

Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> September 2014

No. 4

# The Swaminarayan

**EDUCATION IS THAT WHICH LIBERATES**

Dear Parents, Guardians, Pupils and Friends,

## Theme for next week

The theme for next week is “Don’t be afraid”. I have written about it on the reverse of the newsletter.

**You are all invited to:  
The Swaminarayan School Open Day  
Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2015  
Time: 11am to 2.00 pm**

## Senior 5 Parents’ Consultation Evening

The first of the consultation evenings will take place on Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> October 2015 between 4.30 and 7.30 pm. There will be an opportunity to meet all the subject teachers including the Tutors. This is an important meeting for Senior 5 and I do hope all the parents will be present.

## Bus Service

May I remind everyone that there are several parents who offer a bus service for transport to and from school, details of which can be picked up from the office.

## Important GCSE, AS and A Level Reforms – Postcard 2

This postcard examines the grading system which will be implemented as part of the reformed GCSEs. **It is published at the back of The Swaminarayan.**

## School Trips Next Week

Parents and guardians will be aware that we have decided to plan ALL the residential trips of the year during this one week to prevent disruptions throughout the year and loss of valuable lesson time. While most of the students in the rest of the school will be on a trip, the vast majority of the 6<sup>th</sup> Form students have opted not to go for various reasons.

It is important for parents to know and students to take note that they will be required to be in school during the entire week. May I request parents to ensure that your child is in the school as normal during the week; the attendance of all the students will be monitored and action taken, should there be any reason for their absence. **It is a real opportunity to receive extra lessons and thrust forward with the syllabus without interruptions.**

## Introducing this year’s Student Council and Charity - Dhaval Patel U6 writes:

This year, the Student Council will be a vital cog in the Senior School; as all the issues that the students want to address, will be discussed and solved within this freshly assembled council. This responsibility is precious as this council of responsible young adults will represent the school as a whole in front of the senior staff members. A truly invaluable experience lies before them as finally they can openly put forward their own creative thoughts and initiatives, which you never know, could mark their spot in the school’s history.

The charity that the school will be supporting this year is The NAS (National Autistic Society); it has been hand-picked by the Sixth Form members after intense debate. NAS was chosen because the Sixth Form along with the Student Council want to put their unconditional effort to raise funds and support it with fervent enthusiasm. NAS cares and supports people suffering from Autism; Autism is a lifelong developmental disability that affects person's ability to communicate and relate to other people and the world around them. People with autism have said that the world, to them, is a mass of people, places and events which they struggle to make sense of, and which can cause them considerable anxiety. This has touched the Sixth Form and Student Council members, therefore this is the charity that the school will raise funds for this academic year. For further information about the charity please do not hesitate to visit: [www.autism.org.uk](http://www.autism.org.uk)



### **Jai Patel S5G writes:**

During our AIG lesson we were fortunate enough to be visited by a very learned man, namely John Levy. He is the Director at Friends of Israel Educational Foundation / Academic Study Group. He came to talk to us about the TRUE beauty and wealth of the Middle East, *beneath* what is the *taint* of political upheaval.

He began by displaying the region, which is the MIDDLE EAST on a map, comprising of 22 countries. After mapping out the geographical basics, he

progressed to talk about the wealth of the country. And everyone in the year, historians and geographers alike, knew exactly what the Middle East is famous for. OIL.... And Gas. We were then told about some astonishing, yet startling statistics. To scratch the surface here: Producing on average 23,000,000 BARRELS of oil a day. And to put that into perspective, it is 66% of the world's oil production, producing a large quantity of the world's gas. He also described one of the gas reserves, recently found, as containing enough for 5,000 years of use; that too off a tiny island the size of Glasgow.

