout the year. We are in the process of planning residential trips for all years during the same week on the academic year to minimise this disruption. House Tutors from all the years will be writing to you about it over the next few weeks to put the plans into action. We will try to keep the costs down so that everyone can enjoy this experience of going on a residential trip with their peers.

Prep School Prize Day 2014 DVD

Please note that the Prep Prize DVD will be available in the school office from Tuesday, 21st April at a cost of £5.

Dealing with Problems - Ria Mehta (S5)

It’s the first week back, the weather is great and I’m already behind on homework. Just kidding, I’d never leave my homework to the last minute. That would be really irresponsible of me. Dealing with problems. All of us have to face many problems and sometimes it feels like we just can’t deal with them. I think that for a lot of us most of our problems revolve around exams and finishing that one essay that needed to be handed in three months ago. All of these problems can lead to stress and overthinking small things. When you have an academic related problem it’s always best to talk to the teachers because they’re there to help you. It’s also good to prioritise certain problems which are more important and deal with them first, this way you won’t be as stressed when you get to smaller issues. There are obviously other problems such as the ones in our maths textbook but a good way to solve them would be to look at the back of the book for the answers! On a more serious note, if you do have problems just remember that you can deal with it. I’d like to add that as it was my class’ assembly today I’d like to take a moment to say how amazing they were. We really did try to get it right.

Be a team player

Think

If you are a member of a sports team you will know that the success of the team depends on the trust and support you give to each other. Your school orchestra is an ensemble of many different instruments; each produces its own beautiful sound, yet left to play on their own, they will sound like a disjointed cacophony of tunes that will not be at all pleasing to the ear. It requires a conductor to bring everyone together at just the right time and produce music

that you will want to listen. This is also true for a pop group, where the singer must sing in harmony with the beat of the drums and guitars to produce music that you will want to buy. One raindrop alone can do little harm, but when they all come together and fall relentlessly they send a torrent that will break the banks of rivers and tear everything in their path. In much the same way, it only takes a small group of thoughtful and committed people to change the world.

Feel

If you are going to succeed in your life you will need the help and support of everyone around you. Yet before they can help you, they will need to know that you are willing to participate in the game. You cannot be a bystander if you want your life to mean something. You will need to join a team who thinks like you and wants the same things. Work with them in mutual support and learn from each other, show gratitude when it is due, forgive each other when mistakes are made and make sure that they do not happen again.

Do

You are a member of the human race and you are here to contribute to the common good of mankind, something which you will not be able to do alone. The success of a company is the result of the combined efforts of all employees, and the success of a football team is the result of all the players fulfilling their role, helping and supporting each other and trusting each other when passing the ball. When they come together the passing is so fluid, the movements so graceful and the final goal inevitable. The combined effort of many brains is more powerful than the brain of a single person, so learn to be a team player. The rise to your own success will be so much easier.

Yours sincerely,

Nilesh Manani