Our own little *pieces* of the Middle East in our very homes in the form of gas/oil powered appliances. That meal you cooked last night was probably heated by gas from the Middle East. The electricity you used to charge your phone was powered by fuel from the Middle East. The primary message of the talk was subtle and effective. Mr Levy constantly used this phrase: ***“Don't place everything in one nice, neat, box.”***

As well as alerting us about the world that now surrounds us. Through this powerful phrase he reminded us NOT to relate one thing to another baselessly. NOT to kindle stereotypes. NOT to go along with conventional view. And STOP the hatred that's rising in our society for the people that the extremists DO NOT represent. Will society still carry the hatred for the other countless Muslims that condemn the action of this small group of tyrants? Our main issue is the media and the things we hear. Don't be affected so easily. And John Levy's words will always resound in our minds that there are beautiful things in the world, and we can't let it be tarnished. Be alert of the issue. Be critical of what you hear (Don't believe everything). We can all step forward and re-establish peace and beauty in the world.

Thank you to Mr John Levy for his time and Ms Maharaj for organising such events for us. It has inspired us all.

### **LAMDA RESULTS (2014-15)**

We are pleased to present our LAMDA results for students who took various levels in the *Speaking of Verse and Prose* between GOLD MEDAL and Level 2 Grade 4 last term:

#### LAMDA RESULTS 2014-15: SPEAKING VERSE AND PROSE: SUMMARY

66 ENTRIES: *of which* 12 DISTINCTIONS, 31 MERITS, 15 PASSES, 6 FAIL and 1 WITHDRAWAL and 1 ABSENT

THUS, OF 64 EXAMINED: 91% PASS RATE (*of which* 18+% DISTINCTION; 48% MERIT; 23% PASS

Level 2 Grade 4: PASS WITH DISTINCTION: 3; PASS WITH MERIT: 16; PASS: 4

Level 2 Grade 5: PASS WITH DISTINCTION: 4; PASS WITH MERIT: 7; PASS: 7

Level 3 Grade 6: BRONZE MEDAL: PASS WITH DISTINCTION: 5; PASS WITH MERIT: 4.

Level 3 Grade 8: GOLD MEDAL: PASS WITH MERIT: 4; PASS: 1

WOULD PARENTS NOTE THAT OUR 2015-16 LAMDA PROGRAMME OF STUDIES HAS ALREADY BEGUN. INFORMATION REGARDING ENTRIES WILL BE PUBLISHED SOON. If you have any queries, please contact Mr Benny, Ms Ramphal or Mr Wills.

### **Don't be Afraid**

#### **Think**

As you begin your yet young life, I would like to take the chance to speak to you about fear this week. Firstly, you should know that any person who says that they are never afraid is telling a lie. The journey of life forces us to do so many new things on a daily basis that being afraid sometimes is a natural feeling, especially in someone of your age. When you were very little, you had no fear, you were curious and you wanted to explore. Your parents would have allowed you to crawl everywhere under their watchful eye. At times they will have stopped and taught you that when you are near a flame for example, that it is hot and you must not touch it because it will burn you. Fear is necessary sometimes because it forces you to think and stops you from doing something silly that you will regret later on.

#### **Feel**

As you grow up you will be called upon to make some important decisions in your life. Fear can stop you from taking control and prevent you from being decisive, and at these moments you must not allow it to influence your decision. What is more important is for you to think things out carefully, and if you don't know what to do, speak to other people, read books or search the internet. When making crucial decisions in your life it is important to gather as much knowledge about the topic as possible and make an informed decision. Armed with this knowledge, your decision is more likely to be to your advantage than not. Making decisions is part of life, and you will be called upon to make more decisions the older you get. Fear can only play a part if you allow it. Great men and women have said that fear can stifle all progress, and mankind would not have achieved the huge progress it has made if it had allowed fear to get in the way.

#### **Do**

There are risks in any great adventure, which is what life is, and you cannot allow these risks to stifle your life. Your journey through life can put hurdles in front of you but it cannot stop you from following your dream and achieving great things. Believe that you can, and you will succeed.

### **Next Week's Swaminarayan**

Everyone should note that we will not publish the Swaminarayan next week because we are all on school trip the entire week.

**Yours sincerely**

**Nilesh Manani**